County Emergency Manager

Your job is to help the community get ready for and deal with natural disasters and other emergencies. You work with local leaders to ensure they have the help they need when an emergency, like a wildfire, happens. You can access state and national resources, like funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) if a state of emergency is declared.

You have been living in this community for five years. Before that, you worked in an emergency management office in a large city. Since you moved here, you have seen that the risk of wildfires has increased, with dry conditions and more people living in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Because of this, you want to have strong relationships with local leaders and community members, to build trust and work together. Your goal is to prepare the community for the possibility of a significant wildfire and ensure everyone’s safety if such an event occurs.

Mental Health Counselor

As a counselor, your job is to help people with their problems, make positive changes in their lives, and adjust to new situations.

You have been a part of this community for a long time, and you have your own counseling practice. During the COVID-19 pandemic, you saw how it affected your patients and the community. Many people had a hard time because of money problems, feeling lonely, and taking care of sick family members. You know that if another emergency happens, it could very difficult for people who are already struggling.

You want to make sure your clients have the help they need to feel better. That’s why you have been talking to other community organizations to find resources for people who need them. You care a lot about helping people and making sure they get the support they need to be happier and healthier.
Civil Engineer

Your job is to design important public infrastructure, like bridges, water systems, and safe roads for the community. You know that these systems can be affected by hazards like wildfires or floods, so you make sure they are strong and can withstand those challenges.

You have a deep connection to your community because you grew up there. You have fond memories of helping your family on their ranch. You left to go to college and study engineering because you wanted to come back and help your community. However, you are worried because many people are leaving your community because the summers are really hot, dry, and smoky. This makes it hard for people to live there comfortably.

You are actively involved in your church and also volunteer with the local firefighters.

You enjoy spending time outdoors and going on adventures with your family in the wilderness.

Your goal is to make sure that the public infrastructure is strong and resilient.

Fire Management Officer

As a fire management officer, you work in the Sheriff’s Office to keep people safe from wildfires and protect public and personal property. You collaborate with local leaders such as the emergency manager and public land managers to create and implement plans and strategies for preventing fires and minimizing their impact.

You have been in this role for ten years, and recently, you have noticed some issues in your community. There is tension between community members. Some people want to have more rules for landowners to mitigate fire danger on their property, but others don’t like to be told how to take care of their property. This situation worries you because your main goal is to reduce the risk of fires as much as possible and protect the lives and property of the community, and everyone needs to do their part.
Volunteer Firefighter

As a volunteer firefighter at the local fire department, your job is to prevent, fight, and put out fires. Sometimes, you have to help with clean-up of dangerous materials or special rescues, like saving people from cars or steep areas.

You’ve been a firefighter for three years in your community, and you also travel around the state with a team to fight big wildfires. When you are on a wildfire assignment, you work really long hours, about 16 hours a day! It’s important for me you stay fit and train hard all year round to do your job well.

Besides being a firefighter, you also work as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at the local health hospital. You’ve noticed that more people in the community are having health problems due to asthma and heat stress.

You want to keep everyone safe and prevent the loss of property to fires, and avoid a catastrophic fire in your community.

General Contractor

As someone who builds houses and takes care of all aspects of a construction project, my job is to make sure everything goes smoothly from beginning to end. This includes hiring and training workers, getting the necessary permits and licenses, and supervising the construction site. It can sometimes be challenging when there are new, stricter building codes to follow.

You’ve been a part of this community since you were a kid, and now you are raising your own children. But you are worried because houses have become very expensive, and some of your friends who grew up here can no longer afford to live here. Even new people who want to move here because it’s a great community in a beautiful place are struggling to find homes.

What you want to do is find a balance between the needs of the people who already live here and the needs of the newer residents who bring new life and energy to our town. It’s important to you that everyone can find an affordable home and enjoy the benefits of living here.
As a public land manager, your job is to take care of the land that belongs to the government and is meant for everyone to use. You work with different groups like cattle ranchers and recreationalists to make sure they follow the rules for using the land.

