

# LEXINGTON HILLS CWPP

## APPENDIX C COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

### THE NEED FOR A CWPP

---

In response to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), and in an effort to create incentives, Congress directed interface communities to prepare a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Once completed, a CWPP provides statutory incentives for the federal agencies to consider the priorities of local communities as they develop, and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects.

CWPPs can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of the people involved in their development. CWPPs may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection, or all of the above.

The minimum requirements for a CWPP are:

- Collaboration between local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
  - Addressed in this appendix
- Prioritized fuel reduction in identified areas, as well as recommendations for the type and methods of treatments
  - Addressed in Main CWPP report (see recommendations sections) and continued in Appendix B
- Recommendations and treatment measures for homeowners and communities to reduce the ignitability of those structures in the project area.
  - Addressed in Main CWPP report within each community

### PROJECT FUNDING AND COORDINATION

---

Lexington Hills used local stakeholder funding and grants to complete a community-wide hazard and risk assessment and the resultant CWPP.

Future community education and private property owner assistance will be coordinated through the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council in cooperation with CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire Department, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, San Jose Water Company, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, Aldercroft Heights County Water District, Chemeketa Park Mutual Water Company, Redwood Estates Services Association, Lake Canyon Mutual Water Company, North Aldercroft Association, Gillette Mutual Water Company and Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue. These groups will continue to identify funding for the implementation of mitigation projects.

## **INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

---

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

To be successful, wildfire mitigation in the interface must be a community-based, collaborative effort. Stakeholders and, primarily, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, will have the greatest responsibility for facilitating the implementation of the recommended mitigation actions. CAL FIRE and private land management agencies will be valuable participants in addressing cross-boundary projects throughout the area.

Many of the recommendations in this report affect private land or access roads to private land. There are also mitigation recommendations for individual structures, which are the responsibility of the homeowner. Homeowners will, however, need a point of contact to help them implement these recommendations. The best defensible space will be created with oversight and expert advice from CAL FIRE and Santa Clara County Fire Department. One-on-one dialog will continue to build the relationship with community members. This level of involvement will allow agencies and the SCFSC to keep track of the progress and update this plan to reflect the latest modifications at the community level.

## **THE COLLABORATIVE PROCESS**

---

The initial step in developing a CWPP should be the formation of an operating group with representation from local government, local fire authorities, and CAL FIRE, which is the state agency responsible for forest management. Once convened, members of the core team should engage community representatives... to begin sharing perspectives, priorities, and other information relevant to the planning process.<sup>1</sup>

State, local, and private agencies, companies and organizations (stakeholders) participated in this CWPP. These stakeholders included:

- Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
- Santa Clara County Fire Department
- CAL FIRE
- Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Santa Clara County Parks
- San Jose Water Company
- Aldercroft Heights County Water District
- North Aldercroft Road Association
- Chemeketa Park Mutual Water Company
- Redwood Estates Services Association
- Lake Canyon Mutual Water Company
- Gillette Mutual Water Company
- Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire Department
- Neighbors Against Irresponsible Logging (N.A.I.L.)
- Anchor Point Group

---

<sup>1</sup> Community Guide to Preparing and Implementing a CWPP (August2008)  
[http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/documents/CWPP\\_Report\\_Aug\\_2008.pdf](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/documents/CWPP_Report_Aug_2008.pdf)

Founded in 2001 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation in 2002, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC) has grown to include participants from the major fire agencies, many volunteer fire organizations, local utility companies, parks and open space organizations, city and county government representatives, neighborhood associations, and concerned individuals; all with a shared vision to educate and mobilize residents to reduce the risks of wildfires in Santa Clara County.

The true collaborative process was initiated through a stakeholder meeting held in July 2007. Several meetings followed. The purpose of the meetings was to bring all past, current, and future efforts and needs to the table. The primary focus was on the identification and delineation of communities, areas of concern, and Values at Risk. Best practices and anticipated “roadblocks” were identified.

A Stakeholder meeting with Anchor Point was held on November 12, 2008 to kick off the project and introduce it to the public. On April 29, 2009 there was a second meeting to present the results and discuss any issues or concerns with the draft report.

In addition, five public meetings were held to get input and feedback from residents. There was support for the projects and interest in convening community meetings to start the process. Comments were incorporated into the final document. Listed below are summaries of the dates and number of people in attendance at these meetings.

- Aldercroft Heights County Water District Board Meeting, November 8, 2007. Eight people attended.
- Redwood Estates Services Assn Board Meeting, February, 2008. Sixty people attended.
- Chemeketa Park Mutual Water Company Annual Meeting, May 2008. Forty people attended.
- Lake Canyon Mutual Water Company, 2008. Eight people attended.
- North Aldercroft Association, May 2008. Thirty-five people attended.

A resident survey was provided through the SCFSC website. This on-line resource was made available, to the public, and was launched on 11/18/2008 and was closed on 05/28/2009. One hundred and eight-one people visited the survey site during that time. Results were utilized in the development of this report and are detailed below.

