



# Firewise Communities®

## "The How-To Newsletter"



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

### Spring 2009



#### Featured Articles

- ☼ Support Through Master Gardeners
- ☼ Cragsmoor, NY - A Community of Unique Ecology & Natural Values
- ☼ Setting Up Your "MyFirewise" Page on the Internet

#### Let's Hear Some Chatter!



A great way to keep your finger on the pulse of Firewise information is taking part in a *Firewise Chat*. The upcoming chat will cover the following topic: **Community Success Stories** on May 20. Tune in and weigh in; your input matters!

Chats start at 1:00 p.m. Eastern and last for one hour. Visit [www.firewise.org/chat](http://www.firewise.org/chat) to log in or to read transcripts from past sessions.

#### 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*

Firewise Advisors: Editor: Karen Gardner  
 Michele Steinberg Design: Cheryl Blake  
 Judith Leraas Cook



### THE FIREWISE COMMUNITY — CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSIONS LEND "GREEN" SUPPORT THROUGH MASTER GARDENER

Spring is here and, for many of you, it is the time when you typically begin to focus on Firewise activities that can be done around your home. An element critical to achieving Firewise success is the plants that you select to surround your home. Your home landscape can do much more than enhance the beauty of your home and its environment; it can slow or prevent a fire from ever reaching your home. Which plants fit best will depend on a number of factors including your location, the terrain upon which your home is constructed, and the types of plants native to your region. Determining which plants are best-suited to a Firewise landscape or garden may seem confusing, the choices dizzying, but that needn't be so. You need only look as far as the Co-operative Extension serving your local community (connected to land-grant universities throughout the nation) and the master gardeners who serve as volunteers, at the ready to share their knowledge and experience.



"Master Gardeners are volunteers who study and work, and share their passion for plants and the planet," notes Barb Stewart, fire communications specialist for the National Parks (from Virginia to Maine). "And master gardeners do great stuff!" she adds, noting, "An advantage of the internet age is that one can just do a search, plugging in their home state and 'master gardener,' and be on the way to getting all kinds of tips about putting the right plant in the right place. Taking the time to do that up front can save a person loads of work down the line, and even help protect your home from wildland fire." As an example, Stewart cites the Virginia Master Gardeners, headed by David Close, as an exemplary group that provides the bounty of their collective wisdom throughout the state – which is currently home to 29 Firewise communities.



On the opposite coast are the Master Gardeners on Orcas Island in northwest Wash-

# THE FIREWISE COMMUNITY — EXAMPLE

## CRAGSMOOR, NY — A COMMUNITY OF UNIQUE ECOLOGY & NATURAL VALUES

One does not need to spend much time on the Shawangunk Ridge, in New York, to appreciate the beauty and ecological importance of its landscape. In addition to more than 30 rare plant and animal species, the ridge is home to the world's best remaining example of a rare, ridge-top dwarf pitch pine barrens region and supports the second largest chestnut oak forest in the state. Fire has played an essential role in maintaining the health of both systems, making them "fire dependent."

The hamlet of Cragsmoor, the only ridge-top community of the Northern Shawangunks, is situated at the edge of Sam's Point Preserve, a 5,000-acre natural area. Over the last 50 years, fire suppression efforts — necessary to protect life and property — have resulted in a great accumulation of fuel in the form of highly flammable vegetation on the forest floor, setting the stage for unusually severe, high intensity fires.



SCA interns putting Firewise practices into play.

To address this threat, The Nature Conservancy, the organization that manages Sam's Point, received funding to initiate a Firewise Communities/USA pilot program in Cragsmoor. In 2005, Cragsmoor became the first, and currently only, Firewise Community in New York State. As part of its Firewise effort, community members began to clear slash piles on and around properties and were encouraged to consider the placement of trees and other plants on their properties. Even so, acceptance of a wildfire threat came gradually, with many residents unconvinced of the need to alter the natural look of their environment.

