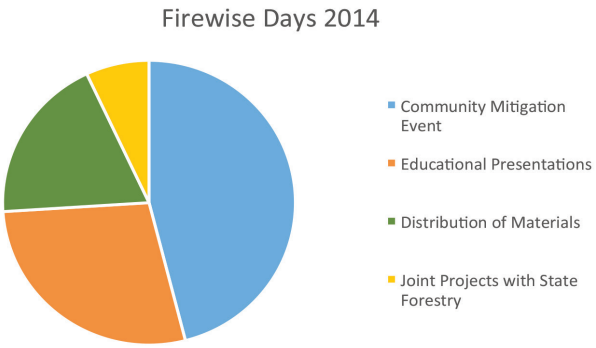
Articles and helpful hints on how to incorporate Firewise® principles. **SPRING 2015**

Firewise How-To



THIS ISSUE

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The Firewise Leader P.10
Firewise by the Numbers P.12
The Education Corner P.16

Upcoming Events

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Conference & Expo
June 22-25, 2015
Chicago, IL

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ESRI User Conference
July 20-24, 2015
San Diego, CA

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NFPA Backyards & Beyond® Wildland Fire Education Conference
October 22-24, 2015

Pre-Conference Seminars
October 20-21, 2015
Myrtle Beach, SC

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IAFC-FRI Conference
August 26-29, 2015
Atlanta, GA

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Society of American Foresters Conference
November 3-6, 2015
Baton Rouge, LA

2014 Year in Review –
A Great Year for "Firewise® Day" Activities

In looking back on 2014, we can report that it was a particularly good year for the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program. We saw considerable growth as more communities were brought into the program. We enjoyed visiting various communities in several states—Florida, Oklahoma and Utah—where we witnessed first-hand what residents can do when they come together for a common cause. It was great to meet folks and see what they are doing in their communities, and we're looking forward to doing more of these visits during 2015.

During the past year, we had the privilege of reading all of the 1,141 Firewise Day event descriptions that were submitted by our Firewise Communities for 2014 renewal. While some might call this a daunting task, we found it extremely rewarding. Among the rewards is the realization that when the Firewise program began in 2001-2002, it had a dozen pilot communities.

Eight of these communities will be marking their 15-year anniversaries in 2016. And their example and energy have contributed greatly to the tremendous growth we continue to see. So has the relationship established with state liaisons, which has grown stronger through the years and continues to evolve.

In just 13 years, we've added more than 1,100 communities, and each and every one of you serves as an example to communities around you who also can benefit from Firewise practices. Your energy carries your efforts forward and motivates others to consider becoming a Firewise community. You are the driving force behind the program's momentum.

As for the Firewise Day descriptions we read, they show in clear language the immense effort that occurs voluntarily at the local level, put forth by residents who care about their communities. While the act of renewing and the time it takes for a Firewise Community point-of-contact to submit the information demonstrate community devotion, we were particularly struck by the ways in which contacts described their community's accomplishments. The descriptions of community efforts also reminded us about who the program serves, and the great responsibility it offers those making a difference at the local level every day.

As 2015 began, we completed the collection of Firewise Day information and shared final renewal announcements. Now, in this spring issue of *How-To*, we offer a year-in-review, with highlights from 2014.

Continued on page 3

THE FIREWISE SPOTLIGHT:

2014 Community Preparedness Activities

The Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program learned about the wonderful efforts of its 1,141 active communities, who reported $33 million in recorded community preparedness activities during 2014. This collective achievement represents community mitigation work, individual resident efforts, and the "sweat equity" from residents' volunteered time making their community's safer.

During the past year, Firewise welcomed 183 new communities, representing 28 of the program's 41 active states. These new communities reflect the range of resident size, development, and wildland/urban interface risk seen among the program's overall participating communities. Their central bond is that all are embracing their responsibility in preparedness.

It's in the numbers illustrated by the 2014 Firewise Day activities that the value and impact of individual Firewise community volunteer-based work becomes truly apparent.

Of the 1,141 communities that reported their active status in 2014:

- 46 percent engaged in a mitigation event that brought community members together to clean up seasonal debris, collect slash for chippers, beautify open spaces around their neighborhoods, and catalogued individual resident activities on their own properties.

- 28 percent offered educational presentations on Firewise and Home Ignition Zone principles, fire behavior, and environmental health topics to residents via special events or at annual homeowners' association meetings. These events also brought community members together with valued speakers from local fire departments, land management and state agencies, and local government.

- 19 percent took part in a "distribution event," through which community members helped spread the message of Firewise and local wildfire preparedness by serving as volunteers at a fire department open house, community-wide social event, or another special event, such as auto shows, July 4th celebrations, or fall festivals. They handed out Firewise materials obtained from the online Firewise catalog and spoke directly to fellow residents, both approaches that have proven effective in conveying information that heightens local wildfire understanding. Participation in these events also allowed the communities to promote the great mitigation work they are doing around their own homes, while sharing the easy steps all can adopt.

- 7 percent coordinated on various projects in conjunction with their state forestry agencies.

Through the details of these events, the Firewise program more fully realizes the great diversity of efforts that communities do every day. Some highlights of these include:

- 65 Firewise Communities that completed and recorded individual home assessments to aid resident understanding of their wildfire risk and activities they can undertake to reduce that threat.

- 172 Firewise Communities that hosted events with their local fire department. This both advances the partnership between the community and their fire department and helps each in understanding the importance of preparedness.

