

Why Firewise USA® Neighborhoods Matter and How to Get Involved

Wildfire risks are a growing concern in Northern CA, but proactive communities are making a difference. Firewise USA® is a national program designed to empower neighborhoods to reduce wildfire hazards through planning, education, and collective action.

Marin is home to 76 recognized Firewise neighborhoods, each committed to adapting to wildfire risks. Supported by Fire Safe Marin (FSM) and local fire departments, these grassroots efforts are helping to protect lives, property, and the environment, while also qualifying residents for potential benefits, like insurance discounts through the [Safer from Wildfire program](#).



What Are Firewise USA® Neighborhoods?

Firewise neighborhoods bring residents together to address wildfire risks and create safer, more prepared communities. Neighborhoods assess their vulnerabilities, develop action plans, and take steps to reduce hazards. Efforts include creating defensible space, hardening homes, and hosting educational events to raise collective awareness.

The program emphasizes neighbor-to-neighbor collaboration. By working together, residents not only improve safety but also foster stronger community bonds. FSM and local fire agencies provide expertise, resources, and encouragement to support these grassroots initiatives.

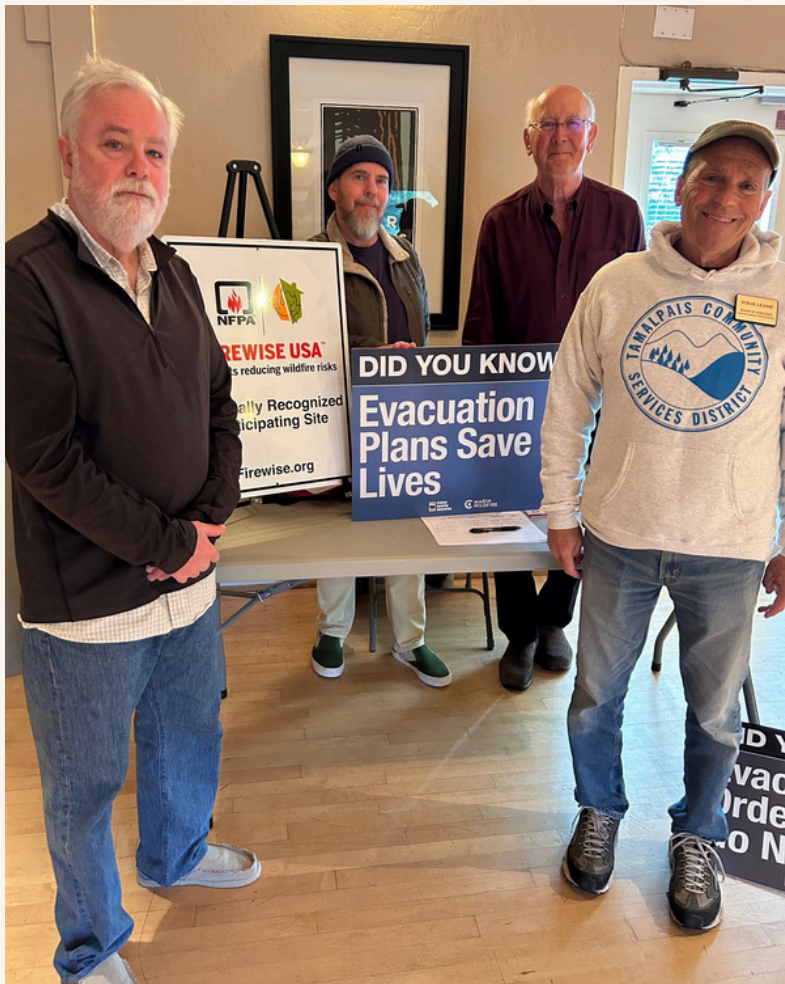
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Why Firewise USA® Is Important

Firewise USA® participation offers several critical benefits:

- **Community Safety:** Organized risk reduction efforts decrease the likelihood of damage during a wildfire.
- **Preparedness:** Residents learn fire-adapted behaviors and improve home resilience.
- **Collaboration:** Partnerships with FSM and fire departments enhance community readiness.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Sustainable vegetation management protects ecosystems and prevents the spread of fire.
- **Insurance Incentives:** Firewise neighborhoods may qualify for insurance discounts.



How Firewise USA® Operates in Marin

Firewise neighborhoods in Marin are invited to partner with FSM to conduct neighborhood risk assessments, evacuation drills, community events, and organize local projects like vegetation clearing and home hardening. In certain jurisdictions, local fire departments work with these groups, offering guidance and supporting community-driven efforts.

FSM provides valuable resources to foster broader county collaboration, including monthly meetings, resources such as signage and brochures, continuing education, skill-sharing opportunities, and workshops. These partnerships ensure that neighborhoods have the necessary tools to achieve and maintain Firewise recognition.

Email firewise@firesafemarin.org to get involved