

VALENCIA COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN



THE PLAN

The Valencia County Fire Department has contracted SWCA Environmental Consultants, utilizing Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) funding, to work in collaboration with local municipalities, fire departments, county departments, state agencies, conservation districts, land management agencies, including the Historic Tome Land Grant, nonprofit organizations, and federal partners to develop the 2027 Valencia County **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update (CWPP)**.

The CWPP is designed to assist the county, local land managers, property owners, and residents in mitigating wildfire risk by assessing areas at risk and recommending measures to decrease those risks. You (the public) can play a part in crafting wildfire mitigation recommendations to reduce risk in your community. Read below to find out more about the collaborative Community Wildfire Protection Plan process and public involvement.



WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN DO?

- Identify areas at risk for wildland fire
- Make recommendations for hazardous fuels treatments (vegetation thinning)
- Prioritize areas for wildfire mitigation funding
- Make recommendations for homeowners to reduce fire risk
- Ask the public to share ideas about wildfire prevention and identify community values at risk

WHY YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED

This is a COMMUNITY plan – we need your input on concerns, actions you can take to reduce your risk, and how Valencia County can assist in wildfire preparedness. Your input helps create a more collaborative process that will help the CWPP better reflect local needs. **Scan the QR code** or visit <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/46Hx3XJDDE> to take the public survey and share your priorities and concerns for wildfire planning in Valencia County.



 **SCAN HERE**

COMMUNITY FACT

Valencia County tends to experience the highest number of wildfires in the spring through early summer, when fuels are dry and windy conditions can lead to rapid fire spread. Many of the fires experienced in the county are human-caused, making public education and careful management crucial to lowering wildfire risk in the county.



ORIGIN OF COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 established the framework for developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). This Act provided communities with the opportunity to influence how and where federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands and how additional funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands. A CWPP is the means through which public citizens can provide their voices in fuels management and fire protection planning for their communities. This 2027 CWPP will identify fire hazards and community values at risk within Valencia County and provide recommendations to reduce the threat of wildfire to life and property.

The main goals of a CWPP as described in HFRA (2003) are:

- **Collaboration** – must be developed by local & state government, consulting with federal agencies.
- **Prioritized fuel reduction** – must identify the most at-risk areas for treatment of hazardous fuel and recommend actions to protect communities and infrastructure.
- **Treatment of structural ignitability** – must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- **Definition of a WUI** – gives each Core Team, comprised of agency and local stakeholders, the ability to define their wildland urban interface (WUI) area, where homes and structures come into contact with wildland fuels.
- **Community risk analysis** – using field-based or geographic information system methodology, the Core Team assesses all hazards and risks associated with wildfire spread throughout the planning area.
- **Discussion of firefighting preparedness** – to identify ways to enhance fire response.
- **Community involvement** – to ensure that the planning effort incorporates public input and grassroots-level planning.