During the spring of 2008, the prospect of the dangers posed by wildfire became reality when a wildfire occurred

at Minnewaska State Park Preserve, located on the ridge north of Sam's Point. The Overlooks Fire, as it has come to be known, was started by a discarded cigarette and burned approximately 3,100 acres. Due to the accumulation of forest fuels, the Overlooks Fire burned with greater intensity than most historical fires in the region. At least 20 homes were threatened, with additional resources required to mitigate hazards surrounding these residences to help protect them from the advancing fire.



An emergency meeting was held by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) at the Cragsmoor Volunteer Fire Company to update residents as the fire moved south towards Sam's Point. Addressing the group, DEC's Captain Dan Walsh commented, "As a Firewise Community, residents of Cragsmoor are already aware of the importance of taking proactive steps to protect your homes before a wildfire occurs." Applause erupted through the audience. The approaching

wildfire had clearly convinced homeowners of the importance of the Firewise program. Fortunately, the winds shifted several days into the fire and Cragsmoor was spared.

Due to the program's success in Cragsmoor, the DEC and The Nature Conservancy are now introducing Firewise to other communities along the Shawangunk Ridge that have been determined to be at risk from wildfire, beginning with the towns of Shawangunk and Gardiner.



Terraced landscaping creates firebreak and can prevent a fire from reaching your home.

*How-To Newsletter* thanks Heidi Wagner for information and photographs provided for this Community Example, as well as photographer Michael Stanislaw for contributing photos of the Minnewaska fire. Visit his website at [www.stanislawphoto.com](http://www.stanislawphoto.com).





## "Kids Unplugged" Nature Series Introduces Firewise Savvy To Community Youngsters

In an ongoing effort to get kids outdoors and in touch with nature, Sam's Point offered a winter program which included a session called "Kids Get Fired Up!", suitable for children aged seven and older. Using a Fire Education CD that she had picked up at the 2008 Backyards & Beyond Firewise Conference\*, Wagner created a session that explored why and how



fire occurs, the conditions in our forests that help ignite wildfires, and whether fire helps or hurts forest ecology. Learning tools included a diagram of the fire triangle

(featuring heat, oxygen, and fuel), the creation of matchstick forests (created on peg boards that were flat, slightly pitched, and steeply pitched), and exploring which elements make the best fuel for a fire. The afternoon concluded with a bonfire, using brush collected from around Cragsmoor homes to help reduce residents' vulnerability to wildfire. "The event was a tremendous success and important lessons learned," noted its organizer, Heidi Wagner. "The children hypothesized which matchstick forest platform would burn fastest, and they will not soon forget that a steeply pitched setting burns fastest, a reminder that their community is at greater risk in the event of a fire because of its location at the top of a steep slope."

\* The Fire Education CD offers lesson plans, games, and power points for implementing a program devised for children, kindergarten through 12th grade, developed by Jennifer Turner of the Kentucky Division of Forestry. For more information, contact Ms. Turner at [jenniferl.turner@ky.gov](mailto:jenniferl.turner@ky.gov).

## Support Through Master Gardeners Continued from page 1

ington state. Rainfall there is just 18 to 24 inches per year and it is very dry during the summer months. The Master Gardeners have worked with Firewise staff and the local YMCA camp to create a day-camp curriculum for



middle-school kids. Their goal was to teach sixth- to eighth-graders basic mitigation skills, including proper removal of downed and dead woody debris, limbing up trees, and removing and modifying vegetation in the home ignition zone.

The campers were also taught to conduct basic home assessments and identify vegetative and other hazards. They enjoyed nature hikes, fire experiments through which they learned about basic fire physics, and became quite expert fire mitigators. The Master Gardeners were there to guide them, encourage them and show them proper pruning techniques as well as advise them on fire-resistant plant choices.



So, as you make your own mitigation plans for this spring, consider visiting <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/> or [http://www.ahs.org/master\\_gardeners/](http://www.ahs.org/master_gardeners/) to find the Cooperative Extension office nearest you, and/or to identify a master gardener who can offer helpful insights on creating gardens and landscapes that are both beautiful and Firewise-friendly.



