

# Resource Conservation Districts

## Local Solutions to Fire Prevention



### CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RCDs work with landowners and local, state, federal, and tribal partners to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. RCD projects strive to create healthy forests and ecosystems that can resist fire and will be resilient after a fire while maintaining habitat functionality year round.

Working with their community, RCDs support local fire safe councils, the “neighborhood watch” for fire safety, and help to create community wildfire protection plans. Increased drought and warmer temperatures are projected to increase the extent, intensity, and frequency of wildfires. Encouraging defensible space and reducing fire fuels protects life, property, and watershed health.

### REDUCING RISK OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

Wildfires can have a devastating impact on economic, wildlife, and public health. RCDs reduce the negative impacts of wildfire with vegetation management, forest management planning, and increasing public awareness of defensible space and strategic fuels reduction.

### PLANNING FOR INCREASED FIRE RISK

Planning for future wildfires is necessary for environmental and public safety. RCDs work with local communities to prepare community wildfire protection plans and fuel and forest management plans. These planning efforts take into consideration threatened and endangered species with the goal of protecting human and wildlife health.

### ENSURING COMMUNITY SAFETY

Public safety is a major concern during a fire; it is critical that communities have evacuation routes and emergency planning. RCDs work to ensure emergency vehicles have access on rural roads and that the public is aware of evacuation routes.

### CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF FUTURE FIRES

During a wildfire it is essential that the spread of the fire can be controlled. RCDs work with the community and agency partners to construct defensible space, native plantings, and fuels breaks to help control a potential fire.



### RCD SERVICES

Support local fire safe councils

Fuels management planning

Chipping programs

Evacuation route planning

Fuel break implementation

Defensible space workshops and assistance

Community wildfire protection planning

Community fire recovery support

Rural road development



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### RCD PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### TEHAMA COUNTY RCD THIRTY MILE WILDFIRE FUEL BREAK

Intense fires impact vegetative cover and soil stability within the watersheds of Tehama County, these watersheds support a significant anadromous fishery on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. Fire and fuels management efforts of the Tehama County RCD include the development of fuel breaks and fire protection infrastructure. The RCD 'Chipper Program' developed 30 miles of fuel breaks. The RCD assisted Cal Fire in completing 3 miles of roadside fuel breaks. These fuels management projects increase the ability of fire fighting forces to control the spread and impact of catastrophic wildfire.



#### TUOLUMNE COUNTY RCD RIM TRUCK SHADED FUEL BREAK

Tuolumne County RCD improved fire protection the Groveland community and the Tuolumne River by completing the 104 acre Rim Truck Shaded Fuel Break. The RCD worked to remove vegetation and understory to clear areas of land. The resulting open space will help to slow or stop the spread of fire. The "Living with Fire in Tuolumne County" publication was created by the RCD in collaboration with local Fire Safe Councils and local University of California Cooperative Extension. This homeowner's guide to fuels management is distributed to residents in the Tuolumne and Stanislaus River Watersheds.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

RCDs are effective in mobilizing on the ground projects with a variety of partners throughout California. RCDs partner with CAL FIRE, local Fire Safe Councils, and many other organizations to educate the public, manage wildfire risk, and implement fuel reduction programs.