



The Hyperlinked Library

Wildfire Awareness

Innovation Strategy & Roadmap

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The Idea

In a one-sentence Mission Statement, the Napa County Library expresses their goal is **“to enrich people’s lives with books and information.”** Information on wildfire awareness, then, should be implemented throughout all Napa County libraries (American Canyon Library, Calistoga Library, main branch Napa Library, and Yountville Library). The Wildfire Awareness service will allow Napa County users to interact with their local fire department regarding CAL FIRE’s role during fire season, wildfire prevention, and wildfire preparedness. Users will also have access to physical and digital resources, such as evacuation checklists or online fire maps and trackers.

The service will be accessible for users of all age groups.

Our Goals

- 1.) Community members will be informed on wildfire prevention and wildfire preparedness.
 - 2.) Community members will know how to act in the event of an evacuation.
 - 3.) Community members of different age groups will learn how to access online resources beneficial during fire season.
 - 4.) Community members will engage and build a strong relationship with their local fire department.
 - 5.) Napa County libraries will strategize or re-strategize their plan on how to support and offer their services to users in the case of a fire and/or evacuation.
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Our Overall Objective

Convince Napa County libraries **that by** implementing a Wildfire Awareness service **they will** improve the relationship between users and their local fire department, **which will** increase knowledge on wildfire prevention and preparedness **because** Napa Valley residents are vulnerable to fire danger and should not be devoid of the very information that could save their lives.

Who The Service Will Help

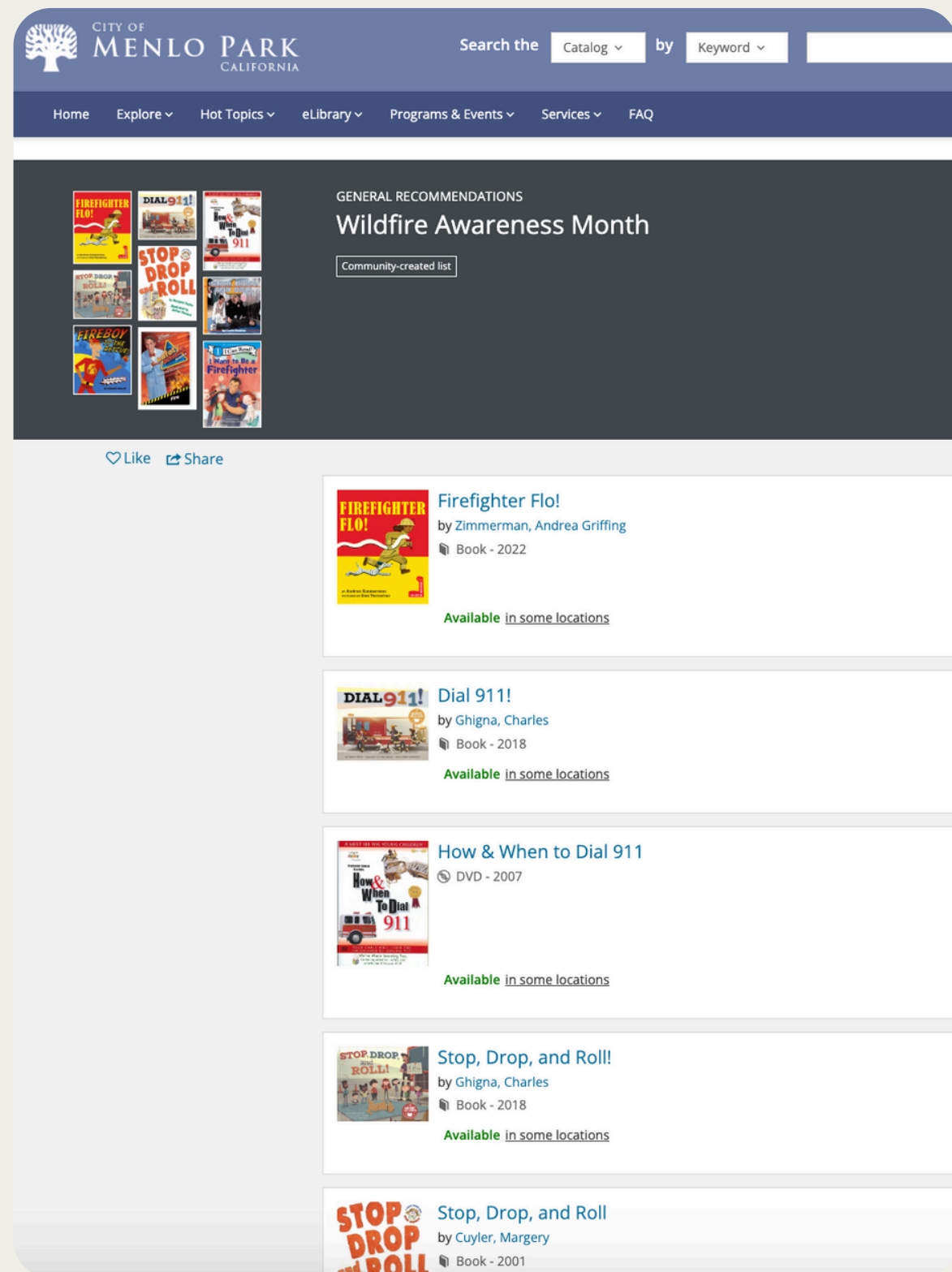
Napa County is comprised of numerous people vulnerable to wildfires, as seen in the 2017 Tubbs Fire and 2020 Glass Fire, which caused mass evacuations and catastrophic destruction. By March 2025, CAL FIRE responded to 507 wildfires which burned over 57,768 acres of California land. This service will primarily help Napa Valley residents of all ages who are unaware of what wildfire season could bring or what to do in such a crisis. For example, there could be children in need of explaining about California wildfires through books (such as *Wildfire* by Breena Bard, *What to Bring* by Lorna Shultz Nicholson, and *Missing Mike* by Shari Green). Caregivers of older residents will also have access to resources on how to transport the person they're taking care of if an evacuation were to happen. Napa County holds a large population of Spanish speaking individuals, so resources included in the Wildfire Awareness service would be available in languages other than English.