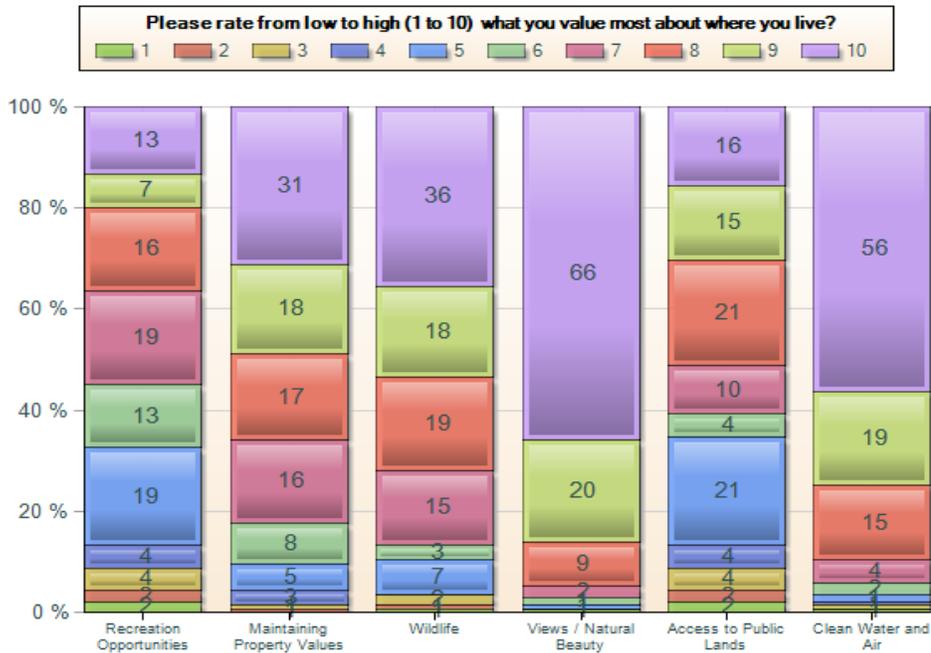
Overall the following values were expressed by the residents and were common themes at public meetings:

- Clean water and air, wildlife, views, and maintaining property values are the characteristics that residents value most about living in the Lexington Hills study area.
- The highest concerns related to potential fire damage are personal safety and the safety of family members, as well as damage to homes. These are followed by loss of insurability, damage to land and wildlife, and damage to the watershed or water supply.

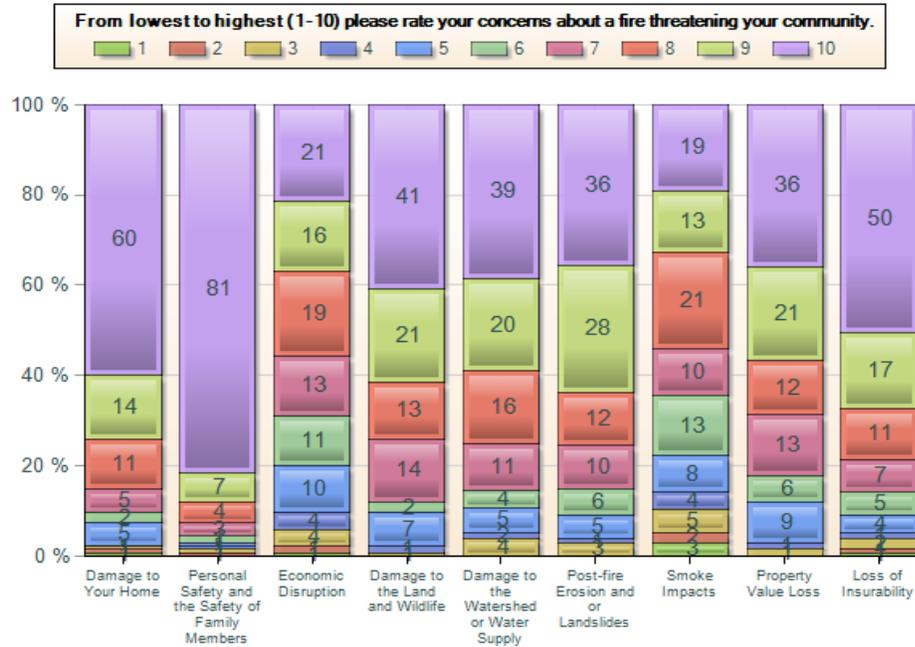
- More than 75% of respondents feel unsafe or concerned about the threat of wildfire, 21% feel “reasonably safe.”
- Although a majority of respondents said they would be likely to evacuate in the event of a wildfire, 14% said they would likely stay at home.
- Less than half of the respondents have designated a meeting place for family members in the event of an evacuation.
- Most respondents support mitigation work, whether funding is provided or not. Others are only willing to do mitigation work if they are convinced it will improve the survivability of their home.
- Over half of the respondents have 30 feet or more of defensible space around their house. Many say their property line limits their defensible space capabilities.
- The vast majority of respondents feel that fire responders in their area are well equipped and capable.

The graphics below provide a visual summary of the respondents’ answers to the posted survey.

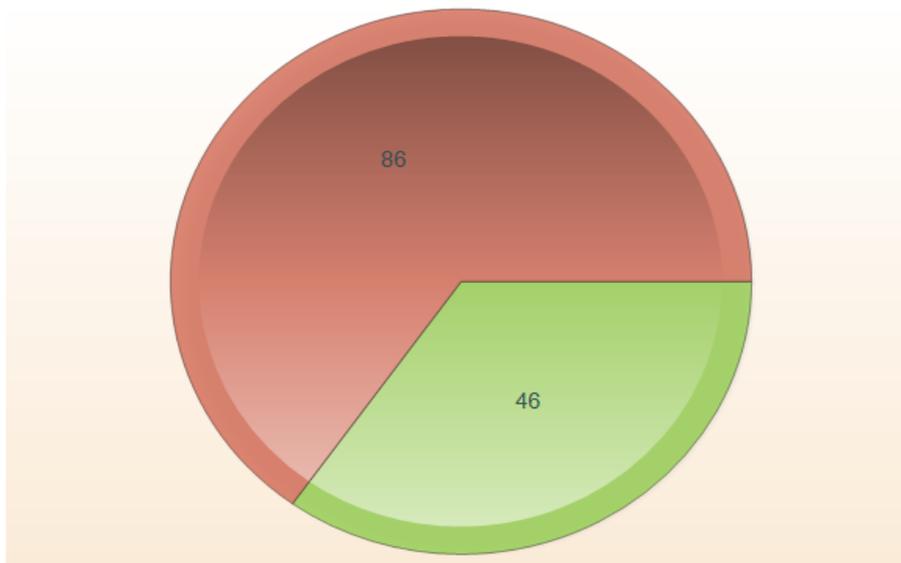
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** Please rate from low to high (1 to 10) what you value most about where you live?



