

Theme 7: Adapting to the changing risk

Measures survivors took to promote greater fire safety given the growing risk from wildfire.

Risk reduction at the household level



I felt like Paradise is way safer, way, way safer than it was before. And I don't know very many people, I mean, I know people who don't want to move to paradise because they're afraid of fire risk. But nobody that I've talked to in Paradise is afraid of fire risk, like all of us are, like **Paradise is the safest place in the whole wide world. Like all the houses that are getting built are built to this code. I mean, the town of Paradise adopted IBHS building codes.** The fuel, I mean, the town of Paradise is just an all over

you. If you have weeds in your yard. So, I don't feel like there's any kind of a risk at all. It's the insurance that's the problem, the homeowner's insurance... We're in the middle of doing Firewise communities too...The Fire Safety Council has mapped out the whole town into what looks like communities that makes sense, right like connect each one. So, mine here, the Fire Safety Council, couple of their fellows that they have are I think we're driving because I think it's too big to walk. We were doing the risk assessment for mine on November 1. So, hopefully we'll get a discount for insurance there. So, some other lovely things about Paradise. Well, so like this is my backyard.

Butte County

We have Hardie Board siding... which is like a concrete base siding. We didn't have to do this, **we did a ventless attic, so you look under the eaves, there's no vents under the eaves which for a lot of people, the embers went in there and then they caught fire. So we removed there's a way you could do it...** There's some little tiny vents on the roof, and then it means the attic has to be a finished space so its all... it's actually been sheet rock



been up there, but it's all... it looked like any other room except that um... So we did that... we lost most of our tree, **so we have a very defensible space now. I didn't feel unsafe before the fire, but now I realized that I would have felt safer.** And then the other thing is, you know, I heard stories like Coffey Park, the [wooden] fences actually ran the fire into that development... Anyway, we finally came to its half wood.

Sonoma County



The building inspector was there. I heard some arguing going on. I walked over next door and she was saying, you can't have this fence. We had just paid. It's just a chain link fence, but it's covered in black vinyl. She's like with the new code there's a new ordinance about, you know, fire safe building. And she was saying that one part of it is, of course, you can't have anything flammable within five feet there. I'm sure you're familiar with the zones. And I actually did a master gardener workshop on that back in 2020 also about maintaining your property and what to do in each zone.

