

2026 Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Central Marin Summary

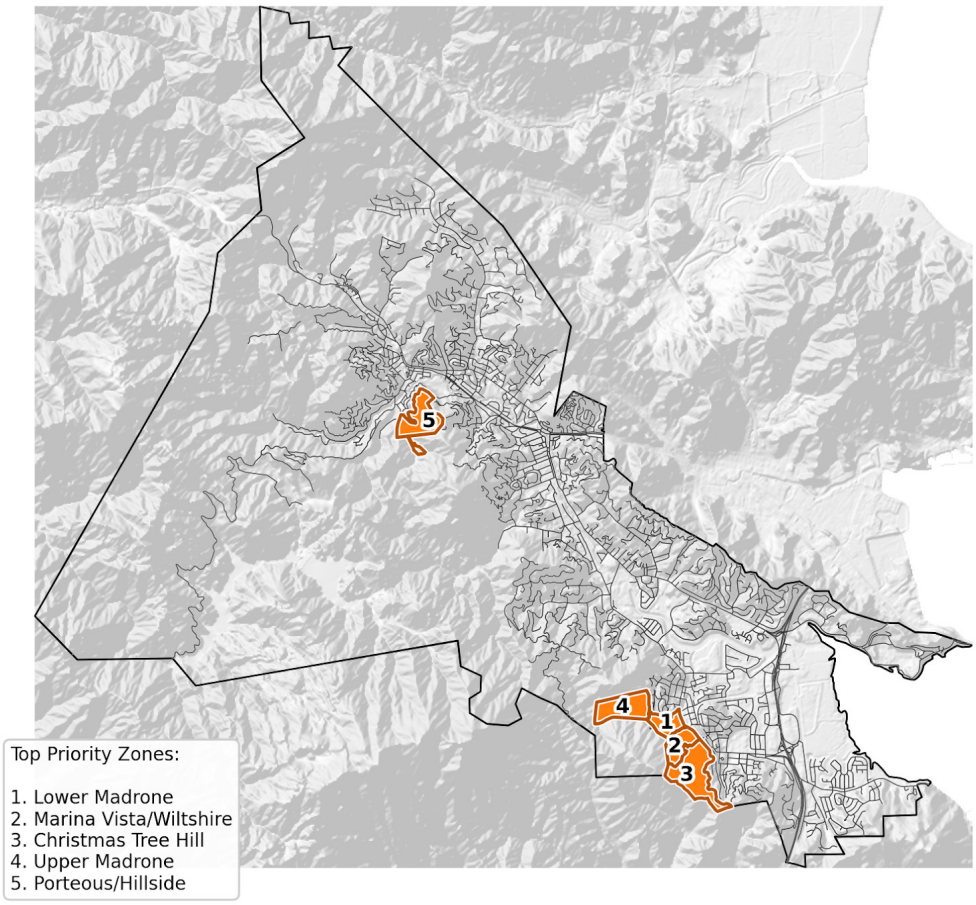
Central Marin's highest-priority risk-reduction themes are Near-Community Vegetation Management and Evacuation Planning, driven by the alignment of high likelihood of active-to-extreme fire behavior, fire pathways, and constrained road networks. These factors align to elevate both fire spread potential and evacuation complexity. Vegetation Management in open spaces that builds on Marin Water's existing network of watershed treatments projects presents an opportunity to disrupt fire pathways and protect critical infrastructure before a fire reaches developed areas. Roadside Clearance and Residential Risk Reduction are also high priorities in multiple evacuation zones, particularly where homes are closely spaced, exposed to fire pathways, and exhibit vulnerabilities created by deficiencies in home hardening and defensible space. Detection is generally not a priority in this zone, although expanded capabilities in some remote watershed areas would strengthen situational awareness. Enrollment in AlertMarin is generally high throughout this zone; however, the combination of demographic factors and modeled fire exposure in Baltimore Canyon may complicate effective alerting processes during a rapidly evolving incident in that area.

This zone-specific summary provides a brief description of the highest-priority zones within the Central Marin JPA zone. These recommendations are intended to be interpreted in conjunction with local knowledge and expertise to develop effective risk-reduction strategies in Central Marin.

