

Seth Schalet CEO

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Bay Area Council (BAC) Meeting February 4, 2025





Living with Fire **Our Mission** Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.

Serving and with Support from:



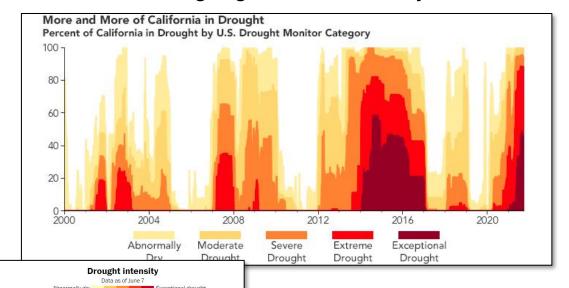






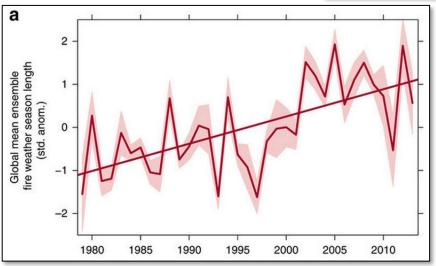
The Wildfire Threat Grows Bigger and Longer

The drought gets worse each year ...



Making the fire "season" the fire "year" ...



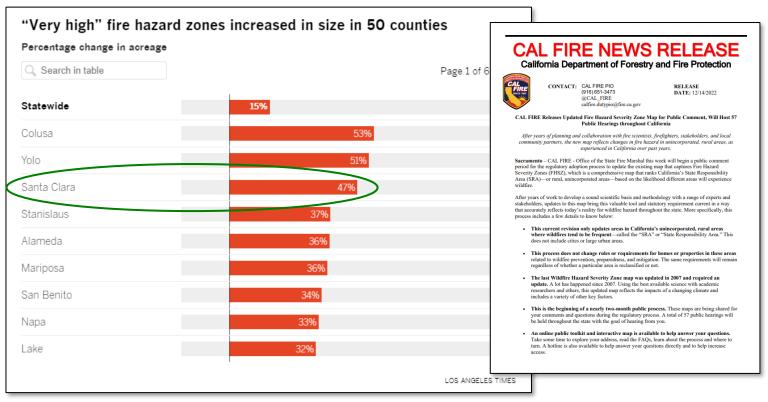


Compared with 20 years ago, the "fire season" is now starting 6-8 weeks earlier and lasting 8 weeks longer during the year.



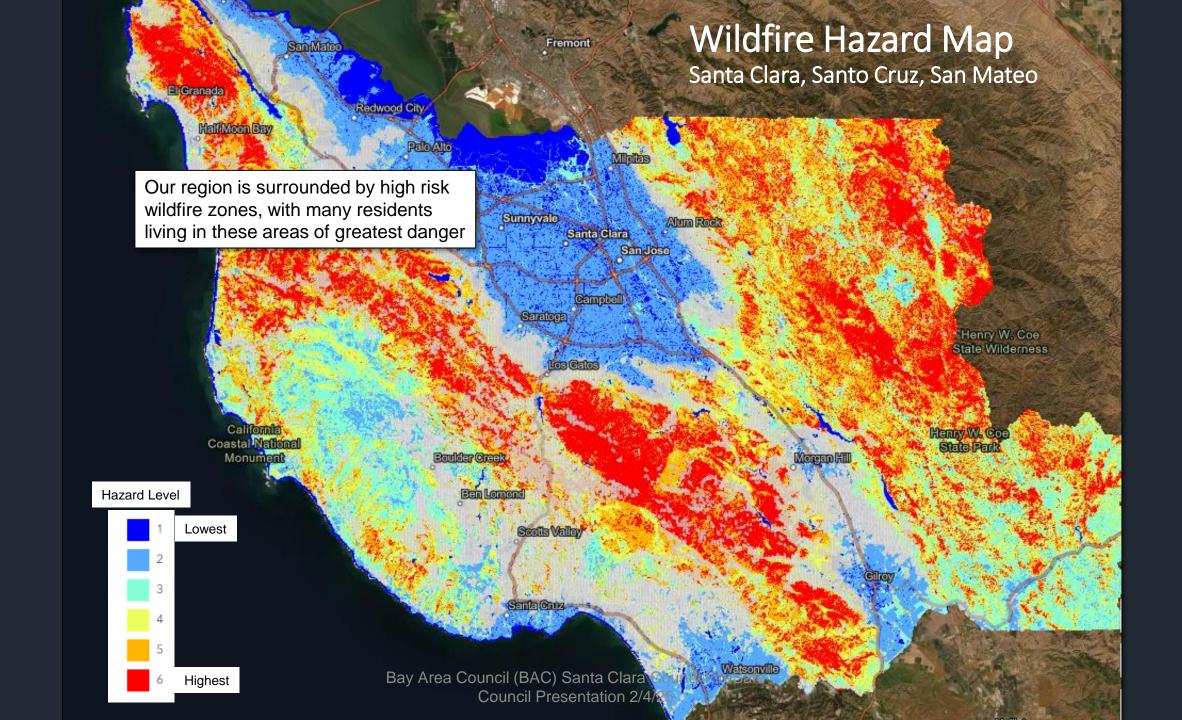
Santa Clara County "Very High" Fire Hazard Zones up 47%