Butte County

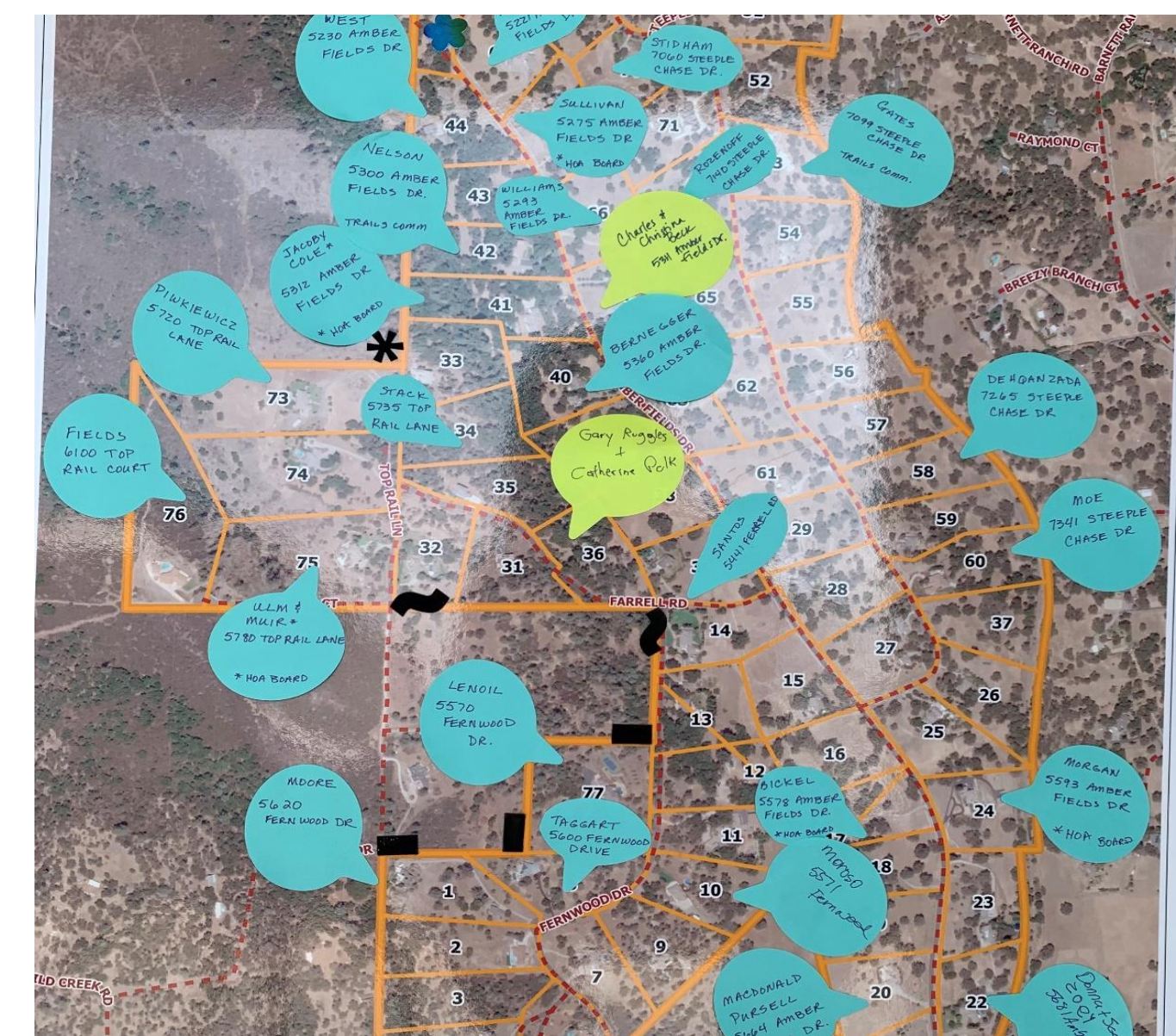
Neighborhood awareness



I think there is definitely more of a sense of wanting to be sure that we're aware of, of who's there and, what's going on. [My] neighbor immediately down the hillside from me, who rebuilt sometime soon after we were back living in the place, there was this large amount of smoke sort of billowing from his property. I had his phone number and I, I called, and I said, I certainly hope you're barbecuing because... he

said, 'oh, yes, I've got a smoker.' I should have called and warned you.' <laugh>. But they're sort of, you know, they've got their various things there, but they like to set off fireworks and, you know, not all the time, but they like to set off a few...[Fireworks]... So, I ended up calling and saying, 'you know, at least we would like to be aware if you're going to be setting off fireworks.' And since then, they would call, and they called just during this rainy section.

