



# Becoming a Firewise Community

# Becoming a Firewise Community

## What is Firewise® USA?

- ▶ [Firewise USA®](#) is a national program that provides communities and neighborhoods with a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and surrounding areas to reduce wildfire risks at the community level.
- ▶ The Firewise® framework helps to bring communities of homeowners together to create and implement local plans to protect their homes against the [risk of wildfire](#).
- ▶ Firewise USA® started in 2002 with 12 pilot neighborhoods and now has over 1,800 member communities in 40 states.

# Becoming a Firewise Community

## WHAT IS A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

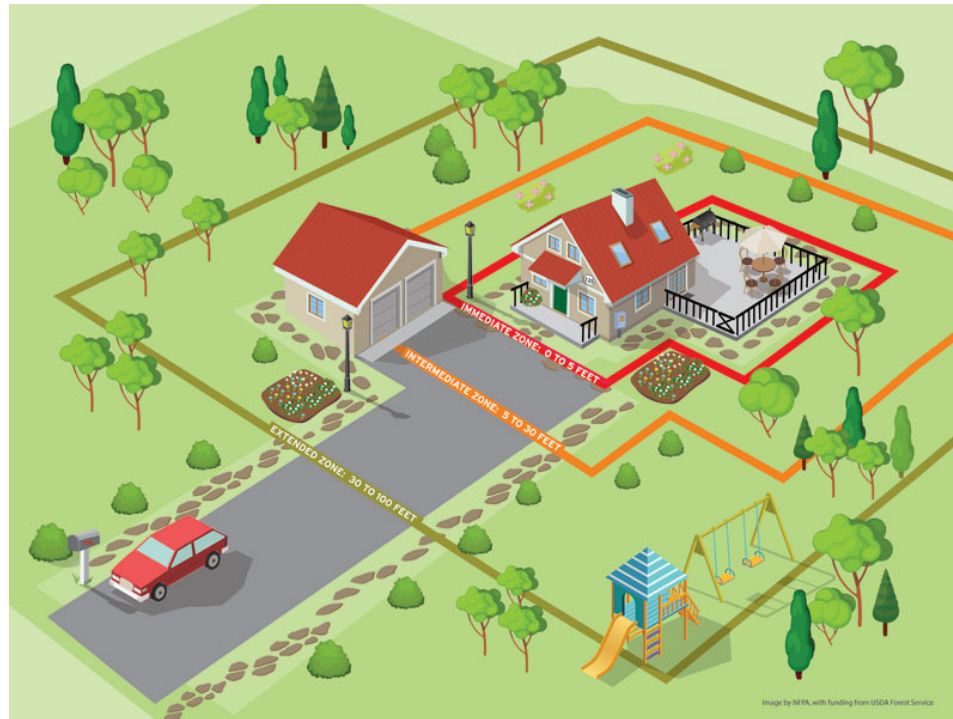
- ▶ Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an “In Good Standing Status” may identify itself as being a Firewise® Site.
- ▶ The Firewise USA® program is administered by NFPA® and is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