- 62 Firewise Communities that hosted events with their respective state forestry representative as a way to build that partnership and receive great education from the agency about their local risk.

- 34 Firewise Communities that focused events on youth education and action in and around their neighborhoods.

- 43 Firewise Communities that assembled and distributed community mailings, which shared Firewise techniques with fellow residents and explained the local risk.

- 14 Firewise Communities that held special events to recognize and honor residents who completed specific mitigation work around their properties.

- 12 Firewise Communities that held meetings in response to a recent fire as a way to rally residents around their common cause and remind one another of the power they have as neighbors to enact change around them.

The list of Firewise Day accomplishments is too lengthy to enumerate fully in this article. During 2015, the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program will work on ways to share all examples of what can be accomplished, and how you can share best practices with neighboring communities to encourage their involvement.

The program will also share specific Firewise Day descriptions, with templates you can follow when inputting your 2015 information. We want the Firewise Day to reflect the great work you all do and to make your submissions to the renewal process as easy as possible.

The Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program thanks all communities for the hard work you do every day. Each and every one of you is truly valued.

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Great Year for Firewise Day Activities
Continued from page 1

While the Firewise Spotlight article offers perspective on the program's various communities and their Firewise Day accomplishments, in Firewise by the Numbers we commend the communities across the nation currently undertaking Firewise practices and/or renewing their efforts to be prepared in the event of wildfire. This includes special recognition of the 85 five-year communities and 52 ten-year communities that will celebrate anniversaries in 2015.

We applaud their dedication and plan to share stories about them on the FireBreak Blog during the year. The list of newest communities as of May 11, 2015 is included on page 12 and we thank all of the communities for their dedication to the program.

This issue of *How-To* also offers insights into Firewise activities with USAA Insurance during 2014 (Please see Firewise Leader, Page 10), as well as technology developments in the past year – specifically with GIS mapping. And, another Firewise Leader item highlights the collaborative work and lessons learned by a Firewise Community in New Jersey.

Finally, in Around the Firewise Home, we detail new research during the past year and how it further informs what we know about the "Home Ignition Zone"—the area within 30- to 100-feet of a home. The findings described vastly influence Firewise principles around the home and the precautions/actions that residents can take to make their structures safer from embers.

In reading through these highlights and helpful information, we hope you'll be further inspired to carry forward the momentum that you've helped to create through your efforts this past year. And, we look forward to the new successes you will share with us in the coming year.

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THE FIREWISE SPOTLIGHT:

LeisureTowne Association: Hardworking Firewise® Community Helps Create a Fire-Adapted Region

Despite the general focus of many media stories about wildfire, these fires are not just a problem for western states. As reported on the Weather Channel Website, on April 2, 2015, in Piscataway, New Jersey, eight parked cars were damaged by a brush fire behind a parking lot. Such fires raise a question for many communities, especially where wildfire may not be recognized as a threat: Can a community make alterations and modifications that create real change?

There are currently 10 active Firewise Communities in New Jersey. LeisureTowne Association, in Southampton, New Jersey—a recognized Firewise Community since 2013—considered their risk for wildfire. The community then implement-

LeisureTowne Association Gate House picture courtesy of Carrie Poster.

Image from New Jersey fire, posted by Nick Witgen on the Weather Channel Website, Wildfires Burn from California to Iowa to North Carolina; Fire Threat Remains High.

ed effective Firewise principles by using materials from Firewise.org and working collaboratively with partners. Its residents offer an example of what can be accomplished with boots on the ground, neighbors working together for a common concern—wildfire safety.

An "age 55+" community located on 2,000 acres in the heart of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, LeisureTowne has 2,255 single-family homes. The community is surrounded on three sides by heavy timber and has eight lakes interspersed throughout. Its residents knew they needed to make some changes, especially since the median age of residents in the community is 70.

The community started its journey toward becoming Firewise by creating an active Firewise board and collaboratively completing their community wildfire risk assessment. In describing the steps the community took, committee members, Kathy Agolio, chair, and Carrie Poster, association manager for Associa MidAtlantic, noted, "We would not have achieved the success that we have without the assistance of agency partners such as Sammy Moore III and Greg McLaughlin." The two men are Forest Fire Service Section Forest fire wardens in the New Jersey State Forestry Service.

"The communication and support of state and local fire department official, Tom Rathjen, chief of the Hampton Lakes Volunteer Fire Company, helped us the most in understanding our fire threat," added Agolio. "The firefighters bring fire trucks to the neighborhood to help with home evaluations and have become more of a presence."

"Knowing our partner agencies and being able to put a name with a face has made a difference," said Poster.

It was while attending a Citizens' Emergency Training (CERT) that community members realized they were missing a preparedness piece and that they needed to become a Firewise Community. Both Moore and McLaughlin were instrumental in helping them complete their assessment and in creating a plan for the community and the Hampton Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. This plan has enabled LeisureTowne to identify and prioritize projects within their community that make a difference.

Wildland fire images from the Pine Barrens area in New Jersey, posted by Sammy Moore III of the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

"Any community in wildfire threat should be a Firewise Community," said Moore. "The residents of LeisureTowne are great people, and Firewise Communities is

THE FIREWISE SPOTLIGHT:
LeisureTowne

Continued from Page 5

a great program… With wildfire, it's all about preparation."

"They overcame local challenges and stayed focused and committed," added McLaughlin, who serves as New Jersey's state liaison. "They're a big community that is very dedicated."

Regarding the role of State of New Jersey Forest Fire Wardens, he noted, "We see ourselves as facilitators, to help the community achieve what they want to do."

