# FIREWISE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**Karen Caldwell** 

**Tuolumne Fire Safe Council Firewise Coordinator** 

tcfirewise.com 209-559-9527

https://tuolumnefiresafe.org (Firewise tab)

**Facebook: Tuolumne Fire Safe** 

Council



# NFPA's Firewise USA Program

- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is the sponsor for the program. NFPA is an international nonprofit devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. Founded in 1896.
- ★ The Firewise USA® program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.





Voluntary program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.

# A Firewise Community is you...

You can do as little or as much as you can/want. You are already required to do your home clearance (State Public Resourced Code 4291), why not take credit for it?





# **BENEFITS OF A FIREWISE COMMUNITY**

# Reduced Risk to Life and Property

The Firewise program empowers communities to reduce their vulnerability to wildfires and enhance their ability to protect homes and properties.

# **Get a Framework for Action**

Firewise USA helps communities get organized and find direction to plan and implement systematic actions to reduce their risks from wildfires.

# **Community Building & Organizing**

Neighbors working together build stronger bonds. Sharing tools, knowledge and resources to collectively respond to fires and other emergencies.

# **Financial Benefits**

Recognized Firewise communities may receive preference for grants made for wildfire safety or fuel mitigation. Most insurance companies provide incentives to residential properties within recognized firewise communities.

# Support

Firewise communities receive many types of support and resources from local, state, and federal agencies. This assistance can include technical expertise, project support, and funding sources.

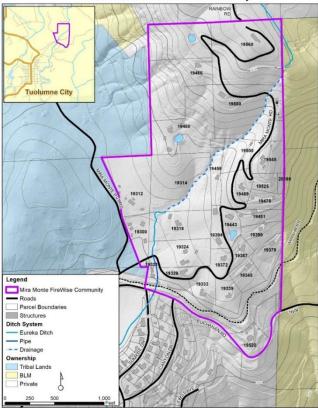
# **Peace of Mind**

Residents living in a Firewise community gain peace of mind, knowing that they have taken proactive measures to protect their homes and families from the threat of wildfires.

• Most insurance companies are providing discounts if you live in a Nationally "Recognized" Firewise USA site. Check with your provider to see if they participate.



Mira Monte Firewise Community



# Becoming a Firewise Community USA Site

Before beginning the process, consider holding a neighborhood meeting to learn about the Firewise Community Program, to promote interest and sup-port, and to recruit volunteers. Information from this meeting can help you determine boundaries for your Firewise Community map.



# **ORGANIZE IT**

Form a board/group/committee that is comprised of residents and other applicable wildfire stakeholders.



# **PLANIT**

Create a written wildfire risk assessment with your Cal Fire representative or the City Fire Chief for Sonora. The assessment should be a community-wide view that identifies areas of successful wildfire risk reduction and areas where improvements can be made.



## DO IT

Develop an action plan - a priority list of risk reduction projects/investments, along with suggested homeowner actions and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually, or over a period of multiple years.



# **SUBMIT IT**

Submit application to Firewise USA. State liaisons will approve applications, with final processing completed by the NFPA.

## **IMPLEMENT IT**

Put your plan to work. At a minimum, each site is required to contribute one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in wildfire risk reductions.





# **RENEW IT**

Participating sites must submit an annual renewal to maintain their "Good Standing" status. Part of being a Firewise USA site is reporting the ongoing work residents complete each year to reduce wildfire risks.





# **READY TO GET STARTED?**

For more detailed information, help in getting started, or questions, contact us at

# **Tuolumne Fire Safe Council**

Email: tcfirewise@gmail.com

Phone: 209-559-9527

Or visit our website

www.tuolumnefiresafe.org/firewise

Facebook: Tuolumne Fire Safe

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