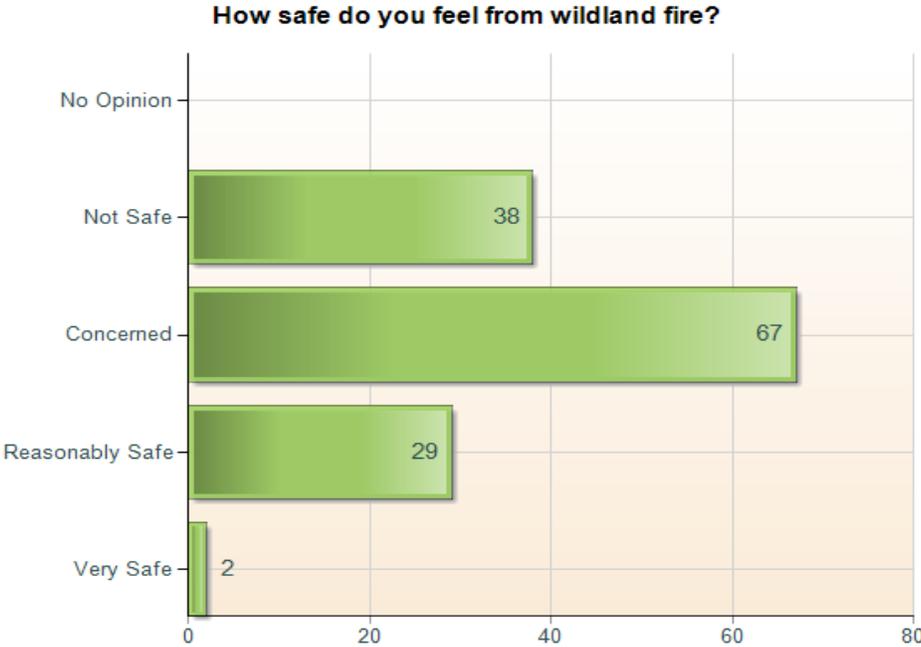
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** Please rate from low to high (1 to 10) what you value most about where you live?



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** Did you live in the area during the 1985 Lexington Hills Fire?



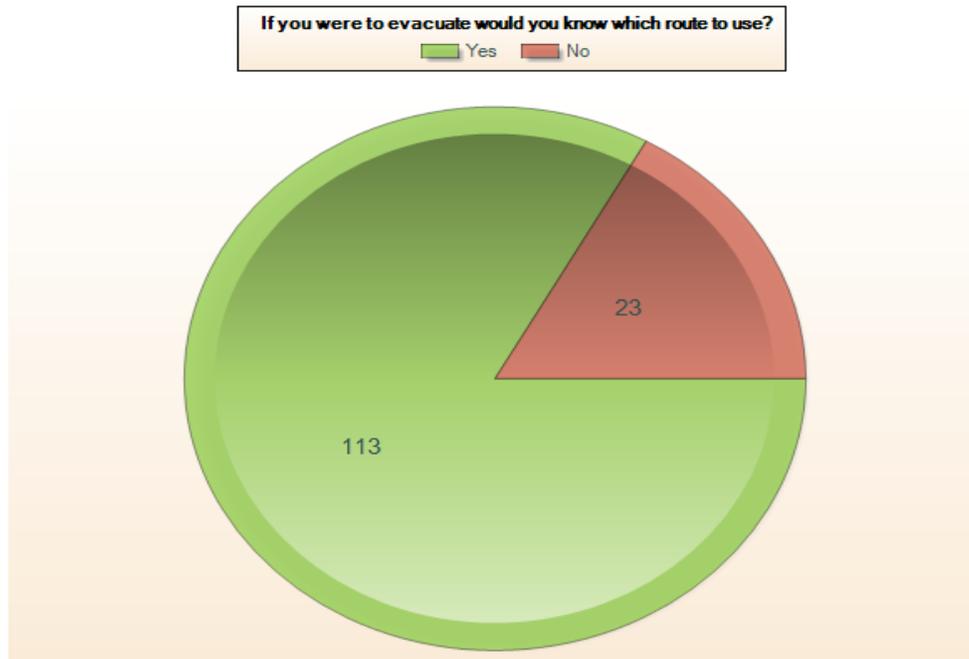
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: How safe do you feel from wildland fire?**



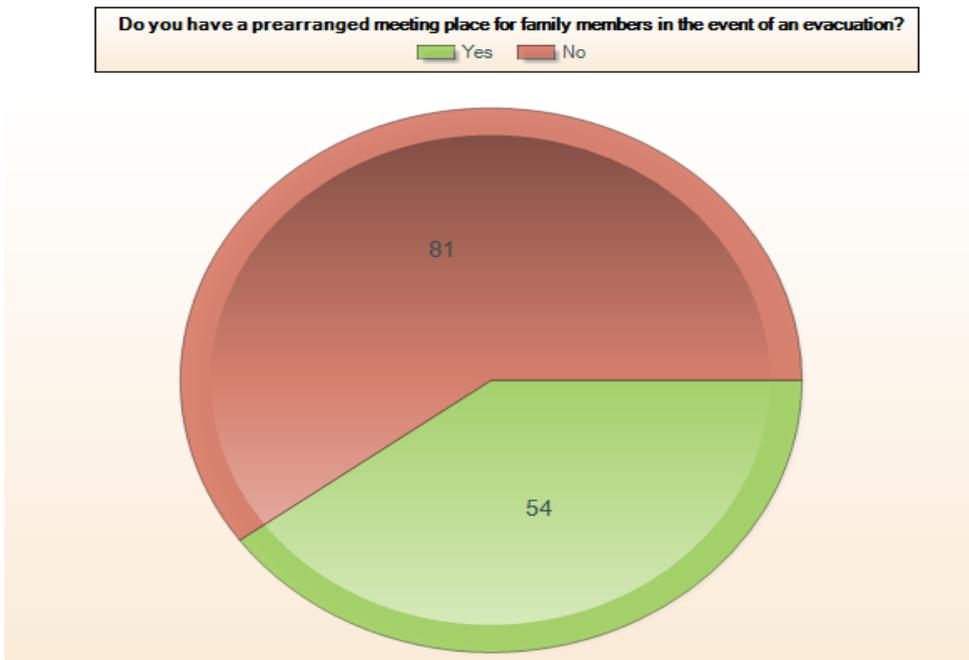
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: How likely are you to leave your home if it is imminently threatened by fire?**