One of the first projects that LeisureTowne worked on was using grant funding they had received to support the removal of professionally identified dead and diseased trees. Many of the residents on fixed incomes benefitted from this assistance toward keeping their landscape safe. Noted Poster, "We never take out trees that are healthy; we love our trees."

Another project being completed with the assistance of the Explorers—firefighter trainees of the local Hampton Lakes Volunteer Fire Department—is the evaluation of homeowners' properties. Using Firewise principles, and with permission from the homeowner, the Explorers walk around each home involved to conduct their inspections. Usually the homeowner accompanies them, and the evaluators point out improvements that can be made to the home and surrounding landscape.

Prior to conducting the evaluation, a notice is sent out to residents to inform them that the inspection will be completed. This effort has garnered a 99-percent participation rate thus far.

A demo Firewise House, available at no cost via the Firewise Website, is set next to a jacket from a New Jersey State Forest Fire staffer at a Leisure Towne event – the two symbolize a successful collaborative effort.

To date, volunteers have completed evaluations of 400 homes,and are now focused on completing evaluations for homes that abut the pine forest. Community members complement their efforts by handing out the no-cost literature available from NFPA's Firewise catalog. Their favorites include How to Have a Firewise Home and Guide to Firewise Landscaping & Construction. They also use the Firewise Door Hangers, which offer details that help inform community members about their risks.

Regarding this no-cost material, they noted, "Having the Firewise information to provide to residents is helpful. The materials reinforce what we tell people and explains things in a way that's easy to understand."

In addition, Kathy Agolio writes an article about safety every couple of months; these articles are run in the community's monthly newsletters, The Trustees Corner and The Watchdog. She has also facilitated a voluntary identification of residents who would need assistance if there were an evacuation for an emergency event.

The community has applied for grant funding from the state to purchase equipment to maintain its landscaping. This will help them avoid the need to rent brush hogs and chainsaws to complete their Firewise efforts in years to come, and will create sustainability with ongoing work.

In addition to being recognized with a resolution from the town assembly for their Firewise Communities/USA status, LeisureTowne was winner of a $500 gift card from NFPA's Wildfire Community Preparedness Day campaign, co-sponsored by State Farm. They plan to use this funding to purchase four-inch reflective house numbers that can be put on mailboxes. These numbers will assist the fire department or police in locating residents in the event of an emergency. Volunteer members of the local fire department and its Explorers team will assist with installing the numbers.

Their success and knowledge are spilling over into other communities in their region. They promote their accomplishments locally and have begun working with neighboring communities to create a Fire-Adapted region. These efforts include mentoring a smaller neighboring community in going through the process of completing their assessment toward becoming a newly recognized Firewise community. "The hope is that this community will 'pay it forward' by helping another community next to them to become Firewise," said Poster.

"LeisureTowne is a shining example that demonstrates it doesn't take a lot of money to become a recognized Firewise community," said McLaughlin. Most of their projects were accomplished with sweat equity and through collaboration with agency partners. They completed more than $20,000-worth of work and volunteer effort ($10,000 in grants) toward creating a resilient community.

Any community can become Firewise. Knowing your risks and developing a plan in advance of a wildfire event can make a difference in the outcome. Becoming a Firewise community is the first step on your journey of becoming safer and more resilient. It begins by contacting your state liaison, downloading the assessment template, organizing a community meeting and inviting your agency partners to help explain your risk.

Once you have a sense of interest among community members, you can create a Firewise board or committee, complete a community risk assessment and hold a Firewise Day where you can complete either grant-funded work, community-funded work, volunteer work, and/or an educational event that is valued at $2.00 per person.

As McLaughlin noted, "People think it's a paperwork nightmare, but it's not that big of a deal. You just need the help of your fire professionals to help guide your community members in getting the job done."

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AROUND THE FIREWISE HOME:

Research Updates to the Home Ignition Zone

In 2014, keys tools that support the foundation of Firewise were updated to highlight new research and better presentation methods. Among these tools was the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), for which Firewise developed an educational course to better familiarize residents with what the HIZ is and how they can benefit from addressing it. Meetings with researchers and a seminar redesign in 2014 resulted in improved information on how homes ignite and how to prevent disasters.

The development of information about the HIZ evolved from efforts at the beginning of this century on how to engage state agencies, public safety groups, and local community members about understanding their risk in connection to wildfire. Jack D. Cohen's research on how homes ignite, the influence of radiant heat, and the benefit of home assessments helped to illustrate the risk from "fire brands" being generated when a fire casts these embers onto a structure. Cohen's research showed the risks to a structure within measures of 30 and 100 feet from the home and its attachments, instead of just focusing on the larger landscape around it.

The HIZ course was designed to translate this research to explain how fire professionals and community residents could be empowered to work collaboratively in face of the common threat of wildfire. By advancing the knowledge of the individual homeowner, the program hoped to motivate community action and raise recognition of Firewise as a common rallying tool.

More than a decade later, class participants are still learning, many for the first time, about the risks of wildfire, how such a fire can uniquely impact structures near a fire, and how home assessment techniques can help a resident to take preparedness action.

More recently, the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety completed valuable structural vulnerabilities testing related to embers from fires in 2011 and 2013. This research was augmented by lessons from the field following the Waldo Canyon fire, in Colorado, in 2012.

