



Firewise

UK



Safe homes, safe gardens, safe people



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safe people*



The Urban Heaths Partnership (UHP) delivers heathland mitigation on behalf of 10 partner organisations.

- Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust
- Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council
- Dorset Council
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Forestry England
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



UHP delivers heathland related education, monitoring and other projects such as Dorset Dogs.
Fire reduction on heathlands has been key element of work. We average 107 fires on heathlands and forests in Dorset every year.
Climate change may lead to an increase in the number of fires.
First became aware of Firewise Communities programme in 2011 after large fire on Upton Heath



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What is Firewise UK?

- Firewise UK is based on the international programme from The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- All information is produced under licence with the NFPA
- The Firewise information provides practical steps for the home and garden which can reduce the risks and is equally relevant to individual homeowners or communities.
- Communities and individuals will be supported with advice and information by UHP but we will not run communities.
- The project is very much about communities working together to reduce the risk.
- Emphasises that everybody has a part to play, we can all help ourselves.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

NFPA's Firewise USA® program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbours to work together and take action now to prevent losses.





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The Project So Far:

- Assistant employed 2 days per week to support developing project until March 2020.
- Carried out surveys to understand perception of risk by residents bordering Heathland sites.
- Developed information leaflets in consultation with partners and pilot community which provide practical steps for the home and garden to help reduce the risks.
- Developed website hosted by DWFRS.
- Rolling out information to other communities.
- Working with Exeter University to test plant flammability.
- Set up initial pilot community.



FIREWISE CHECKLIST

- ☐ CLEAR leaves and other vegetation from roofs, gutters and decks
- ☐ REMOVE dead vegetation and other items from under your deck and within 10 feet of your house
- ☐ SCREEN areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent from accumulating
- ☐ REMOVE flammable materials eg. wood piles, from the vicinity of your house if possible
- ☐ PRUNE trees so that the lowest branches are 6-10 feet from the ground
- ☐ KEEP your lawn hydrated (use grey/waste water if necessary) and maintained
- ☐ DISPOSE of lawn cuttings and debris quickly and responsibly to reduce fuel for any fire
- ☐ INSPECT roof tiles and replace or repair as necessary to prevent ember penetration

www.firewiseuk.org



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Beacon Road Community





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The benefits of Firewise Communities.

- Makes homes and communities more resilient to wildfire
- Helps to build community resilience and community spirit
- Communities are proactive in reducing their risk from wildfires
- Communities learn more about wildfire and their adjacent landscapes
- Can improve community health and wellbeing
- Creates opportunities to connect with other Firewise Communities in other areas and countries





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Firewise UK Moving Forward

- To promote project to wider audience, and key stakeholders
- Foster further involvement of partner organisations
- Encourage more communities to set up
- Search for funding to continue project post March 2020
- Happy to share core information as licenced by the NFPA with organisations across the UK
- Continue to work closely with the NFPA as the project develops further
- Continue working with the NFCC.







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