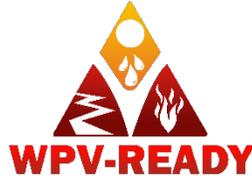




# FIREWISE USA<sup>®</sup>

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



presented by WPV-Ready

Joining the Firewise USA program makes 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>.

The steps are:

1. Organize a team. Call it your Firewise Committee, or Firewise Team, or whatever works in your community. Get 3 or 4 local volunteers who are committed to keeping it going, and make sure one person is out in front waving the flag. Sounds like it's going to be you!
2. Track time and money spent. Go back over the last 9 months or so and dig up all you can document. If your community is like mine (Woodside Hills), you probably spent 20 times the required minimum. It only amounts to 1 volunteer hour or about \$29 per household.
3. Figure out what events you have had that qualify as community outreach for fire risk mitigation. Those qualify for the program. You want to rack up a couple of those each year. A lot of what we do with WPV-Ready qualifies. A lot of what WFPD does qualifies.
4. WPV-Ready will produce a map for you. First, we need to identify the geographic area, the people you can reach with relative ease. Participation by everyone in the community is NOT needed. In fact, it's not possible.
5. The WFPD (or your local inspector) will do a "Community Assessment" and help you identify risks and put some numbers on things. They will also help you build a realistic plan to work on projects over the next few years. If you are within the Woodside Fire Protection District, you can get people to register on the WPV-Ready.org site and use the Firewise Assessment tool under their profile page to capture the data for each household. But that is purely optional/voluntary. We can also provide a printed version of the home assessment tool for you.
6. Become familiar with the online resources, <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA> And study the template and other resources on our Firewise page <http://WPV-Ready.org/Firewise>. In my neighborhood we started with a much more detailed write-up than they needed, and it actually slowed us down until we got smart and tuned our application to JUST what the template asked for.

To start, just focus on signing up your team, and gathering all the receipts you can find. And reach out to us at [firewise@wpv-ready.org](mailto:firewise@wpv-ready.org) for help getting started as soon as you feel ready, sooner if possible!

Stay safe and healthy,  
Your WPV-Ready Firewise Team