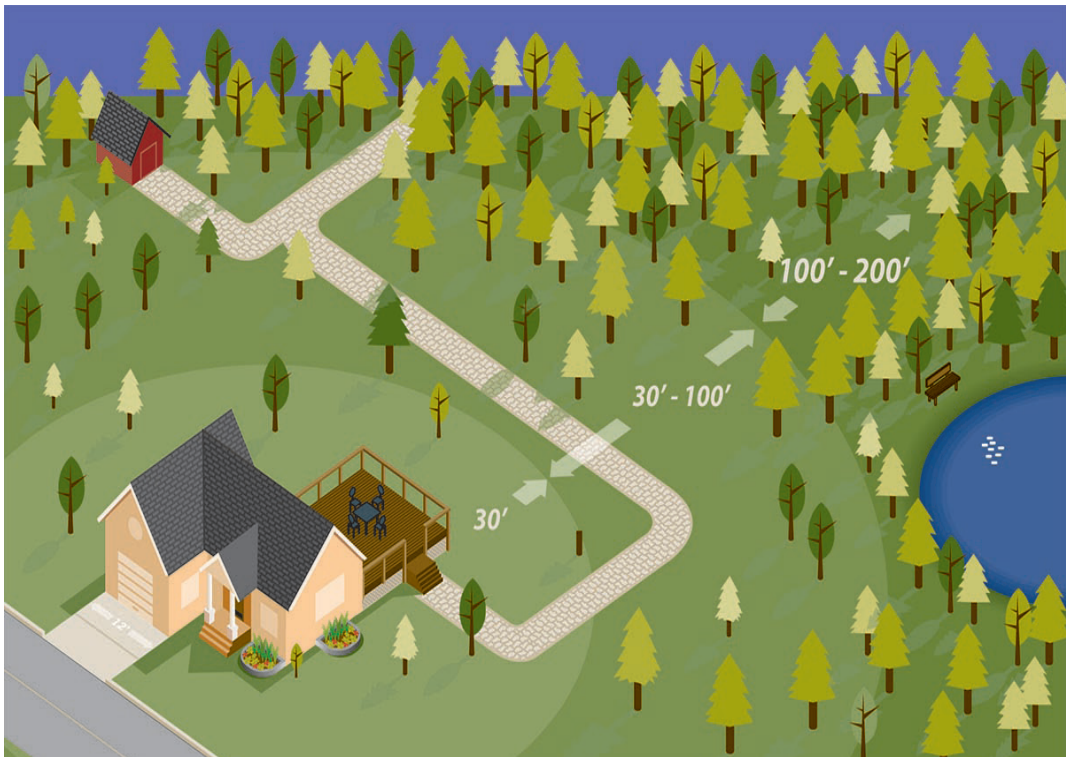
Research on the 0- to 5-feet area within "Zone 1" —which encompasses the property around a home between 0- and 30-feet— explained new steps residents can take to protect the foundations of a home when fires in mulch compromise walls and siding. This led to an important advancement in understanding the HIZ, informing homeowners on how they can interrupt fires in this initial zone effectively with modest effort.

A particular research finding that prompted updated HIZ guidance was evidence that showed interior window curtains do not ignite on their own in connection with radiant heat on the outside of the window. Instead, repeated experiments demonstrated that single pane window glass fails under heat exposure, allowing embers to breach a structure and ignite various items—such as curtains—within the house.

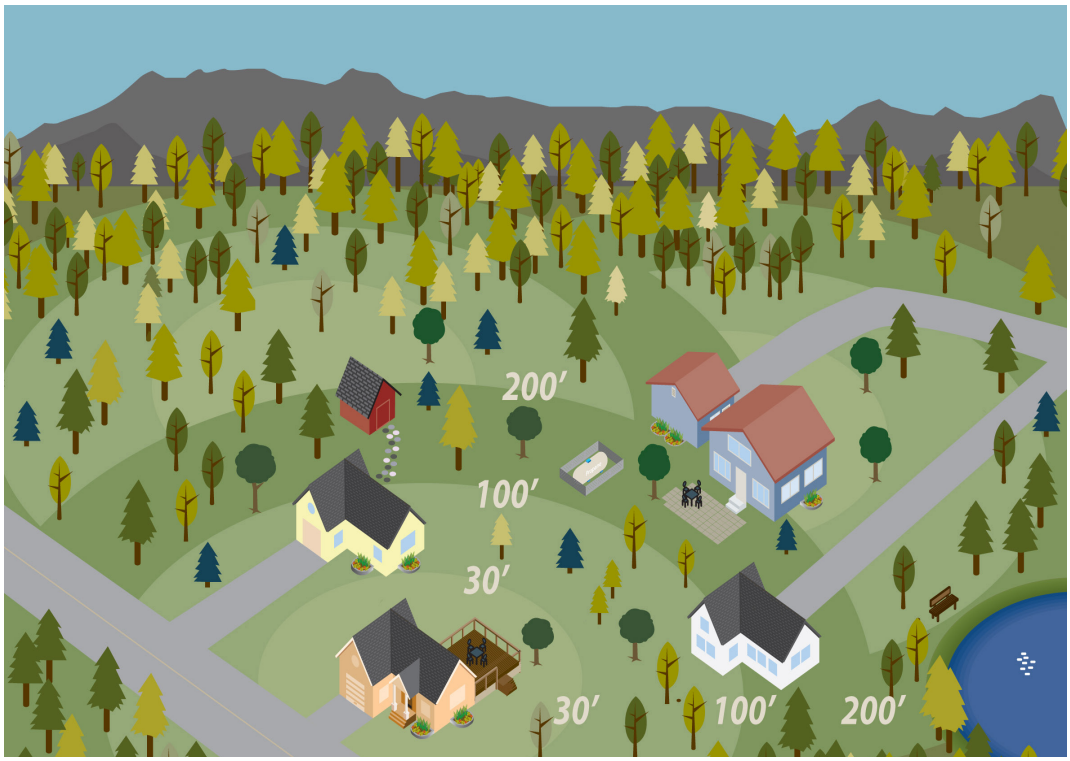
New research in social science and community engagement, conducted since the

early 2000s, has now helped to improve messaging about what neighbors can do together, what influences community understanding of fire, and what techniques will truly allow residents to make a difference at the local level. New messaging also was introduced, focusing on risk considerations in relation to children, pets, and the elderly; "go-kits" with appropriate medications; and resident understanding of how much time they actually have in a fire-risk situation.

