



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Amador County Firewise Program

Information for becoming a registered Firewise USA Neighborhood
within Amador County, CA.

The Firewise USA program is administered by the National Fire Protection Agency, providing a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area to get organized, find direction, and take action to increase ignition resistance of their homes and communities, and to reduce wildfire risk at the local level.

Created in collaborated effort by the Amador Fire Safe Council
and Amador Fire Protection District



v. (1 - 9.22)

IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIREWISE?

Steps to becoming a registered Firewise USA neighborhood:

- 1. Organize a Committee**
- 2. Assess Your Neighborhood**
- 3. Create an Action Plan**
- 4. Hold a Neighborhood Event**
- 5. Submit Your Application**

This document contains explanations and helpful information for implementing and completing the process of becoming a registered Firewise USA neighborhood.

Also included in this packet are sample forms and documents for reference, which will assist in completing the required application materials.

More information is available on the Amador Fire Safe Council website:
www.amadorfiresafe.org/fire-wise-communities

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact:

Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC)
Phone: (209) 214-9727
Email: info@amadorfiresafe.org

Steps Explained

- **Organizing/Creating a Committee**

1. Talk to your neighbors who live in close proximity about the Firewise USA program. The Amador Fire Safe Council can provide brochures and other educational documents upon request. Ask your neighbors to participate in the program and learn more at the **AFSC Firewise webpage: <https://amadorfiresafe.org/fire-wise-communities>** or on the **NFPA Firewise webpage: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>**.
2. Log email addresses and phone numbers of those interested and ask neighbors to volunteer as committee members. Depending on the size of your neighborhood, asking neighbors to serve as “block captains” may be beneficial for larger, more populated neighborhoods.
3. Choose a group leader who will head the process of becoming Firewise.
4. Create your Neighborhood Boundary Map. **(Attachment A)** A minimum of 8 parcels is required to participate in the program. If help is required, please reach out to the AFSC for help.
5. Create your Firewise Community profile on the Firewise USA Program Management Portal at portal.firewise.org.

- **Neighborhood Risk Assessment** **(Attachment B)**

1. Identify areas of successful wildfire risk reduction the neighborhood has completed so far; identify areas where improvements can be made, with emphasis general home condition and related home ignition areas. This assessment will assist in the creation and implementation of the required Action Plan.
2. Amador Fire Protection District is available to assist in assessing your neighborhood. Contact the AFD Fire Marshal for further information:

AMADOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
(209) 223-6391
810 Court St. Jackson, CA 95642

3. Invite neighbors to join during the assessment; it is very beneficial to have as many homeowners participate during the walk through, so multiple assessments may be necessary depending upon the size of your proposed Firewise neighborhood.

- **Action Plan**

1. Develop a multi-year Action Plan based on the neighborhood’s risk reduction priorities (required update every 3 years) **(Attachment C)**
2. Focuses for each year - educate via websites/Town Halls/brochures & documents **(Attachment D)**
3. Chipping Program services available **(Attachment E)**
4. Activities that count toward required time/financial investment (must be tracked) **(Attachment F)**
5. Project proposals are available to submit via AmadorFireSafe.org **(Attachment G)**
6. Help is available in drafting your Action Plan on firewise.org
7. Contact the AFSC for further assistance or clarification

- **Hold a Neighborhood Event**

1. Block Captains/Neighborhood Leads invite neighbors
2. Provide emergency planning information in addition to Firewise
3. Schedule a free Neighborhood Chipping Day as an incentive - contact Megan Watts for more information (209) 214-9727 / megan@amadorrcd.org

- **Submit Application** - performed online via the Firewise Portal (portal.firewise.org), with assistance from documents referenced above. The NFPA will be in contact via email regarding the status of your application (2-6 weeks approximately).

