



# Firewise Communities®



## "The How-To Newsletter"

*This quarterly provides articles and helpful hints on how to incorporate Firewise principles.*

Fall 2008



Don't forget to register for the 2008 Backyards and Beyond Conference.

Pre-Conference Workshops November 4-5; Conference November 6-8. Go to [www.firewise.org/conference08](http://www.firewise.org/conference08).

### Share a Helpful Hint!

*Do you have a helpful hint or article you would like to share with others? Send to Firewise Communities, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169*

### Featured Articles

- Lessons Learned & To Be Learned
- Firewise Community - Talmadge, CA "Insuring Good Firewise Practices"
- Wildfire and Venting Systems
- The Firewise Leader

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## THE FIREWISE COMMUNITY

### Lessons Learned & To Be Learned

This summer, there has been much in the news focused on the myriad fires burning throughout the state of California. In early July, there were reports that upwards of between 800 and 1,000 fires were raging in the Golden State, requiring a call up of National Guardsmen to offer relief to tired firefighters.

Rising from the ashes of these fires were a multitude of lessons about how Firewise practices do, indeed, protect homes and communities. In community after community where Firewise practices were in place, homes proved to be better protected and evacuation plans ensured greater safety for community members.

At the 2008 Backyards & Beyond Conference, in Tampa, Florida this November, there will be plenty of other lessons from which you and your own community can benefit. For example, Alex Maranghides, manager of the Large Fire Laboratory at the National Institute for Standards & Technology (NIST), will discuss how post-fire analysis helps us to understand how fire behaves as it moves through a community, to help to reliably assess the risk fire poses, as well as to offer advice on reliable mitigation options. He will use a community affected by the Witch Fire, which burned out of Witch Creek Canyon near Santa Ysabel, California in San Diego County as an example.

"Analysis helps to determine how 'Firewise' a community was, or wasn't," notes Mr. Maranghides. "For example, were the structures that burned less Firewise in their construction and property preparation than those that didn't? In doing this, we look at homes in similar situations, also considering whether a home that didn't burn received protection from firefighters. This allows us to identify where actions were taken and to highlight it for the community."

In another session, Charlie Baun, a lead ecologist and principal of Environmental Conservation Services, Inc., in Idaho, will discuss how Firewise principles can best be used in pre-development planning of communities.

"The idea is that you plan before you build, which makes it cheaper to do things right," says Mr. Baun. "Planning ahead protects human life as well as structures."

He adds, "We're taking what we've learned from Firewise communities and applying those principles to newly developing communities. If you're a developer, community or city planner, or work at an agency that works with both, this presentation is for you."

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## THE FIREWISE COMMUNITY — EXAMPLE

### TALMADGE, CALIFORNIA – INSURING GOOD FIREWISE PRACTICES

*“Being a Firewise Community has allowed us to meet people from throughout the United States and learn about their issues, solutions, and ideas,”* notes Kathy Finn, sparkplug for Talmadge, a compact, heavily populated urban canyon community located in San Diego, California.

Talmadge’s canyon ridge is home to some 5,000 people. It is rimmed by 282 homes and beyond the ridgeline there are 1,000 more single-family homes, 180 apartments, several large condominiums, multiple businesses, and an elder care facility. The community was awakened to the danger of a major wildfire after watching the effects of the Cedar Fire of 2003, which burned a path through open space natural habitat corridors starting from the Cleveland National Forest 21 miles away.



*This house exemplifies upgrades that help to protect a home from wildfire, including replacing eave vents facing the canyon with ridgeline vents on the roof and changing the wood fence to the right with one made of stucco and metal. It also involved putting in low-growing plants near the home.*

Talmadge’s involvement in Firewise began with an assessment process that facilitated a team meeting. Discussions led to the establishment of the Talmadge Fire Safe Council (TFSC) in the summer of 2004. The TFSC works with agencies outside the community on prevention strategies, provides a quarterly newsletter, organizes workshops, writes grant applications, and recruits neighborhood coordinators to work with community members and contractors on implementing defensible space, home retrofits, and Firewise landscaping. As part of its initial effort, a specialist in wildland/urban interface (W/UI) visited the community to conduct the assessment and also coordinated with local fire officials. Talmadge also benefited from having contact with the City Department of Fire-Rescue and its local Cal Fire and US Forest Service representatives.