Historically, your organization, the US Forest Service, has made every effort to stop wildfires from burning in national forests. However, this has led to an increase in fuels, which can make wildfires more dangerous. The recent dry weather has also made the risk of wildfires higher in your region. It would be too expensive and difficult to thin out the entire forest that you manage, so you focus on areas near the Wildland Urban Interface, where people live, to protect homes from fires.

Your main goal is to keep the forests healthy and reduce the risk of wildfires as much as possible on the land you manage. You work hard to make sure the land is well taken care of and protected from dangerous fires.

You have an important job of providing information and resources to homeowners, community members, and partners to reduce the risk of wildfires. You are trained in FireWise practices and conduct assessments of property to identify actions that people can take to mitigate risk.

You serve an entire region and visit each community regularly to help local residents with their concerns about fire safety. You’ve noticed that many people moving here from other states don’t realize how serious the risk of fires can be. That’s why you’re working with local government officials to make sure everyone knows about clean-up efforts in the neighborhood and grants that can help homeowners make their homes safer from fires.
Outdoor Adventure
Company Owner

Your business depends on tourists who come to visit the beautiful natural areas near your community. But when there are wildfires, there’s a worry that these places might get damaged and become unsafe for visitors. Even if the fire isn’t directly affecting the areas you guide in, tourists might still be afraid to visit because of the fire risks and thick smoke.

You grew up in this community and have always enjoyed exploring the outdoors with your family. However, you’re concerned because climate change is threatening the ecosystem and natural resources that your business relies on. Last year, you had to cancel late-season raft trips because there wasn’t enough water in the river.

You want to find solutions to the challenges caused by climate change. It’s important to you to protect the natural areas you love and promote tourism in a safe way. By doing so, you can help ensure that these beautiful places stay healthy and continue to attract visitors that help the local economy.

Public Information
Officer

You work at the local fire department, and one of your important responsibilities is to keep the public well-informed about potential risks and evacuation plans. You work closely with news reporters to ensure that important information reaches people quickly and accurately.

You deeply care about the future of your community, especially when it comes to the ongoing fire risks. Although you have an official role in communicating with the public, you want to be more connected and involved with the community. You have plans to volunteer and participate in social events to strengthen those connections.

Something that is particularly important to you is ensuring that information is accessible to everyone in the community, including those who don’t speak English or elderly residents who may not use social media. You make an effort to stay up-to-date with the latest research on effective risk communication. You believe that everyone deserves to be safe during emergencies, regardless of the language they speak or the technology they use.
The Wildfire Resilience Game

Pet Shelter Supervisor

You have a big heart for animals and you run a local shelter for pets. Your main goal is to assist pet owners in the community and help lost pets find their way back home.

Recently, you watched a news story about a devastating wildfire in California. The story included an interview with a family who was desperately searching for their lost dog. Luckily, a volunteer in the community found the dog and brought it to the local pet shelter. The shelter then reunited the pet with its family. This inspiring story gave you an idea.

You want to create a social media account that directly connects with Animal Control and local shelters in your community. This way, if any pets go missing, their owners can quickly get help and increase their chances of being reunited. You’re excited about the possibility of making a difference just like they did in the news story.

You also want families to think about what they would do with their animals if they ever had to evacuate quickly due to an emergency. You know that by planning ahead, families can ensure the safety of their beloved pets.

The Wildfire Resilience Game

Multicultural Resource Officer

Your job is to assist community members who come from different cultural backgrounds and speak a variety of languages. You act as a bridge between the local government and immigrant communities, ensuring that everyone has access to public services. You help translate important documents and information into different languages.

When you were in elementary school, your parents immigrated to the United States. You witnessed their struggles as they tried to adapt to life in a new country and overcome language barriers. This personal experience ignited a passion within you to help others in your community so that they wouldn’t have to face the same challenges with language barriers.