## Q & A With Michele Steinberg & Andrew Fortin

*Michele Steinberg has been the Firewise Communities Support Manager at the National Fire Protection Association since 2002. Her role involves developing resource networks for communities wishing to improve their ability to withstand fire in the wildland/urban interface, as well as research, writing and presentations. She also is Firewise Advisor for this newsletter. Since 1989, she has worked in the areas of natural hazards and land use planning, floodplain management and flood insurance, and disaster safety marketing and outreach.*

*Andrew Fortin is vice president of government and public affairs at the Community Associations Institute (CAI). CAI is a national membership organization that represents homeowner and condominium associations, providing education and resources to the volunteer leaders and professionals involved in the governance and management of common-interest communities.*

*In this issue of How-To Newsletter, we looked to more than one expert to answer questions about how to be Firewise from the start. Whether you're a developer who regularly builds in fire-prone regions or you're a potential homeowner thinking about buying a home in such a development, or building a new home in a fire-compromised community, the information imparted by Michele Steinberg and Andrew Fortin in this How-To Q&A will offer you invaluable insights into how to build a home or community that is Firewise from the ground, up.*

**HT: First and foremost, how can one determine whether the home or community being planned is located in the "wildland/urban interface" (WUI)?**

**MS:** Wildfire can occur nearly anywhere in the U.S. However, some places have a lot more risk than others. Getting an assessment of your property and/or community is the best way of finding out what you're dealing with in terms of wildfire risk. State forestry organizations, local fire departments, and city or county planners should be able to provide information on fire history, vegetation type and condition, topography and other conditions that would make wildfire a concern for a new development. Many states and counties have done extensive mapping and hazard identification already for their wildfire-prone regions.

**HT: How can creating a Firewise community from the ground up make a home or community safer? And what other benefits are there for building "Firewise"?**

**MS:** Being Firewise from the ground up is a function of where we build and how we build. So many existing communities at risk from wildfire are situated in extremely high-risk locations using techniques that don't take wildfire safety into account. A little forethought — like perhaps not constructing houses in the highest-risk locations at the top of steep slopes, and using fire-resistant materials — goes a long way for a new community to be safer from the start. Thoughtful design and careful site preparation and construction can also help communities be more compatible with their natural environments while also preserving desired aesthetics, views and resources.

**AF:** In the case of a community association, building Firewise concepts into the community itself means that from day one, there are rules and expectations set on how to address fire safety issues within the community. In the case of a condominium or HOA development, deed restrictions — which

affect how a homeowner uses their land and maintains their property—can incorporate Firewise guidelines. This provides the homeowner a framework in which to operate, while also establishing the capability for taking punitive action if a homeowner ignores or flaunts the rules.

The benefits for building with Firewise practices in mind are many. First would be a common understanding of Firewise issues that are incorporated into the community rule structure, second would be the creation of a common framework of community behavior, and finally the ability to enforce the safety standards.

**HT: What are the most critical elements to consider when building a "Firewise" home or creating a "Firewise-friendly" community?**

**MS:** Again, the where we build/how we build idea comes into play. Firewise homes should have fire-resistant materials and be designed with the idea that you don't want fire to touch the house at any surface, nor do you want embers or firebrands to penetrate into vulnerable spaces, like attics or crawlspaces. Prepare the site so that the homeowner can maintain it easily in a Firewise condition. That means minimize the amount of debris, pine needles, dry leaves or dead grass that will accumulate on the site and make it easy for the homeowner to access with a mower, chipper, pruner, etc. Think about water's role in landscape maintenance and whether water restrictions might call for creative solutions like xeriscaping. To create a Firewise-friendly community it's also important to consider proximity of houses to one another. Homes less than 30 feet apart could ignite one another during a wildfire, so it's critical to build homes and install landscapes that are fire-resistant and easy to maintain. Firewise-friendly development at the community scale will also consider how people can leave safely in a wildfire evacuation and how fire and emergency responders can effectively access and serve the community. Roads, bridges, water supply, and driveways are all important features.

