

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks



STEP 1: ORGANIZE

Create a board or committee of volunteers to represent your community, including residents and partners such as local forestry agencies or the fire department.

Identify a resident leader who will be the program point of contact. The board or committee defines the boundaries of the site and determines the number of individual single family dwelling units.

Community size: Minimum of 8 dwelling units and a maximum of 2,500. Multiple Firewise USA® sites can be located within a city/town or master-planned community/HOA.

STEP 2: PLAN

The board or committee will collaborate with their local wildfire expert to complete a community wildfire risk assessment.

Contact your local wildfire experts to learn more about the requirements and how to get started

**Allison R. at Spokane Conservation District
Email: allison@spokanecd.org
Phone: (509) 535-7274 x238**

The assessment:

The board/committee will evaluate wildfire hazard risks to create a **three-year action plan specified for the community and broken down by year, that identifies and prioritizes actions to reduce ignition risk to homes. These can include communitywide investments, along with suggested homeowner actions and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually or over a period of multiple years. This document is required to be updated at least every five years. As circumstances change (e.g., completing activities, experiencing a fire or a natural disaster, new construction in community, etc.), the action plan may need to be updated more frequently.**

•Assessment can be completed in a variety of ways, including a walkthrough or a drive-by, and **does not require each individual dwelling unit to have a home risk assessment completed prior to the community assessment**

• Should focus on the condition of vegetation within the participating site's boundary; general landscaping characteristics; and home construction (materials used for roofs, siding, decks, etc.)

•Needs a logical recognized site boundary (HOA, defined neighborhood, street, etc.)





STEP 3: DO IT

Each year, neighbors complete educational and risk reduction actions identified in the plan. These go towards your site's annual reporting efforts.

Find examples of activities that count towards your investment and a volunteer hourly worksheet to collect information from residents in your community at

<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/firewise-usa/become-a-firewise-usa-site>
OR

Type in the search link: how to become a NFPA firewise site

At a minimum, each site is required to annually invest the equivalent of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in wildfire risk reduction actions. If your site has identified 100 homes within its boundary, then 100 hours of work or the monetary equivalent, based on the independent sector value of volunteer time, need to be completed for that year.



STEP 4: TELL US

Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA.

This report documents continuing participation in the program.

When the above criteria has been met, the Resident Leader applies for recognition through the **Firewise® Portal (portal.firewise.org), describing educational and mitigation work in the site.**

Each year, sites renew their status by reporting their activity.