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** If you were to evacuate would you know which route to use?

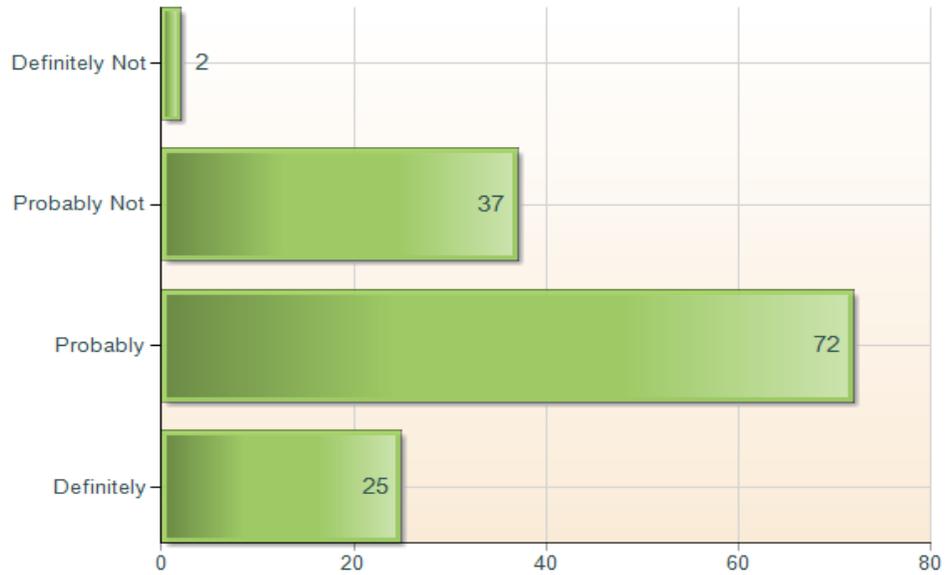


**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** Do you have a prearranged meeting place for family members in the event of an evacuation?



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: How likely are you to attend public meetings regarding wildfire safety and pre-planning?**

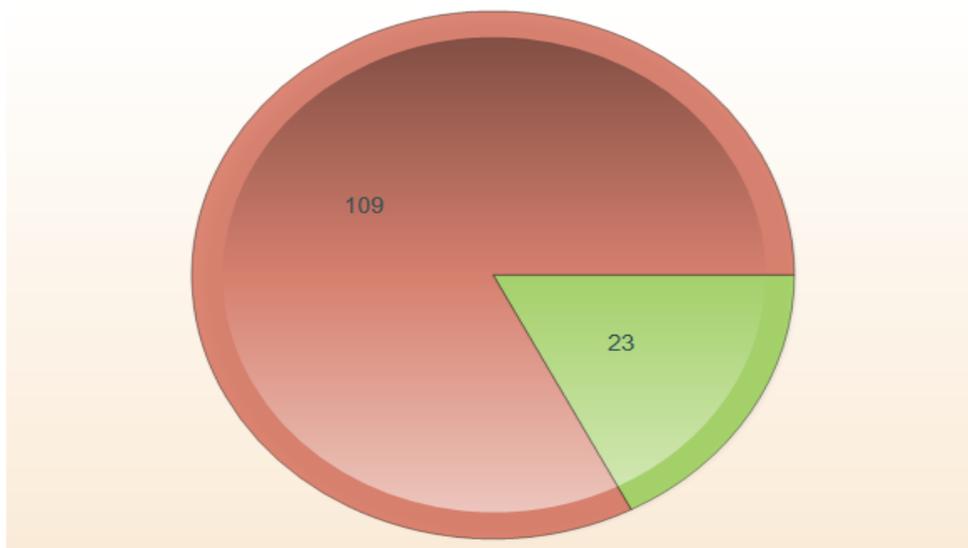
How likely are you to attend public meetings regarding wildfire safety and pre-planning?



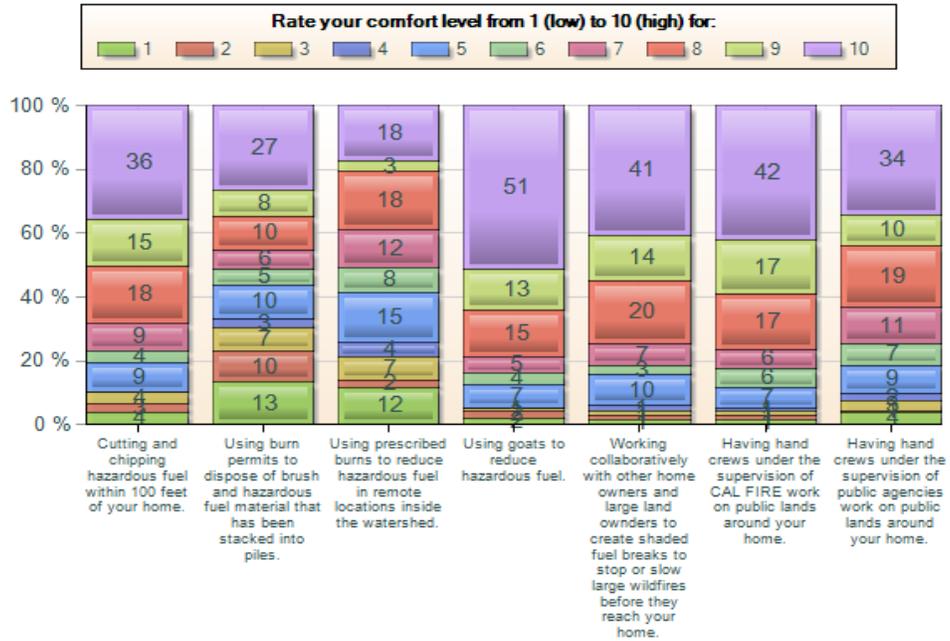
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Would you be willing to help organize educational and planning meetings regarding fire in your co ...**