Your work becomes even more crucial in times of emergencies, like fires or natural disasters. During these situations, effective communication and access to local, state, and federal resources are extremely vital. You strive to ensure that everyone in your community, regardless of their cultural background or language proficiency, can receive the help and support they need.
You live in a neighborhood in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), that is at high risk of wildfire. As the HOA president, you have volunteered for the responsibility to help take care of the neighborhood. Your main tasks include making sure the neighborhood roads are in good condition and cleared of snow during winter, helping to resolve any problems or disagreements between neighbors, and ensuring that everyone follows the rules set by the HOA.

You are relatively new to the community, and you are a friendly person who cares about your neighbors. You make an effort to reach out to them and ask how they are doing. Building a strong sense of community is important to you.

Because you live in an area at high risk of wildfires, you want to organize a neighborhood clean-up. You are aware that some people in the neighborhood have disabilities and may need assistance if they have to evacuate during a wildfire. You also know that some neighbors travel for work and may not be home if a wildfire happens. You worry that these people might need help evacuating or getting important belongings from their homes if they are away.
Cattle Rancher

You grew up in this community on a cattle ranch, and now you are in charge of running it. Being a rancher is tough, but it’s the life you love and wouldn’t trade for anything else.

You are a member of the local Stock Growers Association, and you have seen how many of your friends have sold their ranches to real estate developers, or stopped ranching because they couldn’t make a living. You believe that agriculture is important for the community, and you speak up for the benefits it brings. By taking care of your land and irrigating, you help recharge the groundwater supply. Your ranch also acts as a protective barrier against wildfires, slowing them down if they get too close.

Even though ranching is hard work, you enjoy this way of life and hope to pass down the family ranch to your children someday.

Home Insurance Agent

You sell home insurance to people in your community to protect their homes from fires, floods, and burglaries. You help homeowners choose the right coverage and assist them with insurance claims when they need it.

You’re worried about the high cost of housing in the community. You’ve noticed that insurance rates have been going up, making it harder for young people to afford a house and get the right insurance. You also know community members who have owned homes for a long time may not have enough insurance to cover the full cost of rebuilding if their home was destroyed. This is because the cost of building homes has gone up over time, and their insurance policies might not have kept up with those increased costs.

You got into this line of work because you wanted to help people protect their most valuable asset, their home.
Retired Resident

You recently moved to this area to enjoy your retirement and escape the busy city life. In your previous career, you were a university professor who specialized in forestry. You and your spouse decided to use most of your life savings to buy a house in a peaceful neighborhood just outside of town, close to the national forest.

As you settle into your new home, you’re slowly getting to know people in the community. However, you’ve been facing some difficulties with mobility since you had a new hip replacement. This makes it challenging for you to go out and explore as much as you’d like. Despite this, you still love being outdoors and are excited about discovering the area and meeting other retirees.

Your goal is to spend the rest of your life in this community and find ways to connect with other community members through volunteering and outdoor activities.

Landscape Professional

You own a landscaping company, and together with your small team, you take care of yards for homeowners and businesses in the local area.

Lately, you’ve been trying to convince your clients to choose plants that can withstand dry conditions since summers have been getting hotter and drier. You’re concerned about the impact of climate change on local water availability. You’ve also been learning about FireWise practices, which are ways to design landscapes that are less likely to catch fire, and you encourage your clients to consider implementing these practices in their yards.

Another challenge you face is finding enough workers for your team. The high cost of living and housing in your community has made it difficult to hire seasonal employees.
Technology Professional

You moved here from a big city a year ago because you wanted a more relaxed lifestyle. You have a job where you can work from home for a big tech company, and you often work more than 60 hours a week.

Since you work long hours from home, you haven’t had the chance to meet many people in the community yet. You are hoping to make new friends and get to know your neighbors soon. You’re excited to be here and looking forward to discovering more about this community and making it your new home.

You used to live in a place that had a lot of rain and hardly any wildfires. You’re still learning about the risks and how to stay safe.

High School Student

You’ve lived in this community for your whole life, and you really care about it. You’re excited about the new public art projects happening around town because they make it more beautiful and welcoming. You also like that new businesses have been opening up recently, bringing more opportunities to your community.

