



Firewise® How-To



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Jim Pauley, NFPA Presidential Message: When Residents Work Together on Mitigation Projects

In this winter issue we share some great examples of neighbors working together to improve their chances of survivability and the desire to make where they live a safer place. Through those efforts, a unique and important bond is often forged – before, during, and after wildfire events.

I hope you'll find the ideas and tips beneficial, and encourage you to share them with your neighbors.

In 2015, help spread the word about the power residents can harness when working together to reduce their wildfire risk; and tell us what your community is doing to keep their momentum going.

Sense of Community

By its very definition the word “community” connotes individuals and/or groups coming together. In a Firewise community, that coming together is bonded by ideas and actions that can help each member to better protect their home and property from the risks posed by wildfire.

As this issue of How-To Newsletter gets set to post, Firewise Communities/USA® boasts over 1100 communities throughout 41 states that have achieved recognition. These communities demonstrate the results and benefits that can be gained when neighbors work together toward a common goal.

The sense of community resulting from Firewise efforts is aptly described by Kelly Carey, an administrator for technical projects at NFPA who assisted with the renewal process as 2014 drew to a close. In sharing the inspiration and perspective she gained from her experience, Kelly noted:

“Working on the renewal process for Firewise Communities/USA has been an eye-opening experience. I now have a different, clearer view of NFPA, in addition to a new perspective of our volunteer base throughout the U.S.

“As a project administrator in the Codes & Standards department, I mostly work on projects related to the code development process. Getting to work on the Firewise renewal process showed me the hard work done by our volunteers that happens in communities, on the ranch, in the woods, in the fields, and in the forest — such as residents clearing acres of land and removing and burning slash, often from their neighbor’s property as well as their own.

“Once the work is done, the neighbors come together to celebrate at events such as fish fries, ice cream socials, pancake breakfasts, and July 4th parades.

“It was inspiring to learn about all of these wonderful people working so hard to keep their communities Firewise safe.” Whether you live in a longtime Firewise community or are seeking renewal for the first time, we hope the stories and information in this issue offer you new inspiration and perspective.

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A FIREWISE® STATE:

Colorado

One of three to achieve 100 or more participating communities.

Firewise Growth in Colorado

Among the 41 states that actively participate in the national Firewise Communities/USA® program, three have achieved the milestone of 100 or more participating communities. Colorado is the most recent state to reach this special benchmark, joining Arkansas and Washington. *How-To Newsletter* spoke with Courtney Peterson, Wildfire Mitigation Education Coordinator for the Colorado State Forest Service, about Colorado's accomplishment. Courtney also serves as the new CSFS liaison for the Firewise Communities/USA program. She recently earned her Master of Science degree in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Colorado State University.



The Colorado Springs Fire Department and Valley at Erindale Firewise Communities/USA working together on a community chipping project. Photo Credit: Arlene Andersen, Valley at Erindale

How-To: *During 2014, Colorado became the third state to have 100 communities taking part in the Firewise Communities Recognition Program. In reaching this milestone, you also managed strong year-on-year gains for new communities pursuing and receiving Firewise recognition status. How did you and your colleagues work with Colorado communities to motivate their interest and action?*

Courtney Peterson: The CSFS owes much of the credit to Colorado landowners, who have become very invested in

proactively protecting life and property through the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program, as evidenced by the high level of community participation. Due to the vast differences in terrain, elevation, fuels, and population density throughout the state, there is no cookie-cutter solution for doing wildfire mitigation in Colorado. We encourage communities to become fire-adapted by using the tools and resources that work for them. The Firewise Communities/USA program has been a successful tool for getting communities started on

reducing their wildfire risk. The five-step process of becoming a nationally recognized Firewise Community/USA enables communities to take ownership in preparing their homes against the threat of wildfire while raising community awareness of the potential wildfire risks.

