



Project Ideas - Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2014

Projects that reduce wildfire risk and increase preparedness can be accomplished by a broad range of ages; and come in a variety of time commitments ranging from an hour to an entire day or weekend. You might be asking - what can I do in one day to be safer from wildfire? And the answer is a lot!

To help get you started, more than two dozen project ideas have been developed for individuals, families and groups. With the youngest participants in mind, most can be accomplished without power tools or monetary costs.

You can invest time at your own home doing a project with family members, or organize a group to help a neighbor that needs assistance getting work completed. Wildfire safety also means making others aware, and there's plenty of options for that too: set-up a table at a shopping center to distribute free wildfire education information, or hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds to the local fire department's wildland fire team. Make your actions speak loudly and see how personal efforts can contribute to reducing the community's wildfire risk. Enlist the help of friends, relatives or a youth organization and get something GREAT accomplished! Challenge a club, school athletic team or faith based group to develop a project too, and see who can make the largest impact.

Remember to ALWAYS ask for and receive permission from a land/home owner before doing any type of work or activity on property that's not your own!

Before getting started, make sure everyone has reviewed the safety gear and safety tips information at <http://firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/project-ideas.aspx>.

Project ideas:

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves within a minimum of 5 feet of a home's foundation. As time permits – continue up to a 30 foot distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Get out your measuring tape and see how close wood piles are located to the home. If closer than 30 feet, they need to be relocated and moved at least 30' away from structures.
- Sweep porches and decks clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds and play structures and dispose of debris.
- Mow grasses to a height of four inches or less.
- On mature trees, use hand pruners and loppers to remove low-hanging tree branches up to a height of 4 feet from the ground (specific height depends on the type and size of tree).
- Collect downed tree limbs and broken branches and take them to a disposal site.
- Remove items stored under decks and porches and relocate it to a storage shed, garage, or basement.
- Distribute wildfire safety information to neighbors, or staff a table at a grocery or hardware store (other high-traffic locations work too) and distribute free Firewise and emergency preparedness materials that can be ordered at <http://firewise.org/Catalog.aspx>.
- Join forces with neighbors and pool your resources to pay for a chipper service to remove slash.
- Visit the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association site at rmiia.org and download free home inventory software. Work together as a family to videotape and take photos of your possessions – that ensures you'll have the documentation needed to replace belongings.

- Develop and practice a home evacuation plan - ready.gov.
- Create a Family Communication Plan (available in both English and Spanish) at www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan.
- Build or update a 72-hour kit – ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- Contact your local Office of Emergency Management and ask if your jurisdiction requires individuals to register cell phones to receive emergency notifications on mobile devices.
- Can you see your home's address number from the street? If not, trim overgrown vegetation covering or blocking the numbers.
- Challenge your friends and family to take the Firewise Quiz at <http://firewise.org/Information/Firewise-Quiz.aspx> – offer the person with the most correct answers a home baked treat.
- Using social media or text messaging, pick a day and send hourly Firewise and Emergency Preparedness tips to your contacts and friends – get tips at Firewise.org.
- Help an elderly relative or neighbor enter emergency numbers and the names of close relatives into their cell phones; and in large font post their phone number and street address above their landline so it can easily be seen when providing information to an emergency dispatcher.
- As a family – locate two alternate routes out of your neighborhood (besides the one normally used); and plan and practice an evacuation drill using those secondary routes.
- Teens that babysit outside the home need to schedule a conversation with the parents of the kids they're responsible for and learn their emergency plan and what they should do if a wildfire starts, or an evacuation issued, while in that leadership role.
- Work with neighbors to develop a phone/text tree that can be used to alert everyone about a fire or evacuation.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire screening no larger than 1/8" mesh to help keep embers out during a fire.
- Take a walk through your garden and see which types of Firewise plants work best in your landscaping. For a list of Firewise plants visit <http://firewise.org/Information/Research-and-Guidance/Firewise-Landscaping-and-Plant-Lists.aspx>.
- During an evacuation pets have special needs too – build an emergency kit for your animals. Details at <http://www.aspcapetcare.com/pet-care/disaster-preparedness/>.
- Hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds to your local fire department's wildland fire team.

This list is only a small sampling of potential projects. For more information on how to make your home and community better prepared for a wildfire visit
Fireadapted.org.

NFPA, Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) and State Farm are pleased to support the 2014 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day campaign, but have not assessed or evaluated any of the community projects, activities or initiatives. Recognition of any kind in no way implies endorsement or approval of a project, its safety or effectiveness, and the supporters disclaim all liability in connection with any such project, activity or initiative.