Near-Community Vegetation Management

Substantial progress has been made in recent years on near-community shaded fuel breaks in the Central Marin Zone, including the Greater Ross Valley Shaded Fuel Break. However, assessment of residual risk indicates several areas that are strong candidates for future near-community treatments. Larkspur and Corte Madera, the Upper and Lower Madrone zones, the Marina Vista and Wiltshire Zone, and the Christmas Tree Hill Zone rank among the highest in the county for this theme. These areas are characterized by high modeled flame lengths around structures (8–10 feet or greater), models showing fire pathways entering the community under a west wind fire weather event, and relatively high structure density. The Porteous/Hillside Zone on the border of Fairfax and San Anselmo exhibits similar conditions, including concentrated exposure to fire pathways and moderate to high structural density.

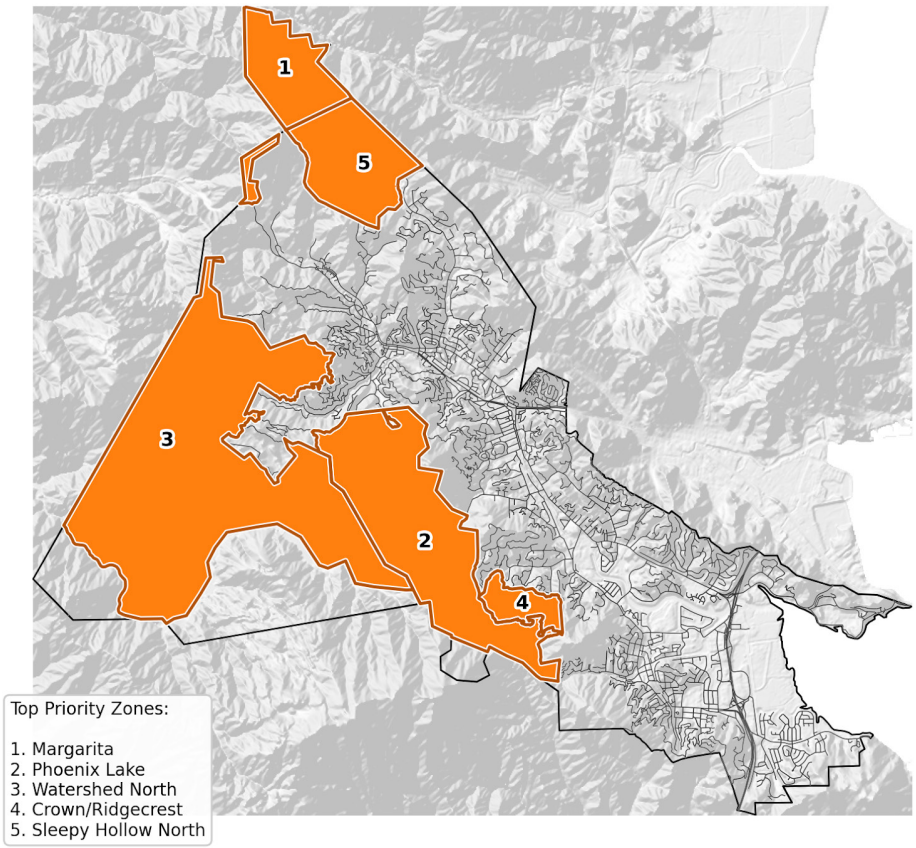
Central Marin
Vegetation Management Near Community