How-To: *What role did catastrophic fires, such as the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires, have in stirring broader interest among communities?*

Courtney Peterson: Many people don't realize that

they face serious wildfire danger until a wildfire occurs. The large wildfires here in 2012 and 2013 raised Colorado residents' awareness of the imminent threats wildfires can pose, particularly to those who are living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) – the area where human development is close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation, and where high potential for wildfire exists. Because of this heightened awareness, the number of Firewise Communities/USA in Colorado more than doubled over the span of 2012 and 2013.

How-To: *Were there other factors that motivated residents to address the threat of wildfire in their communities? If so, what were they?*

Courtney Peterson: Many Colorado residents know that when they address the threat of wildfire in their communities, they are also helping to increase the safety of wildland firefighters trying to protect threatened homes.

Wildland fire fighters count on landowners to do their part and, in fire-prone areas, everyone needs to take steps to make their property accessible and safe for fire fighters to defend.

Wildfire mitigation work, such as creating wildfire defensible space around homes, gives homes a fighting chance against an approaching wildfire, while also helping to create a healthy forest environment for watersheds and wildlife. These are benefits that many Colorado residents value.

In addition, earning the Firewise Communities/USA designation gives communities a greater chance of receiving grant funding to support their efforts.



The community of Windcliff, near Estes Park, received a 10-year Firewise Community/USA award in 2013. Windcliff is an example of what a community can accomplish when residents work together to reduce the risk of wildfire. Photo Credit: Katherine Timm Schaubert, Colorado State Forest Service

How-To: *How does the CSFS assist communities in their efforts?*

Courtney Peterson: As Colorado's lead state forestry agency, the CSFS assists private landowners and communities by providing technical information and education through its 19 field offices. CSFS foresters help to develop and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans; develop wildfire risk assessments and action plans for Firewise Communities; complete individual homeowner defensible space assessments; provide mitigation education presentation workshops; and provide assistance within forest management programs.

How-To: *What role did existing communities have in influencing their neighboring communities? Is there a particular example that stands out?*

Courtney Peterson: Existing Firewise communities serve as excellent examples of the benefits of doing wildfire mitigation to their neighboring communities. Many landowners are hesitant to do mitigation work at first, thinking it will negatively impact the aesthetics of their property. **When these landowners see the mitigation work their neighbors are doing, they begin to realize that thinning vegetative fuels can actually help enhance the aesthetics of their property while reducing their wildfire risk,** and they are then more willing to take action themselves.

In Colorado Springs, the success of the Cedar Heights Firewise Community/USA has spread through word of mouth and networking opportunities to neighboring communities, such as the Broadmoor Resort Community and Valley at Erindale Firewise Community/USA. These neighborhoods have even based their

community evacuation plans off of the Cedar Heights evacuation plan. Existing Firewise Community/USA communities can be great partners when it comes to raising broader awareness about wildfire risk.

How-To: *With over 110 communities currently participating in Firewise, what are your goals for growing the program further in Colorado?*

Courtney Peterson: The CSFS, with the help of the NFPA, has already successfully GPS-mapped the boundaries of all of Colorado's current Firewise-designated communities. The boundary information can now be used to help communities improve communication and safety among residents, develop printed maps to share with residents of Firewise communities, inform and better prepare local fire departments to assist when wildfires do occur in the community, assist in plan-

ning future wildfire mitigation projects, and provide information that often is requested on grant applications. The CSFS hopes to serve as a model for other states interested in pursuing boundary mapping of their Firewise communities.

How-To: *How can other interested Colorado communities get involved?*

Courtney Peterson: We all share a responsibility to make our homes and communities safer from wildfire. Wildfires do not respect property lines, so we all need to work together to mitigate wildfire risk across the landscape. If Colorado communities are interested in earning Firewise Communities/USA recognition status, they can contact me, the CSFS Wildfire Mitigation Education Coordinator: Phone 970-491-2832 or email: Courtney.Peterson@colostate.edu.

The CSFS also encourages landowners to become actively involved in protecting their communities through the Firewise program by visiting www.firewise.org, learning more about wildfire mitigation at www.csfs.colostate.edu, or by contacting their local [CSFS district office](#).

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How-To thanks Courtney Peterson, Wildfire Mitigation Education Coordinator, Colorado State Forest Service.