**AF:** It is important for the developer or community to know where in the many documents associated with the community to place the rules and guidelines. Deed restrictions, which usually require 100% community approval to change, should contain only the broadest of guidelines, since even the Firewise standards we know today will change in the years to come. So, it's critical to make sure that whatever Firewise standards are

*Continued on page 5*

incorporated into the community's governing structure will be able to be updated and amended in the event that best practices and technology change. Doing so will serve to make these practices relevant today and in the future.

**HT: How can our community implement rules that allow for the most "Firewise-friendly" approach for all homeowners to ensure a higher degree of cooperation/participation? (Are there pitfalls to be aware of that we should keep in mind?)**

**MS:** Starting with the community association's master deed or covenant, make wildfire safety one of your priorities. Incorporate it into your mission statement and then spell out the basics in your architectural review rules and other association bylaws and rules. Be sure to make the rules clear, comprehensible, and easy to obey. Firewise need not be difficult if homeowners understand what they must do and where to begin. Make sure your rules don't conflict with other requirements, such as tree ordinances or water quality regulations. Finally, communicate the rules to the residents, not only in the closing papers when they purchase their homes, but also in everyday documents like websites, newsletters and bulletins.

**AF:** Nobody likes to be told what to do, especially when it comes to your house and yard. The key is working to build consensus within your community for change. Talking about the many challenges the community faces, why Firewise concepts may benefit the community, if adopted, and so on. The process should be consensual and, if done right, may take some time.

**HT: For communities in the WUI, where homes already exist, what are the best steps for assessing "Firewise" elements that may already be in place versus determining what needs to be done to make homes in the community more "Firewise-friendly" and safer?**

**MS:** Our forthcoming guide, "Safer from the Start," will provide a checklist for residents to see if their rules are "Firewise-friendly." The first step is to find out if the association's rules actually restrict residents from becoming Firewise. For example, association rules may require wood roofs only, or prohibit removal of flammable vegetation. Beyond those issues, look at whether

your architectural rules or design standards contain guidance on fire-resistant construction, or take wildfire into account in site design, site preparation, infrastructure, or landscaping. Rules can also address common areas and buildings owned by the association, as well as Firewise education and maintenance requirements.

**HT: We're eager to get started. Are there resources available that we can get to help guide us in becoming a more "Firewise-friendly" community?**

**MS:** We hope the "Safer from the Start" guide will be your primary resource. All it really does, though, is put all of our information and resources in one place. The Firewise website has tremendous resources for homeowners to begin exploring their wildfire safety needs and taking action to reduce risk. The Firewise Communities/USA recognition program offers a simple, flexible process that helps neighbors come together to make their community safer. And NFPA codes and standards offer regulatory language for assessing, constructing and maintaining Firewise homes and landscapes. Check [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) to find a multitude of useful information.

**HT: Are there developers who are rated as "Firewise" in their home-building, and if so, where can one find a listing so they can be sure a knowledgeable professional will look out for their home's construction from the ground, up?**

**MS:** One reason we decided to create a Firewise guide for developers was because a number of individual builders and developers have been coming to us or their state forestry and fire professionals to obtain this kind of guidance. That's been very exciting! However, currently there is no formal rating or certification for developers or builders who know their Firewise stuff. If you know your developer has been consulting with state Firewise experts or the national program, you can be pretty sure he or she is a proactive professional who wants to make a safer community. Beyond that, checking that the developer meets state and local standards for compliance with building and fire codes, and with sound business practices, is a good idea.



Look for announcements on the release of "Safer from the Start," in the coming weeks.

# The Firewise Leader

## Reviewing HOA Covenants

In the Q&A section of this issue of *How-To Newsletter* our experts discussed some of the factors that are helpful to keep in mind when building a home or new development in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). Whether just starting out, or already established, communities can benefit from a careful appraisal of the rules that they put in place to guide residents in the construction and/or upkeep of their homes. While it's helpful to be aware of Firewise guidelines, it's also informative to review the covenants or deed restrictions that govern your community, to be sure that they don't prevent you from doing the kinds of Firewise activities necessary to become safer from wildfire. For example, rules that prohibit the use of anything but wood roofing materials or that limit residents' ability to remove or modify flammable vegetation on their properties, also diminish the opportunity to be fully Firewise.



