

Taking Control of Your Wildfire Risk

An Introduction to Firewise USA®



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Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

[Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)

Why Are We Here?



Condition of homes—what we see that make homes vulnerable to wildfire.



Proximity to natural areas—forest, shrublands, grasslands, etc.



Recent fire (up to 20 years)

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



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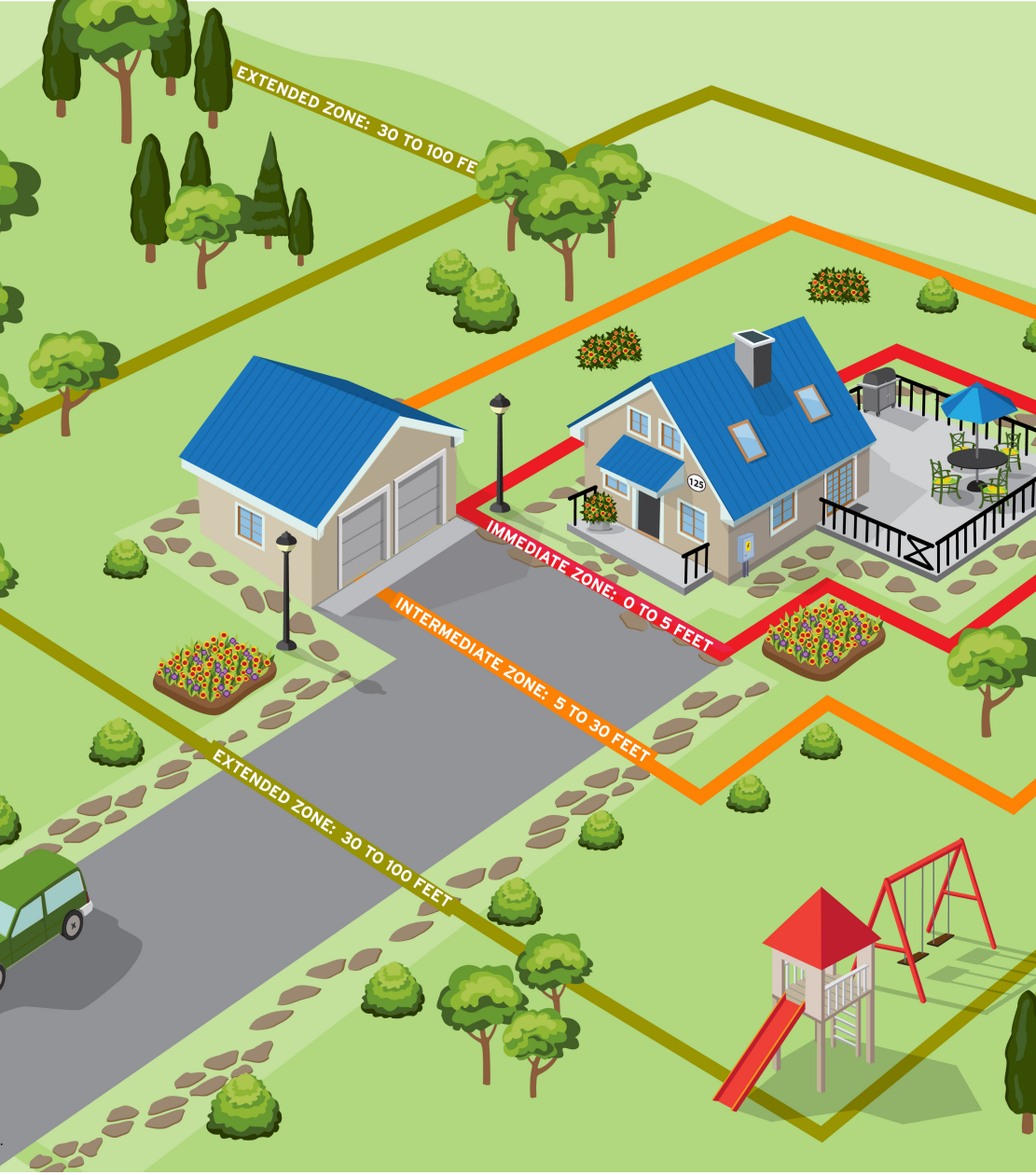
Everyone Has a Role to Play in Reducing Wildfire Risk

- The **community** can make a preparedness plan
- **Individual residents** can take action to reduce the risk of loss on their property



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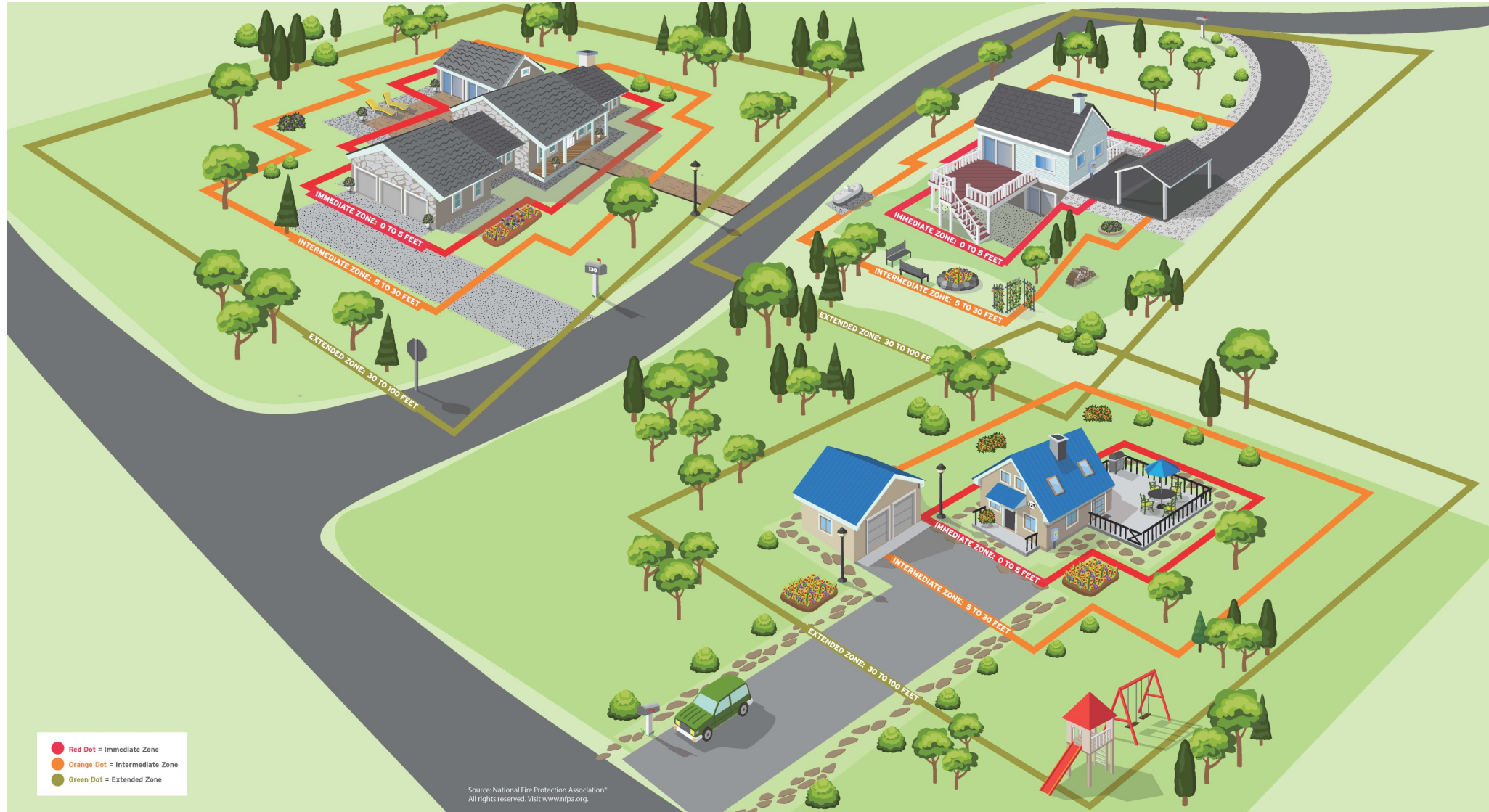
Science-based Recommendations for Individual Homes

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)—includes home and 0–100 feet from the base of a building or furthest attachment (e.g., deck).

Recommendations within HIZ:

- Use fire-resistant materials for roofs, walls, windows, decks
- Remove anything that can burn that is right next to the home
- Maintain home and landscape

Creating an Ignition-Resistant Community



Features of an Ignition-Resistant Home



- Noncombustible siding all the way to the ground
- Rock mulch close to the house
- Paved walkway and driveway to break up vegetation
- Plants spaced to reduce fire spread
- Neighboring home is also ignition-resistant



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- Voluntary recognition program
- Created in 2002 by NFPA with support from USDA Forest Service and State Forestry organizations
- Addresses risk on private property



