



Firewise USA[®]  FIREWISE
COMMUNITIES[®]

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



Firewise Recognition Process Overview

Application Process

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

Maintaining Firewise Recognition

Firewise Recognition Process Overview

Application Process

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:**

Maintaining Firewise Recognition

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

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

Maintaining Firewise Recognition

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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!

Anne-Marie Parkinson

aparkinson@SBFireSafeCouncil.org

Gustavo Agredano

gagredano@SBFireSafeCouncil.org