But you have some concerns about the future. You worry that with the effects of climate change, it might be hard to find work in your town. You want to stay here, but you’re afraid that if there are more frequent fires and droughts, the local economy might not stay strong.

You are also a runner on the cross-country team. Sometimes, when there are nearby wildfires, the air quality gets really bad, and it’s hard to do your workouts. You want to stay active and healthy, but the smoke can make it difficult.

Despite these concerns, you’re hopeful that your community will find ways to overcome these challenges and continue to thrive.
Motel Owner

You’re the owner of a local motel, which was passed down to you by your parents. You grew up in this community and have a deep love for it. You enjoy making your guests feel at home and sharing all the wonderful things about your community with them.

Over the years, you’ve noticed a lot of changes in the community. It has become a popular destination for tourists, which has been great for your motel business. Recently, you invested a significant amount of money in renovating the motel, and now you need to make sure your business does well to recover that investment.

However, you have a worry in the back of your mind. You’re concerned that if a big wildfire were to happen in the area, it might scare away the tourists. You understand that wildfires can be dangerous, but you also know that a fire on the news could have a negative impact on your business and the local economy if visitors decide not to come anymore.

Healthcare Professional

A few years ago, you and your family moved to this community so that you could work at the local pediatrician’s office. You were excited about the opportunity and brought your spouse and children along. Since moving here, you have fallen in love with the close-knit community and all of the wonderful people here.

During the summer months, the air quality can become really bad due to smoke from nearby wildfires. Last year, you and your family had a tough time when the smoke lasted for weeks. It was especially hard for your toddler who was recently diagnosed with asthma. You had to keep her indoors, and she couldn’t go outside to play.

You care deeply about the health and well-being of your family, especially your kids. You want to make sure they can enjoy the outdoors and have a safe and healthy environment to grow up in.
Large Animal Veterinarian

Your family has lived here for five generations, and you grew up working on your family ranch. You decided to become a veterinarian so you could help ranchers in your community.

Before you moved back to this community, you lived in a nearby town for several years after finishing veterinary school. During that time, a devastating wildfire broke out, causing many of your friends to evacuate. Some of them had horses, and they didn’t have a plan in place for their evacuation. You used your horse trailer to help them evacuate their animals to safety. It was a challenging time, and it made you realize how important it is for people to be prepared to evacuate their animals during emergencies.

Now that you’re back in your hometown, you worry about the same thing happening here. You want to ensure that people in the community are prepared to evacuate their animals if they have to.

Water Commissioner

You came from a nearby town to work for the water utility company in this community. Your job is to decide how to distribute water in the region.

Lately, you’ve noticed that there have been many dry years, and it’s becoming challenging to meet the water needs of everyone. You have to make tough decisions about who gets water when there’s not enough to go around. You pay close attention to the dry forests and low reservoir levels, which are symptoms of a water shortage.

To address this issue, you’ve collaborated with local environmental groups to restore wetlands. This helps slow down the water flow and creates healthier areas along the rivers, and recharges the local groundwater aquifers.
Conservation Biologist

You’ve lived in this community for a decade, moving here to join a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting natural areas.

One of your main concerns is the growing presence of invasive species, commonly known as weeds. To tackle this issue, you’ve organized community work days where people come together to remove these invasive plants. Additionally, you’re actively involved in educating the local community about the harmful effects of weeds such as cheatgrass, which can increase the risk of wildfires.

Local Public Radio Host

You’ve been a resident of this town for a long time and are the host of the local news show on the radio. You know everyone in town and have to plan an extra 20 minutes for every time you go to the grocery store to talk to people you run into.

You deeply care about the community and play an important role in connecting people with the resources they need. On your show, you have a segment for lost and found items, where you help reunite lost belongings with their owners. Additionally, you dedicate a daily announcement to help people who have lost their pets by broadcasting their information and seeking assistance from the community in finding them.