If you live in a community governed by a homeowners association, or HOA, where wildfire also is a threat, and you are concerned that your HOA covenants may be preventing you and your neighbors from doing everything possible to protect your homes and properties, take stock by conducting a careful review of your rules. To aid you in this endeavor, Firewise has developed a guide for developers and community associations, called "Safer from the Start," which offers helpful information on Firewise-friendly planning and design for subdivisions, as well as recommendations for Firewise-friendly covenants, rules, and architectural standards. In addition, the Firewise website offers a variety of resources that can help guide you in establishing or revising covenants that will provide the safest practices for your community.

*continued on backcover*

## Firewise By the Numbers

*The program had a tremendous influx of new communities at the end of 2008. Since December 1, 87 new communities received recognition status, for a total of 446 active communities with Firewise status. Of the 313 communities that were active participants at this time last year, 85% have renewed their status. **How-To Newsletter** is pleased to welcome the following communities:*

- Arkansas** – Boydell, Cloverdale, Cooter, Crosssett, Crossroads, Dry Bayou, East Snyder, Empire, Extra, Hollis Chapel, Junction City, Keller Bend, Longview, Mapleville, Martinville, Mist, Mt. Pleasant, New Milo, North Crosssett, Pine Hill, Pugh, Shilo, Spring Hill, Sunshine, Snyder, Tomerlinville, Trafalgar, Treswell
- Arizona** – Beaver Valley Estates, Boulder Pointe, North Slopes, The Meadows
- California** – Big Bar & Big Flat, Big Bear City, Coffee Creek, Douglas City, Hawkins Bar, Hayfork, Hyampom, Junction City, Lewiston, Mad River, Post Mountain, Salyer, Trinity Center, Walden Woods, Weaverville
- Colorado** – Cedar Heights, Comstock Village, Country Broadmoor, Hunters Point, Mountain Oaks, Raven Hills, Skyway Homeowners Association, The Pointe at Cheyenne Mountain, Woodmen Oaks
- Florida** – PGA Village of St. Lucie County, Quail Ridge
- Georgia** – Flovilla, Lake Forest Estates – Ramey Mountain, Quail Ridge, The Preserve at Sharp Mountain, Woodbine
- Maryland** – Sky Valley
- North Carolina** – Pamlico Plantation
- New Jersey** – Horizons at Barnegat
- New Mexico** – Ute Park Valley, Village of Cimarron
- Ohio** – Meigs Township/Oliver Township/Village of Peebles
- Oregon** – Aspen Lakes
- Texas** – Bridlewood, Etoile and Etoile School, New Braunfels River Chase, River Mountain Ranch, West Lake Hills
- Virginia** – Tree Bank at North Mountain
- Washington** – High Haro Road, Leeward Road, Yacht Haven Area
- Wisconsin** – Greenwater, Lake Camelot: Chatham Addition, Dundee Addition, Essex Addition, Kings Court Addition, Knights Shield Addition, Somerset Addition, Wellington Addition

Think your community should try for Firewise Communities/USA status? For additional information on the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program, please visit [www.Firewise.org](http://www.Firewise.org). And 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.



# Around the Firewise Home

## Setting Up Your "MyFirewise" Page on the Internet

In early October, a new section, known as "MyFirewise," was added to the Firewise website. "MyFirewise" is an online network of fire professionals, government agencies, and concerned homeowners throughout the United States. One of the main goals of "MyFirewise" is to open the lines of communication between these groups so that we all can gain insights and ideas that can be put into practice in our own states, counties, and communities. In its first few months, more than 170 members from all across the country have joined and, as the numbers continue to grow, the rate of exchange that taking part in "MyFirewise" can afford you and your community can reach even greater heights.