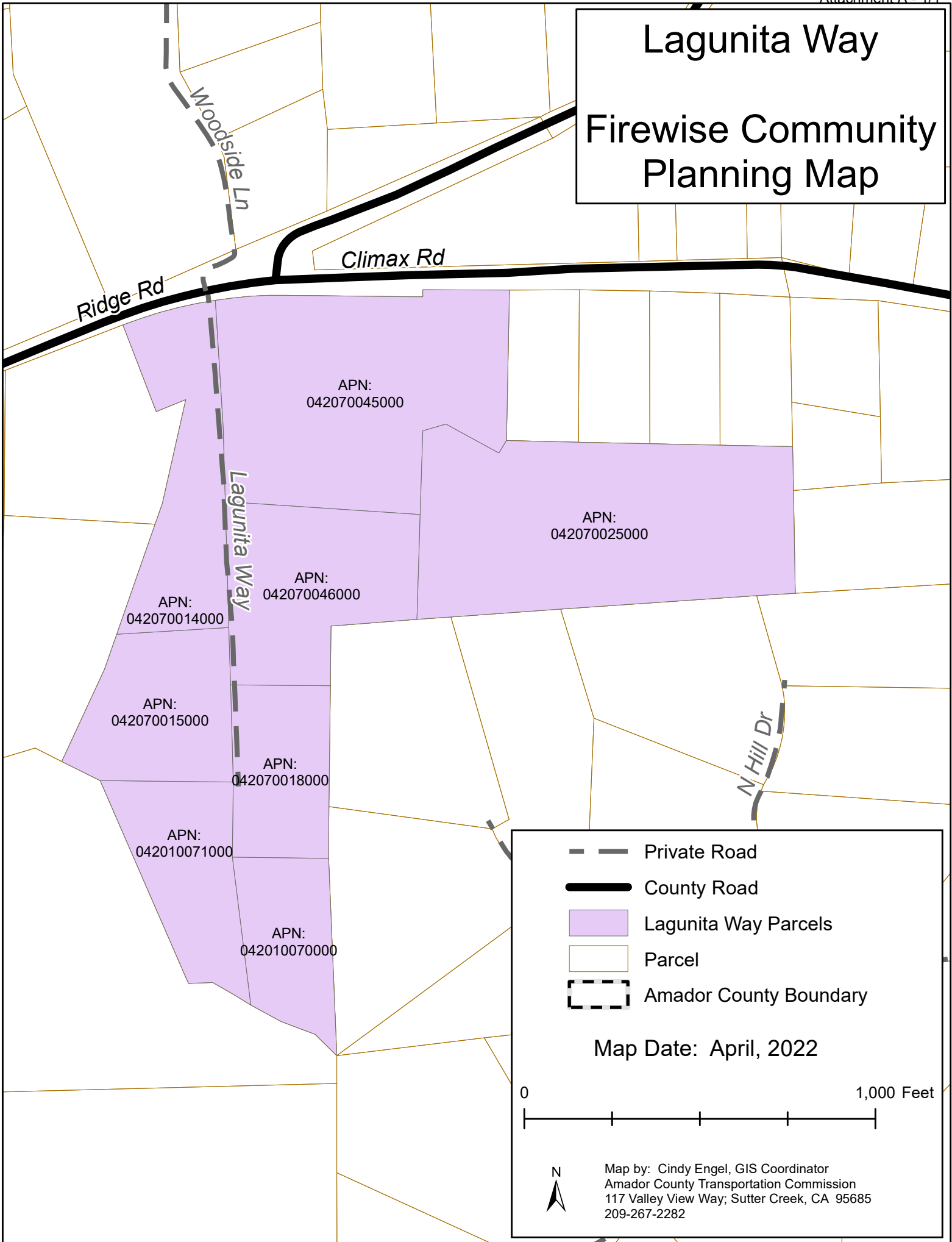
Attachments






- A. Boundary Map
- B. Risk Assessment Form
- C. 3-Year Action Plan Sample
- D. Home Hardening Flyer
- E. ARCD Free Chipping Program Flyer
- F. Time Investment Sample Document
- G. Project Proposal Form (Amador Fire Safe Council)

Disclaimer Statement:

The Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC), the Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD), and their respective group leaders and volunteer committee members, disclaim liability for any personal injury or other damages of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential or compensatory, directly resulting from participation or the use of the materials presented in these documents. The AFSC and AFPD make no guarantee or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of these documents or suggestions of resources for Firewise USA program guidance.


Lagunita Way Firewise Community Planning Map



-  Private Road
-  County Road
-  Lagunita Way Parcels
-  Parcel
-  Amador County Boundary

Map Date: April, 2022

0 1,000 Feet

 Map by: Cindy Engel, GIS Coordinator
Amador County Transportation Commission
117 Valley View Way; Sutter Creek, CA 95685
209-267-2282



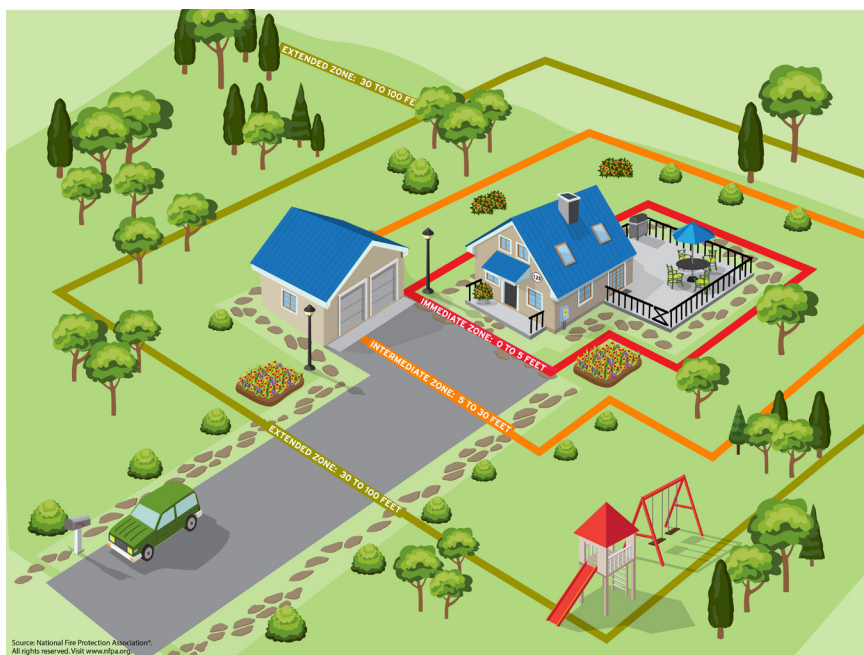
FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

FIREWISE USA® RECOGNITION PROGRAM COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Firewise USA® and the US Wildfire Problem

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to help protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety.

The NFPA Firewise USA® recognition program was designed to help people learn about wildfire and how they can make their homes and neighborhoods safer. It's based on research that shows how to prepare homes to withstand embers and prevent flames or surface fire from igniting the home and its immediate surroundings, by working in an area known as the home ignition zone (HIZ). This is the home and everything around it within 100 feet.



The community risk assessment should focus on the vulnerability of homes and surrounding home ignition zones to embers.

Red Boundary = Immediate Zone
Orange Boundary = Intermediate Zone
Green Boundary = Extended Zone

In many neighborhoods, home ignition zones often overlap onto adjacent properties—meaning that homes are closer than 100 feet to one another. This makes the conditions of neighboring homes and vegetation a part of the wildfire threat. It's extremely important that neighbors work collaboratively with each other—and talk with each other—to reduce their shared risk.

Using Firewise USA® to create ignition-resistant communities

Firewise USA® is a voluntary recognition program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities from wildfire.