Vegetation Management in Open Space

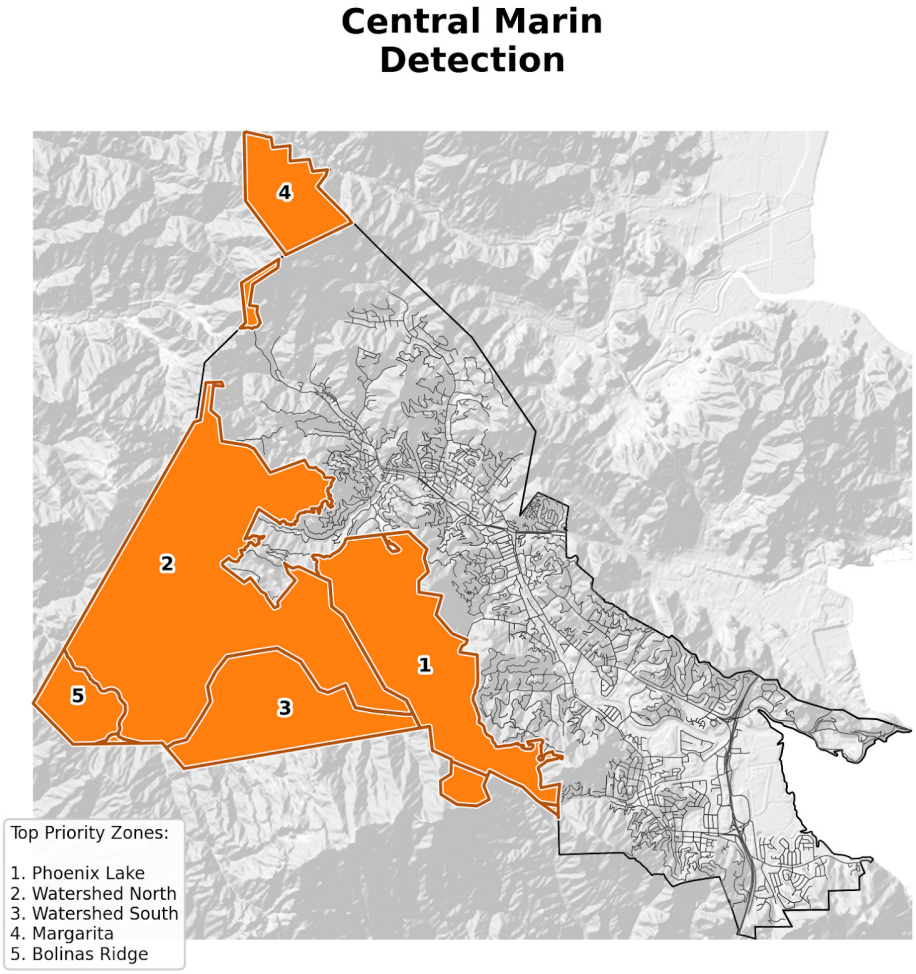
Vegetation Management in Open Space is recommended in the sparsely populated areas adjacent to communities in Central Marin. Although Marin Water has completed extensive vegetation management in the Mount Tamalpais Watershed, additional treatment would further reduce transmission risk to adjacent communities and protect watershed and infrastructure assets. Modeling indicates high fire probability in these areas, particularly north of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in the Margarita and Sleepy Hollow North zones. Anticipated fire behavior is high, with potential flame lengths exceeding 20 feet in many locations. Fire pathways move through these zones into Sleepy Hollow, Fairfax, and the Ross Valley. Strategically located Strategically Placed Landscape Area Treatments (SPLATs) targeting these pathways could moderate fire growth and reduce downstream exposure. Additionally, these zones contain critical water, electric, and communications infrastructure; targeted vegetation management around these assets would support continuity of service during a wildfire incident. Finally, these zones are important sources of drinking water where an unplanned high-severity fire could adversely affect water quality and supply.

Central Marin
Vegetation Management Open Space



Detection

Many of the areas of Central Marin already have robust detection capabilities. However, there are a few areas that are far from roads or that are not covered by fire-detection cameras where a new fire could spread without rapid detection and response. The eastern side of the Bolinas Ridge has the greatest concentration of fire camera blind spots where a fire could spread unobserved by the detection network. The North and South Watershed zones, Phoenix Lake Zone, and the Margarita Zone all contain areas more than a kilometer from the nearest road where both detection and fire response would be difficult.