This new research and messaging concerning the Home Ignition Zone brings added value to communities taking part in the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program. It reinforces important information for addressing Firewise practices around the home and offers helpful guidance to residents, who have a professional-like understanding of mitigation's role in reducing risk from wildfire, and recognize that preparedness is just as important as fire suppression.



The Home Ignition Zone



30 feet from your home may be another home. Talk with your neighbors.

THE FIREWISE LEADER:

Firewise® and Insurance Company Partner on Risk-Reduction Savings

One of the major achievements of 2014 came from a long-term partnership and commitment between the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program and USAA Insurance to recognize community activity through policy savings.

In May 2014, the California Department of Insurance approved a filing by USAA to give homeowner insurance discounts to USAA members living in communities recognized by the Firewise Communities/USA program. This discount applied to policies issuing or renewing on or after October 1, 2014. New USAA policies for homes in recognized communities may also qualify for the discount, if USAA agrees to provide property insurance per its underwriting guidelines.

USAA members living in a recognized community, who had a USAA California homeowner's policy automatically received the discount when their policy renewed on or after October 1, 2014. USAA has partnered with Firewise® to automatically determine if a home is in a recognized community.

USAA believes community-level action is important and provides the discount to members in participating Firewise Communities to reward actions taken at the community level, rather than singling out individual properties.

This partnership between USAA and Firewise evolved from the fact that the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program has national scope and consistent criteria for recognition. NFPA has collected and maintained data on all participating communities since 2002, including data that specifies the exact location boundaries for each community.

From this data, USAA's research found a favorable difference in loss experience for members who live in Firewise communities in California. USAA chose Firewise based on their expertise and experience in the community wildfire prevention and feels its program best aligns with its wildfire strategy.

USAA provides insurance, banking, investments, retirement products and advice to 10.3 million current and former members of the U.S. military and their families. To date, USAA is the first large insurance company to provide a specific discount to residents of Firewise Communities/USA sites. You can speak with your insurance agent to find out if your insurer offers any discounts or other incentives for wildfire safety. California residents who are not USAA members should contact their insurance company regarding any wildfire discounts or other safety programs.

USAA intends to pursue this discount for its members living in states with significant wildfire risks. To do so, the company must file for a rate change with each state's Department of Insurance for approval or notification. When those filings take place they are typically a matter of public record, and NFPA will be keeping its website up-to-date on this topic.

The Firewise program applauds USAA for recognizing Firewise community efforts and acting as an "industry disrupter," challenging the insurance industry to look at wildfire preparedness differently by rewarding positive action.

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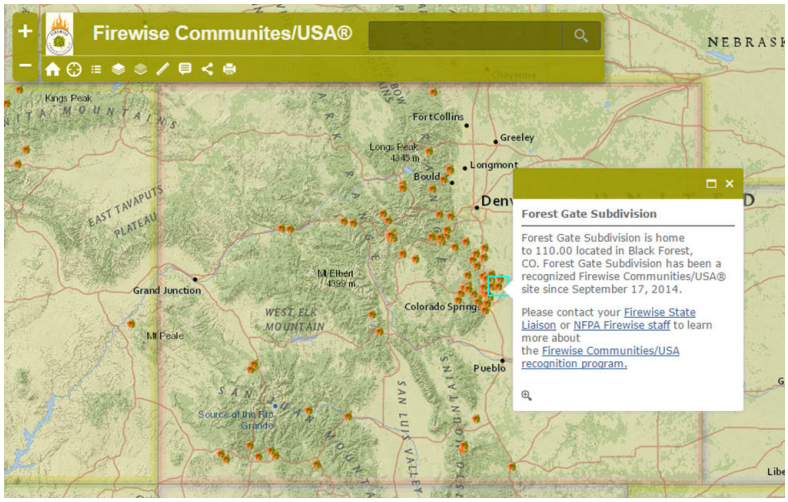
THE FIREWISE LEADER:

Firewise® Employs Dynamic Technology in 2014



Efforts like the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition program always benefit from advances in technology. These help in delivering the program's message and bring added value to the program's participants.

During 2014, the program worked closely with USAA to map the boundaries of specific Firewise Communities toward providing an insurance benefit to policyholders in those locations. (Please see the insurance article on page 10.) To achieve this, the Firewise program expanded its use of GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping and its collaborative efforts with state agencies.

GIS maps are crucial for mitigating and preparing for wildfires; they offer Firewise Communities a valuable asset for better understanding their risk through: analysis of mitigation work in and around their neighborhoods; review of a fire's potential intensity; identification of possible evacuation routes and more.