Colorado State Forest Service Durango District Forester, Kent Grant, presenting the Firewise sign to Peggy Beach for the Loma Linda Development Firewise Communities/USA recognition. Photo Credit: Lisa Jensen, Loma Linda Development



Kent Grant with members of the Loma Linda Development Firewise Communities/USA. Photo Credit: Lisa Jensen, Loma Linda Development

AROUND THE FIREWISE HOME:

Social Dynamics Found Effective for Encouraging Wildfire Risk Reduction

Programs that seek to encourage community action to reduce risk, like Firewise Communities/USA, are based on the premise that residents engage one another as neighbors and community members to address shared concerns. Research findings support this approach as both well-founded and effective. In fact, research across different kinds of communities shows that social dynamics encourage wildfire risk reduction by spreading information, knowledge, and know-how across fire-prone communities.

Research also suggests that the “keeping up with the Joneses” phenomenon may occur in the context of wildfire risk mitigation. For example, homeowners were found to pay attention to neighboring property conditions, which played a role in their own mitigation behaviors. Further, when neighbors take action, those efforts “spill over” to adjacent properties. Therefore, homeowners who maintain their own defensible space are more likely to have neighbors who also maintain their defensible space.

Conversely, homeowners who don't maintain their defensible space are more likely to have neighbors who also fail to do so. While policies and programs can be effective in getting single homeowners to mitigate risk, it seems that when neighbors encourage each other it can lead

to meaningful landscape-level changes.

In addition to these motivational actions, data suggests that where (or from whom) individuals get wildfire-related information matters: for example, findings demonstrate that **higher levels of mitigation are linked to residents talking about wildfire with their neighbors.**

Furthermore, interviews with residents revealed that individuals often tout knowledgeable neighbors as key sources of information who are essential to translating generic wildfire risk and mitigation information into locally relevant and actionable information.

While neighbors are important, local wildfire experts are also influential. For example, receiving wildfire risk information from a county fire expert or the local fire department is more strongly associated with higher levels of mitigation activity, compared to receiving wildfire risk information from regional or federal-level officials.

Indeed, research shows that people tend to trust local sources of information more than other sources of information, and such interactions may foster the sharing of information and help to build on existing trust. Organizing community meetings at the local firehouse or inviting a county fire expert to a

community pancake breakfast can provide opportunities for these kinds of interactions.

Another important finding is that people who engage with their community groups are less likely to see fire mitigation as something that adversely affects their landscape. Therefore, having community members gather together to talk about how to balance aesthetic preferences and fire risk may be a particularly useful way to support the evolution of local understandings of fire-prone landscapes that are managed for fire risk yet remain beautiful.

While engaging residents to reduce wildfire risk isn't rocket science, there also is no silver bullet for assuring sure-fire results. Repeated interactions over time garner opportunities for information to be presented in different formats, framed by different perspectives, supported by trusted community members and local experts. Collectively, these social dynamics can encourage wildfire mitigation activities.

While not every community may be a prime location to undertake an effort like becoming a recognized Firewise Community site, the basic tenets of the program remain useful across the spectrum of communities.

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How-To thanks Hannah Brenkert-

Smith and Patricia Champ for submitting this article on behalf of the Wildfire Research (WiRe) team. (<http://wildfireresearch.wordpress.com/>). The WiRe group is an interdisciplinary research collaboration that brings diverse expertise in economics, sociology, and wildfire risk mitigation to a multi-year research project on homeowner wildfire risk mitigation and community wildfire adaptedness.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH ELAINE BUSH:

Getting the Scope on Firewise Landscaping

Michigan teaches how to pick plants that Firewise your property.

How-To: *Tell us about the bulletin that MSU Extension has created to inform residents of Michigan about Firewise plants that are suitable for landscaping they do around their homes.*

Elaine Bush: The MSU Firewise bulletin E2948 Wildfire-Resistant Landscape Plants for Michigan was developed so that homeowners can beautify their homes while reducing the chance that nearby landscape plants will ignite during a wildfire and thereby threaten the home. Research on fire-resistant plants is extremely limited since there are many uncontrolled variables. One criterion, plant moisture, is important in regard to ignition, and each species can vary in plant-moisture content with any given soil moisture level.