There are several steps to take to become recognized as a Firewise USA® site:

- Organize — Create a **board or committee** of volunteers to represent your community, including residents and partners such as local forestry agencies or the fire department. Identify a **resident leader** who will be the program point of contact.
- Plan — The board or committee defines the boundaries of the site and obtains a **community wildfire risk assessment**. From the risk assessment, the board/committee creates a multi-year action plan to identify and prioritize actions to reduce ignition risk to homes.
- Do — Each year, neighbors complete educational and risk reduction **actions** identified in the plan.
- Tell — When the above criteria have been met, the Resident Leader **applies for recognition** through the **Firewise® Portal** (portal.firewise.org), describing educational and mitigation work in the site. Each year, **sites renew their status** by reporting their activity.

The community wildfire risk assessment is one of the most important steps in the process. It's a tool to help residents understand their wildfire risk and engage in risk reduction efforts.

There are many ways to assess risk from wildfires, using many different scales. The assessment is focused on the risk of home ignition from wildfires and will help guide residents on the most effective actions to prevent home ignitions that could result in wildfire disasters.

The recommendations provided by the completed assessment will be the board/committee's primary tool in determining the action priorities within the site's boundaries. The Firewise USA® program requires risk assessments be **updated at a minimum of every five years**.

HOW TO CONDUCT THE RISK ASSESSMENT

Each state may designate its own template and special requirements for Firewise USA® participation. **Before starting this assessment, please contact your state liaison to determine your state's process. The best assessments result from a collaboration between residents and their state forestry agency, local fire department, or another designated partner.**

The community wildfire risk assessment speaks to the general conditions of the overall Firewise USA® site and does not provide details on each individual dwelling.

The assessment should focus on:

- Vulnerability of homes to ember, surface fire, and crown fire
- Condition of the structures themselves
- Immediate hazards within the home ignition zone on individual properties
- Concerns presented by common/open space areas or adjacent public lands

It should also consider factors that impact risk and influence fire behavior or structure ignitability, such as:

- Structural characteristics (roofing, siding, decks)
- Vegetation types
- Slope and aspect (the direction a community faces—north, south, east, or west)
- Housing density

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Features of a community risk assessment include:

- It can be completed in a variety of ways, including a walkthrough or a drive by, and does not require each individual dwelling unit to have a home risk assessment completed prior to the community assessment.
- It should focus on condition of vegetation within the participating site's boundary; general landscaping characteristics; home construction (materials used for roofs, siding, decks, etc.); and relationship of ignition potential of combustible materials on adjacent properties.
- It needs a logical recognized site boundary (HOA, defined neighborhood, street, etc.).

Assessment Participants

List the principal participants who assisted in data gathering and development of this assessment (include name, role/organization, phone and email). Participants can include your district forester, or Firewise® Board members for instance.

Participant 1				
Participant 2				
Participant 3				
Participant 4				
Participant 5				

DEFINING YOUR FIREWISE USA® SITE

If there is already a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that includes your site, it can be helpful to use in filling out this information. Ask your State Forestry representative if one exists.

General Site Description

Site name: _____

City: _____

County: _____

State: _____

Boundary description (this could be defined by your HOA, subdivision, defined neighborhood, street(s), etc.):

Area (please indicate your unit of measurement) (OPTIONAL): _____

At the end of this document, please use the section provided to insert a map of your community's defined boundary.

General Site Information

Number of dwelling units – Firewise USA® participation requires a minimum of 8 individual dwelling units not to exceed 2,500 units within the site's identified boundary.

Contact [Firewise USA®](#) if you have questions about your area's eligibility, [visit our contact us](#) page.

Number of dwelling units: _____

Number of residents: _____

Description of Properties within the Boundary

Residential types in your site (check all that apply):

- Single family Duplex Townhomes
 Apartment Mobile Other: _____

Types of ownership (check all that apply):

- Private Common Public (county, state, or federal)

Lot sizes (check all that apply):

- Less than 0.10 acres or 4,356 square feet
 0.10–0.50 acres or 4,356–21,780 square feet
 0.51–1 acres or 22,215–43,560 square feet
 Greater than 1 acre or 43560 square feet

Other site information that you would like to provide (OPTIONAL): _____

Description of local wildland fire characteristics:

Fire intensity and rate of spread depend on the vegetation type and condition (live/dead), topography, and typical weather patterns. This information can be obtained from your state forestry agency or local fire department.

Describe the common vegetation type(s) in your site (i.e., grasses, shrubs, and trees): _____

Describe the topography within your site (include geographical features such as canyons, chimneys, steep slopes, indicate which direction slopes face, or note whether the area is flat): _____

Severe wind exposure:

- Not in an area with regular exposure to winds
 Regularly exposed to winds
 Frequent severe winds

History of wildfire:

- Area with history of fire occurrence
 Area with no history of fire occurrence
 Unknown

FIREWISE USA® SITE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Use this section to record observations from within your site and recommendations for action that can be included in the site's action plan. Consider taking photos to keep in your site's files that illustrate successful risk reduction efforts and areas that need improvement.

Remember, this is a community-wide view and should report on the overall conditions of the entire site. Although individual home risk assessments are not required in this section, they may end up being a recommendation for the Action Plan.

Observations

The observation section is broken down by the characteristics of homes and the vegetation management within the home ignition zones and common areas. Mark the appropriate box for each category that best represents the conditions within your site.

HOME IGNITION ZONES

Home: General building construction. Are the homes made of ignition resistant building materials?

