



What is the Firewise program?



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- Firewise is a national program that focuses on creating defensible space and safe access for homes in the wildland urban interface so in the event of a wildfire the chances of survival are much greater.
- Firewise Virginia offers new opportunities for communities in the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to take positive measures to reduce potential threats from wildfire.
- National Fire Plan grant monies obtained by the VDOF enables Mitigation grants to provide a portion of the funding necessary to complete hazard mitigation projects aimed at reducing the identified hazards to these at-risk communities..
- Currently there are 60+ at-risk communities working mitigation projects. As more at-risk communities enter into the program, prioritizing the grant funds become more critical.

Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Projects: The community determines what projects to do and the order of the project(s)

- * Conduct a Wildfire Prevention and Education session – focus on understanding of program & defensible space
- * Firewise USA recognition – Firewise signs for the community and added to Firewise USA website
- * Visible and reflective house numbers – this project is available once community is a Firewise USA Community
- * Community Emergency Evacuation Plan – in coordination with the county’s evacuation plan
- * Possible creation or widening of Cul-de-sac– review and request/recommendation of local fire personnel
- * Possible Gated/Emergency Access Road – review and request/recommendation of local fire personnel
- * Community participation in Fuel Reduction efforts – to create defensible space or fire breaks – this is a chipping project
- * Possible Dry-Hydrant in community water source– review and request/recommendation of local fire personnel
- * Individual wildfire home risk assessments made available to property owners
- * Community Firewise mailing
- * Distribute Living on the Edge publication in new owners welcome package



Guidelines:

- 10 homes or more off a state road that is completely or partially wooded.
- Currently focusing on communities that are rated Extreme/High on Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating
- Currently 1 mitigation project per year.
- Application funding will be reviewed annually based on funding availability.
- If Grant application is approved – a contract, with the amount awarded for the project, will be sent to community for acceptance.

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Financial Contributions:

Mitigation work is to be funded by an 80/20 payment plan.

Most communities utilize “in-kind” donations (e.g. community labor for cleaning property, attending meeting, community events to discuss Firewise program, etc) as their 20% of the financial contributions



Maintenance:

The community will be responsible for general maintenance of the project site for the longevity of the project.

For More Information you can contact

Gena Williams

or

log onto the following sites

<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/firewiseva/>
VDOF's Firewise Program

<http://www.firewise.org/>
Firewise National Site

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