Even when following recommendations on the list, plants that are not watered or that are allowed to become very dry, can still ignite. The goal of this publication is to provide homeowners and businesses with an easy-to-use reference when selecting landscape plants if they are located in a high-risk area for wildfire potential.

The bulletin's co-authors – Dr. Mark Hansen, MSU wildfire specialist; Dr. R. Thomas Fernandez, MSU horticulture and ornamental landscape plant specialist; and Mr. Mike Penskar, plant biologist with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory – put a lot

of research into producing the list. After completing a literature review, the trio created an initial list of 550 “fire-resistant” plants.

They then reviewed and eliminated plants, first removing those plants that would not grow in Michigan's climate and plants that were moderately to very invasive (to Michigan's native plants). Next, the team removed plants that were known to be highly combustible, such as pines and spruces, and many annual plants that die at the end of the year and leave dead vegetation that can burn. Lastly, some plants that showed fire-resistance in their natural environment – such as those that normally grow in very wet or marshy soil but could ignite if grown in drier soils, such as next to a home – also were removed from the list.

The revised list was then compared with 15 fire-resistant plant lists from the United States, Canada and Tasmania. Plant species that appeared on two or more of the 15 lists were kept and included as recommended species, while those not meeting this criterion were eliminated. The result is a list of 182 species that can help Michigan residents reduce the chance of home ignition when these plants are used as a landscape plant. Homeowners are cautioned, however, that any plant can burn if it gets dry enough – so it's important to keep landscape plants watered and green.

How-To: *How can using the plants noted make a difference?*

Elaine Bush: Homes ignite during a wildfire in three ways – through direct contact with flames, through radiant heat that is hot enough to ignite nearby flammable siding, deck or other parts of the structure without the flames actually touching the structure, and through firebrands that can land in the vegetation or on a flammable surface and ignite. Therefore, using fire-resistant plants, such as those that do not ignite or burn easily, can help to reduce the chance that a home will ignite during a wildfire. We must keep in mind that all plants will burn if they become dry enough and are exposed to enough heat.

How-To: *What is the Kettunen Center and how can the Firewise Demonstration Garden be helpful to residents?*

Elaine Bush: Kettunen Center is a full-service conference center owned and operated by the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Originally a very primitive 4-H camp, the facility has undergone numerous upgrades and renovations over the years. A series of walking trails and an arboretum were established for visitors to enjoy, as well as to provide a venue for learning about and appreciating nature.

While the kinds of vegetation and plants that will grow in a particular state or region varies widely across the United States, as part of your Firewise practice you can and should learn what plants are recommended in terms of “Firewising” your property, especially for those plants you plan to place close to your home. How-To spoke with Elaine Bush about landscaping information made available to residents of Michigan through Michigan State University Extension. With insights and information from Mark Hansen, who preceded her as director of the MSU Extension Firewise program, Ms. Bush discusses some of the ways MSU Extension and others in the state are helping residents to plant smartly, with fire prevention and home protection in mind.

Ms. Bush joined MSU Extension in 1987, first serving as the Benzie County 4-H program assistant until 1989, when she became the Manistee County 4-H agent. In 1994, Bush assumed the role of Manistee County MSU Extension director, until the position of county director was eliminated in July 2010 as part of the university-wide restructuring process. She is currently the Extension educator for Manistee County and a member of the Greening Michigan Institute (GMI). She also is active in GMI's Government & Public Policy workgroup. Her primary educational responsibilities for 2014 are Firewise, focusing on wildfire prevention, and Building Strong Sovereign Nations, a tribal leadership development program. She also serves as MSU Extension's point of contact (POC) for the Extension Disaster Education Network (and represents MSU Extension on eXtension.org's wildfire community of practice, eWIN (Wildfire Information Network).

