

EL MEDIO BLUFFS FIREWISE COMMUNITY
Action Plan for August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2029

COMMUNITY PROFILE STATEMENT:

The El Medio Bluffs has approximately 750 lots and is one of the oldest residential sections of Pacific Palisades, located on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The El Medio Bluffs is perched between Temescal Canyon, Palisades High School, Sunset Boulevard and the Ocean. The development originated as the Las Pulgas tract in 1924. Designed with curving streets and pocket parks, it evolved from modest 1930s cabins and bungalows into an upscale enclave prized for its canyon and coastal views.

There are access points into the neighborhood from Sunset and Temescal Canyon. The fires of January 2025 destroyed or catastrophically damaged 70% to 90% of the homes in our neighborhood. Our goal with the support of Firewise is to develop a strategy for outreach, education and implementation efforts to make our neighborhood more fire resilient and to keep fire safety at the forefront for a safer community for all.

YEAR ONE – ACTION PLAN

Education and Outreach Goals:

1. Create a dedicated email address (ElMedioFirewise@gmail.com)
2. Develop a Firewise community member email and mailing list.
3. Develop a database for tracking volunteer hours
4. Host a Firewise community wildfire preparedness event which will include educational presentations about the following: Develop evacuation routes, private firefighting resources, and vents and gutter retrofit awareness.
5. Recruit volunteers.

Home Hardening Goals:

1. Defensible Space
2. Vent and gutter awareness
3. Undergrounding Utilities
4. Educate and encourage 5% of non-compliant homes to retrofit at least one need. Help prioritize when requested.

Defensible Space/Fuel Reduction Goals:

1. 100% compliance with LAFD regulations before June (annually): Encourage additional thinning of fuels by residents beyond the annual defensible space measures.

2. Remove dead/dying vegetation and trees to close to structures by June (annually) to meet City Requirements. Complete one community workday to remove fuels from roadsides, medians, and residents' zone zeros. Goal of 5% annual increase in compliance.
3. Educate residents of fire-resistant plant characteristics, especially for plants located within 5 feet of the home or structure.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness:

1. Educate residents about RYLAN and CERT programs and encourage residents to participate in one or both
2. Create a phone tree to make sure no one is left behind
3. Educate and encourage residents to register for an emergency alert system through ReadyLA.org

YEAR TWO – ACTION PLAN

Education and Outreach Goals:

1. Make sure any new owners/residents are made aware of our Firewise program, our progress after year 1, and update contacts.
2. . Educate and encourage residents about best practices during a red flag event, with an evacuation checklist, phone numbers of neighbors, how to prepare the home through an education event
3. Arrange a visit with the SMMFSC to the Wildfire Learning Center
4. Encourage owners to share what improvements they have made in regard to hardening their homes and information about vendors and contractors they have used and share with Firewise group
5. Educate and work with local Realtors and builders on the awareness of our Firewise community through tangible marketing and social media efforts.

Home Hardening Goals:

1. Continue to encourage homeowners to ask for home hardening assessments.
2. Encourage vent replacements or screen installations.
3. Encourage replacement of single pane windows.
4. Encourage replacing wooden decks or installation of non-combustible skirting.
5. Encourage replacement of wooden fencing with ignition resistant fencing.
6. Increase the goal to 10% of non-compliant homes to retrofit at least one need.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals:

1. Distribute suggestions for what to plant and what not to plant for fire resistant landscaping. Educate on risks of wood mulch.

2. Encourage neighbors to work collaboratively with each other to reduce their shared risk of ignition. Work together with neighbors on creating defensible space out to 30 feet for all residences.
3. Host a community work day to clean up common areas and celebrate neighborhood collaboration.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness:

1. Work with LAFD to map residential water sources such as pools and ponds.
2. Encourage neighbors to post visible address markers on their property.

YEAR THREE – ACTION PLAN

Education and Outreach Goals:

1. Host a Firewise Community event in Spring.
2. Coordinate with Firewise Palisades.
3. Update residents on action plan progress and achievements.
4. Publicize free home hardening assessments for residents by email and doorhangers
5. Remind residents to document volunteer hours for fuel reduction and community events

Home Hardening Goals:

1. Continue to encourage residents to obtain home hardening assessments.
2. Host a home hardening workshop
3. Increase goal to 20% for non-compliant homes to retrofit at least one item.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals:

1. Distribute suggestions for what to plant and what not to plant for fire-resistant landscaping. Educate on the risks of using wood mulch.
2. Encourage neighbors to work together to reduce their shared risk of ignition. Work together with neighbors to create defensible space 30 feet from all residences.
3. Host a community work day to clear common areas and celebrate neighborhood collaboration.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness:

1. Organize curbside paint projects to paint reflective street numbers for those willing to have them.
2. Review and distribute evacuation plans created by Pacific Palisades Community Council for our community.
3. Review compliance and achievements and set goals for the next 3 years.