*“We’ve been able to emphasize protection of the structure using the Firewise motto “Start from the Home Out,”* says

Ms. Finn. The motto has proven invaluable in protecting homes during the intense fires that have burned near the community more recently, especially given insurance concerns in a high fire-risk area.

While “defensible space” is an oft-heard mantra in Firewise circles, the Talmadge community has not necessarily found that creating defensible space helps them in terms of insurance, since often times, the insurance companies require 200 or 300 feet of defensible space. “What we do in those cases is to ask the fire inspector to come, and if the inspector concurs with the defensible space that has been established, he signs a form saying the homeowner meets the code requirements of the City of San Diego regarding defensible space,” says Ms. Finn.

While this approach sometimes works, there are instances when insurers simply want to reduce their inventory of homes in a high fire-risk area. In these instances, it has been necessary for individuals to seek another major insurance company, says Ms. Finn.



*Creating defensible space at a Talmadge apartment house at the base of the canyon – a high fire-hazard area. The crew includes representatives from Firewise, U.S. Forest Service, the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue, Cal Fire, Bureau of Land Management, as well as homeowners who are volunteer neighborhood coordinators for a section of the Talmadge community.*

She adds, “Homeowners in Talmadge have also taken advantage of a relatively new San Diego City Code which allows a community to hire a certified fire analyst to determine if the community needs more than 100 feet of defensible space. We did so and now have 150 feet of defensible space approved for our community.”

Thanks to its ongoing Firewise efforts, the community is also the recipient of a brush management grant from the U.S. Forest Service (its second such grant), providing funding for 2009 through 2011.

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## Firewise Example — Talmadge, CA

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**How-To Newsletter** thanks Kathy Finn for contributing information and photos for this Community Example. To learn more about the Talmadge Firewise Community, visit [www.firewise.org/usa/talmadge](http://www.firewise.org/usa/talmadge).



Firewise Recognition Ceremony April 2006 – members of the Talmadge community with representatives from Firewise, their local U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire, San Diego Fire-Rescue and the District City Council member for Talmadge.



## Firewise Community — Lessons Learned & To Be Learned

Continued from Page 1

For those wondering how to bring Firewise concepts to their communities, there is Keith Worley, a consulting forester and arborist for the Front Range of Colorado – between Denver and Colorado Springs, who conducts 10 different Firewise-oriented classes in his home community.

Mr. Worley will offer insights on how to develop Firewise classes. Whether your community is new to Firewise or has renewed a number of times, he will have gems that you'll want to take home, ranging from ideas on how to tailor "canned" approaches to your own specific situation to new and different activities you can introduce that are more focused.

"We'll look at how to take interesting information and to train people to go out and do," says Mr. Worley. "We'll discuss how to start, how to proceed, pitfalls to be aware of, and useful resources. Any community – blue collar, affluent or retiree – will learn how they can introduce Firewise concepts and motivate others to implement them.

All in all, you'll come away with fresh ideas to bring home to your community, as well as validation of what you've already accomplished when you consider your own Firewise goals. You'll also be able to share your own experiences while networking with professionals and experts from a variety of Firewise-related fields and learning about the most current, state-of-the-art approaches in wildfire mitigation.

For more information about the Conference, or to register, visit [www.firewise.org/conference08](http://www.firewise.org/conference08).



For additional information on the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program, please visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). Remember, you can contact your state forest service liaison for assistance; he or she is an excellent resource for guidance in formulating your plan and offering activities that can energize your community to take part. The Firewise web site includes this contact information as well.



## Q & A With Stephen Quarles

Stephen Quarles is a University of California Cooperative Extension Advisor in Wood Building Durability. His research and extension program focus on wildfire and moisture durability issues as related to the in-service performance of wood-framed buildings. Mr. Quarles offers his insights on important considerations when building in the wildland/urban interface.