How-To: *What went into the Demonstration Garden? Who were the key players?*

Elaine Bush: Actually, there are five Firewise Demonstration Gardens, with the first and largest garden housed in the arboretum at Kettunen Center. A smaller, raised-bed garden was constructed by the Ottawa County Master Gardeners with guidance from MSU Extension. The remaining three gardens are each located at highly visited expressway rest areas, owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation. These three gardens were guided by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), with support from MSU Extension, and planted with help from local Master Gardeners and Garden Clubs.

The Kettunen Center Firewise Demonstration Garden was the brainchild of staff at the MSU Extension, who sought a way to “show” people what we were teaching in our Firewise program. USDA Forest Service Hazard Mitigation Grant funds were used to support this project, including travel funds for volunteers from MSU, a portion of the landscape rock and supplies, and building materials for the fire-resistant building. The MSU Horticulture Department donated fire-resistant plants. Two local landscape businesses donated landscape bricks and soil. A local construction company donated labor to build the

fire-resistant building.

The MSU Horticulture Club spent three weekends over three years, first laying out and planting the garden, and then returning in years two and three to expand the garden. Students of the MSU School of Planning, Design, and Construction participated in a competitive class project to design the garden under the guidance of their professor, Dr. Jon Burley. The MSU Horticulture Club, MSU Horticulture Department, MSU School of Planning, Design, & Construction, MSU Extension, and MDNR provided expertise for overall development of the garden. The Michigan 4-H Foundation/Kettunen Center provided space in their arboretum and offered room and board at the conference center for the MSU Horticulture Club and technical experts during the three weekends they spent planting and expanding the garden. Kettunen Center also maintains the garden with mowing when and where necessary.

How-To: *What role did Ausable River Estates play in the Demonstration Garden? What can other communities learn from this Firewise Model Community?*

Elaine Bush: While the Ausable River Estates Model Community didn’t play a role in developing or maintaining the Kettunen Center Firewise Demonstration Garden, it was

the first in Michigan to gain national recognition as a community whose members came together to address a serious wildfire threat in their area.

A rural sub-division in Michigan’s northeastern lower peninsula, the association members realized that being just miles from previous major wildfires, and being primarily surrounded by jack pine and scrub oaks forests, put their homes at great risk. The small community of seasonal retirees, commonly referred to as “snowbirds,” were concerned that their only access road had a rather old one-lane bridge that wasn’t wide enough to accommodate, nor rated for, the weight of fire fighting vehicles. They took action, installing metal street signs, following Firewise principles in clearing property, and working with local officials to replace the bridge with one that would accommodate emergency vehicles.

How-To: *What else has Michigan Firewise developed that communities can use, in addition to encouraging individual homeowners to undertake Firewise landscaping recommendations on their property?*

In response to homeowners and local officials who asked what other proactive measures could be taken to protect their communities, Michigan Firewise staff member Brad Neumann developed a document offering sample zoning language that could be incorporated into a

community’s zoning ordinance to address wildfire mitigation.

Four approaches are presented, ranging from educating property owners in wildfire hazard areas to regulating property access, landscaping, and building materials. The range of approaches is presented so that local governments can select the most appropriate option, based on local conditions and circumstances. In total, the four approaches are intended to allow any community with wildfire risk to incorporate “Firewise” principles into their zoning ordinance.

The Firewise zoning resource was prepared based on national and Midwest research on fire behavior and best practices for property maintenance aimed at avoiding losses from wildfire. The resource is further tailored to Michigan communities based on dominant vegetative types, common building materials, and planning and zoning law in Michigan.

A downloadable copy of the document can be found in the “Resources” section of the [MSU Extension Firewise website](#). Workshops lasting one to three hours can be provided upon request to local officials who wish to study the options in more detail.

How-To: *Tell us about your most recent publication, E3203 Protect Your Great Lakes Shoreline Home From Wildfires.*



Elaine Bush: It addresses issues related to Michigan wildfires that have occurred on shoreline properties, rather than in heavily forested areas. Many of these homes are in areas designated as a Critical Dune Area, and to protect these fragile areas from erosion and degradation, homeowners must follow Michigan Department of Environmental Quality guidelines when altering vegetation.

