



Firewise Toolkit

Firewise Factsheet

- The Firewise Communities Program started in 1986 in response to the growing problem of home destruction from brush, grass and forest fires, which was now one of national scope.
- Firewise teaches residents about the hazards of wildfire, and how they can put simple, smart practices into play around their homes, working with neighbours where possible to help prepare for and reduce the risk of home destruction due to wildfires.
- The Chief Fire Officer's Association (CFOA) wishes to help protect people and property in communities at risk from wildfire using Firewise, which has been developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) who are recognised as world leaders in this work.
- Further information can be found on the Firewise website, www.firewise.org, which was launched in 1996 to provide the best available information on wildfire safety for homes to an international audience.
- In autumn 2002, following a large number of Firewise Communities Planning Workshops, the national Firewise Communities/ USA[®] Recognition Program was established.
- Firewise has been brought into the UK following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CFOA, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the NFPA in 2014
- The scheme has been hugely successful in the USA with 10 out of the 12 pilot sites still enrolled in the Program, and recognized as official Firewise communities after 10 years. CFOA is launching 5 pilot sites around the UK during the course of 2015 / 16
- Since its inception, more than 1.4 million people have been directly affected by the Program, and many more indirectly, have been influenced.
- As of March 2016, the program has 1260 active Firewise communities across 41 states in the USA.