Inspiration

This service was inspired from the personal experience of living through past wildfires in Napa, as well as the fear of future wildfires. Wildfires are unpredictable in size and direction. As we've discussed in the Hyperlinked Library, users and their needs are evolving. The landscape of Napa County is changing for the worse, affecting the thousands of residents who call Napa Valley home **“Wildfires are a natural part of California’s landscape. Historically, much of the state’s forests had been adapted to periodic burning. However, this natural pattern has been disrupted by changes in land use, fire management practices, and the impact of climate change.”** (OEHHA, 2024). The Napa County Library does not have services nor resources regarding wildfires available to users, in person and online. This is a frustrating observation on behalf of a Napa Valley resident and an aspiring librarian. If a fire were to occur, I as a patron am not aware of how our libraries would respond.

Our libraries need to address our changing environment!

Inspiration (cont.)



Considering the idea I proposed came from the lack of services in CA and out-of-state libraries, the resources I encountered were minimal. I was, however, able to come across a Wildfire Awareness Month book recommendation list from the San Bruno Public Library in San Mateo County. The list was created by community members and is a great resource for children!

Guidelines & Policies

Staff will refer to the American Library Association's "**Disaster Preparedness and Recovery**" resource as a guide. All Napa County librarians will have input for the policies which will be administered in this service, as Napa County users in different branches face different sets of issues.

Policies:

- 1.) The Wildfire Awareness service will be presented with inclusive language in order for all age groups to follow along.
- 2.) Resources in languages other than English will be available (Spanish, Tagalog, etc.).
- 3.) Patrons will not interrupt their local fire department's presentation.
- 4.) Patrons will have an allotted time to ask questions about fire prevention and preparedness.
- 5.) Local fire department's presentations will not be disorganized and half-hearted.