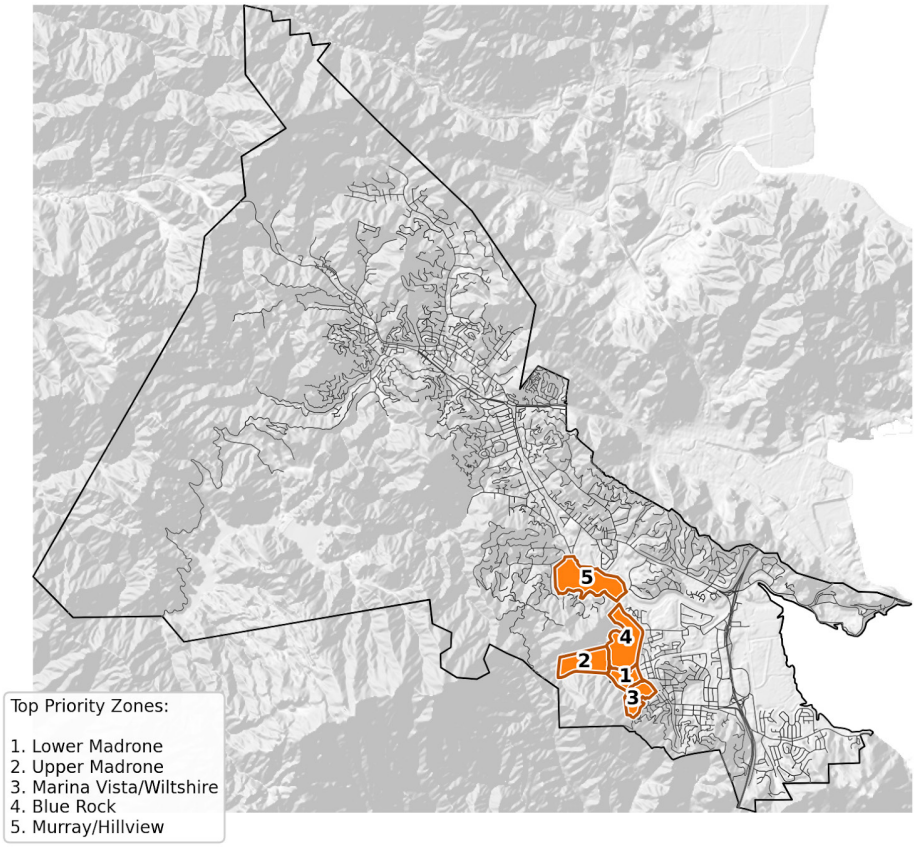


Alerting

Improving alerting and warning systems is most strongly recommended in the Baltimore Canyon area of Larkspur. These zones (Upper and Lower Madrone, Marina Vista/Wiltshire, Blue Rock, and Murray/Hillview) exhibit a confluence of household demographic factors (populations with access and functional needs), fire pathways, and a high annual probability of fire exposure that could make receiving and acting upon emergency alerts difficult. Although enrollment in AlertMarin is relatively high among the residents of these zones, alternative alerting and warning systems may be appropriate to address the demographic factors that could constrain effective evacuations.

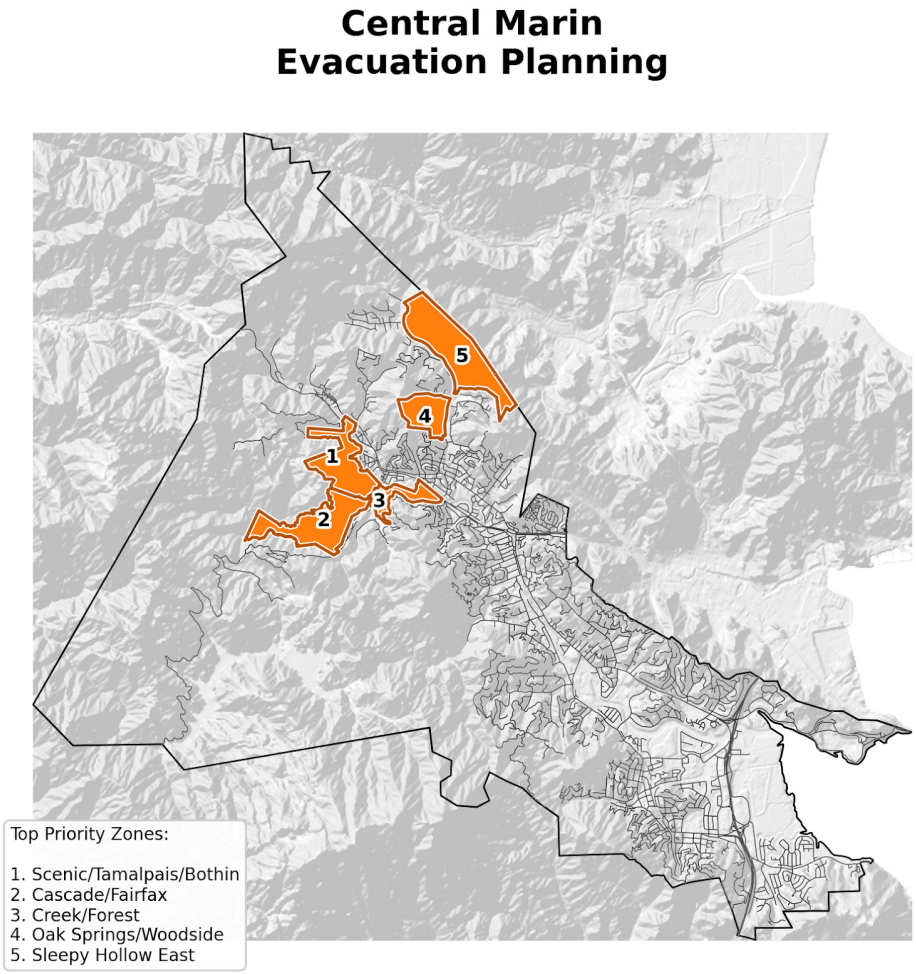
Because many of the zones in the Alerting theme overlap with those in the Near-Community Vegetation Management theme, coordinated activities that incorporate both alerting improvements and shaded fuel breaks could yield outsized impacts.