In 2014, Firewise advanced its data on and understanding of communities in California, Arizona, Colorado and Texas through the gathering of boundary-mapping information. Previously the program has used "point-map" data, which simply denotes where a mailing address exists. Boundary mapping expands the information GPS can provide by illustrating the footprint of the entire community and what the community faces in the way of potential risks. Using this advanced form of GPS now allows the program to share in visual form where a community is and how that community connects with the environment around it.

The work to define boundary mapping for these communities encompassed three models: In some states, the Firewise program worked with the individual communities to source the information. In California, the Fire Safe Councils and many individual communities spoke with NFPA staff and assisted in defining the scope of their neighborhood or homeowners associations. And, in other states, the program worked with state agencies, which held the community land parcel information and collected boundary-mapping data from those documents.

The use of crowd sourcing also was introduced, which can help communities to define their boundaries through the use of Google Maps – allowing them to share their local information with Firewise.

Through the program's work with USAA Insurance, use of GIS boundary mapping will continue in 2015. The end goal is to complete mapping for every Firewise community. This will benefit insurance efforts, while also giving the program and its participants clear understanding of how their communities are affected by the environment that surrounds them. And it can provide each with a more complete picture of the steps they can take to be safe.

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FIREWISE ONLINE RENEWAL

Submitting Your Firewise Renewal Online is easy! Viewing this short tutorial video demonstrates how to use the online renewal system where you can easily post your annual event details and input your investment information. You can enter additional events or investment documentation at any point during the year. Record-keeping for your renewal is now quick and simple.

SING THEIR PRAISES

Do you know of a state, region or community whose efforts deserve special recognition? Write Tova Thorpe at tthorpe@nfpa.org and share your story.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA®:

Firewise By The Numbers

Congratulations to all of our Firewise communities for making awareness of wildfire and the safety of your communities a top priority! How-To newsletter is pleased to welcome the following new 2015 communities as of May 11, 2015.

Arizona *– High Valley Ranch, Prescott*

California *– Forest Ranch Firewise Community, Forest Ranch*
Scott Highland Neighborhood Firewise Community, Mill Valley

Colorado *– Arrowhead Improvement Association Firewise Community, Cimarron*
Sampson Road Association Firewise Community, Littleton

Georgia *– Dolphin Island Preservation Firewise Community, Midway*
Hardman Farm State Historic Site Firewise Community, Helen
Plantation Villas Firewise Community, Hiawassee
Crooked River State Park Firewise Community, St. Marys
Young Harris Mountain Firewise Community, Hiawassee
Sweetwater Creek State Park Firewise Community, Lithia Springs
Lake Harbor Shores Firewise Community, Martin
City of Carlton Firewise Community, Carlton

Idaho *– City of McCall Firewise Community, McCall*

New Jersey *– Victoria Pointe Firewise Community, Mays Landing*

Oregon *– Sanctuary 140 Firewise Community, Eagle Point*
Woodside Ranch Homeowners Association, Bend
Ross Lane Firewise Community, Ashland
Peachey Lane Firewise Community, Ashland
Paradise Lane Firewise Community, Ashland
Greensprings Firewise Community, Ashland
Wallace Lane Neighborhood Firewise Community, Grants Pass
Granite Street Firewise Community, Ashland

South Carolina *– Woodside Plantation Firewise Community, Aiken*
Myrtle Trace South Firewise Community, Conway

Washington *– Wilson Ranch POA, Mazama*

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FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA®:

Five- and Ten-Year Communities

We'd also like to congratulate the following communities for achieving five and ten year status – meaning they've received recognition as a Firewise community for five and ten years.

Five-Year Communities

We would like to congratulate the Firewise Communities in 2015 celebrating five-years of active participation in the program. Five-year recognized communities receive an outdoor display banner and formal letter of recognition.

Arkansas – Glenwood Firewise Community, Glenwood
Buford Firewise Community, Mountain Home

Arizona – Manzanita Village Cohousing Firewise Community, Prescott
Munds Park Firewise Community, Munds Park
The Mountain Club Firewise Community, Prescott
Tonto Verde Firewise Community, Tonto Verde

California – Orleans Firewise Community, Orleans
Timberview Area Firewise Improvement Council, Inc., North Fork
Petrolia Firewise Community, Petrolia
Honeydew Firewise Community, Honeydew

Colorado – Woodrock Firewise Community, Divide
Ute Lakes Fishing and Recreation Club Firewise Community, Divide
Golden Hills Firewise Community, Colorado Springs
Falls Creek Ranch Firewise Community, Durango
Crystal Park Firewise Community, Manitou Springs
Skyway Firewise Community, Colorado Springs
The Highlands Firewise Community, Breckenridge

Florida – Pine Ridge Firewise Community, Lake Wales

Georgia – Argyle Firewise Community, Argyle
Georgia Bend Firewise Community, Georgia Bend
St. George Firewise Community, St. George
Leisure Woods Firewise Community, Hiawassee
Wood Lake Subdivision Firewise Community, Young Harris
Deerlick Astronomy Village Firewise Community, Crawfordville

Idaho – Kellogg Firewise Community, Kellogg
Wapitti Lane Firewise Community, Kingston
Pinehurst Firewise Community, Pinehurst
Trayis Ridge, Firewise Community, Pocatello
Mackay Fire District Firewise Community, Mackay
Osburn Firewise Community, Osburn
Elk Bend Firewise Community, Elk Bend

Maine – Cushing Island Firewise Community, Portland
Sprucewold Firewise Community, Boothbay Harbor

Missouri – Shoal Creek Drive Firewise Community, Joplin

Mississippi – Noxapater Firewise Community, Noxapater
Montana
Suncrest/Whitefish Firewise Community, Whitefish

