



Firewise USA® Community Introduction May 2026

What Is A Firewise USA[®] Community?

- A nationally recognized wildfire preparedness program of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NFPA is a nonprofit organization that develops widely accepted fire safety standards and wildfire preparedness programs.
- Recognizes residents' stewardship of their homes and community.
- Recognition and annual renewal are based on documented planning and completion of mitigation programs and projects.
- Supports insurance, grant, and wildfire resilience goals.



What Firewise Recognition Means

- National recognition of our community's mitigation efforts during the past six years.
- Application of nationally accepted standards for wildfire mitigation at the community and individual levels.
- Commitment to a multi-year plan for wildfire mitigation and preparedness efforts.
- Helps position property owners for insurance and mitigation benefits.
- Requires continued homeowner participation and annual reporting.



Community Investment

- Your participation strengthens and sustains our Firewise USA® community.
- Maintaining Firewise USA® recognition requires ongoing community investment in wildfire mitigation.
- The investment may be time, money, or both.
 - Volunteer time
 - Home hardening
 - Vegetation management
 - Related expenses
- We are developing a system for you to report qualifying work and expenses since November 2025.



TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES

Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$20.43) per residential dwelling unit within the site's boundary in annual wildfire risk reduction efforts is a requirement of the national recognition program's criteria for maintaining an "In Good Standing" status. Examples of potential actions, activities, and expenses that can be used in meeting the total investment are listed below. These are only examples, it is not a comprehensive list.

COLLABORATION WITH FORESTRY, FIRE, AND RELATED EXPERTS:

- Consultation time with forestry/fire professionals on areas at risk
- Coordination of arborist, landscaping, etc. estimates for vegetation maintenance in common areas
- Regional coordinator's time mentoring/working with residents
- Time spent performing fire risk overviews at individual homes

COORDINATION OF PROJECTS, MEETINGS, ETC.:

- Coordination of wildfire-related outreach events
- Coordination of wildfire educational presentations with subject matter experts
- Resident leader's program administration time
- Travel time to risk reduction meetings, orientations, trainings, and workshops

EDUCATION/TRAINING EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR RESIDENTS:

- Attendance at evacuation/preparedness trainings
- Attendance at wildfire-related education/informational meetings and events
- Home improvements/modifications training
- Fire-resistant plant species workshop
- Safety and personal protective equipment training
- Vegetation management training

IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE ON THE HOME AND OUTBUILDINGS:

- Chimney spark arrestor installation
- Repairs to retrofit open-eave style construction to soffits/eaves
- Modifications of deck to increase the gap between boards from 3/4 inch to 1/2 inch
- Inspection of roof; replacement of shingles as needed
- Inspection/repairs of eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition
- Removal of flammable materials from under decks and porches
- Removal of debris between deck board gaps/joints
- Removal of debris on the roof and in the gutters as needed
- Replacement of missing deck boards to reduce ember entry to area under decks
- Replacement of vinyl gutters with metal gutters
- Replacement of wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Resident or contractor labor to perform ignition-resistant exterior improvements (e.g., new Class A roofs, mesh screening added to attic and crawl space vents, siding repairs, replacement of wood fencing attached to siding, etc.)
- Installation of weatherstripping along the perimeter of garage doors to help keep embers out
- Use of a sealant (such as caulking) to cover gaps in open-eave areas



3 - Year Action Plan



Firewise USA® recognition includes an ongoing 3-year community action plan in four areas:

- Educational & Outreach
 - Community education, preparedness information, and resident engagement.
- Home Hardening
 - Encouraging practical improvements to reduce structure ignition risk.
- Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction
 - Continued vegetation management and fuels mitigation efforts.
- Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness
 - Improving evacuation readiness, communications, and emergency awareness.



3 - Year Action Plan Examples



- **Educational & Outreach**

- Continue distributing Public Information Announcements (PIAs) on multiple topics.
- Conduct annual community meetings and educational workshops.

- **Home Hardening**

- Conduct 10-15 home assessments per year.
- Encourage homeowners to complete at least 1 home hardening project/year.

- **Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction**

- Continue defensible space and Zone Zero consulting with each home assessment.
- Continue the chipping program and fuel reduction along Grove Street with SVFD.

- **Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness**

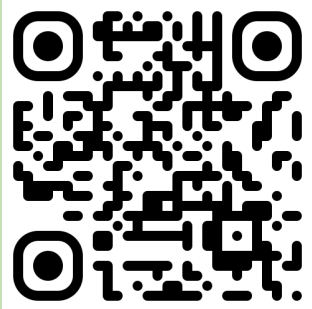
- Collaborate with SCSO & fire agencies to advise homeowners of evacuation protocols.
- Continue PIAs to enhance awareness during Fire Weather Watches/Red Flag Warnings.



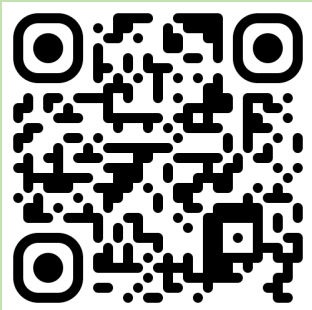
Insurance Aspects

- California's "Safer from Wildfires" insurance regulations recognize wildfire mitigation actions.
- Participation in a Firewise USA® community is a recognized mitigation action listed in the regulations.
- Participation in a Firewise USA® community may support insurance discounts or renewals.
- Insurance decisions are made at the individual property level.
- Firewise USA® recognition does not guarantee coverage, renewal, or premium reductions.
- Send the Firewise USA® Certificate of Participation to your insurance agent.
 - Available on our website - grovestreetfsc.org - see the Firewise USA® tab.

Helpful links and resources



National Firewise USA® Program Certificate
<https://tinyurl.com/gsfsc-fwc>



Firewise USA® Time And Expense Investment Examples
<https://tinyurl.com/gsfsc-tei>

Helpful links and resources



Firewise USA®

<https://www.nfpa.org/Education-and-Research/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>



CA Dept. of Insurance *Safer from Wildfires*

<https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm>