

Why Participate in Firewise USA®?

- Wildfire is inevitable.
- Program education efforts promote fire danger awareness and may help reduce property loss due to wildfire.
- Grant opportunities are available for participating fire departments - up to \$3,500 during the first year.
- Participation can help lower ISO ratings.
- Increasing home survivability and firefighter safety are the program's primary objectives.

Success Stories

- *"The Firewise certification process has revealed invaluable insights into our Jersey Rural Fire District... Their volunteer efforts could mean the actual survival of these rural communities and their way of life,"* stated Sheila Loomis, Jersey Firewise Coordinator.
- *"Firewise makes communities safer for residents and firefighters fighting fire,"* said Retired Crossett Firefighter and ADA Training Supervisor, Kevin Kilcrease.
- *"The program allows the firefighters more positive interactions with their communities,"* stated ADA Faulkner County Ranger, Greg White.



CONTACT US

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FORESTRY DIVISION



Working
TOGETHER
to protect
YOUR
HOME

Resources

- Firewise USA® Construction Checklist
- Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan Template
- Community Risk Assessment Forms
- Grant Request Forms
- Firewise Application and Renewal Paperwork
- Educational Materials
- Speakers for Events

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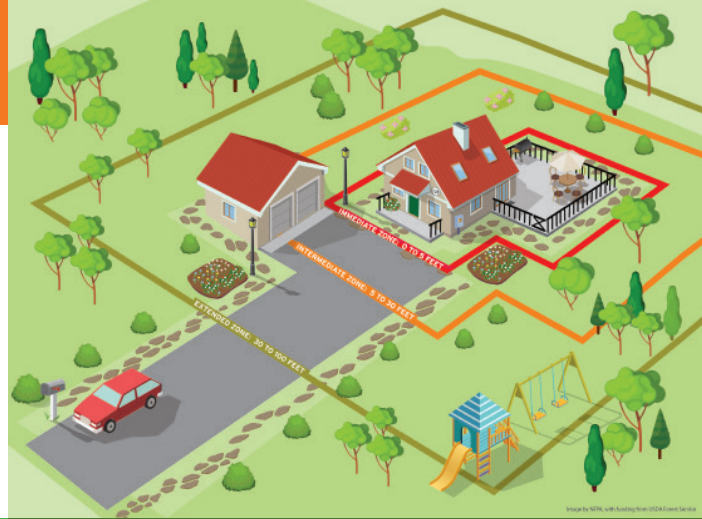
FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

What is Firewise USA®?

Firewise USA® is a multi-agency effort that prepares communities for the threat of wildfire. In Arkansas, Firewise USA® partners with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division to train fire departments and community members on implementing wildfire risk reduction efforts in their area.

How to Become a Firewise USA® Site

- Contact Firewise USA® State Liaisons to set up initial program presentation.
- Identify a site of 8-2500 structures.
- Conduct community risk assessment for dwelling units in the wildland/urban interface, the area where homes meet forested lands.
- Create a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan with achievable objectives to prepare the community for a wildfire.
- Host at least one educational project and one vegetation removal project in your community.
- Meet minimum investment requirements of one volunteer hour per household through said projects.
(Ex: 300 structures = 300 total hours invested in education and vegetation removal projects.)
- Submit annual paperwork to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division in Greenbrier.



Firewise USA® Objectives

We aim to create an environment where homes can survive a wildfire without the intervention of firefighters.

How?

Create lean, clean, and green defensible space.

- **Lean** - Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of a roof. Cut back limbs that allow trees to touch the roof or each other.
- **Clean** - Remove dead plant material including limbs, sticks, twigs, leaves, dry grass, and firewood within 30 feet of home.
- **Green** - Maintain a well-watered yard (fire will move faster in dry, dead grass) and plant fire-resistant vegetation.

Homeowner Tips

Fire-Resistant Construction

- Use Class A roofing materials when possible. This includes shingles constructed of metal, cement, slate, or ceramic tile.
- Inspect roof and replace any shingles that may be loose or missing.
- Be sure to screen roof and attic vents with 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clearly mark your address to ensure emergency personnel can quickly locate your home.
- Use double-paned glass.
- Do not store flammable materials on or near decks/porches.

Fire-Resistant Landscaping

- Trim trees to create six to ten feet of clearance from the ground.
- Keep grass short and leaves raked.
- Be sure to allow enough space when planting shrubs and flowers to keep them from touching your home.
- Utilize terracing in areas with severe slopes.
- Clear roofs and gutters of any dead leaves or debris.
- Use non-combustible mulches like crushed stone and gravel.