Joining "MyFirewise" is easy. From the Firewise home page, simply click on "MyFirewise". You will be brought to a login screen where you can simply click on the link to sign up. All that's required is typing in your e-mail address, password and birth date (don't worry, your age won't be displayed.) On the second page of the sign-up form you can add a few more details about yourself. Finally, click "join" and you'll become the latest "MyFirewise" member! *(Thereafter, all you need to do is login using your e-mail address and password.)*

Once you are a member of the community you can:

- **Add blog posts about your own experiences** – you can share your own experiences to help inform others about techniques that worked for you or your community, things you would have done differently, and perhaps hear from others who have had similar experiences.
- **Start a discussion/ask the group a question** – you can start a discussion about a topic you're interested in or to ask other "MyFirewise" members their thoughts or advice.
- **Join a discussion started by another member** – you can join a discussion on a topic you're interested in that's already in progress, where you can share your ideas.
- **Add an activity** – you can let others know what your community is up to and invite people to participate in local events and activities.
- **Start a community group** – helps to connect members of various communities who may share things in common. While most of the current community groups on "MyFirewise" represent recognized Firewise Communi-

ties/USA sites, the community tab also can be used to help connect people who live in the same geographic area, who share career paths in common, or who have some issue in common that possibly bond them.



• **Join an existing group** – allows you to make an instant connection, particularly if a group already exists for your community, region, etc. Get involved!

• **Customize your own page** – taps into your own personal vision and creativity. While your own "MyFirewise" page comes in the default style of the site, you can customize the look and color scheme, tailoring it to your own style.

- **Add videos** – you can upload a video or view those submitted by others.
- **Add photos** – you can upload pictures and view those submitted by others.
- **Add friends** – assists you with finding friends you may have made at past conferences and events, or with making new ones.
- **Invite friends to join "MyFirewise"** – Once you've signed up, invite others from your community and state to join and get them involved, too.

By sharing our ideas, experiences and questions at "MyFirewise," we can all learn from one another. Chances are someone else has had a similar experience or question – or will in the future. The more we share with each other, the better all of our communities are protected. Sign up today and join others in making "MyFirewise" your own!

*How-To Newsletter thanks Drew and Mike McKenna of Shotgunflat, Inc., the creators and keepers of "MyFirewise" for providing this very helpful information on how you can use "MyFirewise" to help yourself and your community.*

## Around the Firewise Home

### Successful Spring Clean-ups

Most people think of autumn as the time to clear leaf debris and other fallen vegetation from their property. But spring is also a good time for such activities.

Clearing leaves and needles that have fallen and accumulated in foundation plantings, next to buildings, and under decks, can go a long way toward protecting your home and property in the event of a wildfire. It's also a good time to inspect screens for holes that may need repairs or replacement, since embers from wildfires can enter your home through these openings. You also may wish to take stock of the vegetation on your property to make sure it is Firewise-friendly and follows the recommended layout for a safe home ignition zone.



For example, if you have any evergreens situated in close proximity to your house or other structures on your property, you'll want to take special care to clear out any dead material from them, since these plants are particularly flammable. Better yet, consider replacing these more flammable flora with leafy plants, adapting

Firewise landscape practices that provide the greatest possible protection.

While spring cleaning, don't just stick close to home. Be sure to inspect your entire property, clearing any downed limbs or other debris brought on by winter's harsh weather. Removing such slash can eliminate fuels that wildfires thrive on. Also look for any dead trees that can be cut and removed, further reducing the potential for fire to spread should it threaten your property.

As you consider the various activities you can do around your own home, you may want to use the opportunity to inspire others in your community to take action as well. Spring clean-ups offer the perfect opportunity for planning a Firewise event for your community — a requirement for obtaining or renewing Firewise Communities/USA recognition status. Planning now, while spring is still approaching, can help produce the best results.

Following are some suggested events that have proven effective in successful Firewise communities across the USA:

- Common Area Cleanups – are particularly effective in removing down and dead vegetation that poses a fire hazard. If a fuel break is being created, chain saws or heavy equipment may be needed. However, volunteer labor is often sufficient.



