

Steps to Becoming Firewise USA Recognized

1. Form a steering committee with a few proactive neighbors
2. Engage the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County (FSCSCC) for coaching assistance and connection with other Firewise communities
 1. contact: info@firesafesantacruzcounty.org
3. Complete a Community Risk Assessment (PDF Form)
 1. Download <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Get-started/FirewiseCommAssess.ashx>
 2. Poll and collect neighborhood data to complete questions on pages 3 through 7
 3. Provide a map illustrating boundaries of your community
 4. Schedule a community walk-through with a fire professional to supply observations/recommendations for pages 8 and 9
4. Prepare a Multi-Year Plan, using observations from the Community Risk Assessment and your neighborhood priorities. Be sure to use the latest CALFIRE Three Year Plan template. The following areas need to be addressed in your plan for each of the next 3 years:
 1. Education and Outreach
 2. Home Hardening
 3. Fuel Reduction
 4. Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness
5. Complete one community education event related to wildfire risk reduction
6. Meet the wildfire risk reduction investment criteria (minimum 1 hour or \$27.20 per household for the year)
 1. Poll neighbors for hours and \$ invested in the last year (individually or community work parties)
 2. Encourage bragging rights: go well beyond the "low bar" required minimum
 3. Summarize data into categories requested by the NFPA online application (see sample template)
7. Create a [Firewise USA portal account](#)
 1. add two Regional Coordinators
 1. Lynn Sestak Lynn.sestak@yahoo.com
 2. Shane Vargas shane.vargas@fire.ca.gov
 2. Upload your Community Risk Assessment document and Multi Year Plan
 3. document your education event(s)
 4. add your Wildfire risk reduction investment data
 5. Ask one of your Firewise coaches for a review
 6. Submit your application