Would you be willing to help organize educational and planning meetings regarding fire in your community?

Yes   
  No   
  If yes, please add your name and contact information.

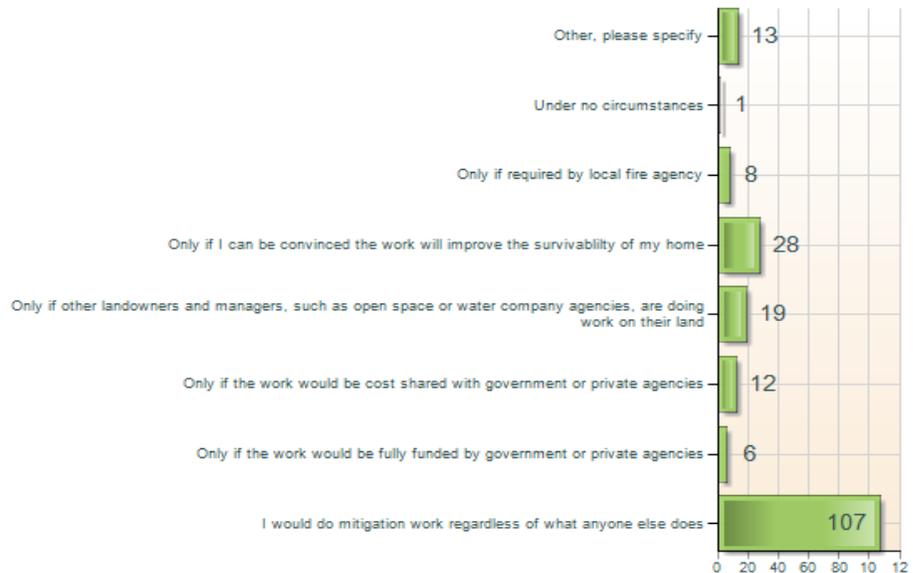


**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Rate your comfort level from 1 (low) to 10 (high) for:**

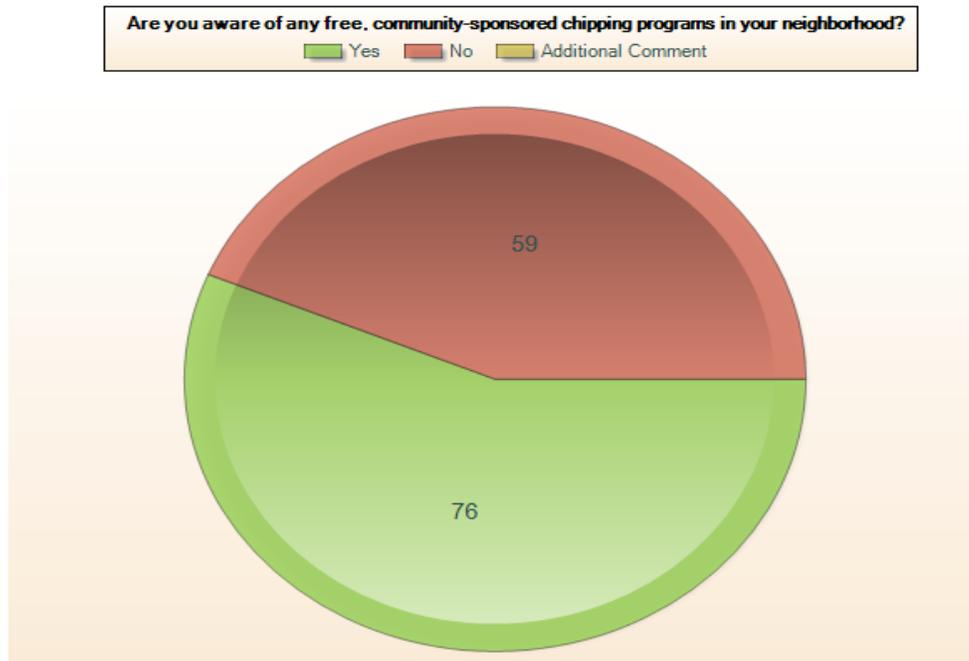


**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Under which of the following conditions would you be willing to do mitigation work on your proper ...**

