

Why Should We Join the Firewise USA® Program?

Here's what these community members and professionals have to say about the value of Firewise USA®.



Bill Rebovich, Homeowner in the Firewise USA®

Site, Colorado: "We helped [the firefighters] save our neighborhood and that was a big compliment to us to hear the fire professionals say, 'You did a great job here!'"

Fire Chief Brandon Shirley, South Carolina:

"The homeowner plays a vital role when it comes to fire mitigation around their home because they are the first line of defense."

Kent Nelson, Maine Forest Service:

"We emphasize that the homeowner should participate in a community-type program like Firewise USA® and that way they work together and they make their whole community safer not just their own house."

Joyce Statz, Resident in Firewise USA® site,

Texas: "Sometimes neighbors have a feeling of helplessness with respect to wildfire because they

see the videos where there is a big wall of flame crushing communities, but we explain to them that is not how it works. Eighty percent of the losses from wildfire are from the embers and that's the thing that we can deal with."

Visit firewise.org to:

- ▶ Find tools to organize your community
- ▶ Download and share research fact sheets on wildfire and home construction
- ▶ Hear from other residents about importance of work at the home and community level
- ▶ Learn the basics of wildfire and what actions to take around your homes

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FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Taking Control of Your Wildfire Risk



firewise.org



ducting periodic outdoor maintenance within the three home ignition zones (HIZ).

The three zones are as follows:

Immediate Zone: the house and 0 to 5 feet around the house including the deck and attachments

Intermediate Zone: 5 to 30 feet from the house

Extended Zone: 30 to 100 feet from the house

Working with Neighbors

Home ignition zones often overlap onto adjacent properties. This makes the conditions of neighboring homes and vegetation a part of the wildfire threat. It's extremely important that neighbors work collaboratively with each other—and talk with each other—to reduce their shared risk.

Firewise USA® Program

Firewise USA® is a voluntary program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.

How Does the Program Work?

Organize it: Create a board or committee of volunteers to represent your community. They will work with partners such as local forestry agencies or the fire department to complete a wildfire risk assessment and present it to the community.

Plan it: The wildfire risk assessment should highlight recommendations for action. From this risk assessment, the board will identify and prioritize action items for reducing ignition risk to homes. This action plan may span several years.

Do it: Host an outreach event and work with neighbors on addressing items in the action plan.

Tell us about it: New and renewal applications can be completed at portal.firewise.org. Tell us about the actions and efforts in your community to engage residents and complete mitigation work at the home level.



What Is the Fire Problem?

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety.

NFPA® has found that in many cases of home destruction during wildfires, the homes were more flammable than the surrounding brush and trees. By taking action now, before a fire starts, you can increase your chances of having an ignition-resistant home and community.

What Can Be Done About It? Science and the Home Ignition Zone

Research shows that embers (burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind) and small surface fires are the primary source of home ignitions during wildfires.

To make your home safer, you need to prepare it to withstand embers and keep flames or surface fire from touching the home or any attachments. You can do this by limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing ignition-resistant building materials and construction techniques, and con-



WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

ORDER A "REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS
IN THE HOME IGNITION ZONE"
CHECKLIST/POSTER AT FIREWISE.ORG

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, and periodically maintaining the area within the three Home Ignition Zones all help to increase the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the home; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet. Visit [nfpa.org](https://www.nfpa.org) for more details on the Home Ignition Zones.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes and replace mulch in the **Immediate Zone** of 0 to 5 feet with noncombustible mulch products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster, or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

BE PREPARED

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and house numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

7. DISASTER PLAN

Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals, and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay—don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

8. ANNUAL INSURANCE CHECKUP

Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



FIREWISE USA®
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles that could catch embers
- ☐ Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- ☐ Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8-inch metal mesh screening
- ☐ Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- ☐ Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- ☐ Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- ☐ Move anything that can burn away from wall exteriors, including mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, and firewood piles
- ☐ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider all fuel sources w/hardscape and trees
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- Participate in the National Firewise USA® Program
- Consider all fuel sources w/hardscape and trees
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FOR MORE INFORMATION about how to protect your home and property visit firewise.org.

Talk to your local forestry agency or fire department to learn more about the specific wildfire risk where you live.



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Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

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HOW TO

PREPARE YOUR HOME

FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE



FIREWISE USA®
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

SAFETY STEPS FOR ANY DISASTER



1.

Get alerts
to know
what
to do.



2.

Make a
plan to
protect
your people.



3.

Pack a Go
Bag with
things you
need.



4.

Build a Stay
Box for
when you
can't leave.



5.

Help
friends and
neighbors
get ready.



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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Contact us for more information: listoscalifornia.org



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

FIVE EASY STEPS TO GET READY



GET ALERTS

to know what to do



MAKE A PLAN

to protect your people



PACK A GO BAG

with things you need



BUILD A STAY BOX

for when you can't leave



HELP FRIENDS

and neighbors get ready

READY.MONO.CA.GOV



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LISTOSCALIFORNIA.ORG



MEDIDAS DE SEGURIDAD ANTE CUALQUIER DESASTRE



1.

Reciba
alertas
para saber
qué hacer.



2.

Haga un
plan para
proteger a
los suyos.



3.

Prepare una bolsa
de emergencia
con cosas que
pueda necesitar.



4.

Prepare una caja
de estadía
por si no
puede marcharse.



5.

Ayude a
sus amigos
y vecinos a
prepararse.



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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Consulte más recursos para prepararse: listoscalifornia.org



LOCAL DISASTER RESOURCE DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fire Department/CAL FIRE

Phone

Website

Sheriff/Police Department

Phone

Website

Public Transit Agency

Phone

Website

Power Company

Phone

Website

Gas Company

Phone

Website

Water Company

Phone

Website