- Dec 2022 Santa Clara County has 3rd highest increase across CA for areas now considered in "very high" fire hazard zones.
- "Public education about where current wildfire hazards exist is essential to reducing the threat to local communities and maintaining access to affordable insurance," said a statement from Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. "I encourage Californians to ask questions in this public process and to learn more about the tools that exist to help communities and governments reduce their local risks."



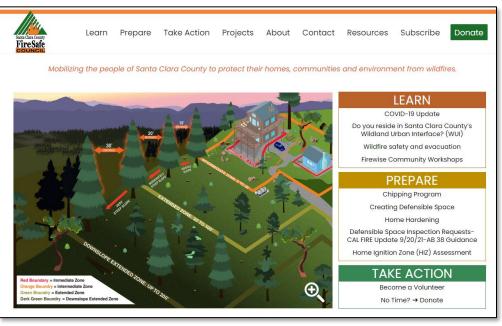
https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2022-12-27/more-than-half-of-rural-california-in-very-high-fire-zone





Who is the SCC FireSafe Council?

- Established in 2001 as 501(c)(3)
- Organization of wildfire and forestry experts focused on innovative wildfire mitigation solutions across the County
- Provides program leadership for large scale hazardous fuel reduction projects
- Conducts community education and facilitates Firewise® communities
- Authors the SCC Countywide Wildfire Protection Plan and partner collaborations







Important Contributions from the FireSafe Council



Trusted Advisor

- Wildfire and forestry expertise
- Non-profit with genuine mission: Independent 501(c)3

Public and Private Sector Enabler

- Brings together multiple jurisdictions or contractors
- Fewer regulations and bureaucracy, lower cost
- More agile and nimble to speed progresses to completion
- Can drive new, advanced innovations very quickly

Community Action Leader

- Educator and resource warehouse
- Detailed risk assessments and mitigations
- Firewise Communities facilitator
- Trusted partner



SCCFSC Awarded \$7.5M for Forest Health Project

\$7.5M award supports forest health and wildfire mitigation treatments within the Los Gatos Creek Watershed

"Landscape scale" project focus on creating resilient fire-adapted ecosystems, protecting crucial watersheds, promoting the longterm storage of carbon, and reducing the severity of wildfires

Unique collaboration integrating multiple stakeholders from CALFIRE, San Jose Water, MidPen Open Space, SC County Parks and CA Climate Investments.



Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative awarded \$7,500,000 CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council will serve as the CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant recipient and grant administrator for the collaborative's implementation of forest health and wildfire mitigation treatments covering 955 acres in the Los Gatos Creek Watershed.

June 24, 2021, Saratoga, CA—Today, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) announced that the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative has been awarded a \$7,500,000 CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant. This landscape scale forest health project focuses on creating ecosystem resilience, mitigating the risk of catastrophic wildfire while enhancing the safety of communities in the southern Silicon Valley, protecting sensitive native and endemic species and habitats, and protecting the drinking water in Lexington and Elsman reservoirs which supply over 100,000 residents.