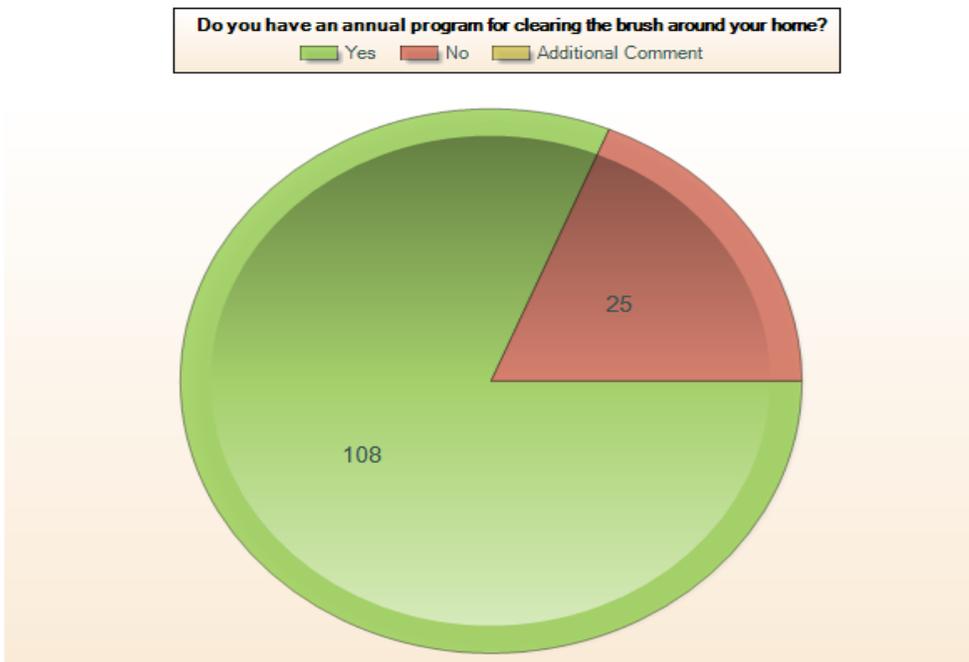
**Under which of the following conditions would you be willing to do mitigation work on your property? (Please check all that apply.)**



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Are you aware of any free, community-sponsored chipping programs in your neighborhood?**

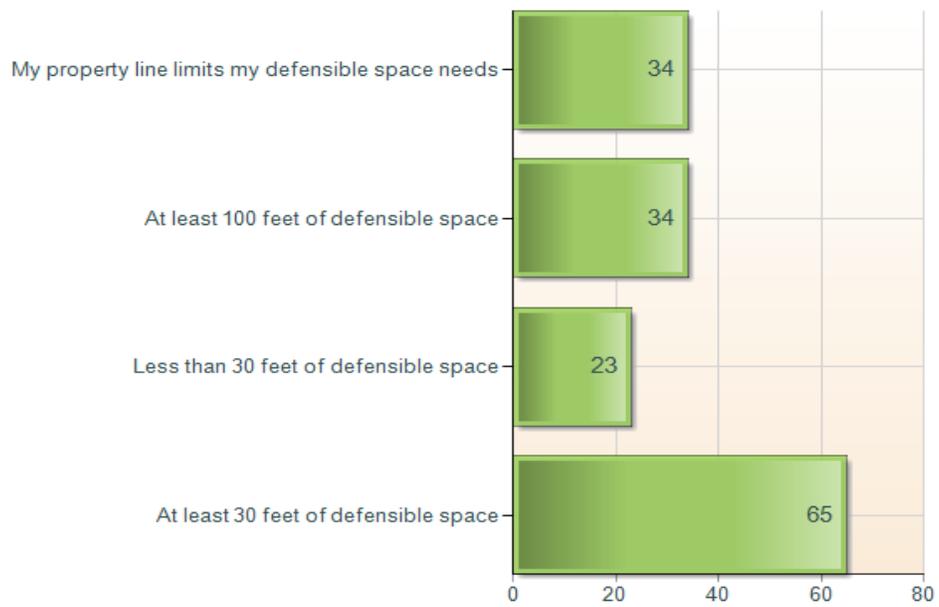


**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Do you have an annual program for clearing the brush around your home?**



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: How would you rate your home?**

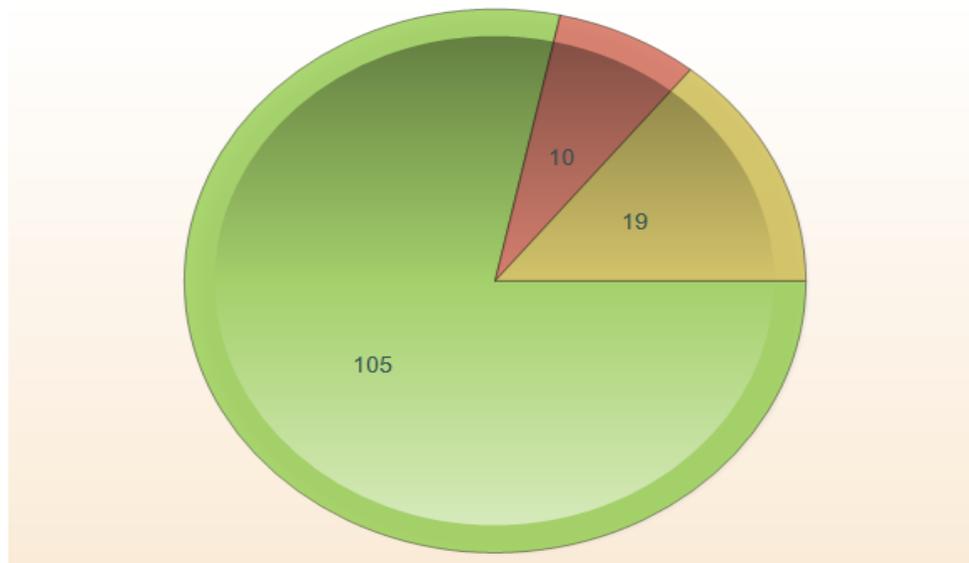
**How would you rate your home?**



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: How would you rate your roof?**

