

Firewise Basics

Steps to become a Firewise USA Site:

- 1) Obtain a wildfire risk assessment as a written document from your state forestry agency and/or fire department. The local contact is Oregon Department of Forestry, 541-549-2731.
- 2) Form a board or committee that will dedicate time to Firewise activities in your community.
- 3) Create an action plan based on the assessment.
- 4) Plan and conduct a Firewise Day event in your community.
 - a. i.e. community cleanup day, educational event, service day for a neighbor that can't accomplish the work alone, etc.
- 5) Invest a minimum of \$25.43 (1 hour of volunteer work) per dwelling unit in local Firewise actions each year. This can be calculated in volunteer work, community money spent on Firewise Activities or a combination of both.

Once these items are complete, create a Firewise Portal account and submit an application to the State Firewise liaison. A renewal application will need to be submitted on an annual basis to maintain your community's status.

FireFree:

A local Central Oregon educational effort to inform homeowners how to defend their homes by creating defensible space, which is defined as at least a 30-foot buffer zone of reduced vegetation around a home to mitigate the effects of advancing fire. The premise of FireFree is first to change the behavior and over time, the attitudes and culture about wildfire preparedness. The backbone of FireFree is the ten-step checklist that any homeowner can use to define defensible space around their home. The FireFree days typically occur every year in the spring and the fall.



Helpful Contacts

The below agencies contacts can assist you with your Firewise application, grants, education, and advice. Some are with agencies and others are local community members who have agreed to assist new Firewise Sites.

Ed Keith, Deschutes County Forester – ed.keith@deschutes.org

Vacant, Oregon Department of Forestry – 541-549-2731

Boone Zimmerlee, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator

Project Wildfire & FireFree – Boone.Zimmerlee@deschutes.org

Patti Gentiluomo, Sunriver Natural Resources, Firewise Mentor –

pattig@srowners.org

Ron Klein, Chair, Eagle Crest Community Wildfire Protection Team, Firewise Mentor

– cwp@ridgeowners.org

Karen Roberts, resident, Odin Falls - mkaren.roberts@gmail.com

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates:

There are seven (7) Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) in Deschutes County. These are plans that benefit greatly from resident involvement and input. Deschutes County's plans are revised on a 5-year cycle, the specific time frames are listed below. For questions about your local CWPP or more information on how to get involved follow up with Jodie Barram with Project Wildfire.

Greater Sisters County Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2019

Greater La Pine Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2020

Sunriver Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2020

Greater Bend Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2021

Greater Redmond Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2021

East and West Deschutes County Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2022

Upper Deschutes River Community Wildfire Protection Plan - 2023

Evacuation

One of the most important items residents can do is register their cell phones to receive emergency alerts from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. If the emergency responders can reach the residents, they can't provide updates on local emergencies. To sign up, search for [Everbridge Deschutes County](#) and follow the steps, this should not take more than a few moments. Local law enforcement officials follow the national Ready, Set, Go evacuation protocols. Residents should be aware of the evacuation levels and their implications. For more information on how to prepare you and your family visit projectwildfire.org/evacuation.

Level 1: Be Ready

There is an incident in your area and residents should be aware of potential evacuation. Be aware of the danger, monitor emergency services sources and local media for information. Those persons who will need additional time to exit an area or have health conditions (especially respiratory conditions that could be made worse by smoke) should consider leaving. You are encouraged to prepare or even move livestock and pets out of the area. Be prepared to leave if conditions worsen.

Level 2: Get Set

There is significant danger in your area and residents should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. You are encouraged to leave and should do so as soon as possible. If you choose to stay, you should be able to leave immediately if conditions worsen. You **MAY** have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at your own risk. Entry to evacuated areas may be denied until the hazard subsides.

This may be the only notice you receive. Emergency services cannot guarantee we will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate.

Level 3: Go Now!

There is immediate and imminent danger and you should evacuate immediately. **DO NOT DELAY LEAVING** to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home. Leave immediately and as quickly as possible. Drive carefully, turn on your headlights, and follow any directions from emergency services personnel. Entry to evacuated areas will be denied until the hazard subsides.

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**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES**
LEARNING NETWORK