

Napa Firewise Celebrates Senator Bill Dodd's Contributions to Wildfire Preparedness

Highlighting transformative policies, critical funding, and innovative collaborations that set a new standard for wildfire resilience in Napa County.

NAPA, CA, UNITED STATES, December 10, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Napa Firewise](#) commends Senator [Bill Dodd](#) for his significant efforts in advancing wildfire prevention and public safety in [Napa County](#). With transformative policies, critical funding allocations, and innovative collaborations, Senator Dodd has helped establish Napa County as a leader in wildfire resilience, setting a standard for other California communities.

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“It's been a pleasure to partner with Napa Firewise on wildfire safety efforts, as they are leading the way in taking proactive steps to save homes and lives,” said Senator Bill

Dodd. “Through the extension of this office, California can continue to work smarter to address the increasing wildfire threat,” he added, referencing his support of Napa Firewise and statewide wildfire safety innovations.

“Senator Dodd's leadership has been instrumental in creating a safer, more resilient Napa County,” said Joe Nordlinger, Chief Executive Officer of Napa Firewise. “Through his advocacy and commitment to wildfire prevention, he has empowered communities to protect themselves from increasing wildfire risks. We are profoundly grateful for his dedication to Napa County's safety and well-being.”

- Key Highlights of Senator Dodd's Wildfire Preparedness Efforts -

Securing Essential Funding for Local Initiatives:

In 2021, Senator Dodd secured \$7.6 million in state funding for wildfire prevention and infrastructure improvements. Of this, \$2.7 million was allocated directly to Napa County projects, enabling Napa Firewise to implement critical fuel reduction and fire-safe initiatives in vulnerable areas.

Improving Emergency Evacuation Routes for Rural Communities:

With an understanding that safe evacuation routes are indispensable during wildfire events,

Dodd allocated \$4 million in 2022 to enhance emergency routes for Napa’s rural areas, including communities like Deer Park and Berryessa Highlands. These improvements not only safeguard residents during emergencies but also strengthen the county’s broader infrastructure for public safety.

Strengthening Evacuation Routes and Infrastructure:

Recognizing the importance of safe evacuation routes, Senator Dodd directed \$4 million in 2022 to enhance emergency routes in high-risk rural communities like Deer Park and Berryessa Highlands. This funding also reinforced broader infrastructure improvements for public safety.

Investing in Firefighter Access and Vegetation Management:

In 2023, Senator Dodd championed \$3 million in funding—matched by \$1 million from Napa County—for shaded fuel breaks, vegetation management, and roadside clearing. These measures have improved firefighter access and strengthened Napa County’s wildfire resilience.

Advancing Wildfire Detection and Technology:

A major accomplishment of Dodd’s tenure is the passage of SB 74, which makes California’s Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development a permanent part of CAL FIRE. This office, initiated by Dodd in 2021, has spearheaded innovative tools like the AI-powered “Alert California” smoke detection system, developed in collaboration with the University of San Diego. By removing the office’s 2029 expiration date, SB 74 ensures the continuation of cutting-edge wildfire detection and response efforts.

Engaging Community Support:

In 2021, Senator Dodd designated Napa Firewise as the beneficiary of his annual holiday fundraiser, raising \$1.4 million for wildfire prevention projects. This initiative demonstrated his commitment to community-driven solutions for long-term wildfire preparedness.

A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience:

As Senator Dodd concludes his tenure after 25 years of public service and 126 passed bills, his contributions to wildfire preparedness stand as a cornerstone of his legacy. Representing California’s 3rd Senate District—which spans Napa, Solano, Yolo, and portions of Contra Costa, Sacramento, and Sonoma counties—his efforts have impacted both urban and rural communities.

From serving on Napa County’s Board of Supervisors to leading statewide efforts in the California Assembly and Senate, Dodd has remained dedicated to advancing public safety, environmental stewardship, and community resilience. His forward-thinking initiatives have set a precedent for wildfire preparedness across the state.

- About Napa Firewise -

Napa Firewise is a nonprofit community benefit corporation dedicated to reducing wildfire risk in

Napa County through proactive public education, critical fuel reduction projects, and collaborative partnerships with local agencies, including Napa County Fire, CAL FIRE, Napa Vintners, and PG&E. As a principal leader in wildfire resilience, Napa Firewise plays a key role in developing countywide management strategies, securing vital funding through state, county, federal, and community grants, and mobilizing local Fire Safe Councils. These grassroots, community-led groups, often sparked by a shared determination to protect homes and natural resources, empower residents to act, increase property insurability, and forge essential partnerships with first responders. Through these initiatives, Napa Firewise is dedicated to building a fire-resilient Napa, uniting and equipping communities to protect their environment and reduce wildfire threats. For more information on programs, visit www.napafirewise.org.

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