**HT: What are some of the more important considerations to be aware of when deciding to construct a home in the wildland/urban interface (W/UI), particularly with regard to building materials that will make my home safer in the event of a wildfire?**

**SQ:** When you are planning to build a home in W/UI areas you can, and should, consider all of the important aspects that can affect the survivability of your home. These factors include items ranging from the location of your home on your parcel and your defensible space around your home, to home design and appropriate building materials. In California, new building code requirements for new homes in wildfire-prone areas are making it easier to find fire-performance information for common exterior construction materials. For example, see the California Office of the State Fire Marshal on-line publication, the W/UI Products Handbook at [www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducs.pdf](http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducs.pdf).

**HT: Are there particular construction materials that are more ignition-resistant than others? Can they be used cost effectively without breaking my budget?**

**SQ:** Because there is an accepted definition of 'ignition-resistant', you can talk about construction materials in terms of this, and other related fire-performance properties. Depending on the particular component, such as your siding, your roof, or your deck, you may also use other measures to compare fire-related performance. Common construction materials for roofing, siding, decking and eave materials can usually be categorized as "noncombustible" (examples include fiber cement products and three-coat stucco), "ignition resistant" (such as exterior fire retardant treated wood), or "combustible" (for example, non-fire retardant treated wood products and many of the wood plastic composite products). Use of these terms doesn't help you compare two other important components, namely windows and vents. In the short term, it will be a little difficult to compare the performance of windows, but research has shown that glass is the most vulnerable part of the window, and using tempered glass in the dual pane unit considerably improves performance. The same can be said for vents, although a standard procedure for evaluating how well a particular vent can resist intrusion of embers (burning pieces of vegetation or other combustible materials that are blown through the air during a wildfire) and flames should be agreed on relatively soon, and then a way to compare performance will be available.

Making your home more fire safe doesn't mean you have to break your budget. Tempered glass will cost more, as will ember-resistant vents and perhaps decking that complies with the California Wildland Urban Interface Building Standard (Chapter 7A in the California Building Code). However Class A roofing is readily available, as are noncombustible siding products, and combustible siding products.

**HT: I keep hearing about "Class A" roofing. What qualifies a roof as "Class A" or noncombustible? How does such a roof offer my home better protection in the W/UI?**

**SQ:** This is a great question, and one that has some important implications. The roof is the most important part of your home in terms of the ability of your home to survive wildfire exposures. The roof rating (Class A, B, or C) comes from a standardized fire test that many roofing materials must report. If a roof covering material meets the code definition of 'noncombustible', then that material is exempt from the otherwise mandatory test requirement. For example, steel and copper roof coverings meet the definition of 'noncombustible' but an 'aluminum' covering doesn't. Steel and copper are classified as Class A automatically (without testing). An aluminum covering must be tested to obtain its fire rating.

There are three parts to the fire test: part one involves evaluating the ability of a roof covering (and underlying assembly) to resist the penetration of a fire through the roof and into the attic; part two evaluates flame spread across the roof surface; and the third part assesses the potential for the roofing material to generate embers. There are certain minimum requirements for each class, with Class A providing the best performance. Because a Class A covering does a better job of resisting the penetration of fire into the attic, and also meets the flame spread and ember generation requirements, it provides the best protection under wildfire conditions.

Even if you have a Class A roof, I urge you to take a careful look at it. Does your roof covering intersect with siding? These intersections are places where vegetative debris accumulates, and also where embers will land. The siding and roof sheathing may be more vulnerable than your Class A roof. Make it a point to clear debris from your roof on a regular basis.

**HT: What is the difference between a "Class A stand alone" rating and a "Class A assembly" rating? Will one protect my home better than the other?**

**SQ:** Since the standard test procedure requires that the roof covering and supporting structure be built in a certain way, the fire rating of all roof coverings are 'by assembly'. Some roof coverings require additional material, beyond the standard materials called for in the test procedure, to obtain a Class A rating. I use 'stand alone' and 'assembly' to distinguish between coverings that obtain the Class A rating with standard materials, versus those that require additional material. There are a number of products that have Class A fire ratings 'by assembly'. For example, an exterior fire retardant treated wood shake roof can have a Class B rating using the standard materials ('stand alone'), and a Class A if a Type 72 roll roofing product or a gypsum-fiberglass panel product is also used, in addition to the standard materials ('by assembly'). Aluminum

roof coverings are also Class A, by assembly, because they need the additional underlying material to obtain the higher rating. Similarly, some of the newer recycled plastic / rubber roof coverings are typically a 'stand alone' Class C, but can be Class A 'by assembly' by adding additional material(s) under the covering.