The collaborative, formed in 2020, includes San Jose Water, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Parks, and the Santa Clara FireSafe Council. This collaboration, a unique, multi-stakeholder approach, facilitates each stakeholders' efforts on landscape level treatments — altering the course of drastic changes that important ecosystems are experiencing. The collaborative has identified an interconnectable mosaic pattern of treatment areas that, with ecologically sensitive treatments, meet the goals of the Forest Health Program to:

- Establish healthy, resilient fire-adapted ecosystems to protect and conserve natural resources
- Protect upper watersheds where important regional water supplies originate.
- Promote the long-term storage of carbon and reduce the severity of catastrophic wildfire thereby increasing community and forest ecosystem protection.

The Los Gatos Creek Watershed partners each express their gratitude to CAL FIRE and look forward to commencing environmental surveys and field-based activities. The project is expected to be completed by March 31, 2025. Accordingly, the principals from the collaborative partners add the following statements:

In Partnership with:













SCCFSC Leads Countywide Wildfire Protection Collaborative

\$250,000 award to SCCFSC to spearhead the creation of the 2022/23 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Unique collaborative brings together partners from CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire Dept, County of Santa Clara Office of Emergency Management and Department of Planning and Development.

This integrated Strategic Wildfire Mitigation Plan will prioritize removal of critical wildfire hazards for public safety, infrastructure and property protection, and to strengthen wildfire resiliency across the County.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Seth Schalet Santa Clara County FireSafe Council CWPPteam@sscfiresafe.org













Santa Clara County FireSafe Council leads collaboration with County wildfire officials to update important wildfire preparedness document

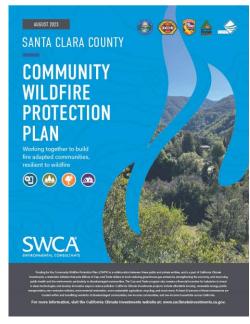
November 10, 2022, Saratoga, CA—Santa Clara County FireSafe Council announced today it is leading a project to update the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with support from partners including CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire, County of Santa Clara Office of Emergency Management, County of Santa Clara Department of Planning and Development and others. Five public information meetings have been scheduled.

CAL FIRE awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) to lead the 2022/2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update. With this grant, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) has been selected to update the current CWPP (drafted in 2016) in coordination with regional stakeholders. SWCA also worked on the 2016 CWPP led by the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD). The CWPP update will build on the current CWPP and will cover the entire county. The planning process is expected to go through August 2023.

CWPPs are a critical element for county wildfire preparedness. According to Seth Schalet, Chief Executive Officer for Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, "Wildfire frequency and severity is on the rise, causing further risk to our local communities. Public safety, property, air quality from toxic wildfire smoke, critical infrastructure such as cell towers, the electrical grid, reservoirs, and water systems along with vital industries such as the county's agriculture producers can all be compromised by a large wildfire. Updating the CWPP will strengthen the ability of Santa Clara County to be more resilient and prepared for wildfires".

By having this strategic plan for all the local agencies, it allows them to prioritize forest health projects, shaded fuel breaks, escape routes, and public education campaigns. The CWPP will

