



## BECOMING A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FIREWISE USA SITE

The Firewise USA® program provides a collaborative framework for neighbors to take action to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. The national recognition program's criteria is designed to empower and engage residents living in wildfire prone areas with a plan and actions to undertake each year that can increase their home's chances of surviving a wildfire while also making it safer for firefighters.

### Steps to Achieving National Recognition



#### Complete a Wildfire Risk Assessment

- Completing a written wildfire risk assessment is the first step in becoming a nationally recognized Firewise USA® site.
- Contact your Firewise® state liaison for the state's requirements on developing a risk assessment.



#### Complete Educational Outreach Activity

- Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.



#### Invest in Wildfire Risk Reduction

- At a minimum, each site is required to invest the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in risk reduction activities annually.
- A wide range of qualifying actions and expenditures (contractor costs, rental equipment, resident activities, grants, etc.) comprise the overall investment totals.



#### Form a Board/Committee

- Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other appropriate stakeholders.
- This group will collaborate on developing the site's risk reduction priorities and they will develop a multi-year action plan based on the assessment, along with overseeing the completion of the annual renewal requirements.



#### Create a Site Profile and Apply

- Applicants begin the overall process by creating a site profile at: [portal.firewise.org](http://portal.firewise.org). The application is eligible for submission when the overall criteria is completed.
- State liaisons approve applications with final processing completed by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®). Please note: Individual states may require additional application requirements beyond those of the national program.



#### Develop an Action Plan

- Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects developed by the participant's board/committee for their site.
- Plans include recommended home ignition zone projects, educational activities and other stakeholder outreach efforts that the site will strive to complete annually or over multiple years.

NFPA has many free tools and resources available. Reach out to us to learn more: [firewise.org](http://firewise.org).



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

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