Both 'stand alone' and 'by assembly' Class A coverings provide comparable protection. One caution is to make sure the installation instructions are carefully followed. The roof coverings were tested using certain materials in the assembly. Substituting alternate materials in the assembly may result in something less than the rated 'Class A' performance.

**HT: Why is ventilation an important consideration during the construction of a home in the W/UI?**

**SQ:** Ventilation of unconditioned spaces (spaces you don't heat or cool) in your home -- for, example, attic, cathedral ceilings, and crawl spaces -- is required by code. The purpose of ventilation is to allow circulating air to keep these spaces dry, avoiding moisture-related problems that could result in the growth of mold and decay fungi in these spaces. We know from damage assessment surveys conducted after wildfires that embers and flames can easily enter through vent openings, resulting in ignitions in these spaces, and the subsequent loss of the home.

Mesh screen is commonly used to cover vent openings to keep rodents and small animals out of those spaces. To some degree the screen helps keep out embers, but we know that embers large enough to result in ignitions can pass through even 1/8" mesh openings. The importance of vents in causing ignitions, via ember and/or flame exposures, is the main reason the new California Building Code places restrictions on the type of vents that can be used in under eave applications, and why new vents that are better able to resist the entry of embers and flame are being designed and manufactured. These new vents use a combination of features to improve resistance to embers and flame, including use of baffles, fused-

links, special screening, and a mesh material coated with an intumescent paint. These products should become more readily available in coming months.

**HT: Are there alternatives to vents for managing moisture control that can help to better protect homes from embers in the event of a wildfire?**

**SQ:** There are many things a homeowner can do to help their home survive a wildfire. Regarding vents, a common recommendation is to pre-make vent covers that can be used to cover vent openings as part of pre-evacuation tasks (assuming there is enough time). When the wildfire passes, and you return to your home, the vent covers are removed. The other 'vented' option would be to replace your existing vents with ones that are more resistant to the intrusion of embers (when they are commercially available).

An alternative to the vent option would be to utilize an unvented attic or crawl space design. In unvented designs, the unconditioned spaces are converted into conditioned spaces. For an attic space, this is accomplished by moving the thermal barrier (where the insulation is) from the top of the ceiling (the bottom of the attic) to the underside of the roof (i.e., to the attic-side surface of the roof sheathing). Current designs use spray-on foam insulation systems. These systems are more easily done with new construction, but there are firms that retrofit vented spaces into unvented spaces. The biggest concern with non-vented designs is with moisture related problems. If you choose to pursue this route, do your homework by becoming familiar with unvented designs and work with your building department and choose an experienced contractor.



# Around the Firewise Home

## Wildfire and Venting Systems

Understanding how to evaluate and protect the passive ventilation system in your home from flying embers or from flame penetration during a wildfire is an important aspect of living in the wildland/urban interface.

Venting is required by building codes and is necessary to prevent moisture accumulation within your home. Passive venting allows airflow so your home can breathe and does not produce moisture in concealed spaces, such as crawl spaces and attics.

When moisture accumulates, it produces mildew, leading your home structure to fail by rotting from the inside out. Vents can be located in a variety of locations, including along the roof, at gable ends, in the foundation, or at dryer or heater/fresh air outlet points. They also may be placed in weep screed openings on stucco-sided buildings or as vent blocks.

An important thing to consider when thinking about the ventilation of your home is whether the venting system is designed to resist intrusion of flames and embers. For example, conventional vent design and code require quarter-inch screening, which, during a wildfire, has been shown to offer little to no defense from embers or flame penetration into concealed spaces of your home. With turbine attic vents there is the concern that, under wildland fire conditions and the change in pressure that these conditions create, the vents – which typically rotate in one direction and should not spin freely in either direction – have changed direction and sucked in embers and ash from the wildfire into the attic space.