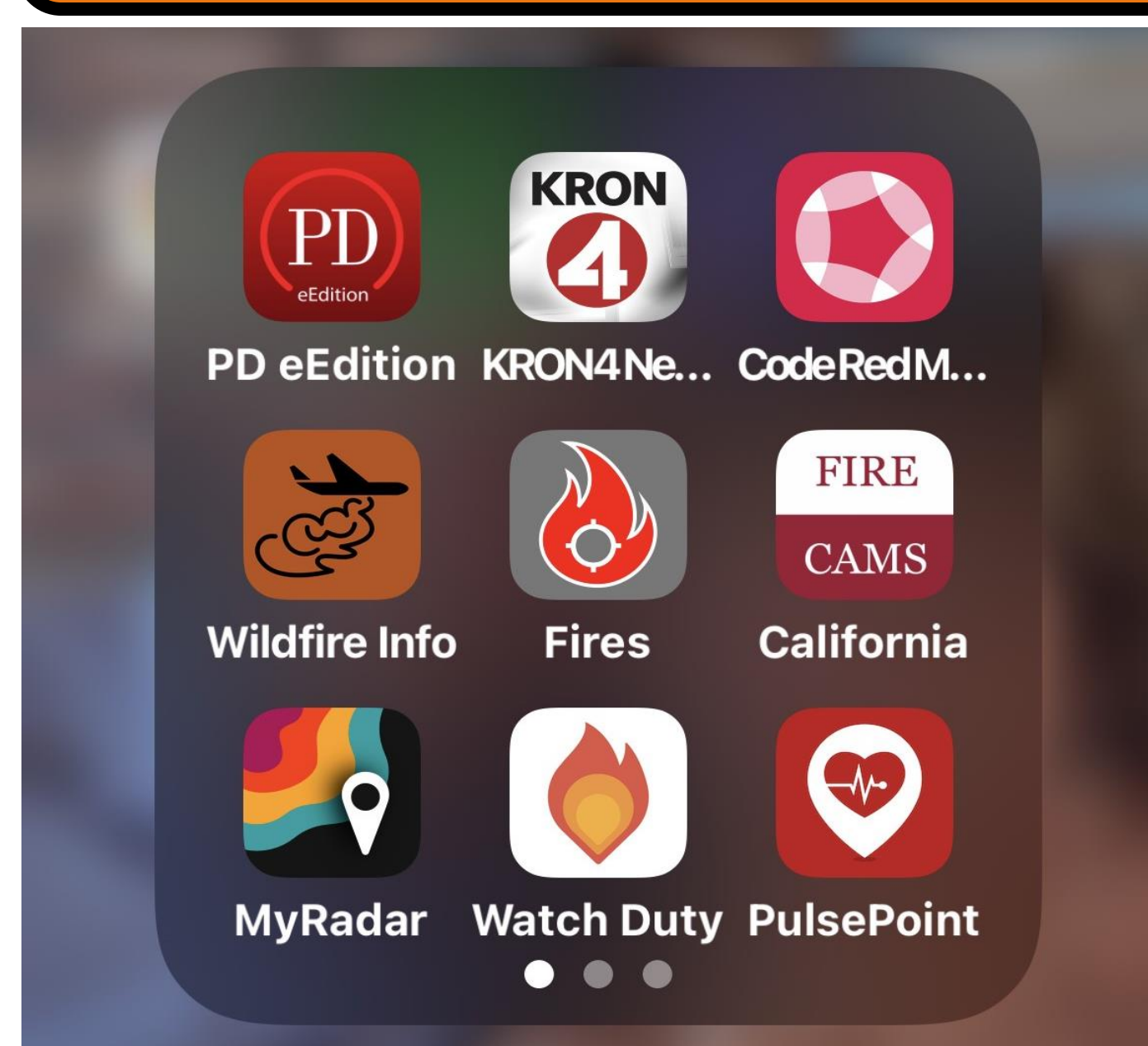
Sonoma County



We met more of our neighbors after the fire than we knew at the time of the fire. Here, everybody is mapped, all those color blobs are somebody's property. It has their name. We have everybody's phone numbers... **So there's a lot more talk and a lot of preparedness here. Like I said before, that there really wasn't anything going on in Santa Rosa at that time. We're trying to raise awareness also by making our neighbors safer then we too will be safer.** That's been a big thing. We couldn't have called a neighbor in Santa Rosa to say, hey, get out, because we didn't know anybody. Yes, this is helpful. It feels better. It feels that we could call our neighbors and say, hey, you need to go. We've also done evacuation drills too.

Sonoma County

New and emerging technology



So, the Watch Duty is awesome. The fire cameras, so you can, they add it. We didn't have any cameras up here before, but they now have cameras on all of the mountains. And **if you think you smell smoke or you see smoke or something, you can actually go and look as well and they're monitoring 'em 24/7.** So, I feel like we've finally done an, like, we've done a lot of things to help us have somewhat earlier notification if something happens and people need to get out.

Sonoma County

Forest management



[forest management plan]..after the fire, RCD came to me and said, 'Hey [X], we've got some money for forest management plans, and yours looks like it's a little out of date right now, so how about we do a new one?'. And they did a new one in 2018, with a whole different perspective, you know... So the meeting we had last night, the community meeting, we had, RCD was there, Cal Fire was there, who else did we have? Fire Safe Sonoma. The agencies that can offer resources to people to tell the

landowners, these are the agencies that can help you. RCD has some money now **for new forest management plans and we're really encouraging people to do that. So we'll be able to do some larger scale projects.** We'll be more competitive to say we've got 1, 2, 3, 8, like 900 acres here.

Sonoma County



[Fire risk] I'm concerned. This is these are owners here from San Francisco. And I call and call and call and try to get the county to contact them to clean this up. I did [chipped redwoods].. Which probably isn't the best idea in retrospect because it's wood, so there's there's a lot of stuff back there and next door that's high grass here. It's pretty. **So, I think the risk is a lot less, but I still think there's a risk...** I kind of stopped pursuing it when the county would help me, but there are some grants I think coming and I'm going to attempt to try to get some help to even if we go in and clean it up, they are never here. I don't think they care.

Lake County



I think the risk in the forest is high, but it's very reduced because in our neighborhood, we've done so much work around it of, you know, taking trees down. And when you come up, you'll see that, you know so much of it has been cleared away. And, **yeah I think it's extremely fire safe.** Also, the other thing is in Sonoma County now, the alarms, I mean, if there's a fire anywhere or if there's smoke, I mean, you'll get an a text. I mean, it's, they're so on it. And I have a text in my phone

right now, which came two days after the fire, which said, you may want to evacuate from your house because there's a fire in your area.

Sonoma County