Dune grass, a native species along the Great Lakes shoreline that helps stabilize the dunes, is also very flammable. Campfires and fireworks often cause shoreline wildfires that are spread by dune grass to homes along the shoreline.

As with homes elsewhere, the bulletin recommends following Firewise guidelines for creating defensible space. Additionally, this bulletin provides instructions for trimming and removing dune grass, improving road and driveway access for emergency vehicles, and suggests how to maintain a lawn sprinkler system around your home to decrease risk of wildfire damage or destruction. This issue may also be downloaded from the “Resources” page of [our website](#).

How-To: *Your Michigan Firewise program has also targeted farmers. Why?*

Elaine Bush: Our Firewise team realized that, while they were providing information

to homeowners in rural areas about how to be Firewise, farmers had their own set of wildfire hazards that needed to be addressed. These included having older, highly flammable wooden buildings in close proximity, storing flammable hay and livestock bedding in these buildings, and use of open burning as part of their farming operation. In addition, farmers often own or are located in close proximity to fire-prone fields and forested tracts of land.

We’ve offered educational displays, handouts, and presentations at various agricultural events, especially in the high-risk areas of northern Michigan. Firewise team member Jed Jaworski created informative handouts for farmers, including fact sheets that describe agricultural burning that is permitted under Michigan law and information on how smoke taint can affect grapes and other fruit crops. These fact sheets, as well as our tri-fold brochure “Firewise On The Farm,” are available on the “Resources” page of [our website](#).

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AROUND THE FIREWISE HOME:

Visiting Firewise Gardens to see Landscaping Principles in Action

Winter provides ample time for planning Firewise preparations for our homes and properties before the next fire season begins. As part of the planning process, consider learning more from a “Firewise Garden”, as I recently did.

From recent work, three interesting examples of Firewise gardens which I found inspiration from include: the Elfin Forest Garden, in Harmony Grove, CA; the Firewise Garden at the Idaho Botanical Garden, in Boise; and the Firewise Landscape at Cuyamaca College’s Water Conservation Garden, near El Cajon, CA.

The Elfin Forest Garden is located on the property of the Harmony Grove Fire Department and entry to the garden is free. Visitors are encouraged to come during daylight hours and park in the gravel lot closest to the garden. For current information about the garden and its hours of operation, visit www.elfinforestfire.org or call 760-744-2186.

The Idaho Botanical Garden, located in the state’s capital, includes a Firewise garden managed by the College of Western Idaho. Visitors must pay admission fee for entry to the garden. For current information, garden hours and admission fees, please visit idahobotanicalgarden.org or call 208-343-8649.

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, located in San Diego County, combines examples of low-water or xeriscape gardening with those

used in Firewise landscaping. While there is no set admission fee, visitors are encouraged to make a suggested donation. For current information about the garden and its hours of operation, please visit thegarden.org or call 619-660-1687.

I found it interesting that **each garden offers a different focus that can inform ideas for one’s own landscaping plans**. While the garden at Cuyamaca College encompassed the whole “home ignition zone”, including the home, the Elfin Forest Garden highlighted specific Firewise plants that were native to the area. The Idaho Botanical Garden had an exhibit on Firewise green roofs, a new concept that is somewhat controversial with fire fighters out west.

Consider establishing a Firewise garden and use it as an educational tool by hosting an open house event, or create a flyer that highlights pictures of work you’ve completed. For additional information, refer to the NFPA’s Firewise Guide to Landscape and Construction on the [Firewise website](#).

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*Firewise Gardens have long been a popular way to highlight fire-resistant vegetation, defensible space, and mitigation techniques. **How-To Newsletter** thanks Faith Berry, associate project manager in NFPA’s Wildland Fire Operations Division, for providing insight on three Firewise gardens and sharing lessons learned for the winter season.*



Firewise garden at the Idaho Botanical Garden showcases green roofs (particularly efforts to make them Firewise). While there is a lot of interest in green roofs out West, some fire departments are concerned about people putting fuel on the roof that may not be maintained properly. Photo Credit: Idaho Botanical Garden



Elfin Forest Firewise Garden focuses on native plants in particular. Photo Credit: Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department

THE FIREWISE LEADER:

NFPA's Wildland Fire Operations Division Welcomes New Staff

Two new staff members have joined NFPA's Denver and Quincy offices. In Denver, Tom Welle will serve as senior project manager and supervisor, while in Quincy, MA, Faith Berry joins us as associate project manager. Both Tom and Faith will contribute to the division's mission of reducing risks to life and property from wildfire through advocacy, outreach, education, research, and codes and standards.



