

Community Focus Statement E: Improve public safety.

E3

Action Statement E.3: Partner with the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, United States Forest Service, San Bernardino County Fire, local safety experts, and insurance companies to educate property owners on securing homes and businesses.

Benchmarks: Partnership established with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and Code Enforcement Fire Hazard Abatement, US Forest Service, San Bernardino County Fire Department, local safety experts, and insurance companies to provide additional informational materials and services to homeowners and business owners related to community safety and security concerns.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$800–\$3,500



increasing the overall safety of the community.

Property owners in the Crest Forest communities face risk from both petty crime and natural disasters, specifically wildfires. Choosing the best actions to take to enhance the security of a home or business can be overwhelming. Through engagement and education of property owners by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire departments, local safety experts, and insurance companies, individual property owners can learn the best approaches to address concerns about crime and natural hazards. These actions allow property owners to enhance the security of their home or business while simultaneously

Defensible space around buildings and other safety practices can help protect homes and businesses from wildfires. Image source: Andrea Booher/FEMA

A partnership between the Crest Forest communities and the Sheriff's and Fire departments, local safety experts, and insurance companies will provide property owners with a

breadth of educational resources and local perspectives about the best ways to enhance the security of homes and businesses. Evaluation of existing vulnerabilities in homes and businesses in the Crest Forest communities can target areas that are more susceptible to crime. Opportunities to alleviate fire risks and petty crime can be addressed in workshops on landscaping practices, retrofit suggestions, or placement of lighting and security cameras. These efforts can also target the vulnerabilities of seasonal homes, which may be especially prone to the impacts of crime and natural hazards when vacant. Safety experts can offer suggestions about technical resources, estimated costs, and anticipated benefits of safety and security updates.

Educational workshops and demonstrations, as well as reaching out to residents and business owners who have previously experienced a property crime or the impacts of a fire, can build and strengthen community partnerships and increase safety across the Crest Forest communities. By working with individual property owners to increase

security, the cumulative impact of these efforts will lead to a safer, stronger community by reducing hazard risk, discouraging crime, and inspiring other home and business owners to participate.

The Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council’s purpose and activities corresponds with this Action Statement. The organization was formed in 1998, following the 1997 Mill Fire which started on Forest Service Land by recreational shooting. The Council obtains grants for fire reduction and other fire safety issues. The Crestline Connect has been in existence for several years and provides information on happenings in the community.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact and work with community groups, residents, and business owners to create a Fire Committee to identify security needs in the community.	Champion	Months 1 – 2, on-going	Mountain Rim Fire Safety Council (MRFSC) https://www.mountainrimfsc.org/
2. Select a volunteer to serve as the program lead to assist with coordination between agencies, organizations, and information management.	Fire Committee	Month 2	Crestline Connect https://rotwnews.com/
3. Conduct surveys of fire resiliency in the community, including the proportion of buildings with defensible space and fire-resilient roofing, in coordination with Cal Fire and the US Forest Service.	Fire Committee with support from the US Forest Service, San Bernardino County Fire Department, and Cal Fire	Months 2 – 4, on-going	Consumer Reports: 14 ways to make your home more secure http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/06/14-ways-to-make-your-home-more-secure/index.htm
4. Host regular community meetings and workshops about securing homes and businesses against crime and wildfire. Provide information and resources to residents and property owners. Host meetings at least twice a year, including integrated into meetings of existing groups.	Fire Committee with MRFSC, with support from San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and Fire Hazard Abatement, US Forest Service, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire, neighborhood watch groups, Crestline/Lake Gregory Chamber of Commerce	Month 5, on-going	National Institute of Justice: Crime and crime prevention – property crime https://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=21 Cal Fire: Wildfire Protection http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/code-development/wildfireprotection



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
5. Make information about making properties more secure against crime and wildfire, including potential financial resources, available in a community facility and online, in all commonly spoken languages in the community.	Fire Committee	Month 5, on-going	FEMA: Home Builder’s Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1652-20490-4085/fema_p_737.pdf
6. Explore the feasibility of a grant, revolving loan, or other financial incentive mechanism to encourage property owners to secure their buildings against crime and wildfire.	Fire Committee with MRFSC, with support from San Bernardino County Fire Hazard Abatement, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire	Months 6 – 8	
7. Support and encourage the adoption of building standards that require increased protection against wildfires for new construction.	Fire Committee with MRFSC, with support from San Bernardino County Fire Department and Building & Safety Division, local community groups, businesses	Month 6, on-going	
8. Establish a program to provide free wildfire protection consultations with local property owners.	Fire Committee with MRFSC, with support from San Bernardino County Fire Department and Fire Hazard Abatement, local community groups, businesses	Month 6, on-going	