In spite of these concerning factors, there are vent designs available today that can prevent embers and flames from penetrating your home. The new designs also can be retrofitted into your existing home. The most common vents of this kind are dormer vents, gable end vents, foundation vents, eave and soffit vents, and

retrofit eave vents. For example, vents incorporating a baffled design have been developed, allowing sufficient airflow to remove excess moisture and (where necessary) reduce heat load in attics. Soffit vents use a honeycomb design and are coated with an intumescent “fire-resistant” paint to offer improved protection. Vents with fused-link design have screening at both ends of the vent, while other vents incorporate stainless steel mesh to reduce ember and flame penetration.

In short, traditional unscreened vents do not provide adequate protection from wildfire. Replacing your vents with newly designed vents that will prevent the intrusion of embers and flames from a wildfire into your home is an important step. Using vents and screening in combination, to offer the best possible protection for your home, is another. In researching and evaluating what will work best for

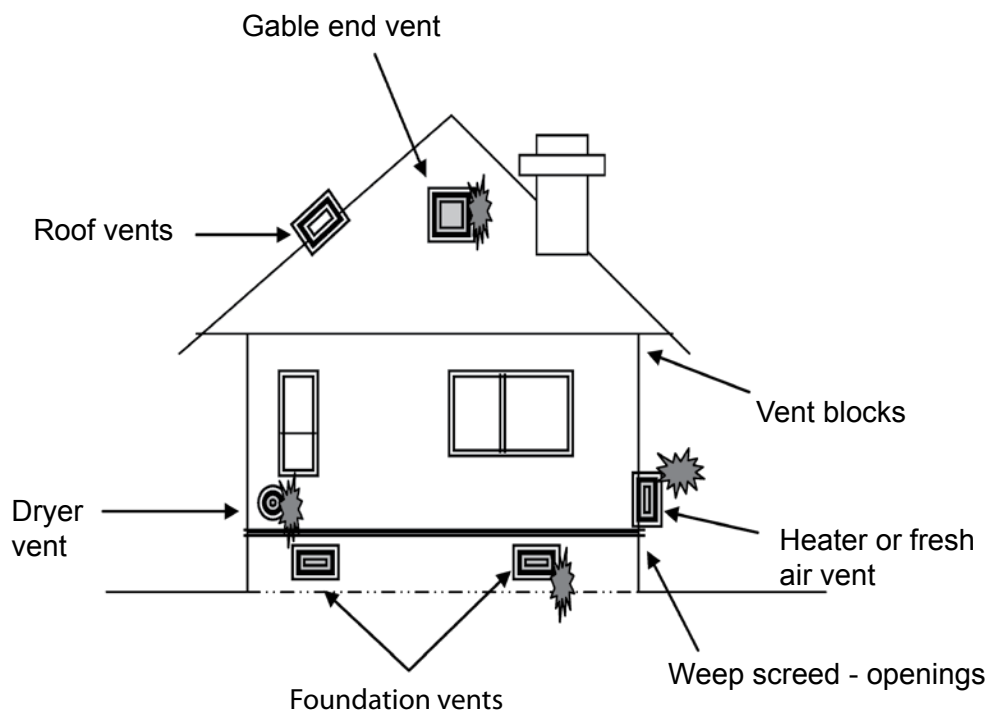
your home, remember that the objective of venting is to prevent the intrusion of embers and flames into the attic or other concealed spaces while still maintaining proper ventilation.

Two companies offering vents that resist intrusion of embers and flame are Brandguard Vents and O’Hagin’s Inc. – which you can learn more about by visiting [www.brandguardvents.com](http://www.brandguardvents.com) or [www.ohaginvent.com](http://www.ohaginvent.com).

*How-To Newsletter* thanks Cliff Hunter, Fire Marshal for the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District for providing this information. Mr. Hunter welcomes questions and can be reached at [hunter@rsf-fire.org](mailto:hunter@rsf-fire.org).



*Pictured below are examples of where vents could be located in your home.*



Prevent penetration from direct flame impingement

Prevent penetration from firebrand exposure

## Around the Firewise Home

### Prepare for Firebrand and Ember Storms - Beyond Venting

Firebrands and embers are pieces of burning material generated during a wildfire that can range in size from large (a burning shingle or large branch) to small (the size of snowflakes). In a large wildfire, embers and firebrands can be carried on the wind for up to 1½ miles, which is often the size of a small neighborhood. Therefore, all residents should be prepared, and the following offers steps you can take to help prevent firebrands and embers from harming your home.

