

## San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council (SEHFSC)



President: Lindsey Smith

Vice President: Bill Mullins

Treasurer: Mark Dale

Secretary: Gabe Cohan

Committee Coord: Peter Brandt

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Last Chance Survival Simulation Workshop

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 6pm - 9pm

San Elijo Hills Recreation Center

This workshop was developed to empower residents in high-risk, wildfire prone communities, to prepare for evacuation and potential wildfire entrapments. Each year, it becomes apparent that there is a need to enhance wildfire safety and evasion training for at-risk communities.

## \$10,000 Invested in a Safer San Marcos

The San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council is proud to share that all 20 of our \$500 Home Hardening Grants have been awarded to homeowners within our Council boundaries. Thanks to the generous support of the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, a total of \$10,000 is now being put to work to help neighbors replace combustible fencing and gates within Zone 0 (0–5 feet from the home) with safer, non-combustible materials such as steel or aluminum.

These grants prioritized homeowners on a fixed income, veterans, individuals with disabilities, those with financial need, and residents living along canyon rims, areas where reducing ignition risk can make a meaningful difference.

Over the coming months, we look forward to sharing updates, highlighting completed projects, and showcasing the finished results as these improvements take shape across our community.

Wildfire resilience is not a one-time effort, it's a shared responsibility. By working together, one home at a time, we strengthen evacuation routes, reduce structure-to-structure risk, and help protect our homes, families, and insurance viability. Thank you to everyone who applied, supported this program, and continues to be part of making San Elijo Hills a safer place to live.

### Grant Recipients: Community Leaders Taking Action

Richard Pound, Brian & Monica Yule, Matthew & Monica Hackett, Brooke Mullivan, Tim & Shauna Sliwkanich, Jeff & Kathleen Primes, Michael & Elisa Stollmeyer, Dana Paris, Tyler & Stephanie Kesterson, Ronda Cox, Sophia Hsieh, Daniel Doe, Richard & Kathryn Weaver, Kristin Albee, Adam Riffe, Jamie DeAngelis, Sahar Roshan, Brandi Hessick, Simon Hur, Vannessa Binning



# HOMEOWNER SPOTLIGHT



## Darwin & Melissa Bustarde Taking Action

The Bustardes live in the Woodley's Glen neighborhood of San Elijo Hills. They attended our Forum last September and connected with BrandGuard Vents, one of the many home hardening vendors on-site that day. They received a free estimate, and made the decision to replace their construction-grade vents to fire-rated vents. This was a simple, but powerful step that helps protect their family and the home they love. Thoughtful upgrades like this reduce ember risk and help keep our whole community safer.

*We're grateful to homeowners like the Bustardes who lead by example.*

**Give today**   
**Protect Tomorrow**

The San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, powered entirely by grants and generous community donations. Every contribution is tax deductible and goes directly toward wildfire prevention efforts that protect homes, families, and shared open spaces right here in San Elijo Hills. Through community workshops, educational outreach, and targeted fire-mitigation projects, local residents, volunteers, and fire professionals work together to reduce wildfire risk and strengthen neighborhood preparedness. These efforts are already making a difference, and continued progress depends on sustained community support.

When you donate, you're joining neighbors who have chosen to invest in the safety and resilience of the place we all call home. Your support helps ensure this work continues, this fire season and beyond.

**Scan the QR code below, or text  
"SEHFSC" to 44-321 to donate today!**



## Make It Firewise & Share Your Upgrade

Have you made a wildfire-safety upgrade to your home, like ember-resistant vents, non-combustible fencing, or defensible space improvements? We'd love to hear about it. When you report completed projects to the Fire Safe Council, you may be featured in a future Homeowner Spotlight, helping inspire neighbors with real examples from our community. Just as importantly, your updates allow us to report this work to Firewise USA, boosting visibility for San Marcos and highlighting our shared commitment to wildfire resilience. Every improvement counts, and together they tell the story of a community taking action.



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks