



City of Phoenix

Fire Department
Community Risk Reduction Unit
Wildland Urban Interface / Firewise USA Program

Dear City of Phoenix HOA presidents and/or representatives:

The Phoenix Fire Department appreciates your assistance in helping to get this vital information out to your neighbors and encouraging them to do their part in helping us protect their homes from brush or wildland fires.

Every year, the Sonoran Desert and preserve areas, which are an integral part of our community, provide us with real potential for significant wildfire. Often, the welcome winter and spring rains bring with them the potential for substantial vegetation growth. Most years, a lack of moisture will result in all our vegetation having lower than normal core moisture content, quickly drying out in the hot summer sun, and creating additional intensity for a wildland fire.

We need everyone's assistance to help minimize the risk of these types of incidents. Please take the opportunity to establish defensible space that will help us protect your property from a brush fire. Below are some guidelines you can use in your newsletters to help manage the vegetation and plant/fuel loads.

The Fire Department asks for your help and recommends Phoenix residents:

- Remove dry and dead vegetation around your home and property to establish a "defensible safety zone."
- Trim up your tree canopies and remove any dead branches or accumulations of flash/grass fuels and leaves from underneath, especially in the defensible space areas near the structures.
- Do not keep flammable items or foliage under patio roofs or overhangs.
- Keep any gutters, eaves, and the roof clear of tree branches, leaves, or debris.

To get more wildland safety tips from the Fire Department, please visit the Phoenix Fire Department website at phoenix.gov/fire, or you can use the QR code below to request a free wildland community safety inspection through a partnership of the Department of Fire and Forestry Management (DFFM) and the Phoenix Fire Department to become recognized as a Firewise/USA Community. Firewise USA is a program to assist communities and HOAs in getting organized, finding direction, and taking action to reduce wildfire risks locally.



City of Phoenix – Firewise USA Community Wildland Urban Interface Community Risk Reduction Program

The Phoenix Fire Department is prepared to assist our local communities with developing the partnerships and activities needed to achieve national recognition as a Firewise USA Community. The locally developed plans and actions taken by each community are designed to identify conditions that, when addressed, will help increase wildfire safety and resiliency throughout the interface and preserve areas of the City.

Participation in the Firewise USA program is voluntary. The program will provide local communities with information and continuing support from a partnership with the Department of Fire and Forestry Management (DFFM) and the Phoenix Fire Department (PFD).

Benefits of Becoming a Firewise USA Community

- Creates defensible space that reduces the risk of fires advancing and endangering homes.
- Building a strong community relationship within the neighborhood and fire responders.

How to Become a Firewise USA Community

To qualify as a recognized Firewise USA Community, the following will need to be met:

1. Form a Community Firewise Board or Committee
 - Community/Board leaders create a local Firewise Board or Committee. An existing HOA committee can perform this function.
 - DFFM and the Phoenix Fire Department will meet with the local community and/or the Board to discuss the processes and activities needed to obtain recognition.
2. Complete an Arizona Community Wildfire Hazard Assessment with the DFFM/PFD reps to create a Firewise plan.
 - The local Firewise Board works with reps from DFFM/PFD to conduct a community assessment and establish a risk abatement plan. Guidelines established with the Home Fire Inspection Checklist will be a baseline document.
3. Hold a Firewise Day event.
 - The Firewise Board schedules and holds a Community Firewise Day to complete the plan.
4. Invest a minimum of 1-hour/household annually (minimum 8 hours/maximum 25 hours per community) in local wildfire mitigation projects (volunteer hours, equipment uses, classes/education).
5. Submit a completed Firewise Community Plan and application.
 - The Firewise Communities/USA application is downloaded and submitted to the proper authority with all supporting documentation.
 - Once national recognition as a Firewise Community/USA is achieved, this status can be maintained upon completing a Community Firewise day and the annual renewal documents.

For more information, please complete the interest form by scanning the QR code or by going to phoenix.gov/fire/community-outreach.



FIREWISE USA
Residents reducing wildfire risks