



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

# TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES

Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$25.43) per residential dwelling unit within the site's boundary in annual wildfire risk reduction efforts is a requirement of the national recognition program's criteria for maintaining an "In Good Standing" status. Examples of potential actions, activities, and expenses that can be used in meeting the total investment are listed below. These are only examples, it is not a comprehensive list.

## **COLLABORATION WITH FORESTRY, FIRE, AND RELATED EXPERTS:**

- Consultation time with forestry/fire professionals on areas at risk
- Coordination of arborist, landscaping, etc. estimates for vegetation maintenance in common areas
- Regional coordinator's time mentoring/working with residents
- Time spent performing fire risk overviews at individual homes

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## **COORDINATION OF PROJECTS, MEETINGS, ETC.:**

- Coordination of wildfire related outreach events
- Coordination of wildfire educational presentations with subject matter experts
- Resident leader's program administration time
- Travel time to risk reduction meetings, orientations, trainings, and workshops

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## **EDUCATION/TRAINING EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR RESIDENTS:**

- Attendance at evacuation/preparedness trainings
- Attendance at wildfire-related education/informational meetings and events
- Home improvements/modifications training
- Fire-resistant plant species workshop
- Safety and personal protective equipment training
- Vegetation management training

## **IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE ON THE HOME AND OUTBUILDINGS:**

- Chimney spark arrestor installation
- Repairs to retrofit open-eaves style construction to soffited-eaves
- Modifications of deck to increase the gap between boards from  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
- Inspection of roof; replacement of shingles as needed
- Inspection/repairs of eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition
- Removal all flammable materials from under decks and porches
- Removal of debris between deck board gaps/joints
- Removal of debris on the roof and in the gutters as needed
- Replacement of missing deck boards to reduce ember entry to area under decks
- Replacement of vinyl gutters with metal gutters
- Replacement of wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Resident or contractor labor to perform ignition-resistant exterior improvements (e.g., new Class A roofs, mesh screening added to attic and crawl space vents, siding repairs, replacement of wood fencing attached to siding, etc.)
- Installation of weatherstripping along the perimeter of garage doors to help keep embers out
- Use of a sealant (such as caulking) to cover gaps in open-eave areas



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# TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES (continued)

## IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE HOME IGNITION ZONES:

- Clearing of debris at the base of combustible fences
- Clearing of vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
- Creation of a permanent non-flammable footprint under large stationary propane tanks
- Creation of a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
- Creation of small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (e.g., driveways, walkways/paths, patios, stone walls, etc.)
- Delimiting and removal of lower tree branches
- Relocation of firewood piles to at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
- Mowing lawns and trimming native grasses and weeds as needed
- Raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, and ground debris
- Replacement of combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
- Replacement of highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
- Reduction of ladder fuels
- Stacking/piling of slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
- Thinning or removal of trees
- Grant writing/oversight for wildfire risk reduction projects
- Mentoring adjacent neighborhoods on the importance of reducing wildfire risks
- Organizing, coordinating, planning, and implementation of the annual education/outreach events/activities
- Participation and attendance at Firewise board meetings, including development and updating of action plans
- Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
- Participation in national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day projects
- Reduction of vegetation/fuels from adjacent ingress and egress routes
- Resident's time attending/participating in annual wildfire education/outreach events
- Participation in risk reduction orientation to new residents
- Writing wildfire educational articles for the neighborhood newsletter or community website

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## NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY FOCUSED PROJECTS:

- Debris removal and maintenance of commonly owned areas
- Coordination of rental equipment and contractors for community-wide wildfire risk reduction projects
- Door-to-door canvassing to get new neighbors involved in reducing wildfire risks

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## EXPENSE EXAMPLES:

- Chipper/power equipment rental/purchases, fuel, oil, and repair costs
- Chipper/power equipment associated costs: fuel and oil
- Chipper/power equipment maintenance/repair costs
- Contractor/labor expenses to perform risk reduction work (e.g., arborists, landscapers, professional forester services, roofers, etc.)
- Costs for community-wide clean up days (e.g., dumpster rental, compostable leaf/lawn bags, etc.)
- Costs to replace flammable mulch materials with stone/gravel



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## TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES (continued)

- Costs to replace flammable plant species with fire-resistant options
- Costs to replace wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Food/beverages for risk reduction group/volunteer projects
- Ground litter and debris disposal/hauling fees
- Hardscaping materials and related costs to create fuel separation
- Home improvement expenses to reduce impacts from heat and embers (e.g., roof, deck, fencing, gutters, siding, vents, windows, etc.)
- Mileage at the current IRS rate for attendance at wildfire related meetings, dropping off slash, securing rental equipment, etc.
- Portable toilet rental for volunteers working on clean-up projects
- Production costs for risk reduction flyers, signs, and related mailing expenses
- Spark arrestor installation costs
- Tool purchase/rental (e.g., loppers, pole saws, weed trimmers, rakes, etc.)
- Tree removal and separation/spacing expenses
- Safety equipment for neighborhood workdays (e.g., ear and eye protection, gloves, etc.)
- Value of hourly volunteer labor (e.g., residents, scout groups, CERT members, students, etc.) and the associated services and materials required for them to participate in risk reduction projects