

# Becoming a Nationally Recognized Firewise USA® Site

[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

The Firewise USA® program provides a collaborative framework for neighbors to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. The national recognition program's annual criteria is designed to empower and engage residents living in wildfire prone areas with a plan and actions that can increase their home's chances of surviving a wildfire; while also making it safer for firefighters.

## Steps to Achieving National Recognition:

### Wildfire Risk Assessment

Completing a written wildfire risk assessment is the first step in becoming a nationally recognized Firewise USA® site. Contact your Firewise liaison for the state's requirements on developing a risk assessment.

### Board/Committee

Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other applicable wildfire stakeholders. This group will collaborate on developing the site's risk reduction priorities and they will develop a multi-year action plan based on the assessment, along with overseeing the completion of the annual renewal requirements.

### Action Plan

Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects developed by the participant's board/committee for their site. Plans include recommended home ignition zone projects, educational activities and other stakeholder outreach efforts that the site will strive to complete annually or over multiple years.

### Educational Outreach

Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.

### Wildfire Risk Reduction Investment

At a minimum, each site is required to invest the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in risk reduction actions annually. A wide range of qualifying actions and expenditures (contractor costs, rental equipment, resident activities, grants, etc.) comprise the overall investment totals.

### Application

Applicants begin the overall process by creating a site profile at: [Portal.firewise.org](http://Portal.firewise.org). The application is eligible for submission when the overall criteria is completed.

State liaisons approve applications with final processing completed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). **Please note:** Individual states may require additional application requirements beyond those of the national program.



**FIREWISE USA®**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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