Central Marin Alerting



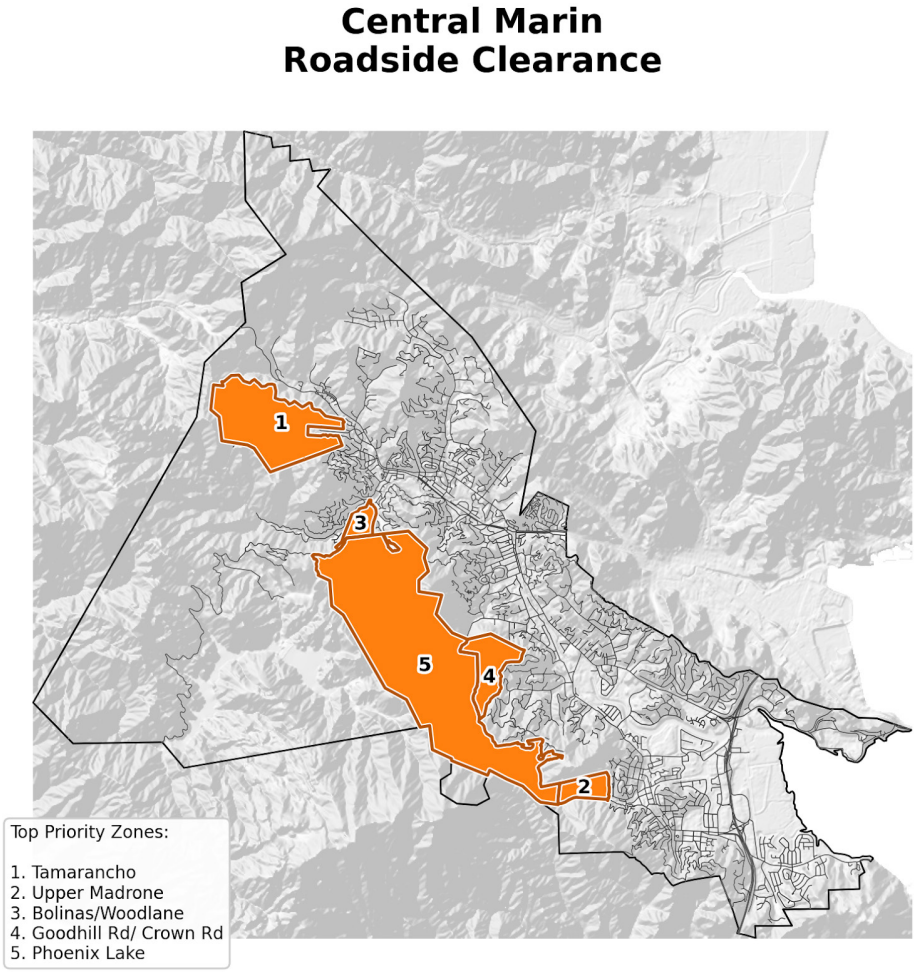
Evacuation Planning

Enhanced Evacuation Planning is recommended in several Fairfax evacuation zones and in portions of San Anselmo and Sleepy Hollow. These areas face elevated risk of fire exposure to both road networks and residential structures, increasing the likelihood that evacuation would be required relative to other zones in the county. Additionally, many roads in these zones are narrow, winding, and difficult to navigate, particularly during evacuations, when driver behavior is unpredictable and visibility could be limited by heavy smoke. Additionally, while not particularly remote, these zones are more difficult for fire responders to access than other Central Marin evacuation zones.