- ✓ Clean leaves and debris from your gutters. A small fire can start in the gutter and spread under the roof line into the attic, and potentially burn your home from the inside out.
- ✓ Install nonflammable materials, such as metal flashing or stucco, where decks, steps, porches, and patio covers connect to your house to prevent firebrands and embers from accumulating like drifting snow at these connection points.
- ✓ Box in open areas underneath decks, steps, and porches to prevent firebrands and embers from accumulating under the structures near your home. Recommended materials are eighth-inch metal screen or other nonflammable materials such as HardiePlank cement/fiber board.
- ✓ Keep low-lying succulent plants immediately near your home, and use nonflammable landscaping materials such as rock or pebbles, rather than flammable mulch.
- ✓ Keep flammable welcome mats inside the house rather than outside.
- ✓ Replace or cover wood decks with nonflammable materials such as tile or Class A fire-rated composite board.
- ✓ Consider installing a Class A fire-rated roof using composition shingle, tile, cement, or metal. Remember, too, that the roof is one of the largest horizontal surfaces of a home and wood roofs are particularly susceptible to fire.

*How-To Newsletter* thanks Kathy Finn for sharing this "Fire Season Preparation Tip" from the Talmadge Fire Safe Council, which appeared in the TFSC newsletter.

## Firewise Across the Nation

There are currently **351** Firewise Communities throughout the United States, with **20** new communities achieving Firewise status from May to July 2008. These communities include:

**Arkansas** – Lodi; Old Union

**Florida** – La Casa Mobile Home Park; Rivendell

**Georgia** – Fargo

**Idaho** – Dry Creek; Vista

**Kentucky** – Cumberland

**Montana** – Woodland Hills Subdivision

**North Carolina** – Deercroft

**Oklahoma** – Allen; Grant — Oklahoma's first Firewise Communities/USA sites!

**Texas** – Down Home Ranch

**Virginia** – Laurel Ridge; Wintergreen

**Wisconsin** – Lake Camelot; Avebury Addition; Inverness Addition; Plymouth Addition; Walden West Addition

Please join *How-To Newsletter* in welcoming these new communities to the Firewise family.

Participating communities are beginning to renew their status for 2008 – see page 8 for more on how to renew. If communities continue to participate at the rate we have seen in the past, there will be more than 75 communities active in the program for 5 years or more. The top 5 states with the most Firewise communities are Arkansas (55), Florida (49), Washington (28), Virginia (27) and Arizona (24). The newest state to have a community receive Firewise Community status is Oklahoma.



# The Firewise Leader

## Autumn: A Season for Renewal

***It bears repeating:*** Once your community has earned Firewise recognition status, the next stage for continuing your Firewise practices is to apply for renewal. To date **91%** of Firewise communities have retained their recognition status by renewing each year, with more than **200** communities participating for two or more years – each year expanding on the activities undertaken and members of their community reached.

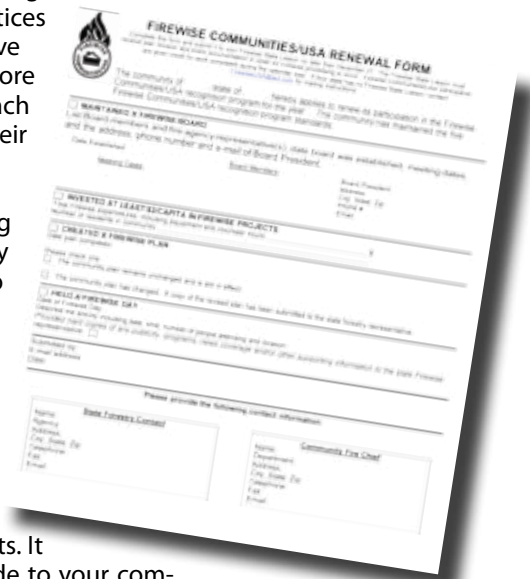
While an important part of the renewal process involves holding an event or activity, it is the documenting of the event or activity after it has been completed that will allow your community to successfully renew its recognition status. If you recently held your event or activity, now is an excellent time to apply for renewal. To be recognized for 2008, renewal forms must be submitted no later than December 31, 2008. An improved electronic system will soon be in place to facilitate this process.