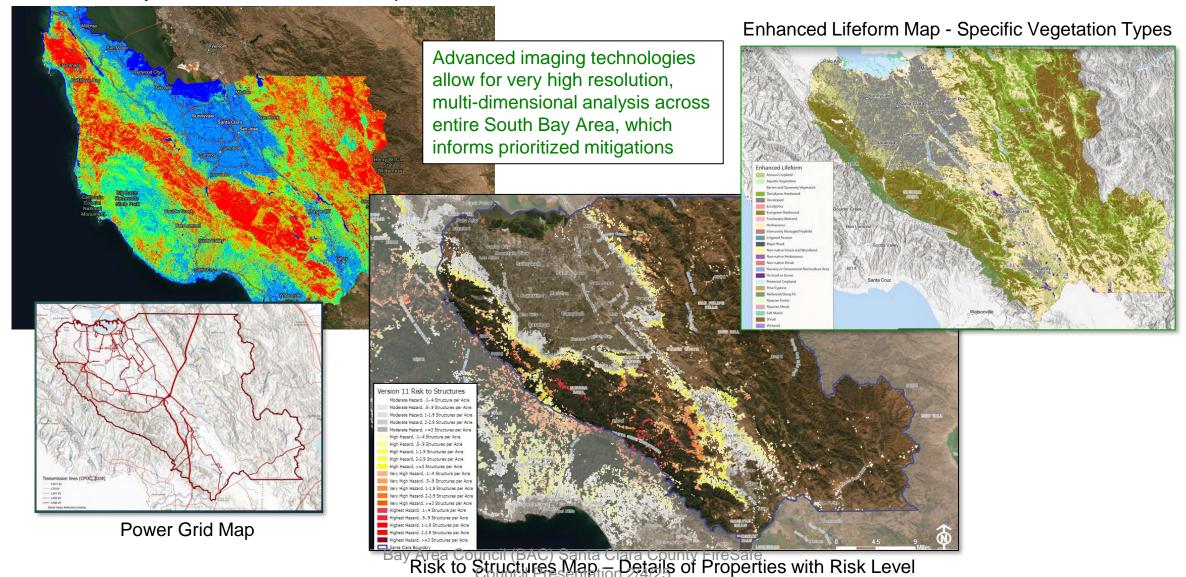






State-of-Art Analysis and Mapping Drives Mitigation Plan

3-County Wildfire Hazard and Risk Map



Recent Grants & Awards

For Immediate Releas

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Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Awarded County Coordinator Grant Will Lead County-Wide Collaboration And Coordination Among All Wildfire Mitigation Groups With \$175,000 CAL FIRE Grant

January 20, 2023, Saratoga, CA—Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) announced today it has been awarded a \$175.000 CAL FIRE County Coordinator Grant. The purpose of the County Coordinator Grant is to educate, encourage, and develop county-wide collaboration and coordination among Santa Clara County's

> Watershed Collaborative Secure \$6.3 Million in New Forest **Health Grant Funding**

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council will serve as the CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant recipient and arant administrator for Phase Two of the collaborative's latest implementation of forest health and wildfire mitigation treatments, covering 841

new acres in the Los Gatos Creek Watershed and incorporating Aldercroft Heights Firewise and Lupin Lodge in the treatment areas. This brings total funding for the

May 2, 2023, Saratoga, CA-Today, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) announced

that the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative has been awarded a new \$6,336,790 CAL FIRE

Forest Health Grant to continue work in the Los Gatos Creek Watershed, incorporating new

treatment areas with Aldercroft Heights Firewise and Lupin Lodge. This landscape-scale forest

health project focuses on creating ecosystem resilience, mitigating the risk of, and reducing the

severity of potential wildfire, while enhancing the safety of the surrounding communities. The new

funding round serves to protect sensitive native and endemic species and habitats, and protect the

drinking water in Lexington and Elsman reservoirs which supply over 100,000 residents. The original

The collaborative, originally formed in 2020, includes San Jose Water, Midpeninsula Regional Ope

Space District, Santa Clara FireSafe Council, Santa Clara County Parks, and new community partners

Lupin Lodge and Aldercroft Heights Firewise in this Phase Two award. This collaboration, a unique

multi-stakeholder approach, maximizes each stakeholders' efforts on landscape-level treatments -

areas that, with ecologically sensitive treatments, meet the goals of the Forest Health Program and

Promote the long-term storage of carbon and reduce the severity of potential wildfire

. Establish healthy, resilient fire-adapted ecosystems to protect and conserve natural

managing vegetation to enhance the resiliency of these critical lands in the wake of a changing climate. The collaborative has identified an interconnectable mosaic pattern of priority treat

· Protect upper watersheds where important regional water supplies originate

LGCWC's Forest Health Grant projects to \$13,836,790

collaborative was awarded a \$7,500,000 Forest Health Grant in 2021.

needs,









San Jose Water Company and Santa Clara County FireSafe Council **Announce Partnership to Protect Regional Watersheds and Drinking** Water Systems

Contract includes AlcheraX FireScout AI wildfire cameras in the San Jose Water service area and establishes a Community Wildfire Mitigation Pilot Program to reduce community wildfire risk

November 17 2022, Saratoga, CA—San Jose Water (SJW), Inc. announced today it has entered into a strategic partnership with The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC), an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, to provide a series of technology solutions supporting SJW's commitment to environmental stewardship and water resources management. With a focus on reducing wildfire risk and creating a consortium to monitor areas at elevated risk to wildfire in SJW's service area, this partnership will protect critical infrastructure and provide monitoring and early detection of wildfire in Santa Clara County

The first projects include serving as a value-added reseller (VAR) for AlcheraX's FireScout technology which will add an artificial intelligence (AI) capability to wildfire early detection and monitoring on SJW lands. The SCCFSC will provide multiple FireScout systems to SJW, provide consulting for the setup, configuration and mplementation of FireScout. This project is part of SCCFSC's larger regional effort to coordinate multiple land



