



FIREWISE USA[®]

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



**Ventura Regional
Fire Safe Council**



VenturaFireSafe.org

Why is this important?



Lahaina Fire, 2023



Thomas Fire, 2017

Meet Your Fire Safe Council

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Home Wildfire Assessments
- Firewise USA workshops
- Education & Outreach
- Chipper Days
- Fundraising events

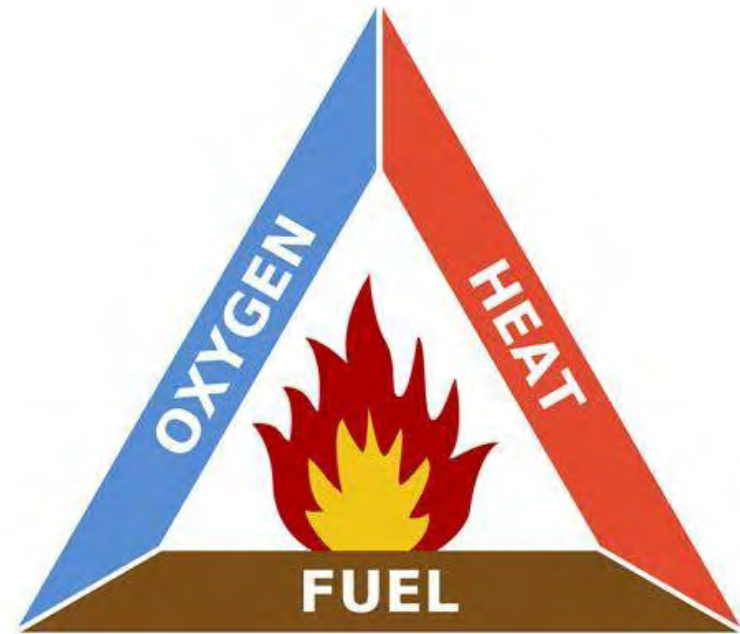


What we'll talk about

1. Fire Science
2. Benefits of Firewise
3. 5 steps to Firewise
4. Reduce your home's risk
5. November Fundraiser



Let's talk about
how fire works



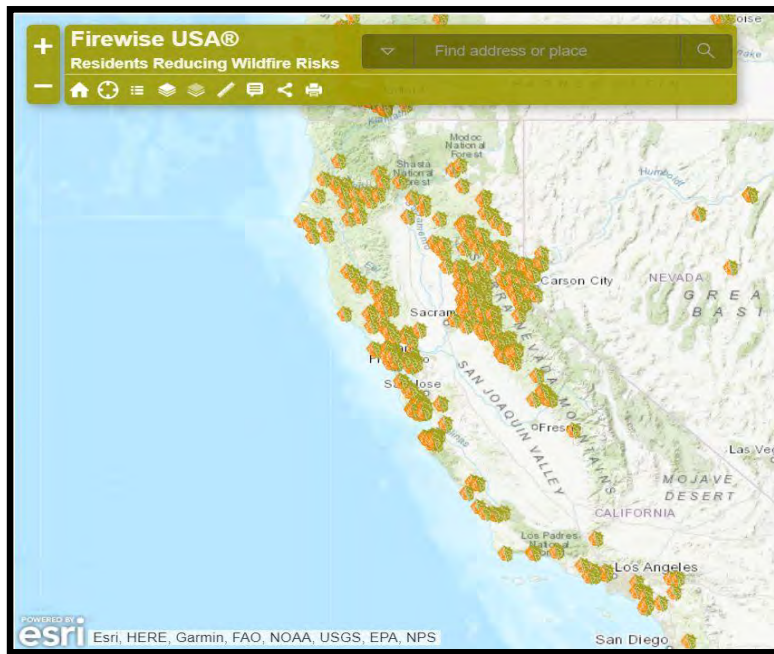
What is the Firewise USA program?

Resident-driven, grassroots program to help a community increase its resilience to wildfire