Timeline

The presentation portion of this service will span from May, when Wildfire Awareness months begins, to August. Resources, however, will be always available in Napa County libraries in person and online.

Stage 1: This stage will take 1 or 2 months to complete. During Stage 1, Napa County libraries will come up with a detailed plan users will have access to. This plan will state how Napa County libraries will serve their communities in the case of a fire or evacuation, as well as a plan if a fire brings destruction to one of the Napa County libraries. Each branch will bring forward their own plans and proposals. Napa County libraries will also have discussions regarding the resources which will be available to their users when the service begins. These resources will be designed and reviewed before printing and uploading to the Napa County Library website. Translators will be brought on in order to ensure that all Napa County residents can read them. Training will also be conducted and completed during this time.

Timeline (cont.)

Stage 2: This stage will take 1 month to complete. During Stage 2, local fire departments will design a presentation of their role during fire season, wildfire prevention, and wildfire preparedness. Local fire departments will communicate with their local libraries throughout this stage to ensure that the goals of the service are being accomplished.

Stage 3: The Wildfire Awareness service begins in May at the main branch in Napa. Officially, fire season ends in November so the presentation portion of this service will need to be done as soon as possible. There will be a fire presentation each month until August: Calistoga Library in June, Yountville Library in July, American Canyon Library in August. Physical and digital resources will be offered from the start of May.

Planned Alternatives

In case local fire departments do not have the time to go to their local libraries and interact with users, Napa County Library will ask representatives of CAL FIRE to take their place. In case CAL FIRE cannot do outreach on this level, it will then be up to the Napa County libraries on presenting this important information. While this is challenging, Napa County librarians will have access to adequate training and resources which will decrease the knowledge gap their users have during fire season.

How The Service Will Be Marketed

The Wildfire Awareness service will be promoted on Napa County Library's website, which will include a brief description of its mission and scheduled presentations throughout all of the branches. Fliers will be posted throughout Napa County. I also suggest a dedicated section in Napa County's Parks & Recreation mailer advertising the service. Additionally, the Napa County Library will utilize their social media accounts and upload posters in English and Spanish. This would be the perfect chance to include local fire departments on social media posts who can highlight the importance of the service. Napa County Library branches will also ask their Friends of the Library organization to promote the service on their own platforms.

How Staff Will Be Trained

Stage 1 of the timeline involves staff training. Beyond staff looking to the “**Disaster Preparedness and Recovery**” resource as a guide, the Napa County Library will also review the ALA’s “**Library Disaster Preparedness & Response**” resource. The page has numerous works to choose from, which will help Napa County libraries create a disaster plan in the event of a fire and/or evacuation. Additionally, Napa County Library will consider attending CAL FIRE’s “**An Introduction to Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California**” training. This training equips staff with adequate wildfire information in order to assist their users. Training events are limited, but are free. In the case that not all Napa County librarians can attend the training, I suggest that the head of each branch attend a training session and pass on the information to their librarians.

Evaluations

Napa County librarians will continue to give feedback across all stages of the timeline.

The service itself will be evaluated from the standpoint of users who attend a presentation. I suggest a tool, such as Google Forms or a paper survey, where users will express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the program. The service will be considered successful if over 50% of users state that they gained helpful knowledge on wildfire prevention and preparedness. Users will also be able to give their own recommendations on how to make the service better. It's important for the Napa County Library to hear their users and their various needs. The service will be evaluated after the last wildfire awareness presentation in August. It will then continue to be improved on before May 2026.

References

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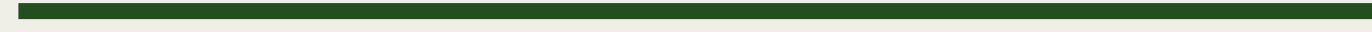
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Thank You!