North Carolina – Summer Haven Firewise Community, Swannanoa
Fontana View Firewise Community, Almond
Fairfield Plantation Firewise Community, Stalling

New Mexico – Quemado Lake Estates Firewise Community, Quemado Lake

Oklahoma – Falconhead Firewise Community, Burneyville
Broken Bow Firewise Community, Broken Bow
Hollis Firewise Community, Hollis
Clinton Firewise Community, Clinton
Blair Firewise Community, Blair
Antlers Firewise Community, Antlers
Cashion Firewise Community, Cashion
Kingfisher Firewise Community, Kingfisher
Dover Firewise Community, Dover

Oregon – Pioneer Village Firewise Community, Philomath
Oak Knoll Meadows Firewise Community, Ashland
Blossom View Estates Firewise Community, Ashland
Strawberry Lane Meadows Firewise Community, Ashland
Merrill Circle Firewise Community, Ashland
Quailhaven Firewise Community, Ashland
Rimrock West Firewise Community, Deschutes
Lithia Creek Estates Firewise Community, Ashland
Roca Canyon Firewise Community, Ashland
Vineyard Mountain Firewise Community, Corvallis

South Dakota – Spearfish Canyon Firewise Community, Lead

Tennessee – Cobbly Nob Firewise Community, Pittman Center
Shagbark Firewise Community, Sevierville

Texas – The Estates at the Overlook Firewise Community, Austin
Davis Mountains Resort Firewise Community, Fort Davis
Sierra West Firewise Community, Driftwood
Overlook Estates Firewise Community, Leander
The Ranch Firewise Community, The Ranch
Elkins Lake Firewise Community, Huntsville
Lago Vista Firewise Community, Lago Vista

Virginia – Cedar Key Firewise Community, Huddleston
Saddlebrook Farms Subdivision Firewise Community, Lexington
Chinquapin Estates, Firewise Community, Lynhurst
Occoquan Forest, Firewise Community, Manassas
Massanutten Property Owner Association, McGayheysville
Jollett Hollow - Devil's Jump Firewise Community, Elkton
Hogue Creek Estates Firewise Community, Winchester
Washington
Hillview Terrace I Firewise Community, Friday Harbor
Byron Road Firewise Community, Friday Harbor
Surfside Homeowners Assoc. Firewise Community, Surfside
Sand Dune Firewise Community, Sand Dune
Diobsud Creek Firewise Community, Marblemount
Stillwater North Firewise Community, Duvall
Palisades Firewise Community, Spokane

Wisconsin – Snug Harbor Firewise Community, Racine
Voyager Village Firewise Community, Danbury

Ten-Year Communities

We would like to congratulate the Firewise Communities in 2015 celebrating 10-years of active participation in the program. Ten-year recognized communities receive a glass table-top display piece and formal letter of recognition.

Alaska – Horseshoe Lake Firewise Community, Big Lake

Arkansas – Grassy Knob Firewise Community, Eureka Springs
Diamond Head Firewise Community, Hot Springs
Appleton Firewise Community, Hector
Unity-Frost Prairie Firewise Community, Crossett
Point Cedar Firewise Community, Bismarck
Bald Knob Firewise Community, Bald Knob

Arizona – Kohl's Tonto Creek Subdivision, Inc. Homeowners Association, Kohl's Ranch
Portal IV Firewise Community, Pine
Flagstaff Ranch Golf Club Firewise Community, Flagstaff
Elk Ridge Firewise Community, Payson
East Verde Park Firewise Community, Payson
The Rim Golf Club Community, Payson
Banning Creek Canyon Firewise Community, Bisbee
Forest Trails Firewise Community, Prescott
ARR-Babo Ranches Firewise Community, Elgin

Colorado – Santa Fe Trail Ranch Firewise Community, Trinidad

Florida – The Resort on Carefree Boulevard Firewise Community, North Fort Myers
Woodland Estates Firewise Community, North Port
Country Place of Martin County Firewise Community, Palm City
Indian Hammock Firewise Community, Okeechobee

Georgia – Wildcat Community, Inc. Firewise Community, Jasper

Idaho – Conkling Park Firewise Community, Worley

Kansas – University Park Firewise Community, Manhattan

Montana – Cathedral Mountain Ranch Firewise Community, Nye
Montana City Fire District Firewise Community, Montana City
North Fork Flathead Firewise Community, Polebridge

North Carolina – Bay Tree Lakes Firewise Community, Harrells
Rich Mountain Acres Firewise Community, Sparta

New Jersey – Lake Plymouth Community Association, Stillwater

New Mexico – Elk Ridge Firewise Community, Angel Fire
Hidden Lake Firewise Community, Ocate
Ute Park Firewise Community, Ute Park
Ohio – Washington Township Firewise Community, West Portsmouth

South Carolina – Keowee Key Firewise Community, Salem

Tennessee – Cumberland Lakes in Cumberland County Firewise Community, Monterey

Texas – Brooks Lake Area Firewise Community, Hawkins

Windsor Hills Firewise Community, The Woodlands

Virginia – Sundance Retreat Firewise Community, New Market

Shenandoah Shores Firewise Community, Front Royal

Apple Mountain Lake Firewise Community, Linden

Shenandoah River Estates Firewise Community, Front Royal

Apple Mountain Lake-South Firewise Community, Linden

High Knob Firewise Community, Front Royal

Shenandoah Farms Firewise Community, Front Royal

Shenandoah Forest Firewise Community, Washington

Layside Firewise Community, Winchester

Lost Valley Firewise Community, Madison

Shenandoah Retreat Firewise Community, Bluemont

Washington – Brown Island Firewise Community, Friday Harbor

Lake Cushman Firewise Community, Hoodsport

Mullen Hill Terrace Mobile Home Park Firewise Community, Spokane

Three Meadows Firewise Community, Friday Harbor

BACKYARDS & BEYOND®
WILDLAND FIRE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

22-24 OCT 2015
PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS - OCTOBER 20-21
MYRTLE BEACH
Sheraton Convention Center Hotel

Register Today!