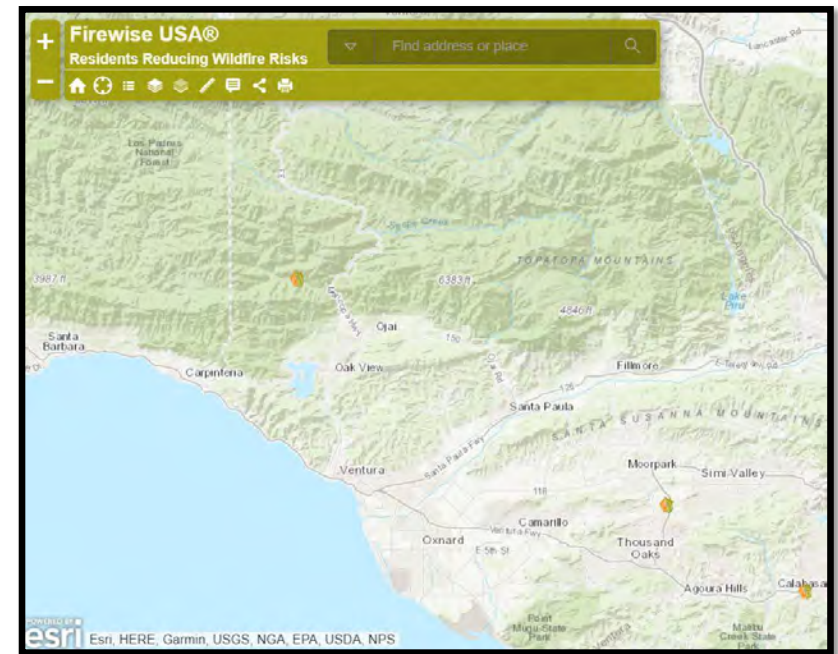
- Neighbors helping neighbors model
- Free and voluntary
- No regulation or enforcement, honor system
- A recognition, not a certification
- More than 2,000 communities across the country



Are there Firewise USA communities near us?



CA
←
→
VTC



Benefits of becoming Firewise

- Framework for community action and learning
- Safer and more prepared communities
 - [credited](#) with multiple instances of prevented structure-loss
- **Financial benefits**
 - cost-sharing
 - potential [insurance discount](#): 5-10% discount USAA, Mercury, CA Fair Plan, State Farm, and more
 - access to potential grants and resources from Fire Safe Council



Success Stories

Red Rock, Colorado



5 Steps to Firewise USA



- 1. Create a Team**
- 2. Conduct a Risk Assessment**
- 3. Create an Action Plan**
- 4. Host an Outreach Event**
- 5. Report Investment**

Step 1

Form a Team, Committee, or Board



- Identify a resident leader
- Loop in Ventura County FD, elected officials, city emergency managers office
- Action Item

Step 2

Community Wildfire Risk Assessment

- **Site Boundary Map**
 - Minimum 8 - 2500 homes
 - Include parcels and street names
- **General walk-through**
 - [1-3 days](#)
 - Recommend tying in fire department
- **Make Recommendations**
 - Ex: “Bark mulch is widely used within the immediate area. Recommend removing bark mulch and replacing with an ignition-resistant material, such as crushed stone or gravel.”
- We can assist in creating the map & walk-through!

Step 3

3 Year Action Plan

- Based on recommendations from risk assessment
- Be specific, ideally make these SMART goals
- Year 1 begins after application year
- Research best practices, or ask us for a wildfire workshop!

Year 2 -
Education and Outreach Goals
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
Home Hardening Goals
1.
2.
3.
Fuel Reduction Goals
1.
2.
3.
Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness and Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness
1.
2.
3.

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 1 2024	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a newsletter to formally introduce Firewise USA Neighborhood program. 2. Develop and distribute a Fire Safety Assessment Guide to assist homeowners identify problem areas at their homes. Request owners to return their assessments to the Firewise team. Goal: 30% of owners conduct assessment of their unit in 2023. 3. Conduct kick-off meeting to educate homeowners and gain broadened support for active participation as a Firewise Neighborhood in spring or summer of 2023. 4. Purchase/print and distribute Firewise Neighborhood fire safety information to each resident at least 3 times in 2023. 5. Change HOA governing documents to reflect Firewise standards. Change Architectural Guidelines, Landscape Guidelines, and community Rules & Regs to reflect changes needed to support Firewise efforts in 2023.
	Home Hardening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Replace ¼" screen foundation vents (208); 60% complete in 2023. 7. Repair utility closet door vents (48) gaps > 1/8"; 100% complete in 2023. 8. Repair ¼" screen garage door vents (6); 100% complete in 2023. 9. Inspect a sampling of in-stucco wall vents (48) from all tracts and models in the community; inspect 10% of units in 2023 and determine best action. 10. Inspect one half-moon roof vents (4) and determine best action; 100% completion in 2023. 11. Clean roofs and gutters of all units (107) each fall; 100% completion 2023. 12. Identify units that need multiple gutter cleanings; 100% complete in 2023.
	Fuel Reduction	<p>Every year typically during the first quarter (January to March) an assessment will be completed to identify issues, plans, priorities, and status of current efforts.</p> <p><u>Resident Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Encourage residents to cut back trees and shrubs on their patios 5' away from roof and structure; 20% complete in 2023. 22. Encourage residents to remove flammable materials 0-5' from structure; 20% complete in 2023. 23. Encourage residents to remove highly flammable species from patio areas; 30% complete in 2023.
	Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Investigate evacuation plans used by other local communities; 100% complete in 2023.