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect





Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Awarded CAL FIRE High Priority Fire Prevention Grant

\$1,456,579 Award Supports Fuel Break and Escape Route Projects

October 7, 2022, Saratoga, CA-Today, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) announced that CAL FIRE has awarded a new \$1,456,579 Fire Prevention Grant to the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. The CAL FIRE grant supports priority wildfire mitigation and public safety projects in CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit that will be conducted by Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. The projects include

- Fast Dunne Avenue Escape Route Project
- Loma Chiquita Road Escape Route/Fuel Break Projec
- Mount Chual Spur Road Escape Route/Fuel Break Project Mount Madonna/Summit Road Escape Route/Fuel Break Project
- 1. East Dunne Avenue Escape Route Project. This grant provides support to complete pre-implementatio of CEQA environmental compliance documents and roadside fuel treatment. The planning and environmental compliance supports the implementation of three phases of the project along East Dunne Avenue, at Holiday Drive to the entrance of Henry Coe State Park in Morgan Hill, California, with the objective to protect life and property in the Holiday Lakes Estates, Jackson Oaks, and Anderson Lake County Park, and Finley Ridge communities by reducing the risk of wildfires.
- Loma Chiquita Road Escape Route/Fuel Break Project. This grant provides the support to complete pre-implementation of CEQA environmental compliance documents and roadside fuel treatment. The planning and environmental compliance would support the implementation of 29 acres of fuel break treatment along a total length of 3 miles. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council will begin at the intersection of Loma Prieta Road and Loma Chiquita Road heading eastward. Located in the Santa Cruz Mountains between Aptos and the southern end of San Jose near Morgan Hill, Loma Chiquita Road generally follows the watershed boundary between Llagas and Uvas Creeks and makes an effective fuel break in an area with a history of large, fast-moving wildfires. Residents will need to rapidly evacuate to prevent becoming trapped. This roadside fuel break is part of CAL FIRE's pre-fire plan, and part of a etwork of ridgeline fuel breaks in the surrounding watersheds. By reducing vegetation in the corridor Santa Clara County FireSafe Council will help prepare the road corridor to be used for fire suppression operations and to protect residential properties

14380 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070 • Phone (408) 975-9591 • www.SCCFireSafe.org

- SCCFSC Awarded \$175,000 for County Coordinator Role
- \$6.3M New Forest Health Expansion in Phase Two Award
- SCCFSC and San Jose Water Team to Protect Water Systems with AI based wildfire smoke sensors
- SCCFSC Awarded \$1.45M for High Priority Fire Prevention

















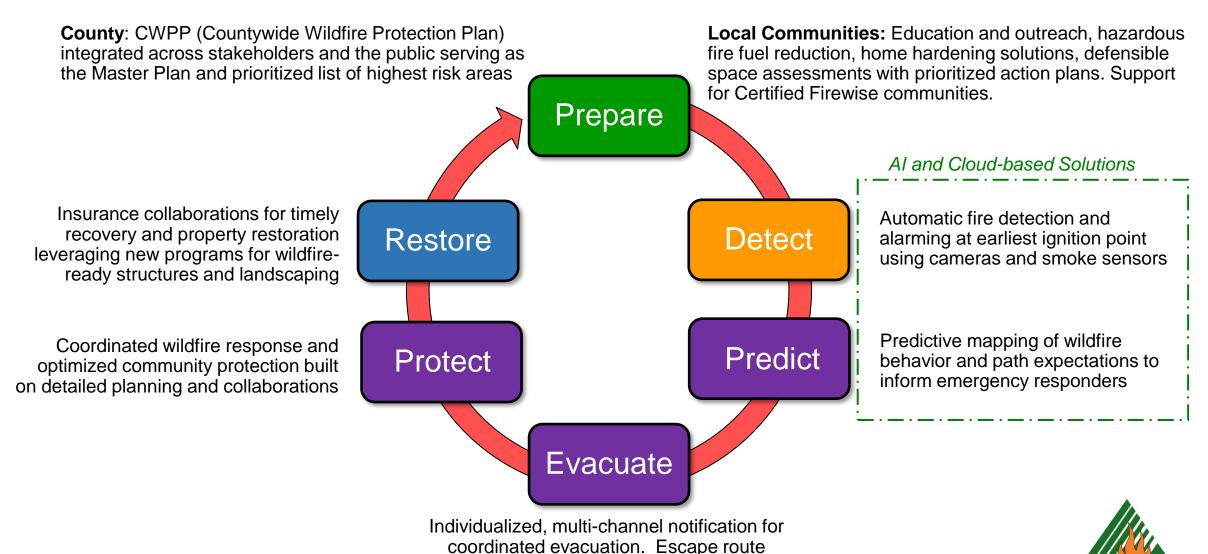
Direct Beneficiaries of the SCC FireSafe Council