Roofing materials: composite shingles, metal, cement tile and clay

- Greater than 75% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
- 50–75% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
- 25–50% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
- Less than 25% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles

Soffit vents: a screened vent on the underside component of the eaves that allows air to flow to the attic or the space below roof sheathing

- Greater than 75% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- 50–74% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- 25–50% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- Less than 25% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- Unknown

Siding: stucco, masonry products, plaster, and cement

- Greater than 75% of homes have non-combustible siding
- 50–74% of homes have non-combustible siding
- 25–50% of homes have non-combustible siding
- Less than 25% of homes have non-combustible siding

Skirting: material used around the bottom of homes and sometimes decks to protect the underside from exposure

- Greater than 75% of homes have skirting underneath raised floors/decks
- 50–74% of homes have skirting underneath
- 25–50% of homes have skirting underneath
- Less than 25% of homes have skirting underneath

Attachments: wood vs. non-combustible materials. (Examples of non-combustible materials include decks made with wood-plastic composites, higher density tropical hardwood, or fire retardant treated decking materials, and fences that use metal or masonry where attached directly to the siding of a home.)

- Greater than 75% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- 50–74% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- 25–50% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- Less than 25% of homes have NO wooden attachments

Windows

- Greater than 75% of homes have multi-paned windows
- 50–74% of homes have multi-paned windows
- 25–50% of homes have multi-paned windows
- Less than 25% of homes have multi-paned windows
- Unknown what type of window exist (single pane vs. multi-pane)

Roof/gutter debris (leaf litter, pine needles, etc.)

- Greater than 75% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters
- 50–74% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters
- 25–50% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters
- Less than 25% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters

Gutter type

- Greater than 75% of homes have metal gutters
- 50–74% of homes have non-combustible gutters
- 25–50% of homes have non-combustible gutters
- Less than 25% of homes have non-combustible gutters

Immediate Zone: 0–5 feet from the furthest attached point of homes. This area addresses the immediate vegetation and materials, creating a combustible-free area.

Items to consider:

- Is there dead vegetation, dried leaves, pine needles, and ground debris near foundations?
 - Has hardscaping been used around perimeters to keep them free of litter/debris? Are there concrete, stone, or gravel walkways?
 - Have wood mulch products been replaced with non-combustible alternatives, such as crushed stone/gravel options?
 - Are there trees/shrubs next to the home? Are there branches overhanging the roof or within 10 feet of chimneys?
- Greater than 75% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area
 - 50–74% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area
 - 25–50% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area
 - Less than 25% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area

Intermediate Zone: 5–30 feet from the furthest exterior point of the home. This area uses landscaping and breaks (areas of non-combustible materials such as dirt, cement, or rock) to help influence and decrease fire behavior. Items to consider:

- Are there fuel breaks such as driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks?
 - Are lawns and native grasses maintained? General recommendation is a height of 4 inches.
 - Is vegetation in this area spread out? It is recommended that trees and shrubs should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up continuity; trees should be spaced to a minimum of 18 feet between crowns.
 - Have ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) been removed so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns? Have trees been pruned? General recommendations are up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground; for shorter trees, do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
 - Are plants, trees, and lawns watered to keep them from becoming dry?
- Greater than 75% of homes have treated vegetation
 - 50–74% of homes have treated vegetation
 - 25–50% of homes have treated vegetation
 - Less than 25% of homes have treated vegetation

Extended Zone: 30–100 feet, out to 200 feet (where applicable). Generally, this area focuses on landscaping—managing the vegetation to influence fire behavior and spread. The goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire’s path and keep flames smaller and on the ground. At these distances, property lines may overlap, presenting the opportunity and need to work collaboratively with neighbors. Items to consider:

- Are there heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris?
 - Is there dead plant and tree material that should be removed?
 - Are storage sheds and/or other outbuildings in this zone clear of vegetation?
 - Do mature trees have small conifers and brush growing between them or is the space maintained?
 - Do trees 30–60 feet from the home have at least 12 feet between canopy tops? Is there at least 6 feet between canopy tops of trees located 60–100 feet from the home?
- Greater than 75% of homes have treated vegetation
 - 50–74% of homes have treated vegetation
 - 25–50% of homes have treated vegetation
 - Less than 25% of homes have treated vegetation

Common areas or adjacent public lands: (community owned/managed)

- Not adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels
- Adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels

Is there a management plan for these fuels? If so, please describe: _____

Additional comments or observations regarding site conditions: _____

Summary

Use this section to summarize findings in observations. The percentages captured will help you briefly explain a snapshot of your community's current status and areas for successful focus. List areas where there is significant success and areas where improvements could be made, especially at low cost with sweat equity/volunteer labor. Of the three home ignition zones, emphasis should be on the immediate zone.

Example: Greater than 75% of homes observed have non-combustible roofs; however, there were several noted with wood shake shingles.

Recommendations

Using the findings from the observation phase, identify actions and steps that can be taken to reduce the site's risk from wildfire. Prioritize recommendations based on the potential fire threat to homes. It's recommended that residents address hazards at the home first and work their way out into the three home ignition zones. Remember, small things can have a huge impact on home survivability. Use these recommendations to create your site's action plan.

Examples:

- Less than 75% of homes observed had a roof free of leaf litter, pine needles, and other debris. Encourage residents to remove the debris and keep those areas clean to work towards greater than 75% compliance.
- Bark mulch is widely used within the immediate area. Recommend removing bark mulch and replacing with an ignition-resistant material, such as crushed stone or gravel.
- Work with residents to improve the number of homes that have removed flammable materials 0–5 feet from the home.

NEXT STEPS

The information you have collected during the assessment process will help you develop recommendations that can be applied to your site's action plan. Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects and the related investments needed to achieve them for the site. Action plans also highlight suggested homeowner actions and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually, or over a period of multiple years. Action plans should be **updated at a minimum of at least every three years.**

Visit, [How to Become a Firewise USA site](#), to view the full list of required criteria needed to complete the Firewise USA® recognition program's application process. Or [visit the Program Management portal](#) to start your application.

