

## WILDFIRE and DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Amador County faces the constant threat of catastrophic wildfires. As a lifelong rancher and tree farmer, Brian Oneto knows that standing up for our rural way of life means protecting our communities, our homes, our forests, and our private property from the devastating effects of wildfires.

In recent years, the Caldor and Butte Fires, among other recent major fires in California, have provided Amador County the unfortunate opportunity to see firsthand what a raging, out-of-control wildfire in heavy fuels can do to a community.

Importantly, the Tiger Creek Fire last August was stopped by the Amador Fire Safe Council's Tiger Creek Fuel break, which Brian supported. The fuel break saved the Pioneer community and likely more of Amador County from what would otherwise have been a catastrophic fire.

Brian has direct experience fighting wildfires on the frontlines. He has worked alongside firefighters in over a dozen wildfires, personally dozing fire lines with a bulldozer and felling trees to help stop fires in the Mother Lode and across Northern California. As your District 5 Supervisor, Brian has been a consistent and dedicated leader of county efforts to improve fire safety for us all, collaborating closely with local fire safety experts.

As Supervisor, Brian currently serves on the Board of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), which has secured more than \$12 million in funding to perform fuel reduction treatment work on 26 thousand acres of National Forest in Amador and Calaveras Counties. See FFP– Phase 1

During his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Brian Oneto has worked hard to improve Amador County's readiness and response to protect the County from wildfire. He has:

- Facilitated the merger of AFPD and Lockwood Fire. With this merger Station 113 (formerly Lockwood Station 151) there are now two firefighters/apprentice on duty full-time, important for medical emergencies and fires.
- At Station 115, formerly 152, it is now staffed during the day.
- Facilitated with AFPD to secure \$8,000,000.00 in California state funding for a new fire station in Pine Grove. Groundbreaking begins May 4, 2026.
- Helped to put full-time firefighters in many local fire stations (Measure M), and to give them the tools and water resources they need to fight large fires and respond to local emergencies.
- Led county acquisition of key property that Lockwood Fire Protection District needed to allow Station 151 to operate effectively.
- Helped acquire two new water tanker trucks that are critical to fighting large wildfires.
- Worked to acquire a new 4x4 fire engine that better serves Pine Grove and the up-country area.
- Brian is supportive of and has a good working relationship with the Amador Fire Safe Council. He has consistently voted to approve letters of support for the Council's grant applications to acquire funding for projects ranging from fuel reduction to fire breaks.
- Directed federal funding to the Amador Fire Safe Council's Community Wildfire Protection Plans that are critical for our safety.
- Advocated with CAL FIRE for the fuel reduction Vegetation Management Project (VMP) between Quartz Mountain and Fiddletown Road, creating an important fuel break and designed to provide firefighters with the ability to stop a fire.
- Brian directed money from his discretionary funds towards the purchasing of essential equipment for the Lockwood and Fiddletown Neighborhood Radio Watch Program
- I have long supported our fire departments, Radio Watch Program, the Amador Fire Safe Council, and Amador Resource Conservation District (RCD) in their efforts to reduce fuels and the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

- Under Brian’s direction as Chairman, the Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) successfully applied for and was awarded a CalTrans Adaptation Planning Grant. The funds from that grant were used to assess extreme weather and natural disaster prevention and response strategies for Amador and Calaveras Counties. To read more about what was learned from the assessment - a major portion of which was focused on wildfires - the final report can be viewed at [ACTC Extreme Weather Resiliency FINAL 20210513.pdf \(actc-amador.org\)](https://actc-amador.org/ACTC_Extreme_Weather_Resiliency_FINAL_20210513.pdf)

In addition, Brian has lobbied the U.S. Forest Service for years, seeking more and better fire reduction protection through more proactive efforts in forest thinning projects and other actions to reduce fuel loads in our forests.

Safety is of the utmost importance and Brian Oneto will continue to work hard for District 5.

“I extend a sincere *“Thank You”* to all of our firefighters, AFD, city and county-wide fire departments, CalFire and US Forest Service for protecting this county when fires were approaching and breaching our boundaries. I appreciate the dedication and hard work of our firefighters.”

Brian has always advocated for fuel reduction in our forests and sought grants to assist in the establishment of defensible space. *We must* reduce fuel loading to reduce insurance companies’ concerns and in turn help to lower insurance premiums. Brian has:

- Helped establish the county Hazard Tree Removal Task Force and secured **\$5.96 million in grants** to remove **12,750** trees along county roads.
- Assisted the Fire Safe Council acquire more than \$10,000,000 in grants for fuel reduction projects.

- Worked with the Board to establish a new ordinance on Defensible Space to improve compliance for fuel reduction around homes.
- Brian is the ONLY candidate with forest management experience.

“I respectfully ask for your vote on or by June 2<sup>nd</sup>.” – Brian Oneto

**Valuable Experience – Sound Decision-making – Fiscal Responsibility – Protecting our Rural Values**