Tom Welle brings experience in public service and wildland fire fighting to his new role at NFPA. Most recently, he spent more than a decade with Douglas County, Colorado, as a ranger and land management specialist. He has also instructed technical fire fighting classes and is a volunteer with the Colorado Civil Wing Air Patrol.

In discussing his new role, Welle noted, "The word 'community' has many interpretations. One version is simply a band of individuals working together towards a common goal. Since I come from a fire service background, I naturally think of that community. Its members are committed to the safety and well-being of all of the rest of us."

He continued, "My job at NFPA represents another view of 'community.' That would be the communities we work with and support through the Wildland Fire Operations Division, the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program, and the Fire Adapted Communities® Program. Our family at NFPA is working to help protect families in communities by providing principles, programs and 'how-to' information to protect their homes from wildfire.

"There's a connection between these two communities," he added. ***"We're all in this together — the NFPA, the Fire Service, our land management partners, the insurance industry and the communities at risk. When we stand together, we make a difference."***

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Faith Berry is familiar to Firewise Communities; most recently, she was one of NFPA's six Firewise Regional Advisors, who contracted with NFPA from 2011 to 2013. Faith has extensive experience working with communities on fire and land management issues, including work as a fire fighter, park ranger, and Fire Safe Council coordinator.

Reflecting on her work with wildfire-prone communities, she said, "When a homeowners' association or neighborhood becomes a Firewise Community, its residents are embracing a way of life that will make them all safer in the event of a wildfire. The initial planning, collaboratively with land management agencies and fire jurisdictions and other groups, enables them to create reasonable goals through

a community assessment. Some of their goals are met through fun activities such as community clean up days, potluck/chipping days, and with neighbors helping those who cannot help themselves. ***The Firewise Communities that I've had the honor to visit are dedicated and caring neighborhoods where anyone would enjoy living."***

She added, "I look forward to working with our expanded team on all of NFPA's wildland fire safety projects and programs."

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FIREWISE BY THE NUMBERS

In 2014, Firewise Communities/USA welcomed 179 new communities.

Whether your community is new or an “old-timer,” being Firewise means greater awareness and safety for your home and community. The more Firewise Communities/USA there are, the more of you there are who will be preparing to prevent fire from reaching your homes and property. 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 communities:

ALASKA

Ester Lump
Kennicott/McCarthy

ALABAMA

North Smithfield Manor-Green-
leaf Heights Community

ARKANSAS

Antioch
Bradford
Cave Creek
Crossett
Curtis
East Camden
Halley
Hasty
Lake Maumelle
Mt. Judea
Mt. Nebo
Pleasant Hill
Rock Haven Bible Camp
Vendor
Washington

ARIZONA

Aravaipa Canyon East
Crown King
Ellison Creek Cabin Home
Owners Association
Highlands at the Rim
Long Meadow I & II
Pinetop Community Association
Ponderosa Park
Prescott Skyline
Prescott Summit
Ramsey Canyon Firewise
Community
Vista del Cerro
Wildwood Estates

CALIFORNIA

Berry Creek

Berryessa Highlands
Blithedale Highlands Owner's
Association
Blue Lake Springs Homeowners
Association
Cascade Shores
Forbestown
Glenwood-Maidu-Charlene
Greenhorn Creek
Lakeridge Oaks Homeowner's
Association
Little Valley Firewise Board
Milford
Monte Verde Estates
Ranchita Estates
Rattlesnake Neighborhood
Association
Redwood Valley/Chezem
Ridge View Woodlands
Riviera West
Shelter Cove
Shelter Ridge Homeowner's
Association
Spalding