Although not required, you may also consider adding addenda that cover the following community/fire safety issues:

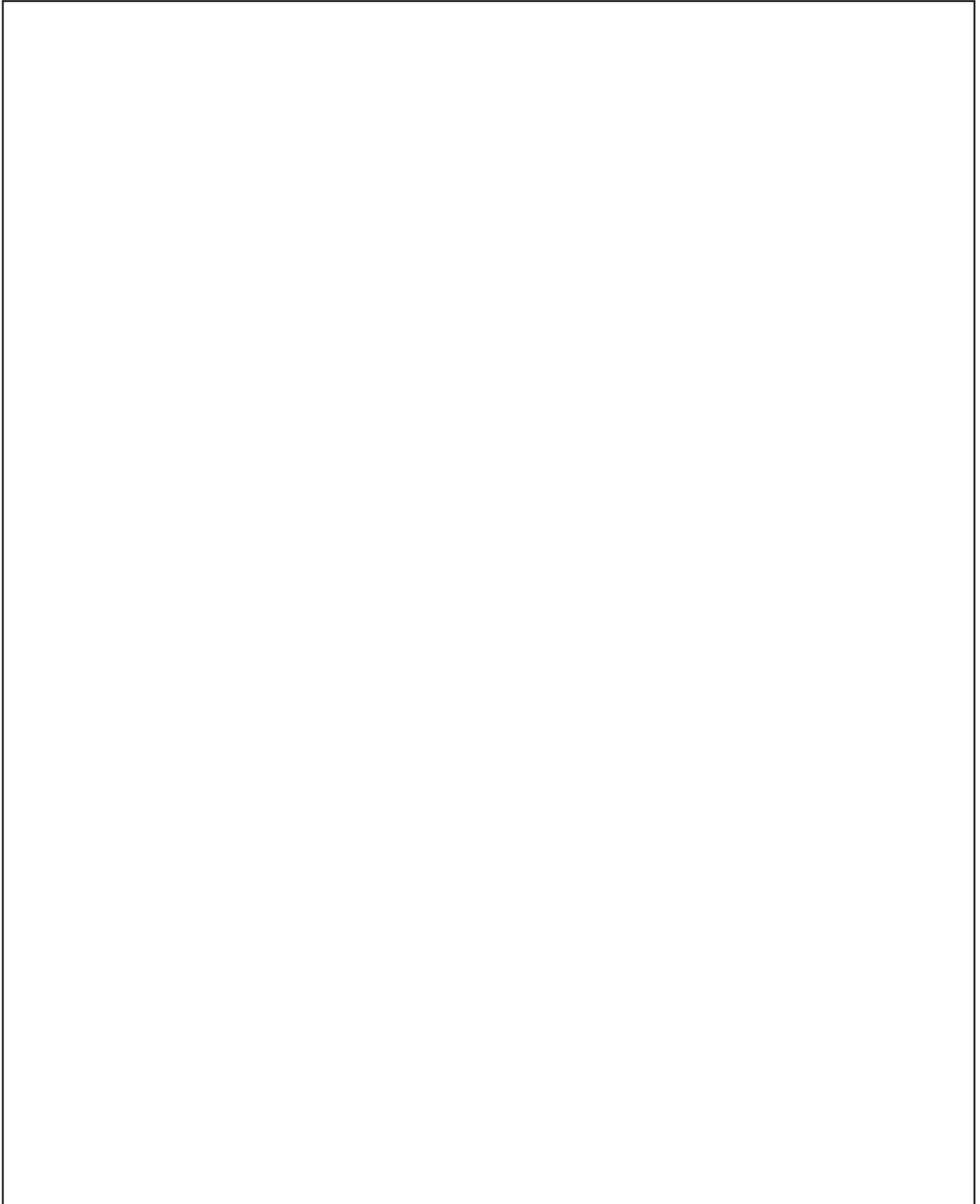
- Hydrant locations
- Ingress/egress routes for the community
- Location of fire district and its capabilities
- Street signs and address numbers
- Water supply for fire response

We recommend reaching out to your local fire department for assistance in determining what other safety issues to address.

See next page to insert a map of your community's defined boundary.

MAP OF YOUR COMMUNITY'S DEFINED BOUNDARY

Click in the box to insert your image.



Appendix/Definitions

These resources will additionally provide aid in understanding the interaction between wildfire behavior and the home ignition zone:

- E-learning: Understanding the Wildfire Threat to Homes, [visit our online courses.](#)
- Preparing Homes for Wildfire: Actions that reduce risk – tips and resources, [visit our page Preparing Homes for Wildfire.](#)

Dwelling Unit: Household/residence built for occupancy by one person, a family, or roommates, including mobile homes and cabins, and for multi-family residential occupancies (i.e. duplexes, and other types of attached housing). An apartment building with 10 units would be considered 10 dwelling units.

Home Ignition Zone: The home and everything around it out to 100 feet. The condition of the home and surrounding landscape within 100 feet will influence the ignitability of the structure.

Firewise USA® Action Plan: A prioritized list of risk reduction projects/investments for the participating site, along with suggested homeowner actions and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually, or over a period of multiple years. The submitted action plan should be broken down by year and reflect those goals (with examples attached). This document is required to be updated at least **every three years**. As circumstances change (e.g., completing activities, experiencing a fire or a natural disaster, new construction in community, etc.), the action plan may need to be updated more frequently.

Firewise USA® Community Wildfire Risk Assessment: An assessment that focuses on the risk of home ignition from wildfires by looking at the conditions of the homes and surrounding home ignition zones. It is used to help guide residents on the most effective actions to prevent home ignitions and wildfire disasters. This document is required to be updated at least **every five years**.

