

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 Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings.
- Increasing home survivability and firefighter safety are the program's primary objectives.

Success Stories

- *"The Firewise program has benefited our community by educating homeowners and reducing wildfire risks. Firewise projects have assisted homeowners in debris removal resulting in safe perimeters around their homes,"* stated Charlie Parsons, Holland Firewise Coordinator.
- *"Firewise makes communities safer for residents and firefighters,"* said Retired Crossett Firefighter and former Forestry Division Training Supervisor, Kevin Kilcrease.
- *"The program allows the firefighters more positive interactions with their communities,"* stated Forestry Division Faulkner County Ranger, Greg White.



CONTACT US

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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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FORESTRY DIVISION



Working TOGETHER to protect YOUR HOME



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.