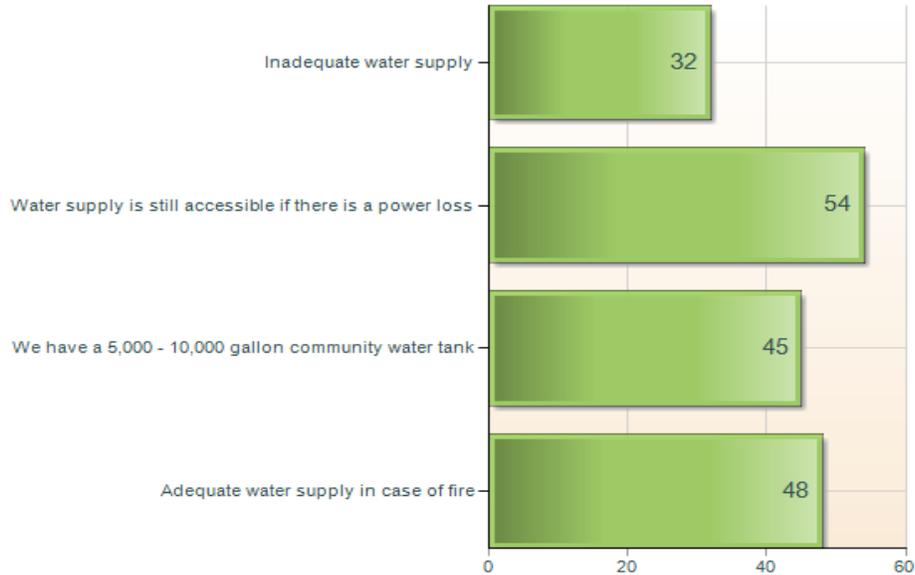
**How would you rate your roof?**

- Fire-safe
- Flammable
- Don't know



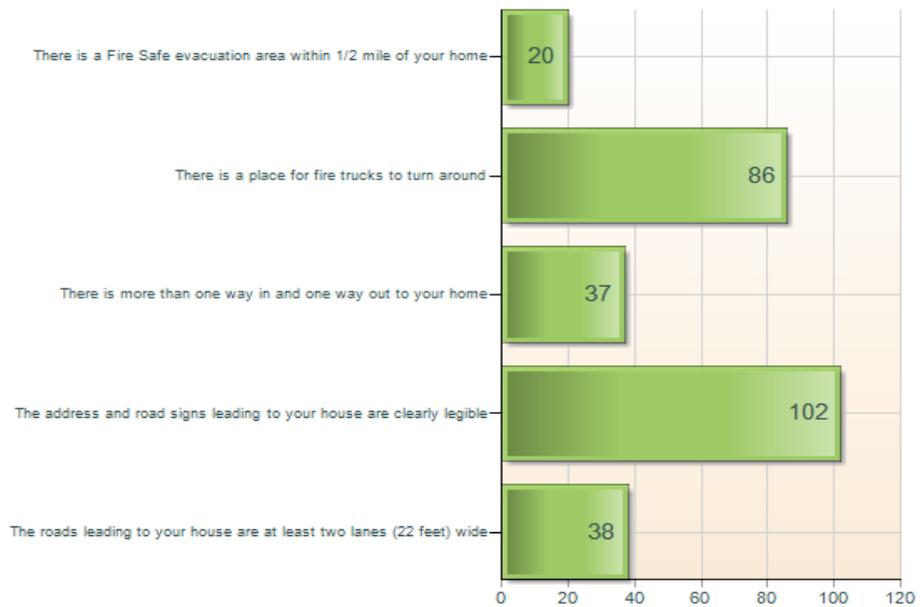
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** How would you rate your firefighting water supply? Please check all that apply.

**How would you rate your firefighting water supply? Please check all that apply.**



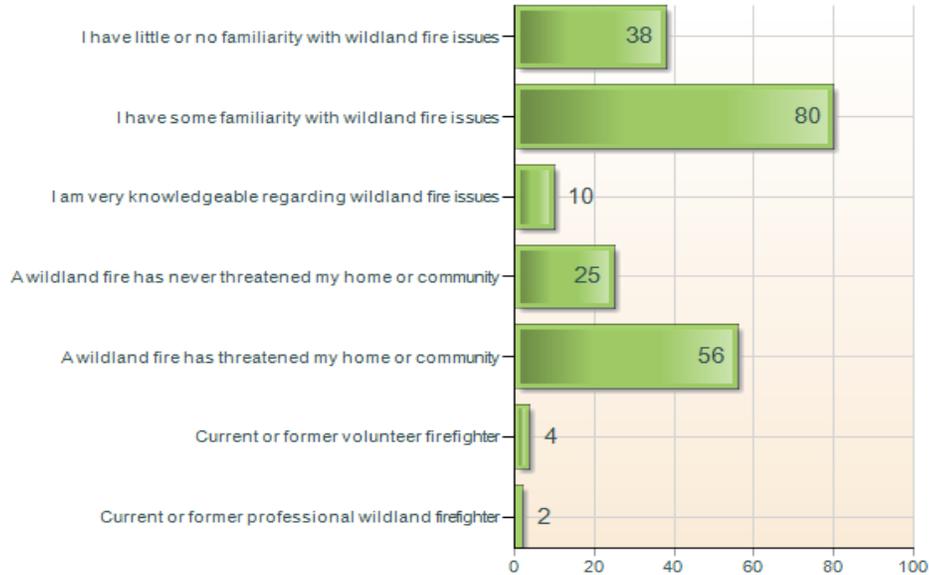
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey:** Please tell us about the access to your home. Please check all that apply.