Roadside Clearance

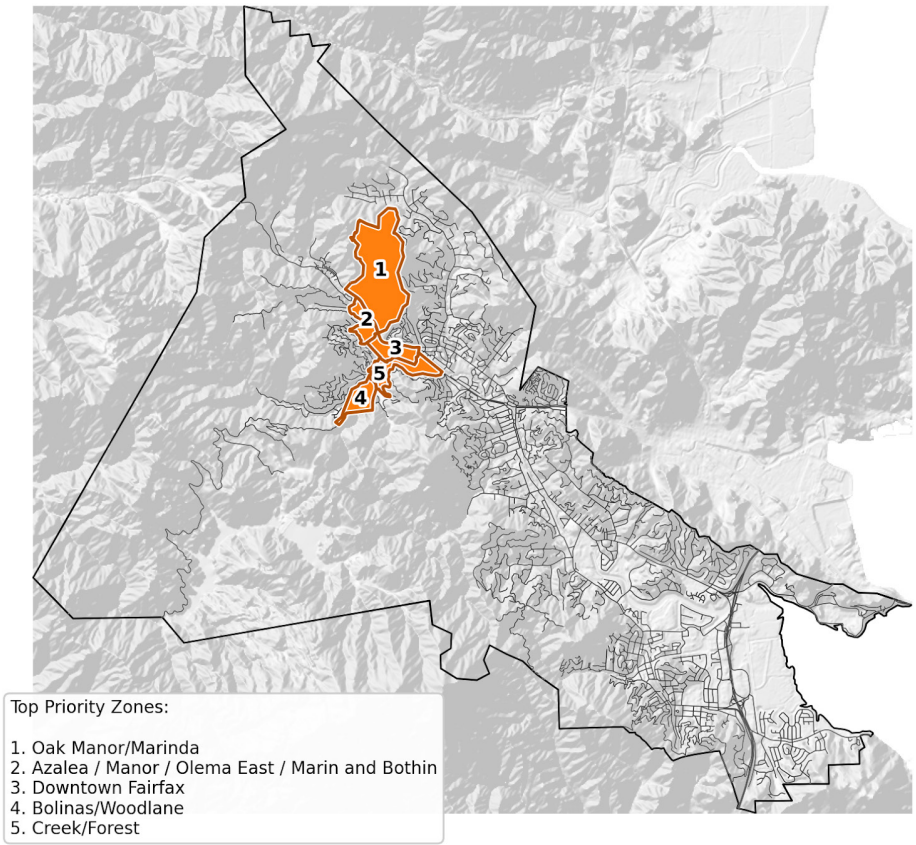
The highest priorities for the Roadside Clearance theme in Central Marin occur at community edges where the built environment directly interfaces with wildland vegetation. The Tamarancho, Upper Madrone, Bolinas and Woodlane, and Goodhill and Crown Road zones rank highest for this theme. These areas are characterized by high modeled flame lengths along road segments (exceeding 18 feet in some locations), elevated annual burn probability, and a relatively low proportion of fire-resilient roadways. Targeted roadside treatments in these zones would reduce fire exposure risks to evacuation routes and improve operational safety during initial attack and evacuation.



Residential Risk Reduction

The highest-priority areas for Residential Risk Reduction initiatives are in San Anselmo and Fairfax. Over the past four years, the Central Marin JPA Zone has established a mature and comprehensive residential inspection program, resulting in a detailed inventory of defensible space and home-hardening vulnerabilities across much of the zone. Priority zones, including Oak Manor and Marinda, Azalea, Downtown Fairfax, Bolinas and Woodlane, and Creek and Forest, are characterized by a high density of unresolved vulnerabilities, small structure separation distances, and a high modeled likelihood of exposure to high-severity fires. Focused follow-up inspections, compliance assistance, and targeted retrofit programs in these neighborhoods would address concentrated structural risk under extreme fire weather conditions.

Central Marin
On Parcel Risk Reduction



Countywide Comparison

The table below compares priorities in the Central Marin JPA zone relative to the rest of the county. Unlike the summaries above, which identify the top five zones for each theme, the data in this table show how often high-priority zones occur within each theme.

Theme	Number of Zones at or Above 75th Percentile Countywide
Near-Community Vegetation Management	48
Vegetation Management in Open Space	22
Detection	0
Alerting	16
Roadside Clearance	35
Evacuation Planning	34
Residential Risk Reduction	24

Additional Information

For more information, please visit:

- **Central Marin Wildfire Mitigation Projects**
- **Progress on Vegetation Management**
- **Progress on Detection Alert and Evacuation**
- **Progress on Defensible Space and Home Hardening**
- **Central Marin Fire**
- **Kentfield Fire Department**
- **Ross Valley Fire Department**
- **Sleepy Hollow Fire District**