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Why Firewise USA®

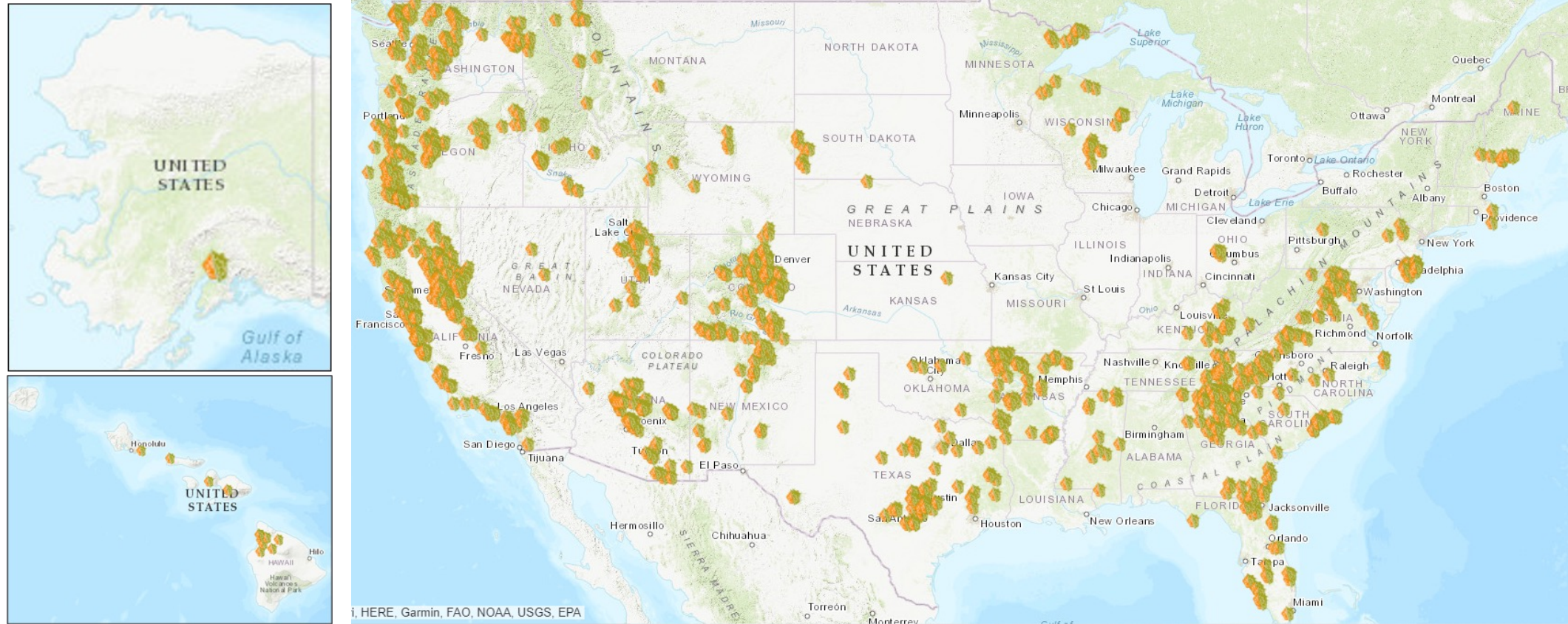
It's an established framework to help residents get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of homes and the community.



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Firewise USA® Recognition Today



Local Wildfire Context

GET ORGANIZED

Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other wildfire stakeholders.

Obtain a wildfire risk assessment.

Determine the size and boundary: minimum 8 and maximum 2,500 dwelling units.

MAKE A PLAN

Create a 3-year action plan that identifies community education and risk reduction actions.

DO THE WORK

Host a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event.

Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment.

TELL US ABOUT IT

Create a Firewise USA® Portal account and submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison.



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LET'S TALK ABOUT ACTIVITIES



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Walk-Through and Property Risk Evaluation