- State and Regional Fire Depts (CAL FIRE, SCCFD, etc.)
- County and City Municipalities
- Utility Providers (PG&E, San Jose Water, Valley Water)
- Insurance Providers
- Industry
- Underserved, Lower-Income Communities that Lack Resources Via Climate
- Justice and Equity Lens
- .. And Residents, Businesses and Communities





Building Integrated Wildfire Mitigation Solutions



assessments and fire fuel risk reductions

New Al Solution Partners Enable Intelligent Integration

FireSafe Council's growing portfolio of best-in-class solution providers, integrated under one strategic vision, provides synergies not available elsewhere.

This alliance is committed to leveraging advanced technology to protect our forests and communities from the devastating impact of wildfires.

New Al-based, ultra-early fire detection and monitoring solutions can empower firefighters with crucial time to prevent wildfires from spreading.

These partnerships reinforce our shared vision of creating a safer and more sustainable environment.

Together, we can make a significant difference in mitigating the risks posed by wildfires and preserving our natural ecosystems.

For Immediate Release

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Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Enhances Early Wildfir Detection Portfolio With Dryad Networks SILVANET Platfor

Partnership Expands Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's Leadership in Ultra-Early Wildfire Detection Solutions

July 5, 2023, Saratoga, CA—Today, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) announced it has entered into a partnership with Dryad Networks to offer their SILVANET platform as part of SCCFSC to product and services portfolio. This partnership enables SCCFSC to resell the Silvanet platform, a wildfire detection solution that provides real time detection of wildfire and air quality alerts to make communities safer from wildfire and airborne environmental hazards and reduce environmental destructive CO2 emissions.

Silwanet provides ultra-early fire detection, forest health and growth monitoring solutions for public and private forests. It provides actionable insights based on live data gathered from Silvanet's solarpowered sensors with embedded artificial intelligence that measure various gases, temperature, humidity and air pressure. Silvanet's scalable, distributed LoRAWAN mesh gateways enable large-scal deployment of multi-party sensor networks within forests of all type.

"When it comes to wildfires, time is of the essence. Dryad's AI based Silvanet platform provides ultrearly fire detection, sensing carbon monoxide, hydrogen and other gases emitted by pyrolysis in the early stages of a wildfire, giving fire fighters valuable time and a chance to extinguish the fire before spreads out of control", according to Seth Schalet, CEO of Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. "We want to provide our clients with proven options to reduce wildfire risk, help them with product selection, pilot testing a deployment at scale. We now have the leading solutions to facilitate this."

Carsten Brinksculte, CEO and Co-founder of Dryad Networks, said: "We are very pleased to be working with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to scale our technology. At Dryad, we are committed beveraging advanced technology to protect our forests and communities from the devastating impact



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect





Santa Clara County FireSafe Council And AlcheraX Inc., Partner To Bring Leading Edge Al Wildfire Technology Solutions For Early Detection And Wildfire Mitigation

Consulting and Resale Agreement enables Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to add AlcheraX Inc., Solutions to their Wildfire Mitigation and Services Programs

For Immediate Release

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Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Partners with N5 Sensors, Inc.

Reseller agreement enables Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to add NS's Al-Enabled NSSHIELD platform for early wildfire detection to their portfolio.

June 21, 2023, Saratoga, CA—The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) announced today it has entered into a partnership with NS Sensors, Inc., to offer their NSSHIELD** platform as part of SCCFSC's product and services portfolio. This partnership enables the resale of NSSHIELD**, a uldiffer detection solution that provides real time detection of wildfire and air quality alerts via an end-to-end architecture that leverages cloud-connected multimodal sensors, and Al to make communities safer from wildfire and airborne environmental hazards.

