

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in support of this ordinance. At this time as we move deeper into what will surely be a challenging fire system encouragement on all levels to minimize the risk of fires is surely essential. So many of us are doing our best to work on fire prevention but this can all be sabotaged by those who do not.

I would also like to request that there is a more centralized focus around communications re fires. On June 9th, there was a fire on our neighbors property in Yorkville. None of those immediately in the area were alerted about this fire and it took social media and other neighbors to find out what was actually going on. Emergency alerts were received in Cloverdale and in Boonville for some reason. We were told, as there was no need to evacuate, no emergency notification was needed. We were on the point of evacuating with small children and elderly individuals as the smoke billowed over our property. Why did I receive notifications about phones going out in Covelo yesterday, but no information regarding this fire? There appears to be no coordinated effort to communicate clearly with residents. As with the recent very serious fires we have had in Mendocino County, we are all relying on social media and hearsay, instead of the very important and able institutions and governing/policing bodies that we have. The belief that less messaging is better is questionable - everyone I know would prefer to know what is happening when there is smoke or when there is a siren right now even if it is not going to be a serious incident. We appreciate greatly the work of AV Fire Department and Calfire however their work is undermined by the lack of a decent emergency communication system.

Thank You for your work. I can imagine in these Covid times it is extremely challenging.

Mary Paffard