Step 4

Annual Outreach Event

- Event should discuss items from your action plan
- Recommend tying in your local Fire Safe Council



Step 5

Report your annual investment

- 1 volunteer hour, or \$29 per home annually
 - Not all homes have to participate!
- Optional: record vegetation removed
- Challenge: recording this!
 - [Ondulando google form example](#)
 - [Golden Oaks paper form example](#)

Total Investment for 2023

[View investments to date](#)

✔ Investment Met

Total: Required:
\$14,113.50 of **\$2,995**

Per Dwelling Unit: Required:
\$141.14 of **\$29.95**

How do we maintain our Firewise status?

- **Annual:** report education activities and investment
- **Every 3 years:** update action plan
- **Every 5 years:** perform new risk assessment



Our role in Firewise

Residents

Lead Firewise efforts, gain community participation, works on the 5 steps, & asks for assistance when needed

Fire Safe Council

Introduces firewise to communities, educates on wildfire reduction strategies, & applies for grants based on community needs

Fire Department

Supports firewise communities, assists in risk assessments, answers questions



Get Started!

1. Identify your team & community name
2. Start your application in the Firewise Portal at portal.firewise.org
3. Connect with us for a map, risk assessment, or wildfire workshop



Questions?

Learn more at the [Firewise website](#).



Natasha Saxena

Fire Safe Council

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(805) 746-7365 ext. 701

contact for home wildfire assessments, educational workshops, and grant funding



Larry Williams

Local Fire Department

fhrp@ventura.org

contact for map making and community risk assessment



info@VenturaFireSafe.org



(805) 746-7365



www.VenturaFireSafe.org

Wildfire Workshop or Group Assessment

- May help reduce your home's wildfire risk by up to 75%
- Educational (we do not enforce)
- Backed by CALFIRE and VCFD
- No-cost

The image shows a screenshot of the Ventura FireSafe website. At the top left is the logo for FireSafe Ventura Regional. To the right are navigation links: CONTACT | ESPAÑOL, DONATE, Wildfire Resiliency Programs, Resources, About Us, and Get Involved. A large green banner reads "NO-COST HOME WILDFIRE ASSESSMENTS". Below this is an illustration of a house with a blue dashed arch over it, and the text "Reduce Your Risk by Hardening Your Home". A paragraph explains that the number one indicator of a structure's survivability is how ember resistant their Zone 0 is, or the 5 feet perimeter around a home. A fire-hardened home is one that has taken smart steps ahead of time to prepare for wildfires and ember storms. A Home Wildfire Assessment (also known as a Home Hardening Assessment) from the VCFSC team can help you create an action plan unique to your home. Below this is a section titled "Schedule Your No-Cost Home Wildfire Assessment" with a "SIGN UP NOW" button. The text below the button asks if the user's home or property is in a high-risk neighborhood in Ventura County and offers help through the Home Hardening Resiliency Program. A smartphone displaying a wildfire risk assessment app is shown on the right side of the bottom section.

VenturaFireSafe.org

University Glen Homes

3 ft roof
clearance



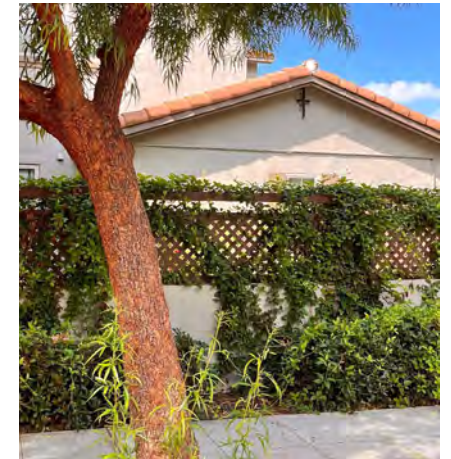
combustible
mulch



dense
vegetation



combustible
fence



Anacapa Canyon

potted or small
vegetation



noncombustible
fence



Environmentally balanced design

Support biodiversity and
native plants. The key is
location, height, spacing, &
maintenance.



Support Wildfire Action in the County



Donate to support our nonprofit at VenturaFireSafe.org. 100% of your donation goes towards our wildfire resilience programming! Thank you in advance for helping us make a greater impact.

VenturaFireSafe.org



Ventura Regional
Fire Safe Council

Fire Safe Council Annual Fundraiser



NOVEMBER 9TH

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM



**TOPA TOPA BREWING CO.
4880 COLT ST, VENTURA, CA 93003**

RSVP HERE



VENTURAFIRESAFE.ORG

VenturaFireSafe.org