



FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Firewise Application Details presented by WPV-Ready



When you are ready to apply for recognition in the Firewise USA program, you will make your community safer from wildfire. This jump-start guide will give you a very basic overview of the application process. It is written especially for the residents of the WPV-Ready community, people living or working within the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD). You can learn more at <http://WPV-Ready.org/Firewise>.

Site Contact Information

Your main contact address

Site Information

Local Leader, Number of Homes, etc.

Map

Risk Assessment

Updated every 5 years minimum, annually is recommended

We have great tools for assessing homes too.

Board/Committee

3-Year Action Plan

Updated every 3 years minimum, annually is recommended

California uses a required template beginning

Educational Outreach

Record an Activity or Event

- Completed a national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day project (1st Saturday in May)
- Coordinated a community-wide awareness/educational activity that increases wildfire risk reduction actions and overall preparedness
- Delivered via door-to-door, information on the community's wildfire danger
- Distributed "Welcome packets" with wildfire literature to all new residents
- Evacuation drill in collaboration with a law enforcement agency, fire department or local emergency manager
- Held a fire-resistant plant species workshop for residents in collaboration w/the local cooperative extension office
- HOA meeting or community-wide presentation that detailed the need and importance for individual wildfire preparedness
- Local emergency manager provided a presentation on building an emergency preparedness kit
- Mentored adjacent communities on how to become a Firewise site
- Provided an insurance policy clinic for residents to ensure policies are up-to-date with local building codes and costs, and inventories of personal belongings
- Residents participated in a volunteer mitigation activity for a senior or disabled neighbor
- Wildfire related article(s) placed in the community newsletter
- Wildfire workshop for residents with speakers/demonstrations from a forestry agency, fire department, or emergency management office
- COVID-19 challenges
- Other

Vegetation Removal

Record the quantity of vegetation removed (Cubic Yards Total)

Number of...

- Lawn and Leaf Bag (avg 39-gallon bag size, 1 cubic yard = 202 gallons)
- Pickup Truck Loads (3 cubic yards avg)
- Dump Truck Loads (12 cubic yards avg)
- Roll Off Dumpster/Container (20 cubic yards avg)

Record Other Types of Vegetation Management

- Prescribed Burning
- Recycled/Reused Vegetation

Risk Reduction Investment: 1 hour per home, or \$28.54 in project expense

A list of Time and Expense Investment examples is available at Firewise.org. [PDF] (slightly outdated)

Hours worked split out by

- Dwelling Unit
Examples include: removing pine needles and leaf litter from roof and gutters, replaced vinyl gutters with metal gutters, ignition-resistant exterior improvements, installing screening on vents, flammable items removed from under decks and porches, inspect roof and replace missing shingles, etc.
- Landscaping (0 – 100 ft. from base of Dwelling Unit)
Examples include: installation of hardscaping, replacing combustible mulches with stone/gravel options, tree and shrub removal, raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, ground litter/debris, tree trimming/limbing, moving firewood, lawn and native grass maintenance, etc.
- Common areas
(HOA or other Homeowner jointly owned property within the site boundary) Activities include: Tree thinning, mastication and brush removal, grass maintenance, fire break construction, etc.
- Miscellaneous
Meetings, presentations, program administration, home site visits etc.

Money spent split out by

- Chipper Costs: (Purchase/Rental, Fuel & Oil, Disposal Fees, etc.)
- Other Equipment Costs: (Chain Saw purchase/rental, Power Equip. purchase/rental, Hand Tools, Protective Equipment, etc.)
- Contractor Costs: (Arborists, Landscapers, Professional Forestry Services, Debris Removal, etc.)
- Home Improvement Costs: (Roofs, Decks, Windows, Vent Screening, Retrofits, etc.)
- Landscaping/DIY
- Miscellaneous
- Vehicle Mileage: (Slash Drop-off, Rental Equipment pickup, Meetings, etc.)

Remove 2 trees, and the costs for our 350 homes is covered.

Cal Fire has a great page about Firewise, with very useful downloads on the left side of the page. Note that Zone 0 is not in diagrams, because it is not “official fire code” yet. Wildfire Action Plan has great explanations of many details of home hardening and defensible space, You will get many great ideas for individual residents and community projects.

To start, just focus on signing up your team, and gathering all the receipts you can find.

Stay safe and healthy,
Emerson “Chip” Swan
WPV-Ready Instigator