



Personal Note from Jamie Jones, Executive Director

December 1, 2025

To Our Friends and Supporters,
As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to share a personal message and an honest update on where we stand as the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.

First and foremost: we are still here, and we are still working every single day to protect our communities. This year brought challenges none of us expected—and ones that tested us in ways I never imagined. Yet our mission, our programs, and our commitment to you have not wavered.

Giving Tuesday – Why Your Support Matters Now

Over the years, you have supported us through your donations, volunteer hours and partnership - and we are deeply grateful. However, because of the past and ongoing financial challenges, we now need additional help.

We have been actively reducing past liabilities, cutting costs, and pursuing every viable funding opportunity. Even so, your support this Giving Tuesday is essential to help us stabilize and continue serving our community.

Your donation—of any amount—will help us:

- Keep our office open part-time
- Maintain utilities and essential operations
- Continue progress on active grants
- Preserve the institutional capacity our county relies on

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A Year Marked by Unexpected Obstacles

Many of you are already aware that a major portion of our funding and work plan were withdrawn by Nevada County in the spring of 2024. This forced difficult decisions: reducing staff, downsizing our office, and selling essential equipment simply to keep operations afloat.

Compounding this, in October 2024 the Nevada County District Attorney executed a search warrant at both our office and my home—removing all hard-copy records,

computers, and cell phones, including personal and business devices. We have fully cooperated throughout the process, yet none of these items have been returned, and no charges have ever been filed.

Operating without basic records and tools—all while losing major funding—has slowed our ability to deliver services and to compete for new grants. It has been an extremely frustrating and difficult period. Yet through it all, I have been profoundly grateful for the unwavering commitment of our Board of Directors and the dedication of our volunteers, who continue to stand with us and keep our mission moving forward.

Continuing the Work That Matters

Despite everything, our mission continues. Our volunteer **Defensible Space Advisory Team** and board members remain hard at work, completing visits and helping ensure our community members have support and guidance.

We are still moving forward on major projects, including:

- **Deer Creek Shaded Fuel Break** - Treating roughly 1,600 acres to reduce wildfire intensity and improve community protection in the Newtown Road, Morgan Ranch, and Nevada City areas.
- **Home Hardening Cost-Share Program** - Supporting approximately 150 homeowners with critical upgrades through a 90/10 reimbursement model that directly strengthens structure survivability in wildfire.

And as the Firewise USA Regional Coordinator for Nevada County, I am once again working closely with both new and renewing communities. We now have more than 130 recognized **Firewise USA communities**—a testament to the leadership, tenacity, and deep community resilience that define our residents.

Looking Forward

Despite the obstacles of the past year, we remain here—steadfast, resilient, and deeply committed to protecting your homes, neighborhoods, and families. With your support we will continue the essential work of reducing wildfire risk and strengthening community preparedness. Thank you for standing with us.

With deep gratitude,
Jamie Jones
Executive Director
Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

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