



FIREWISE USA

Residents reducing wildfire risks

Time and Expense Investment Examples

Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$24.14), 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
- Coordinated 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
- Coordinating 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
- Retrofitted open-eaves style construction to soffited-eaves
- Increased the gap between deck boards from 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch
- Inspected roof; replaced shingles as needed
- Inspected/repared eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition
- Removed all flammable materials from under decks and porches
- Removed debris between deck board gaps/joints
- Removed debris on the roof and in the gutters as needed
- Replaced missing deck boards to reduce ember entry to area under decks
- Replaced vinyl gutters with metal gutters
- Replaced wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Resident or contractor labor to perform ignition-resistant exterior improvements: New Class A roofs; Mesh screening added to attic and crawl space vents; Siding repairs, Replaced wood fencing attached to siding, etc.
- Installed weatherstripping along the perimeter of garage doors to help keep embers out
- Used a sealant (such as caulking) to cover gaps in open-eave areas

Improvements/Maintenance within the Home Ignition Zones:

- Cleared debris at the base of combustible fences
- Cleared vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
- Created a permanent non-flammable footprint under large stationary propane tanks

- Created a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
- Created small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (Driveways, walkways/paths, patios, stone walls, etc.)
- Limbed and removed lower tree branches
- Moved firewood piles at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
- Mowed lawn, native grasses and weeds as needed
- Raked and removed pine needles, leaves and ground debris
- Replaced combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
- Replaced highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
- Reduced ladder fuels
- Stacked/piled slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
- Tree thinning/removal

Neighborhood/Community Focused Projects:

- Commonly owned areas debris removal and maintenance
- 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
- 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 (Developed/updated action plans, etc.)
- Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
- Participation in national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day projects
- Reduced vegetation/fuels from adjacent ingress and egress routes
- Resident's time attending/participating in annual wildfire education/outreach events
- Risk reduction orientation to new residents
- Writing wildfire educational articles for the neighborhood newsletter or community website

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 (Arborists, Landscapers, Professional Forester Services, Roofers, etc.)
- Costs for community-wide clean up days (dumpster rental, compostable leaf/lawn bags, etc.)
- Costs to replace flammable mulch materials with stone/gravel
- 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: Roof, Deck, Fencing, Gutters, Siding, Vents, Windows, etc.
- Mileage @ 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, etc. and related mailing expenses
- Spark Arrestor/installation costs
- Tool purchase/rental (Loppers, pole saws, weed trimmers, rakes, etc.)
- Tree removal, separation/spacing expenses
- Safety Equipment for neighborhood workdays (ear and eye protection, gloves, etc.)
- Value of hourly volunteer labor (residents, scout groups, CERT members, students, etc.) and the associated services and materials required for them to participate in risk reduction projects