Firewise® Board or Committee: A group comprised of residents and other applicable stakeholders. Consider inviting the local fire department, state forestry agency, elected officials, emergency manager, and, if applicable, the property management company to participate. The board/committee will guide the efforts of the Firewise USA® site, using the risk assessment to identify and prioritize activities in the action plan.

Firewise® Resident Leader: A member of the community that is designated as the lead for a Firewise USA® site and is a part of the Firewise® board or committee. They are the primary contact between the community and the program, responsible for completing the initial recognition application and annual renewal application via the online management portal (Firewise® Portal). A site may have more than one designated resident leader assigned in the Firewise® Portal.

State Liaison: Typically, the employee of the organization that hosts the official state forester. This person is designated by the state forester, is responsible for setting the direction of Firewise USA® implementation in the state, and is the state's main contact to the national program. They are also responsible for reviewing and approving new site applications and may choose to review annual renewal applications. A list of state liaisons can be found on NFPA's website so, you can [contact your state liaison.](#)

Voluntary Recognition Program: Firewise USA® is a volunteer program that provides a set of criteria that residents choose to work towards. It is not required for individuals in wildfire prone areas to participate in or be a part of in order to take risk reduction actions.

Firewise USA® was loosely modeled after the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program, enabling residents to come together voluntarily to meet a set of criteria that qualify them for national recognition. This means that residents choose to be involved and determine their site's boundaries. When they meet the Firewise USA® criteria, they earn national recognition for doing so. Each year, when verifying they are continuing to reduce wildfire risks in the community, they continue to enjoy national recognition and remain in good standing by continuing to meet the criteria. Recognition comes in the form of signage and publicity on the Firewise.org website, at a minimum.

Firewise® Portal: Online community/Firewise USA® site management system. All new and renewal applications for recognition are completed via the portal.

Application for Recognition: In order to be a recognized participant in the Firewise USA® program, a site must meet program criteria and the online application found in the Firewise® portal must be filled out. There are eight steps to the application:

- Step 1: Overview — This includes the basic community information (contacts, size, location).
- Step 2: Risk Assessment — The wildfire community risk assessment must be uploaded into the application. It carries over each year until the five-year update cycle is reached.
- Step 3: Board/Committee — A site must acknowledge that they have a board/committee and may choose to share committee member names and email addresses. This provides NFPA with backup contacts in case the resident leader is unreachable.
- Step 4: Action Plan — The developed action plan must be uploaded to the application; it carries over each year until the three-year update cycle is reached.
- Step 5: Educational Outreach — Each participating site is required to hold a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event or activity annually. Examples of acceptable events can be found in that section of the application.
- Step 6: Vegetation Removal — A major component of wildfire risk reduction is the removal of vegetation (shrubs, brush, limbs, trees, etc.) from individual properties and common-area property. Tracking vegetation removal provides forestry and fire agencies with information on the quantity of potential wildfire fuel that's been eliminated from the area(s). This section provides tools to help a community estimate its vegetation removal in cubic yards.
- Step 7: Investment — Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$25.43) per residential dwelling unit within the site's boundary in annual wildfire risk reduction actions is a requirement of the national recognition program's criteria for maintaining an "In Good Standing" status. Annual investment information can be reported in hours worked or money spent.
- Step 8: Review — Verify that each component of the application has been filled out correctly before submitting the application.

Annual Renewal: In order to remain "In Good Standing" in the program participating sites will need to complete an annual renewal application. This application is typically due mid-November. Requirements are similar to the initial application for recognition. More information can be found online, by visiting our [Annual Renewal Information](#) page.

Certificate of Recognition: Sites that successfully meet the participation requirements are provided a “Certificate of Recognition.” This is provided upon approval of the initial application for recognition and on an annual basis upon approval of the renewal application. The certificate can be accessed from the community’s dashboard on the Firewise® Portal.

Certified vs. Recognized: As described in the definition of Voluntary Recognition Program, Firewise USA® sites meet a set of criteria to earn national recognition, and continue to meet specific criteria annually to remain in good standing with the program. The words “certified” and “certification” are not affiliated with the Firewise USA® program. To be “certified” implies that an individual has demonstrated specific competency in a job role or skill set. An example would be a certified electrical safety technician. Organizations can also be certified, generally meaning they meet qualifications that give them access to specific benefits or resources. An example would be the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) certification that validates that a business is 51 percent owned, controlled, operated, and managed by a woman or women. Firewise USA® sites are not certified, and neither do individuals nor their properties within site boundaries receive certification.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

How to utilize the California Specific Three-Year Action Plan

Please note that defensible space is required at all times for all buildings or structures within California's State Responsibility Area under Public Resource Code 4291 and for Local Governments with designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones under Government Code 51182. Consult your local fire authority for local defensible space requirements if your community is outside of the land classifications above.

1. Double click in the header area and enter the name of your Firewise Community and enter the three-year span that this action plan will apply to.
2. Community description. Enter a brief description of your community, an example has been provided for you that you can delete.
3. Enter the year that will apply to the Year 1 efforts. Repeat this step for years 2 and 3, entering the consecutive years.
4. Utilizing the numbered bullet points enter the tasks that have been identified by your community. You can add or delete the number of tasks you have identified for your community; however, the Program Topics must be utilized.
5. The document will auto format as information is entered.
6. Once the document is completed it can be submitted through the Firewise Portal.

Helpful links for creating a three-year action plan.