- Fairs/Education Days – are best staged after the Firewise Board has procured educational material and demonstration equipment. Such an event is an excellent way to showcase examples of Firewise landscaping. Some Boards work with local merchants and/or the fire department to provide useful "extras" at the event.



- Chipping Days – involve homeowners providing vegetation to be chipped, either by delivering it to a common site or by placing it along the roadside. The Firewise Board contracts for a chipper and crew or works with a local agency to provide one.

Once you get started, you'll want to make spring clean-up events an annual "rite of spring."





# Sources of Educational Information



## Web Sources

To access information addressed in this issue of *How-To Newsletter* about, visit the following websites:

- Master Gardeners American Horticultural Society website – [http://www.ahs.org/master\\_gardeners/](http://www.ahs.org/master_gardeners/)
- Cooperative Extension USDA website – <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/>
- Virginia Cooperative Extension website – [www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener](http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener)
- Master Gardener listings in the US – <http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/linksusmg.htm>
- Orcas Highlands Homeowners Association website – <http://www.orcashighlandshoa.com/index.html>
- Blaine County Firewise – [www.bcfirewise.com](http://www.bcfirewise.com)

## 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!



Or, if you would like back issues of *How-To*, contact Kathy Foster at [kfoster@nfpa.org](mailto:kfoster@nfpa.org) and they will be shipped out to you. Supplies while they last!



Want to learn more about Firewise landscaping? Get a copy of "Firewise Communities: Where We Live, How We Live" for in-depth information about how to make your property both beautiful and Firewise-friendly. For the cost of shipping and handling, order your copy at [www.firewise.org/catalog](http://www.firewise.org/catalog).

## Firewise FireCamp

Are you involved in summer camp activities or know someone who is? Firewise has just made available a new curriculum aimed at educating pre-teen and teenaged youths in wildfire safety, wildfire fire behavior basics, mitigation, physical strength & endurance, knowing what to do when a wildfire occurs and much more.

Designed to fit in with normal day camp activities, the curriculum was tested at the YMCA Camp Orkila, Washington with great success and support from the Program Director. Firewise activities are a good fit for the middle-school age group, which is typically under-served by day camp programs. Middle school students are ready to learn the science, strong enough to do the mitigation work, and young enough to not be too distracted by other interests or demands on their time.

To download a copy of the curriculum go to: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). We know it will be a big hit!



## Firewise Generation

Do you know of a young adult that is interested in knowing what the wildland/urban interface is, would like to understand how wildfire works? Then, they will enjoy the newly created "Firewise Generation" at <http://www.firewise.org/fw-generation/>



---

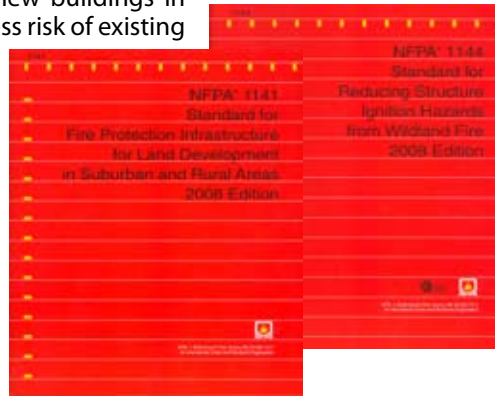
## Reviewing HOA Covenants

(Continued from page 6)

You may also wish to refer to some helpful National Fire Protection Association Standards, NFPA 1144 and NFPA 1141, which are accessible at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). NFPA 1144 — *Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*, covers considerations for new buildings in WUI areas, as well as how to assess risk of existing buildings. It offers examples of Firewise landscaping and construction practices, along with illustrations of the home ignition zone – all of which can benefit your community as you build it from the ground up. NFPA 1141 — *Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Suburban and Rural Areas*, covers considerations for water supply, roads, driveways, access and egress,

and evacuation plans for particularly hazardous areas.

By reviewing your HOA covenants and learning what you can about NFPA standards, you can strengthen your community's ability to better assess and address its wildfire mitigation needs and strategies.



**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).*

Firewise  
c/o National Fire Protection Association  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169