

FIREWISE TIP #3 – YOUR ROOF

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are three things to do in the Immediate Zone around your house to mitigate fire damage. In the Tip 1, we focused on the first of these three things and in Tip 2, we focused on preventing mulch fires.



Here, we will focus on the second of three things listed in Tip 1: **Inspect shingles and roof tiles, repair or replace as necessary, and clean roofs and gutters of pine needles, dead leaves and debris that could catch embers. Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.**

Diana Wright, our Treasurer whose husband has been in the construction industry for 50 years provided the following extremely helpful information on roof inspections:

It is recommended that you have your roof inspected:

- if your roof is over 10 years old
- if your roof has had excess tree limbs fall on it
- if you have had hail
- if you have any doubt as to the condition of your roof



It is recommended that you have a reputable roofer inspect your roof. We cannot recommend one for you, however your friends or neighbors may have good history with one. It is also recommended that only a licensed and insured roofer inspect your roof. Be sure to check for a legal contractor/business license on the Virginia website for licensed contractors. Also, ask the roofer to show their proof of insurance to you. Roofs should be inspected with caution. The Virginia website is <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>

For those of you (like my husband and me), who are too old to be climbing on roofs and cleaning gutters and will need to hire someone, this is not a time to have contractors wandering around. But it would be a good idea now to repair screens and windows. Firewise cannot make any recommendations about the best places to buy replacement windows and screens, but if anyone has any suggestions, he or she could post them on NEXTDOOR.

In this tip I also want to focus on fire extinguishers. The NFPA link below provides a fact sheet on fire extinguisher and placement and the types of extinguishers to be used for types of flammable materials. The link is: <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/02F81976E4484A0BB8F8D129EC403ECA.ashx>

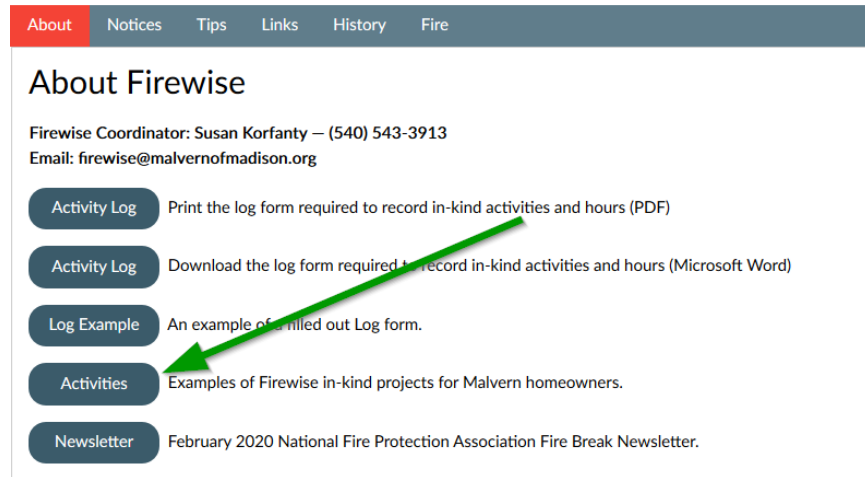
The link below contains more extensive information on the placement of fire extinguishers: <http://www.strikefirstusa.com/2016/07/essential-places-keep-fire-extinguisher-home/>

It is also important to know what types of fire extinguishers to use in each room, how to use them and how to maintain them. The link below provides this information: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/extinguishers.html>

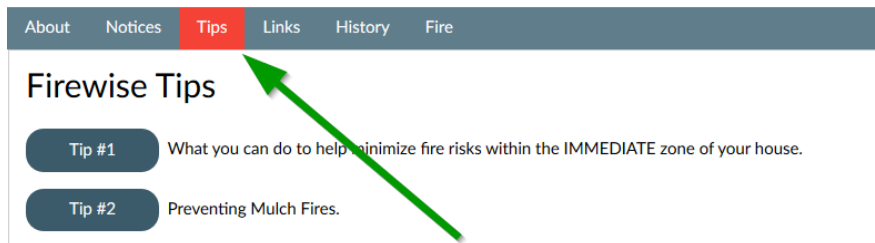
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******* Important *******

I need from everyone the amount of time or money they have spent on Firewise related activities. With this information, Malvern will continue us to be eligible for grants from NFPA. For examples of qualifying tasks, look at "Activities" button on the Firewise portion of the Malvern web page.



While you're on that page, look at Tip 1 and Tip 2 for suggested activities to protect the immediate zone around your house. For those of you who are staying at home now, it would be a great opportunity to get these things done. And, of course, when you do those things, send me the description and amount of time or money spent.



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Links to websites:

Malvern website: <http://www.malvernofmadison.org>
Malvern Firewise webpage: <http://www.malvernofmadison.org/community-firewise.php>
Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/login/>