NPFA Firewise USA, Time and Expanse Investment Examples ([Here](#))

CAL FIRE Defensible Space ([Here](#))

Ready for Wildfire ([Here](#))

Lagunita Way, Sutter Creek, California

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



Our neighborhood, located on Lagunita Way in Sutter Creek, California, is within Amador County in the Sierra Foothills. Over the past 7 years or so, we have experienced 3 significant wildfires within our county (Butte Fire - 2015, Caldor Fire - 2021 and most recently the Electra Fire - 2022). This proposed Firewise USA™ Site Community Wildfire Action Plan was developed through input received during the Spring/Summer 2022 Firewise Assessment, established and initiated by the residents in our neighborhood with the assistance from one of our local volunteer fire departments Fire Chief (Lockwood Fire Protection District). The goal of the Plan is to develop a strategy to educate our neighborhood, delegate action and annually implement efforts to harden our homes and create defensible space on our properties, and to assist each other in decreasing the threat of wildfire within our community. Lagunita Firewise recognizes defensible space is required at all times for all buildings or structures within California's State Responsibility Area under Public Resource Code 4291 and for Local Governments with designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones under Government Code 51182

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 1 (2023)	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual neighborhood walk-through/assessment with local Fire Chief 2. Conduct Monthly and Quarterly committee meetings to discuss planning and new policies/safety measures adopted by the county and state 3. Coordinate with Amador Fire Safe Council to prioritize projects and apply for grant funding if necessary to lower cost of certain projects 4. Attend and participate in local county-wide Firewise Forum facilitated by the Amador Fire Safe Council 5. Attend Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) training and obtain certification (via NVFC)
	Home Hardening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Replacement of old siding on homes with composite siding; replacement of old decks/railings with concrete slabs and composite materials 7. Vents/soffits replaced with appropriate product to reduce ember wash ignition
	Fuel Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Brush clearing on property. Removal of berry vines, dead trees, scotch broom, limb debris and ladder fuels 9. Coordinate with local prescribed burn organizations to aid in creating significant defensible space around homes
	Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Removal of vegetation to make Ingress/Egress of neighborhood safe and passable in the event of an emergency 11. Coordination of alternate evacuation route in the event our main Ingress/Egress is impassable

Lagunita Way, Sutter Creek, California

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 2 (2024)	Education & Outreach	1. Annual neighborhood walk-through/assessment with local Fire Chief
		2. Conduct Monthly/Quarterly committee meetings to discuss planning and new policies/safety measures adopted by the county and state
		3. Coordinate with Amador Fire Safe Council to prioritize projects and apply for grant funding if necessary to lower cost of certain projects
		4. Attend and participate in local county-wide Firewise Forum facilitated by the Amador Fire Safe Council
		5. Attend Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) training and obtain certification (via NVFC)
		6. Host community wide clean up days in late winter/early spring
		7. Door-to-door canvassing to get new neighbors involved in reducing Wildfire risks
		8. Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
	Home Hardening	9. Evaluate landscaping for more fire-resistant options
		10. Continue to utilize resources to identify areas in need of improvement
	Fuel Reduction	11. Participation in vegetation management programs offered by special districts within our county
		12. Organize “work weekends” for bigger projects
	Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness	13. Reduction and maintenance of vegetation/fuel adjacent to ingress and egress routes
		14. Majority of neighbors will attend Town Hall presentations specific to this topic

Lagunita Way, Sutter Creek, California

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



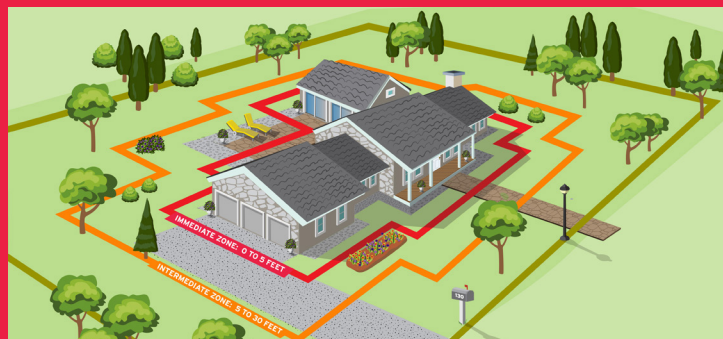
FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 3 (2025)	Education & Outreach	1. Annual neighborhood walk-through assessment with local Fire Chief
		2. Conduct Monthly/Quarterly committee meetings to discuss planning and new policies/safety measures adopted by the county and state
		3. Coordinate with Amador Fire Safe Council to prioritize projects and apply for grant funding if necessary to lower cost of certain projects
		4. Attend and participate in local county-wide Firewise Forum facilitated by the Amador Fire Safe Council
		5. Attend Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) training and obtain certification (via NVFC)
		6. Host community wide clean up days in late winter/early spring
		7. Coordinate with Amador Fire Safe Council to prioritize projects and apply for grant funding if necessary to lower cost of certain projects
		8. Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
	Home Hardening	9. Ensure all neighbors needing assistance with improvements (per Annual walk-through assessment) have been helped and improvements have been completed
		10. Continue to utilize resources to identify areas in need of improvement
	Fuel Reduction	11. Participation in vegetation management programs offered by special districts within our county
		12. Organize “work weekends” for bigger projects
	Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness	13. Reduction and maintenance of vegetation/fuel adjacent to ingress and egress routes
		14. Host evacuation exercise with local fire department

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME

FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE



■ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the **Intermediate Zone** (5 to 30 feet), and the **Extended Zone** (30 to 100 feet).

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house). Keep your landscape in good condition.

■ FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles, offer the best protection. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks and porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

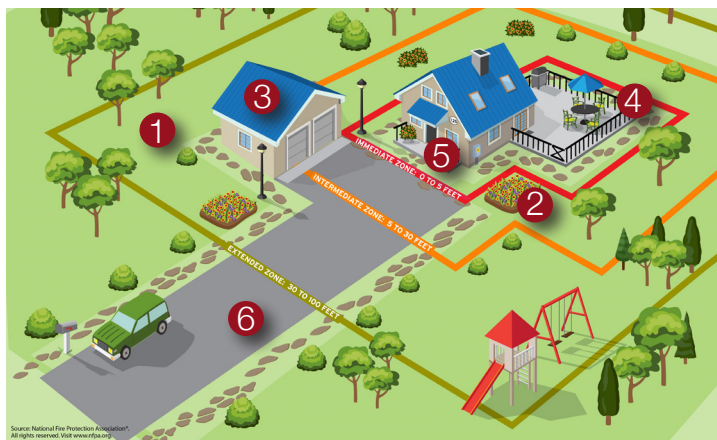
Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster, or stucco, and use dual-pane tempered glass windows.

■ BE PREPARED

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood have legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

- Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for handling pets, large animals, and livestock.
- Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place.
- Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay—don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations.
- Create or update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



**TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY
OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK
WHERE YOU LIVE.**



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS

Firewise® is a program of the National Fire Protection Association. This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters. NFPA is an equal opportunity provider. Firewise® and Firewise USA® are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02169.

Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)

AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT- FREE *ROADSIDE AND NEIGHBORHOOD* CHIPPING SERVICES

**WILDFIRE
PROTECTION.
REDUCE FUELS,
REDUCE RISK.
CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE
AROUND YOUR HOME-
DISPOSE OF EXCESS
VEGETATION FOR FREE!**

A Green Waste Bin will also be located at
Lockwood Fire Protection District
Station 151
23141 Shake Ridge Rd, Volcano

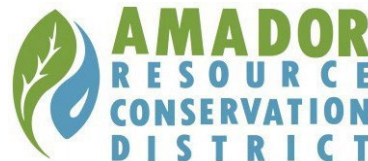


The Amador Resource Conservation District is offering FREE Chipping Services and Green Waste Disposal options to Amador County residents! Various programs are available for landowners looking to clear excess vegetation/slash from their property, including individual *Roadside Chipping and Neighborhood Chipping* events.

Please visit our website: www.AmadorRCD.org/chipping-roadside

Public Outreach Coordinator **Megan Watts** for further information and assistance:
megan@amadorrkd.org or (209)214-9727

Please, no leaves, pine needles, large trees, building materials, general debris, and/or garbage. Please refer to the website below for all restrictions.



This is a project of the Amador Resource Conservation District with cooperation from local fire protection districts and CALFIRE. Funding provided by a grant from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.AmadorRCD.org/CHIPPING



TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES

Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$25.43) 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-eaves style construction to soffited-eaves
- Modifications of deck to increase the gap between boards from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
- Inspection of roof; replacement of shingles as needed
- Inspection/repairs of eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition
- Removal all 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



TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES (continued)

IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE HOME IGNITION ZONES:

- Clearing of debris at the base of combustible fences
- Clearing of vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
- Creation of a permanent non-flammable footprint under large stationary propane tanks
- Creation of a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
- Creation of small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (e.g., driveways, walkways/paths, patios, stone walls, etc.)
- Delimiting and removal of lower tree branches
- Relocation of firewood piles to at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
- Mowing lawns and trimming native grasses and weeds as needed
- Raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, and ground debris
- Replacement of combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
- Replacement of highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
- Reduction of ladder fuels
- Stacking/piling of slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
- Thinning or removal of trees
- 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
- Participation and attendance at Firewise board meetings, including development and updating of action plans
- Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
- Participation in national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day projects
- Reduction of vegetation/fuels from adjacent ingress and egress routes
- Resident's time attending/participating in annual wildfire education/outreach events
- Participation in risk reduction orientation to new residents
- Writing wildfire educational articles for the neighborhood newsletter or community website

NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY FOCUSED PROJECTS:

- Debris removal and maintenance of commonly owned areas
- 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

EXPENSE EXAMPLES:

- Chipper/power equipment rental/purchases, fuel, oil, and repair costs
- Chipper/power equipment associated costs: fuel and oil
- Chipper/power equipment maintenance/repair costs
- Contractor/labor expenses to perform risk reduction work (e.g., arborists, landscapers, professional forester services, roofers, etc.)
- Costs for community-wide clean up days (e.g., dumpster rental, compostable leaf/lawn bags, etc.)
- Costs to replace flammable mulch materials with stone/gravel



TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES (continued)

- 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 (e.g., roof, deck, fencing, gutters, siding, vents, windows, etc.)
- Mileage at 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, and related mailing expenses
- Spark arrestor installation costs
- Tool purchase/rental (e.g., loppers, pole saws, weed trimmers, rakes, etc.)
- Tree removal and separation/spacing expenses
- Safety equipment for neighborhood workdays (e.g., ear and eye protection, gloves, etc.)
- Value of hourly volunteer labor (e.g., residents, scout groups, CERT members, students, etc.) and the associated services and materials required for them to participate in risk reduction projects



Project Submittal Form

Please submit this form to the AFSC:
P.O. Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665
info@amadorfiresafe.org

Proposer Contact Information:

Name	Address	Phone #	Email Address
------	---------	---------	---------------

Proposed Project Location: _____

Proposed Action: _____

What are the needs for this project (i.e. funding, guidance, community support, etc.)? _____

Does your community have a road association or homeowners' association? _____

Benefits: _____

Estimated Costs: _____

Potential Funding Sources: _____

The public is invited to the AFSC board meeting to discuss potential projects.
Check out the AFSC website to see examples of past projects
www.AmadorFireSafe.org

AFSC Board Meeting
3rd Wednesday of the Month
3pm – 5pm
Volcano Telecommunications
Tech Center
19888 Church St, Pine Grove CA