COLORADO

Antlers at Sageport HOA
Broadmoor Downs HOA
Canyon Creek
Cherokee Meadows
Creek View
Echo Canyon Ranch
Fisher Canyon South
Foothills Ranch Homeowners
Association
Forest Gate Subdivision
Glenwood Highlands
Goshawk
Higby Estates
Lefthand Fire Protection District
Loma Linda Development
Mountain Ridge Homeowners
Association

Pinehaven
Rainbow Services Inc.
Riverwood Homeowners
Association
Spires HOA
Spirit Lakes
Stanley Meadows
The Hidden Forest Homeowners
Association
The Highlands at Breckenridge
Golf Property Owners
Association
Town of Palmer Lake
Tres Valles West Owners
Association
University Park HOA
Upper Summer Haven
Vallecito Community
Woodside Park Units 2, 3, 5, & 6

FLORIDA

Compass Lake in the Hills
Fountain View
Long Leaf
Tara Woods
Wild Heron

GEORGIA

Asheland Cove
Camp Rotary
City of Bowman
City of Sky Valley
Double Knob
Hampton
High Falls State Park
Indian Springs State Park
Jarrell Plantation
Martha's Plantation
Mountain Shadows Community
Riverstone Heights
Scarletts Way
Smithgall Woods State Park
Talking Rock Creek

Toccoa River Forest Lane
Town of Maxeys
Town of Tiger
West Lake Club
Young Harris College

IDAHO

Heatherlands HOA
Home-
stead
Subdivision
Iron Creek

MARYLAND

Redwood of Wildewood
Community

MAINE

Bustins Island Village
Corporation

MINNESOTA

Buck Lake Association
Chase Lake Area
Pine Point Road

MISSISSIPPI

Sardis
Town of Decatur
Town of Kossuth
Town of New Augusta

MONTANA

Big Mountain Fire District

NORTH CAROLINA

Kitty Hawk Landing
Winding River Plantation

(Continued on next page)

NEW MEXICO

Greater Gallina Canyon/Deer Mesa
Greater Wind Canyon Community
Monte Sereno Neighborhood
Taos Canyon
Taos Ski Valley
Valle Escondido
Willow Creek Subdivision

OKLAHOMA

Corn
Freeny Valley
Kingston
Lane

OREGON

Ash Creek
Barrington Heights
Barton Road
Birchwood Lane HOA
Blackberry Lane
Chinook
Glendale Southwest
Hunter Heights Community
Lazy T Ranch
Mt. Reuben
Pine Creek
Ridge at Eagle Crest
Royal Oaks Estate
Springbrook
Summerlane
Tamarack Place
Tiller
Tolman Creek Park
Tres Clay

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Bluffs on the Waterway
Windsor Green

SOUTH DAKOTA

Chapel Lane Village

TENNESSEE

Lone Mountain

TEXAS

Barton Creek West
Versante Canyon
Village of Timbercreek Canyon

UTAH

Argyle Canyon
Hi-Lo/Arrowhead
Summit Park
Uintalands Association
Woodland Hills

VIRGINIA

Chalet High
Fortress
High Knob
Holly Knoll Circle
Horizons Village
Laurel Woods
Syria Mountain Estates

WASHINGTON

Diablo (Seattle City Light)
Glenrose
Hidden Valley Terrace
Liberty Woodlands Homeowners Association
Malloy Prairie Corridor
Ski Tur Valley
Treacy Levine Center (Camp Brotherhood)

WISCONSIN

Crystal Brook Woods

WYOMING

Canyon Creek Village
Star Valley Ranch
West Tensleep Creek Cabin Owners Association

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Upcoming Events

IAFC-WUI Conference

March 24-26, 2015
Reno, NV

PreConference Seminar

NFPA Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Seminar
March 21-22, 2015
Reno, NV

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IAWF Wildfire Safety/Human Dimensions Conference

April 20-24, 2015
Boise, ID

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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 Workshops

October 20-21, 2015
Myrtle Beach, SC

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