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Make a 3-Year Action Plan



Do the Work



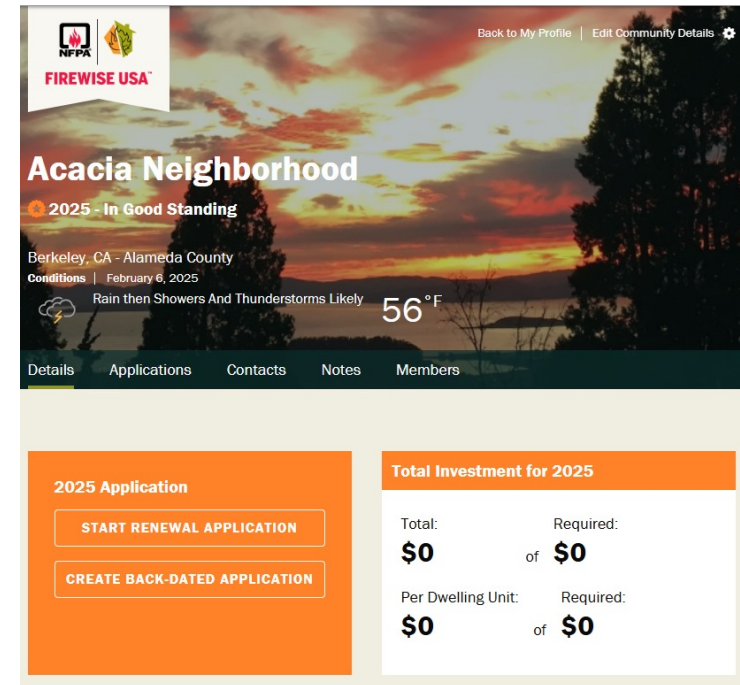
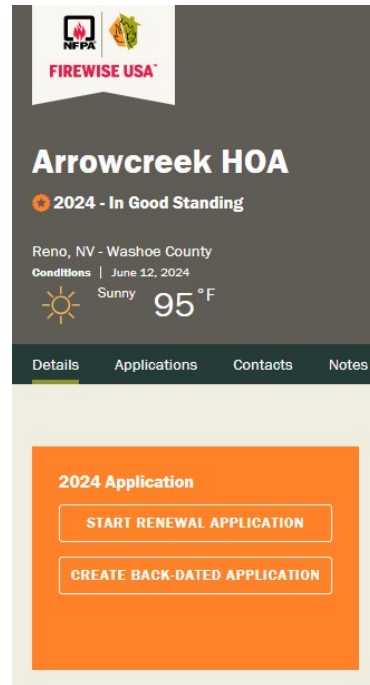
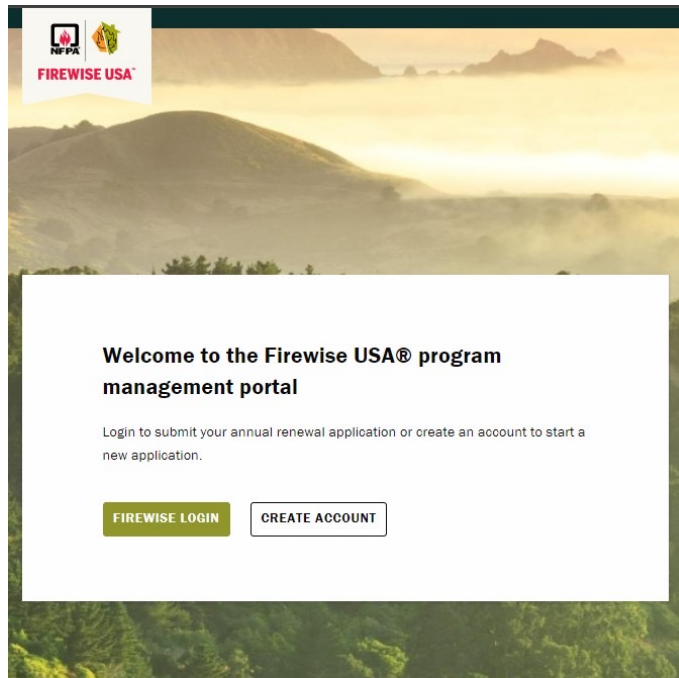
Clean up debris around your home and community.



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Easy Online Application and Renewal





Continuous Commitment

“Having a Firewise sign in front of your neighborhood doesn’t mean you’re done. It means you admit you have a problem.... They don’t understand it means that we are a neighborhood that is working to become Firewise.”



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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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Durango Residents Whose Home Survived the 416 Fire



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Durango Chief Hal Doughty

During the 416 wildfire:

“Falls Creek is an **area that we can stop this fire** and the reason is that it is well mitigated and **it’s a Firewise community**. We have the ability to slow this thing down and stop it at Falls Creek. This is where we turned it westward and stopped it from coming into the community, this was the pivotal neighborhood.”



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Joyce Statz, Texas Resident Leader

“I think neighbors have a feeling of helplessness ... because they see all the videos of the wildfires where there is a big wall of flame crushing communities, but we explain to them that is not how it works. **Most of the losses from wildfire are from the embers** and that’s the thing that we can deal with, and so they can see that **they have the power** to make their homes impervious to the embers.”



Robert Boone, Firewise USA® Participant in Maine

“Everybody has to be a part of it. If you have one cottage that poses a danger, it poses a danger to all the cottages. So, there is a good understanding that Firewise is an island-wide effort to reduce fire danger.”



Bob Long, Former Chair of NCCFC in California

“There’s still about 40 communities working to become recognized. They weren’t interested at first, but now they’re seeing the work we’ve done—like shaded fuel breaks and defensible space—and they want in.”



Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities



Hawaii

"The national Firewise framework has catalyzed residents to unite in preparing for wildfires. State and nonprofit partners proudly support growing numbers of Firewise neighborhoods across Hawaii. Together, we are working towards keeping our island places and people wildfire safe and wildfire ready."

-Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization



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Next Steps



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Let's Do It!



Sign up for your individual property walk-through.



Help us get the word out in our community.



Do the work.



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Thank you for your time.



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APPENDIX



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Defining the Issue

Wildland urban interface (WUI) is the zone where structures and other development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels and the area within or adjacent to private and public property **where mitigation actions can prevent damage or loss from wildfire.**

