



# Happy Holiday Season from OTFSC!

We've seen a lot of progress this year and want to thank you all for being a big part of it

Despite many challenges this year we've been able to continue to serve our communities in many ways. We've used grant funding to continue work on fire danger mitigation projects such as fuels reduction. We've hosted and participated in community events to spread awareness of fire safety, tips for dealing with home insurance here in wildfire country, and getting together as communities to support each other in helping to protect yourself and your neighbors from wildfire. We've worked with partners such as the Sierra Resource Conservation District (SRCDD), CalFIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, California Climate Investments, the California State Insurance Commissioner's Office, and Americorps among others, and not least of all, YOU!

We are here to support your interests and that of your communities when it comes to working together to make us all FIRE SAFE!

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We were all affected this year by the series of atmospheric rivers that slammed California in January and March. We saw many roads damaged, properties damaged, and people left without power or communication through some of the wettest storms we've seen. But we also saw people working together to help each other throughout the community to provide heat, food, and transportation to those who would have otherwise been trapped through these storms.

Luckily with that rain and snow came a slight decrease in wildfires this year and let us get some work done!

This year we have worked on FOUR major fuel reduction projects in our area:

The [Pinehurst Community Fire Break](#) which encircles the areas of Pinehurst and Etheda Springs as well as the southern edge of Cedarbrook. (To be completed by March 2024)

The [Brookside Fuel Break](#) which runs along the full length of Brookside Rd. (To be completed by March 2024)

The [Miramonte Fuel Break](#) which will run south along Looking Glass Ln to connect to the the Badger-Miramonte Fire Control Rd south to Fresno/Tulare County Border and West to Orchard Drive<sup>1</sup>

And last but not least,

The [Pinehurst Miramonte Ingress Egress Fuel Breaks](#) which will provide safer evacuation routes as well as ease-of-access to the area for crews and firefighting equipment.

We are still seeking [Land Owner Agreements \(LOA's\)](#) to be able to proceed with work on some of these projects. If your property is affected by any of these projects, please make sure to fill out and submit an LOA! Each property is a link in the chain of protection for our communities.

Along with the work being done on our fuel reduction projects, you may have seen us this year at some of the community events held in our area. Council members attended and participated at events such as the Christmas Boutique at the Miramonte Chamber of Commerce, the Badger Fire Fair, the Dunlap Crafts Fair, and the Fall Festival among others and even hosted some events of our own!

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<sup>1</sup> Miramonte Fuel Break is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California.

This year we got together with the California Insurance Commissioner's Office for two separate events in the Miramonte/Pinehurst area as well as the Lower Dunlap area regarding the current situation with homeowner's insurance here in California as well as updates from Calfire and the U.S. Forest Service regarding their projects. We hope to host similar events this up and coming year as well!

But its not all *our* work! One of our major goals is working with the Sierra Resource Conservation District to help landowners in our area form their own Firewise Communities. We've seen this year multiple small communities getting together to join in the goal of helping to protect each other from wildfires and give everyone a voice in what needs to be done to help them keep themselves and their neighbors safe. If you are interested in joining one of the Firewise Communities, please contact us at the email below to get started.

The Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council is here to facilitate the needs of our communities in doing what we can to keep our communities safe from wildfires, and we can do so most effectively when we hear from you! All community members are welcome to attend Council meetings which occur on the third Tuesday of each month at the Miramonte Chamber of Commerce. If you are unable to attend in person, contact us so that we can connect to you via ZOOM.

We are also looking for those interested in joining the council as members! Be a voice for your community! Help organize events, find funding for projects to keep your community safe, and work together to connect fire wise communities to the resources they need!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council  
[info@oaktotimberline.org](mailto:info@oaktotimberline.org)  
PO Box 762  
Yokuts Valley, CA 93675