



FIREWISE USA®

Residents reducing wildfire risks

Time and Expense Investment Examples

All Firewise USA® new and renewal applicants are required to invest the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$24.14 per dwelling unit), in wildfire risk reduction efforts annually, as part of the national recognition program's criteria for obtaining/maintaining an "In Good Standing" status.

Examples of potential actions, activities and expenses that can be used in calculating a sites total investment are listed below. These are only examples, it is not a comprehensive list. If you have a question, please send an email to our customer service team at: Firewise@nfpa.org

Collaboration with Forestry, Fire and Related Experts:

- Consultation time with forestry/fire professionals on areas at risk
- Coordinated 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
- Coordinating 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
- Retrofitted open-eaves style construction to soffited-eaves
- Increased the gap between deck boards from 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch
- Inspected roof; replaced shingles as needed
- Inspected/repaired eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition
- Removed all flammable materials from under decks and porches
- Removed debris between deck board gaps/joints
- Removed debris on the roof and in the gutters as needed
- Replaced missing deck boards to reduce ember entry to area under decks



Improvements/Maintenance on the Home and Outbuildings (continued):

- Replaced vinyl gutters with metal gutters
- Replaced wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Resident or contractor labor to perform ignition-resistant exterior improvements: New Class A roofs; Mesh screening added to attic and crawl space vents; Siding repairs, Replaced wood fencing attached to siding, etc.
- Installed weatherstripping along the perimeter of garage doors to help keep embers out
- Used a sealant (such as caulking) to cover gaps in open-eave areas

Improvements/Maintenance within the Home Ignition Zones:

- Cleared debris at the base of combustible fences
- Cleared vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
- Created a permanent non-flammable footprint under large stationary propane tanks
- Created a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
- Created small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (Driveways, walkways/paths, patios, stone walls, etc.
- Limbed and removed lower tree branches
- Moved firewood piles at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
- Mowed lawn, native grasses and weeds as needed
- Raked and removed pine needles, leaves and ground debris
- Replaced combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
- Replaced highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
- Reduced ladder fuels
- Stacked/piled slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
- Tree thinning/removal

Neighborhood/Community Focused Projects:

- Commonly owned areas debris removal and maintenance
- Coordination of rental equipment and contractors for community-wide wildfire risk reduction projects
- Door-to-door canvassing to get new neighbors involved in reducing wildfire risks
- Grant writing/oversight for wildfire risk reduction projects
- Mentoring adjacent neighborhoods on the importance of reducing wildfire risks
- Organizing, coordinating, planning and implementation of the annual education/outreach events/activities



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Neighborhood/Community Focused Projects (continued):

- Participation and attendance at Firewise Board meetings (Developed/updated action plans, etc.)
- Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
- Participation in national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day projects
- Reduced vegetation/fuels from adjacent ingress and egress routes
- Resident's time attending/participating in annual wildfire education/outreach events
- Risk reduction orientation to new residents
- Writing wildfire educational articles for the neighborhood newsletter or community website

Expense Examples:

- Chipper/Power Equipment rental/purchases
- Chipper/Power Equipment associated costs: fuel and oil
- Chipper/Power Equipment maintenance/repair costs
- Contractor/labor expenses to perform risk reduction work (Arborists, Landscapers, Professional Forester Services, Roofers, etc.)
- Costs for community-wide clean up days (dumpster rental, compostable leaf/lawn bags, etc.)
- Costs to replace flammable mulch materials with stone/gravel
- Costs to replace flammable plant species with fire-resistant options
- Costs to replace wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Food/beverages for risk reduction group/volunteer projects
- Ground litter and debris disposal/hauling fees
- Hardscaping materials and related costs to create fuel separation
- Home improvement expenses to reduce impacts from heat and embers: Roof, Deck, Fencing, Gutters, Siding, Vents, Windows, etc.
- Mileage @ the current IRS rate for attendance at wildfire related meetings, dropping off slash, securing rental equipment, etc.
- Portable toilet rental for volunteers working on clean-up projects
- Production costs for risk reduction flyers, signs, etc. and related mailing expenses
- Spark Arrestor/installation costs
- Tool purchase/rental (Loppers, pole saws, weed trimmers, rakes, etc.)
- Tree removal, separation/spacing expenses
- Safety Equipment for neighborhood workdays (ear and eye protection, gloves, etc.)
- Value of hourly volunteer labor (residents, scout groups, CERT members, students, etc.) and the associated services and materials required for them to participate in risk reduction projects