**Please tell us about the access to your home. Please check all that apply.**



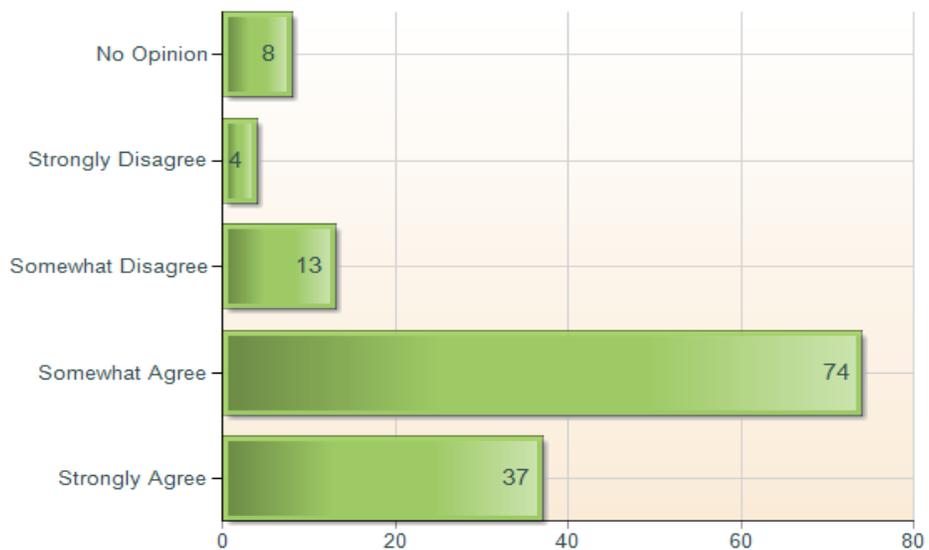
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: What are your knowledge and experience levels concerning wildfire? (Please check all that apply.)**

**What are your knowledge and experience levels concerning wildfire?  
(Please check all that apply.)**



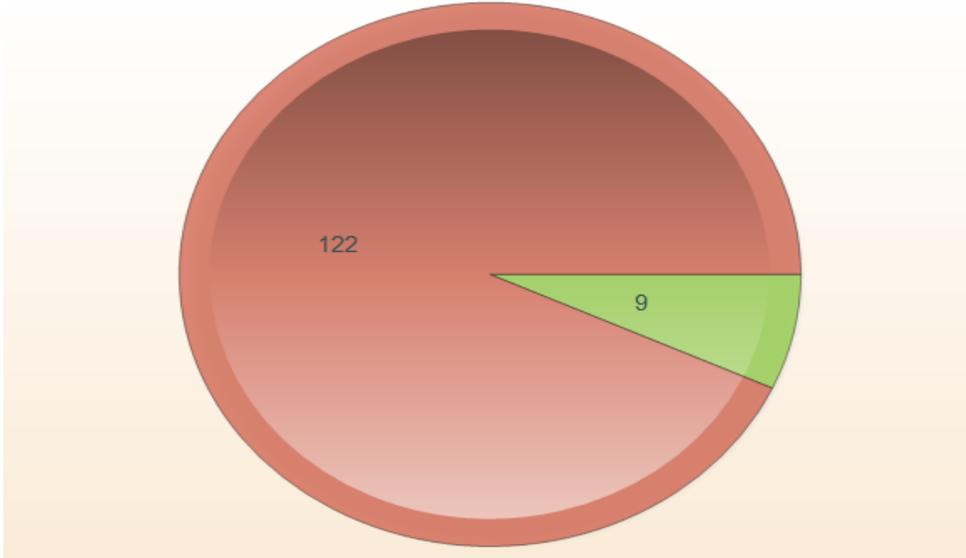
**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Please rate how you feel about the following statement. I believe fire responders in my area are ...**

**Please rate how you feel about the following statement. I believe fire responders in my area are well equipped to deal with a wildland fire incident and capable of mounting an effective response.**



**Lexington Hills CWPP Resident Survey: Do you use a voice-over IP for your telephone service?**

Do you use a voice-over IP for your telephone service?  
Yes No



## **FUNDING CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

There are many sources of funds available for implementing the recommendations within the CWPP. Some available grants and websites where more information can be found are provided below.

- **California FireSafe Council Grants Clearinghouse Agencies: USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies.**
  - Purpose: “One-stop shop” that simplifies the process of finding and applying for grants to improve California's community wildfire preparedness.
  - More information: <http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org/>
  
- **Agency: US Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness**
  - Purpose: to assist local, state, regional, or national organizations in addressing fire prevention and safety. The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program is the important grant program for Fire Safe Councils.
  - More information: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>
  
- **Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
  - Purpose: to improve firefighting operations, purchase firefighting vehicles, equipment, and personal protective equipment, fund fire prevention programs, and establish wellness and fitness programs.
  - More information: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/grants/>
  
- **Agency: National Volunteer Fire Council**
  - Purpose: to support volunteer fire departments
  - More information: [http://www.nvfc.org/page/638/Grants\\_Funding.htm](http://www.nvfc.org/page/638/Grants_Funding.htm)
  
- **Agency: Community Facilities Grant Program**
  - Purpose: to help rural communities. Funding is provided for fire stations
  - More information: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/Emerg\\_Responder/rural\\_emergency\\_responders\\_initi.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/Emerg_Responder/rural_emergency_responders_initi.htm)
  
- **Agency: Firehouse.com**
  - Purpose: emergency services grants
  - More information: [www.firehouse.com/funding/grants.html](http://www.firehouse.com/funding/grants.html)
  
- **Agency: Forest Service, Economic Action Programs**
  - Purpose: Economic Action Programs that work with local communities to identify, develop, and expand economic opportunities related to traditionally under-utilized wood products and to expand the utilization of wood removed through hazardous fuel reduction treatments.
  - More information: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/>

## **GEOBOOK**

---

In addition to a hard copy, an electronic copy, known as a **GeoBook®** is also available. Anchor Point's Wildfire **GeoBook® Software** provides a powerful and easy-to-use public education tool that contains and displays all the information collected in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This informative program display information through a book-like look and feel and can be distributed to individual homeowners throughout the community. It will enable homeowners and stakeholders in the communities to quickly access and review any and all the results from the project. In addition, first responders will have, at their fingertips, all the information to call up Fire Behavior Maps, Community Hazards, Values at Risk and more.