# Becoming a Firewise Community

## ***What makes a community “Firewise?”***

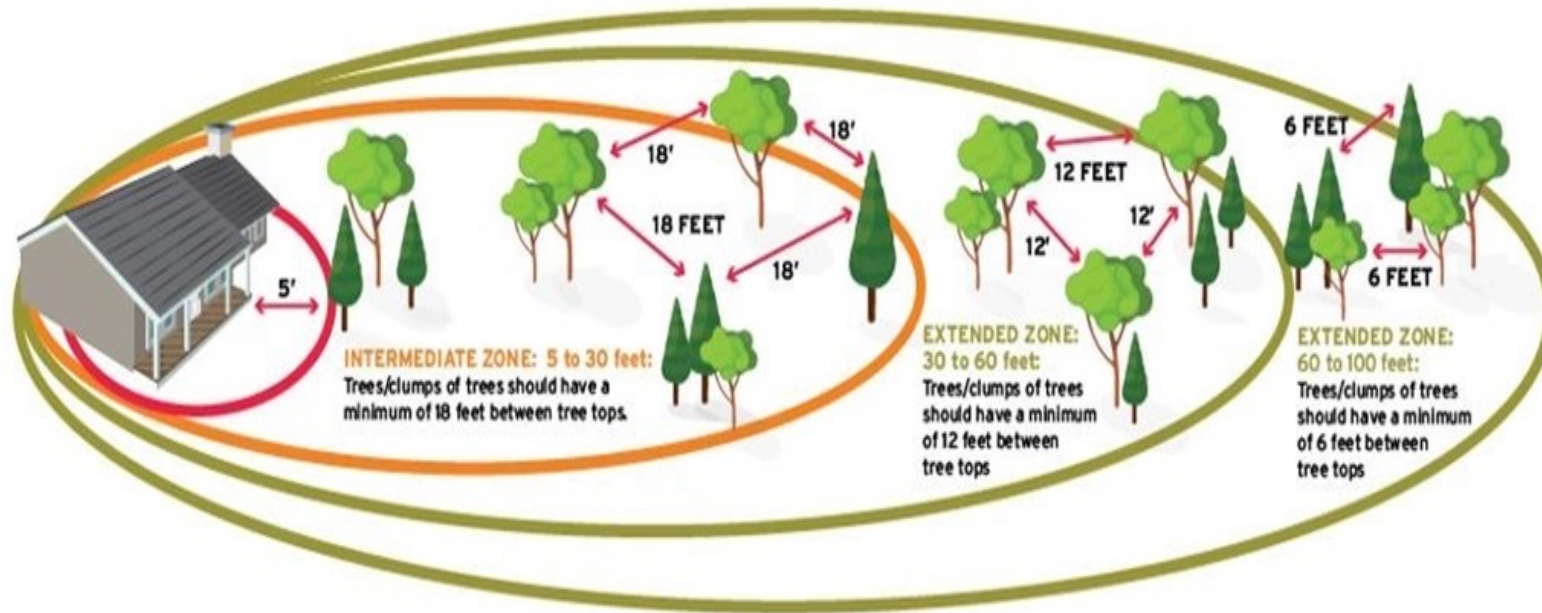
- ▶ Taking appropriate measures to increase resistance of the community to wildfire using Firewise principles to reduce the risk of wildfire
  - ▶ Landscape with fire-resistant plants
  - ▶ Use fireproof building materials
  - ▶ Consider structure as fuel and take actions to reduce wildfire potential using Firewise principles
  - ▶ Build out ignition zones around your home (Defensible Space)

# HOME IGNITION ZONE



# HOME IGNITION ZONE TREE SPACING

## TREE SPACING



# Becoming a Firewise Community

## Things to do

- ▶ - Create a board
  - ▶ Residents
  - ▶ Partners
- ▶ Get Wildfire Risk Assessment
- ▶ Contact NM State Forestry Liaison for guidance
- ▶ Develop three-year Action Plan
- ▶ Create Firewise Account on [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)
- ▶ Prepare application and submit to NM State Forestry Liaison for approval

# Becoming a Firewise Community

## DUTIES OF BOARD

- ▶ Define boundaries of community
- ▶ Determine number of single-family structures to be included
  - ▶ >8 and <2500
- ▶ In conjunction with NM State Forestry develop community wildfire risk assessment
  - ▶ Update every five years
- ▶ Develop three-year action plan to prioritize actions identified in the assessment to educate residents and mitigate wildfire potential
- ▶ Complete application and submit to State Forestry liaison for approval and submission to Firewise



# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

- ▶ COMMUNITY WIDE VIEW
  - ▶ INGRESS AND EGRESS
  - ▶ ROAD DESIGN AND CONDITION
  - ▶ VEGETATION DENSITY AND VOLUME
  - ▶ STRUCTURE DENSITY AND MATERIALS
- ▶ IDENTIFY WHERE IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE
- ▶ EMPHASIS ON GENERAL CONDITION OF HOMES AND RELATED HIZ

# THREE YEAR ACTION PLAN

- ▶ BASED ON RISK ASSESSMENT
- ▶ IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE ACTIONS TO REDUCE INGICTION RISK TO HOMES
- ▶ INCLUDE
  - ▶ COMMUNITY WIDE INVESTMENTS
  - ▶ HOMEOWNER ACTIONS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO COMPLETE ANNUALLY OR OVER PERIOD OF YEARS
  - ▶ MODIFY AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

