

RESOLUTION NO. 26-112

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2026 AS
WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, May has been declared Wildfire Community Preparedness Month in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County has a well-documented history of wildfire risk and the threat of wildfire continues to grow increasingly prevalent and dangerous, and currently poses a year-round risk to both people and property locally and Statewide; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, including the Gifford Fire in northern Santa Barbara County and the Madre Fire in our neighboring San Luis Obispo County, California experienced 8,036 fires that burned approximately 525,223 acres, destroyed over 18,000 homes, injured an undetermined number of firefighters, and resulted in approximately 31 civilian death or injuries; and

WHEREAS, residents in wildfire-prone areas can take proactive measures to reduce the risk of injury and property loss by maintaining defensible space, implementing home hardening strategies, and participating in collaborative efforts, including firewise communities, which contribute to a safer, more resilient, fire-adapted county; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department works in close collaboration with Operational Area Partners to respond to wildfires, mitigate associated hazards, and reduce overall wildfire risk;

WHEREAS, it is also important for residents, visitors, and travelers to take personal responsibility to prevent unintentional ignitions—such as ensuring trailer safety chains are not dragging, fully extinguishing campfires, and avoiding high-risk activities that can spark fires in dry conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors proclaims May 2026 as Wildfire Community Preparedness Month and encourages everyone to participate in fire prevention and preparedness activities at home, work, school, and all locations, marking the beginning of a yearlong effort to improve wildfire awareness and safety.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 5th day of May 2026 by a unanimous vote of all members present.