# Firewise USA®



#### Anne-Marie Parkinson

SB County Fire Safe Council



Community Wildfire Resilience Project Manager

## What is Firewise?

- Free & voluntary program
- Run by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors:
  - get organized,
  - find direction,
  - and take action to **decrease wildfire risk** of their homes and community.
- NO regulation enforcement!





### Benefits of a Firewise Community

- Increase wildfire knowledge
- Strengthen community connectiveness
- Increased grant appeal
- Prioritization for future SB FSC funds
- Insurance benefits
  - USAA
  - Mercury
  - CA Fair Plan



#### Application Process

#### Maintaining Firewise Recognition

- 1. Organize: Create committee of residents + wildfire stakeholders
- **2. Plan**:

**3. Do**:

#### Application Process

#### Maintaining Firewise Recognition

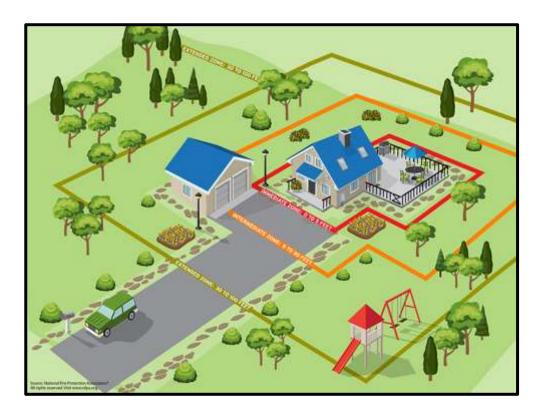
1. Organize: Create committee of residents + wildfire stakeholders

#### 2. Plan:

- a. ID site boundary
- b. Conduct risk assessment
- c. Develop 3-year action plan
- **3. Do:**

### Risk Assessment

- Home risk Home ignition zone (HIZ)
  - % of homes with defensible space
  - % of homes with certain ignition resistant building materials (e.g., screens on vents, double pane windows, etc.)
- Community level risk



### 3 Year Action Plan

- Use risk assessment + other known community risks
- Realistic goals
- Suggested Topics:
  - Defensible space and structure retrofits
  - Evacuation planning and training
  - Apply for funding
  - Host education events (e.g., with firefighters, SB Office of Emergency Management)
  - Host community workday events
  - Work with partners on community vegetation buffer

#### Application Process

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#### **3. Do**:

- a. Community Education (1 activity/year)
- b. Homeowner Volunteer Hours (1 hour/household or ~\$27/household)
- c. Report quantity of vegetation removed (NO minimum)

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#### Maintaining Firewise Recognition

- **Annually**: record and report education activities, volunteer hours, and vegetation removed
- Every 3 years: Update action plan
- Every 5 years: Redo risk assessment

### Firewise Time Commitment

#### Committee Members

- Application process (once)
- Organize community events
- Track volunteer hours
- Annual renewals
- Take lead on accomplishing Action Plan items
- Volunteer 1 hour (or \$27 equivalent) per household/year

#### Non-committee Members

- Minimum 1 hour (or \$27 equivalent) per household per year
- Report volunteer hours and vegetation removed from property

### Conclusion

- Easy!
- Flexible
- Next steps:
  - Agree on going forward with Firewise
  - Form committee
  - Work on risk assessment



This could be your community!

### Contact Us!

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