

# Firewise USA RECOGNITION

## WILDFIRE PLANNING at the Neighborhood Level



**Firewise USA** is a national program designed to help fire-prone neighborhoods improve wildfire readiness and recognizes those efforts. It encourages property owner groups to take action *before* a wildfire occurs. The focus is on personal responsibility and the development of local solutions.



### Is Firewise USA right for you?

- Your neighborhood is within a designated **Community at Risk** to wildfire, see [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “fire”.
- Organization leaders and property owners are concerned about the **impacts of wildfires**.
- Your neighborhood, fire department and local DNR forestry managers **are committed** to the recognition process.

### Investment

**It doesn't cost anything** to become a recognized Firewise program participant and you will be given priority consideration for grant funds to do wildfire risk reduction projects.

**Each year**, your organization selects a wildfire risk reduction project to pursue and can apply for grant funds. The funds require a 50:50 cost share. The time and effort participants put into their projects is most often their 50% match.

**The time invested** by committee members to create and implement an action plan builds and strengthens partnerships that are especially helpful during an emergency.

**Being a Firewise participant rarely costs money. It does require an on-going investment in volunteer time.**



**[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “fire”**

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## Who can earn Firewise recognition?



- Property owners associations
- Camps
- Other neighborhood groups

## Steps to becoming a recognized Firewise USA site

1. Generate neighborhood interest and contact your local DNR office to get started.
2. Form a Firewise Committee of neighborhood representatives.
3. Work with DNR and local fire department to complete a wildfire risk assessment.
4. Based on wildfire risk assessment results, the Firewise Committee creates an action plan.
5. Complete a wildfire risk reduction project.
6. Apply for Firewise recognition.
7. Complete at least one project annually to maintain recognition status.

## Firewise project examples

The Firewise Committee determines your annual project. One project per year is required to earn and maintain Firewise USA recognition status.

- Firewise workshop or presentation
- Curbside chipping of brush
- Common area brush cleanup
- Educational materials
- Homeowner wildfire risk assessments



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PUB FR-574-2017