Leveraging a network of ChemNode** devices, each containing the most advanced sensors for gas, chemica particulates, head and environmental conditions along with multiple communication politions, the N5 ecosystem provides an interactive dashboard for visualizing sensor data and fire alerts. This real-time data enables first responders to identify widifier feater and to analyze local conditions for safe and effective management of fire-fighting resources. The system also provides air quality information, further protecting community members.

According to Seth Schalet, CEO of Santa Clara County FireSafe Council "The nature of wildfires is evolving, coupled with population and structure growth in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas in Santa Clara County, increasing widfler erisk. With ISSHIELD, our clients have the ability to detect wildfires in the smoldering phase, hours before they spread. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's portfolio enables us to offer completely integrated solutions, which include early detection, product piot testing, and cross-sector collaboration, originitizing in kinditization to protect life and property in Santa Clara County's WUI."

council (SCCFSC) announced today it has ire camera technology to SCCFSC's teraX's FireScout portfolio of leading tection Al solution that detects the early Scout provides preparedness support, ess with the most connected wildfire

ble using IR cameras (91% accuracy). dinal direction and degrees helping the ution enables customers to connect an

ht conditions, population, and structure County increasing, along with wildfire risk. larger fires in areas with increased anta Clara County FireSafe Council. Impletely integrated solutions, or pointto our clients that include early detection, gation and early response to protect life



FSC Launches Advanced Wildfire Detection Network

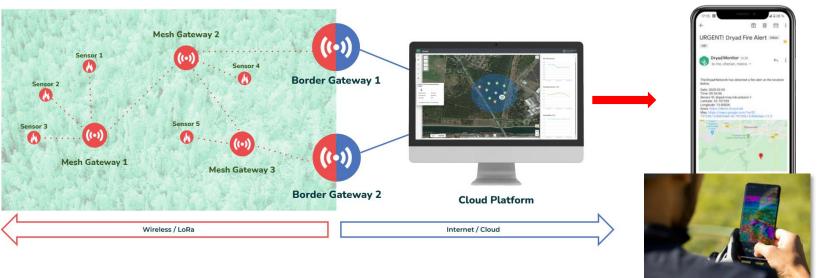




FireSafe Council's partnerships with N5 Sensors and Dryad provide the most advanced wildfire detection capability for identifying wildland fires shortly after ignition and before they become catastrophic events.

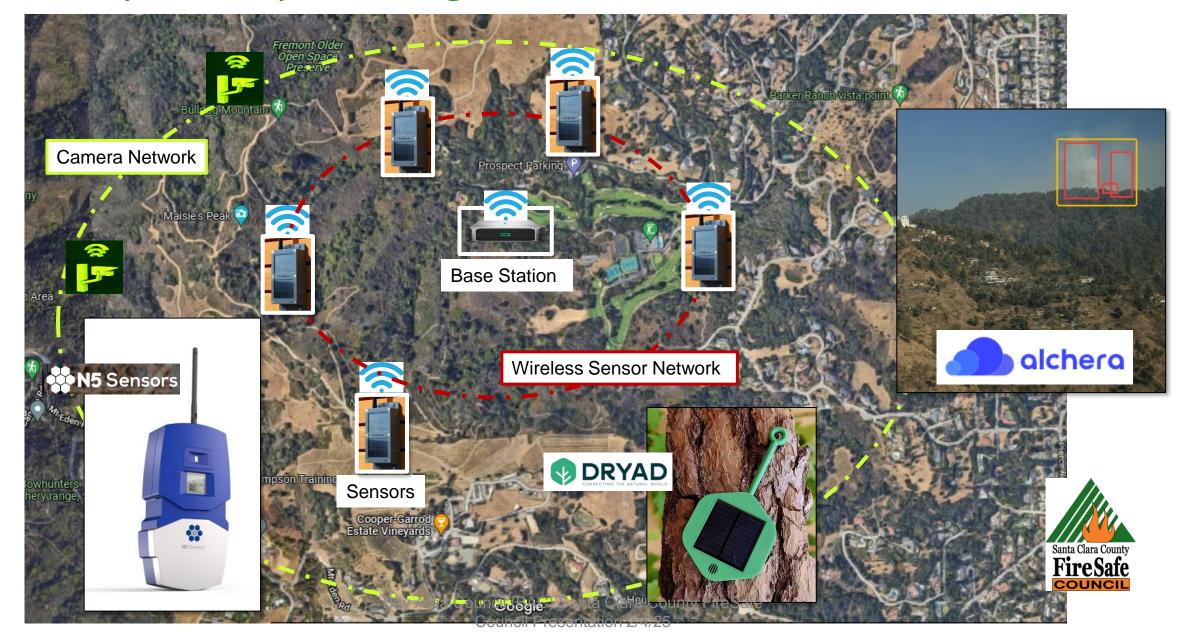
- Earliest wildfire detection possible
- Emergency communications
- Mesh network for large landscapes
- Platform for all IoT sensor types
- Deployed with Forest Health awards