What is the purpose of the renewal form and what does it say about your community? Well, first and foremost, completing the form helps to verify that a community is continuing its efforts. It can demonstrate updates or changes that may have been made to your community plan, document the \$2 per capita investment that has been made during the renewal period, and inform program staff about increased activity at the local level. It also allows you to update any point-of-contact information.

Renewal status reinforces the value of Firewise practices in protecting your community from wildfire risks, and it validates the effort being put forth by its members. It can serve as a source of pride for motivating future efforts as you seek to build upon the successes you and your neighbors have already achieved in making your homes and community safer from wildfire.

Renewal forms can be completed online at [www.firewise.org/usa/app\\_renewal](http://www.firewise.org/usa/app_renewal). Or, they may be downloaded, printed, and faxed or mailed to the Firewise program. The form goes automatically to program staff, who then notify the state liaison of the renewal and process necessary paperwork. You will receive an e-mail with notice of this renewal from program staff.

**Editor's Note:** *If you are proud of your community's efforts or think you have a unique activity that could benefit other Firewise communities, please share the information with "How-To Newsletter" by submitting a description of your activity and how it has helped with wildfire mitigation in your community to Michele Steinberg at [msteinberg@nfpa.org](mailto:msteinberg@nfpa.org).*





## Additional Sources of Information



### Web Sources

For additional information about Firewise construction or venting systems:

- [www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducts.pdf](http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducts.pdf)
- [www.brandguardvents.com/](http://www.brandguardvents.com/)
- [www.ohaginvent.com/](http://www.ohaginvent.com/)

### Fire Corps & Firewise Communities Produce Firewise Toolkit

Fire Corps and Firewise Communities partnered to develop a Firewise toolkit, *Getting Started With Firewise*. The toolkit provides information about building and maintaining communities in a way that is compatible with our natural surroundings and can be used by Fire Corps teams across the nation to help protect property and natural resources from the threat of wildland fires. It can be ordered from the Firewise Online Catalog at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). For more information about Fire Corps, visit [www.firecorps.org](http://www.firecorps.org)



### New Tools You Can Use

**Online Launch** — This fall, the *Community Assessment Course* will become available online. This additional Firewise tool can help enhance your Firewise capabilities and allow you to assist communities on the first step to becoming Firewise. To check it out, visit the **Firewise Learning Center** at [www.firewise.org/fw\\_youcanuse/learningcenter](http://www.firewise.org/fw_youcanuse/learningcenter).

**Live Training in Assessing Wildfire Hazards** — the 2-day course, “Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone,” will be offered as a pre-conference session at the Backyards & Beyond Conference in Tampa on November 4-5. And if you haven’t already, you can register for the conference and pre-conference workshops at [www.firewise.org/conference08](http://www.firewise.org/conference08).



### Reading Up

Think you’ve missed an important Firewise article? *Fear not!*

Instead, visit the Firewise Article Archive at [www.firewise.org/library/index.php](http://www.firewise.org/library/index.php). You’ll have access to countless Firewise articles at the click of your mouse!



### Coming in the next issue:

- How to Renew Your Firewise Status
- Q & A on Insurance and Wildfire
- Keep the Momentum Going! Tips from Long-Term Firewise Communities



**What’s All the Chatter?** — A great way to keep your finger on the pulse of Firewise information is taking part in a Firewise Chat. The upcoming chats include the following topics: *Preview of Conference Presentations – October 8; and a Year-End Program Wrap-up on December 10. Tune in and weigh in; your input matters! Chats begin at 1 pm Eastern time – visit [www.firewise.org/chat](http://www.firewise.org/chat) to log on.*

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*The national Firewise Communities program is an interagency program designed to encourage local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. The Firewise Communities program is sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Emergency Management Association, the US Fire Administration, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Fire Protection Association, and state forestry organizations.*

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