Register for both the Backyards & Beyond® Conference and a Preconference Seminar and Save!

NFPA®'s Wildland Fire Operations Division will hold the 2015 Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference, a one of a kind event, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina October 22-24, 2015 at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel. Prior to the conference we will be offering two preconference seminars. The updated *Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone* seminar and for the first time *Prepare, Mitigate and Respond with GIS,* both to be offered October 20-21.

The Backyards & Beyond Conference is widely regarded as the premier event for wildland fire safety information and brings together a diverse audience of leading wildfire experts, emergency responders, Firewise® community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners and residents, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others. The conference offers attendees a chance to network with like-minded professionals and share best-practices that they can take back to their communities and workplace.

The conference will offer five featured presentations and 50 breakout sessions that will cover four educational tracks to explore key issues in saving lives and property from wildfire and in preparing homes and neighborhoods to cope with brush, grass, and forest fires.

Attend a Preconference Seminar

Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone
This interactive and updated seminar based on fire science research into how homes and other structures ignite during wildfires and NFPA 1144: *Standard for Reducing Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire* covers wildfire behavior, structure exposure, and the concept of the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).

In a learning environment that encourages discussion and interaction, this seminar will be taught by Jack Cohen, PhD, USDA Forest Service and Pat Durland, President, Stone Creek Fire, fire specialists who understand how and why homes and communities are destroyed during wildfire events and the simple things that residents can do to minimize property loss.

This workshop will also include a field exercise where participants will perform a home ignition zone evaluation, practicing the information they learn in the classroom.

Instructor Profiles

Jack Cohen, PhD
Jack Cohen is a Research Physical Scientist with the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Montana. Jack's research on the causes and context of Wildland/Urban Interface fire disasters has created a body of knowledge for application by others. His conception of the Home Ignition Zone and its application has guided the Firewise Communities efforts nationally, regionally and locally. He was a member of the NWCG Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team and helped co-found the Firewise Communities/USA® Program. Jack has a BS degree in Forest Science (wildland fire) from the University of Montana, a MS degree in Bioclimatology from Colorado State University and additional university course work in meteorology and mechanical engineering. In 2002 Jack received the Golden Smokey Bear Award, the highest honor given to organizations or individuals for outstanding wildfire prevention service over at least a two-year period that is national in scope.

Pat Durland
Pat is a nationally renowned and respected wildfire specialist who spent the first 10 years of his career on the frontlines of wildland fire as a member of a Type-1 hotshot crew, helitack and smokejumper for the forest service across the west. His career spans 35 years of

experience in all aspects of wildland fire management serving as a regional level manager for the Bureau of Land Management, supervising aviation and fire management programs in Nevada and California; completing his federal career at the National Interagency Fire Center as DOI's national program leader in wildland/urban interface mitigation, wildland fire prevention and wildland fire education and information programs. Pat also has international experience and associations in Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Honduras. Pat was chairman, vice-chairman and a guiding influence for the NWCG Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Working Team, whose wildfire mitigation and firefighter safety projects include the popular Firewise website and Firewise Communities USA programs.

Prepare, Mitigate and Respond with GIS

Two important steps in developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) involve conducting a community risk assessment and establishing community hazard reduction priorities. Both of these steps are greatly enhanced and simplified with the use of a modern geographic information system (GIS). Using GIS to support the development of a CWPP has never been easier than it is today with the new tools and capabilities built into desktop and online GIS programs. Still, understanding the basic methods and tools is important and learning how to access available data sources is invaluable. This two-day class will cover the basic workflows needed to begin analyzing the location and level of the most serious wildfire risks in your community. You will create map products to accompany your report and learn some of the basic principles of analyzing these data to determine priorities for mitigation.

The second day of the class will include how to publish analysis results online for sharing with key community stakeholders and how they can be used to inform the public.

The class, sponsored by ESRI, will be taught using ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Online from ESRI. This class assumes basic familiarity with the common functions of a GIS. Class computers will be supplied. Space will be limited. Register Early!

Instructor Profiles

Mike Price

Mike Price is the President of Entrada/San Juan, Inc., a Natural Resources and Public Safety consultancy based in Blaine, Washington. Mike has degrees in Geology and Geophysics from Prescott College in Prescott, AZ and Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. Mike is a Licensed Engineering Geologist/Licensed Geologist in Washington State, a Licensed Professional Geologist in Utah, a Registered Member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME), and is a Certified GIS Professional (GISP), as established by the GIS Certification Institute.

Jennifer Schottke

Jennifer Schottke is the municipal fire service and national public safety policy lead for ESRI. Her work focuses on advancing the use of GIS among local and state fire and emergency service agencies as well as advocating for national guidelines and policies to support that goal. She has been with ESRI for 18 years and served previously in various positions within the fire service and broadcast communication industries. Jennifer is a volunteer firefighter in Virginia.

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This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior and National Association of State Foresters.