# Becoming a Firewise Community

## ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Neighbors complete educational and risk reduction actions identified in the plan. These go towards your site's annual reporting efforts.
  - ▶ Invest the equivalent of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in wildfire risk reduction actions. If your site has identified 100 homes within its boundary, then 100 hours of work or the monetary equivalent.
    - ▶ Have residents keep a record of any work done during the year
- ▶ When the above criterion have been met, the Resident Leader submits renewal of recognition through the Firewise® Portal ([portal.firewise.org](http://portal.firewise.org)), describing educational and mitigation work performed in the site.
- ▶ Renew Firewise status annually

# BECOMING A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

NAME	LOT	HOURS	IN-KIND	FUNDS SPENT & EQUIP COSTS	SUB TOTAL	CHAIN SAW SPLITTER HRS`	PER HOUR	TRACTOR HOURS	PER HOUR	ATV HOURS	PER HOUR	ACI HOURS	PER HOUR	OVERALL TOTAL
				\$ 27.20			\$ 10.00		\$ 80.00		\$ 15.00		\$ 100.00	
JONES	2	110	2999	16	3,015		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	3,015
RICE	4-Mar	45	1224		1,224	12	\$ 120.00	5	\$ 400.00	3	\$ 45.00		\$ -	1,789
OGAWA	9-10	100	2720	700	3,420		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	3,420
STEHLING	11	100	2720	10	2,730	10	\$ 100.00	10	\$ 800.00	10	\$ 150.00		\$ -	3,780
LORENCE	18	30	816	302	1,118	20	\$ 200.00		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	1,318
FLEENOR	39	51	1387		1,387	21	\$ 210.00	26	\$ 2,080.00		\$ -		\$ -	3,677
ROGERS	40	43	1170				\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	-
PADILLA	46	75	2040	500	2,540	50	\$ 500.00	25	\$ 2,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	5,040
ADAMICK	53	204	5549		5,549	50	\$ 500.00		\$ -	10	\$ 150.00		\$ -	6,199
FRANZOY	55	43				20		20	\$ 1,600.00				\$ -	-
FORD	71/73	45	1224	200	1,424		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	1,424
SNYDER	79	49	1333	29	1,362	40	\$ 400.00	5	\$ 400.00		\$ -		\$ -	2,162
MAESTAS	80	43	1170		1,170		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	1,170
COY	84	57	1550	\$ 1,826.00	3,376	17	\$ 170.00		\$ -	8	\$ 120.00		\$ -	3,666
MORRIS	92	26	707		707	10	\$ 100.00		\$ -	11	\$ 165.00		\$ -	972
KOCHIS	93-94	68	1850	4,940	6,790		\$ -	10	\$ 800.00		\$ -	6	\$ -	7,590
BRADY	CABIN		0		-		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	-
HL Cleanup Day		24	653		653	10	\$ 100.00	5	\$ 400.00	3	\$ 45.00		\$ -	1,198
ACI Burns	VARIOUS	NO INPUT	0		-		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	NO INPUT	\$ -	-
TOTAL		1113	29111	8523	36464	260	2400	106	8560	45	675	6	0	\$ 46,419
								EQUIPMENT TOTAL	\$ 11,635.00					

# Becoming a Firewise Community

## CREATING HIDDEN FIREWISE COMMUNITY 2<sup>ND</sup> IN COLFAX COUNTY

- ▶ Hidden Lake Development had/has
  - ▶ 100 lots of 10 to 20 acres nominal size
  - ▶ 10 houses (Currently 24)
  - ▶ 8 full time residents (Currently about 12)
- ▶ In 2005 we did all preliminary things to get the recognition
- ▶ Realized we needed others
- ▶ Created Colfax County Coalition of Firewise communities
- ▶ Worked to get other communities the recognition
- ▶ Got grants from NM Association of Counties

# HIDDEN LAKE ACTIVITIES

- ▶ ANNUAL CLEANUP DAYS
- ▶ CHIPPER DAYS EARLY ON
- ▶ HOA MEETING EDUCATIONAL BRIEFING
- ▶ GRANTS
  - ▶ NFL
  - ▶ NMAC THINNING AND CWPP UPDATE
  - ▶ NMAC ACI
- ▶ BUILT A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION WITH DONATIONS

# AIR CURTAIN | CINERATOR



# Becoming a Firewise Community

FOR MORE INFO GO TO

[WWW.FIREWISE.ORG](http://WWW.FIREWISE.ORG)

NM State Forestry Contact

George Ducker – 505-699-0601

George.ducker@emnrd.nm.gov