Networked sensors detect fire gas and particles, air quality and chemical monitoring, heat and humidity trends. Fire alerts sent directly to mobile devices.

Example: Early Warning Wildfire Detection Networks

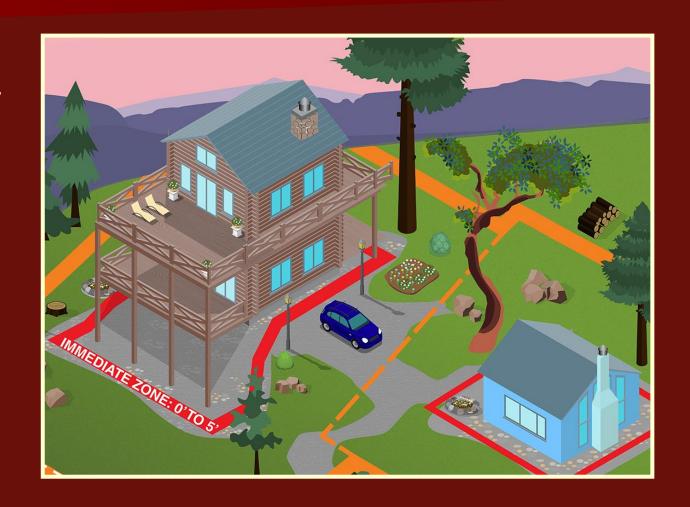




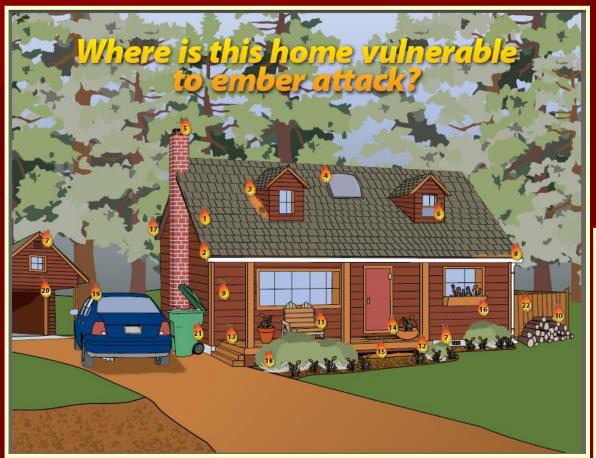
Zone Zero: 0-5 feet

Gray Zone

- no plants
- nothing flammable
- hardscapes
 - boulders
 - birdbaths
 - pathways



Home Ignition Zone-Be Ember Aware



That is where the wind will carry the embers

Where are needle and leaf debris accumulating on your property?



Home Hardening Basics

- 1. Roofs Class A only (no wood shake)
- 2. Deck Flooring Class A or non-combustible no redwood floor decking, noncombustible railings, i.e. cable rail or metal screen or enclose ground floor decks
- 3. Siding No combustible siding (no wood siding) < 36 inches to ground
- 4. Fencing No combustible fencing within 30 ft of structures
- 5. Eaves Ignition resistant boxed eaves required
- 6. Attached Structures Noncombustible construction for all trellis, shade canopies, breezeways, etc. attached or within 30 ft. of structures
- 7. Venting Vents must prevent the intrusion of all embers utilizing Vulcan, O'hagan, Brandguard or like vents
- 8. Gutters/Down Spouts/Gutter Guards No combustible types
- 9. Landscape 0-5 ft. zone zero with no combustibles (vegetation)
- 10. Detached U structures U structures to have setbacks of 30 ft from all other structures including neighboring property structures unless built to ignition resistant requirements of habitable R1 structures.

Thank You Audience Q&A



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