



Facts about the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise Communities Program

- The Firewise Communities Program was developed in 1986 in response to the realization that the problem of home destruction from brush, grass and forest fires was one of national scope.
- The Program teaches residents about the hazards of wildfire, and how they can put simple, smart practices into play around their homes, and encourage neighbors to work together to help prepare for and reduce the risk of home destruction due to wildfires.
- The Program's mission is to protect people and property in communities at risk from wildfire through the National Fire Protection Association's role as a visible, trusted and recognized advocate, consensus builder and authoritative leader.
- The Program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.
- The Firewise website, www.firewise.org, was launched in 1996 to provide the best available information on wildfire safety for homes to a national audience.
- In 1999, a series of Firewise Communities Planning Workshops sprung up throughout the country. From 1999 - 2003, more than 3,000 residents, firefighters, community leaders and business people participated in these workshops.
- In Fall 2002, the national Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program was established.
- The Firewise Communities/USA program has documented local grant funding and volunteer hours totaling more than \$100 million from 2003 to 2011.
- As of 2012, 10 out of the 12 pilot sites are still enrolled in the Program, and recognized as official Firewise communities after 10 years.
- Since its inception, more than 1.2 million people have been directly affected by the Program, and many more indirectly, have been influenced.
- As of July 2012, the program has 776 active Firewise communities in 40 states, with a goal of 1,000 by the end of 2013.
- In 2010, NFPA established the Wildland Fire Operations Division. The Firewise Communities Program is a program within the Division, and the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program is a major component of the Firewise Communities Program.

