



5-9-2020

## FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA VOLUNTEER/IN-KIND ACTIVITIES GUIDELINES

All Firewise/USA, new and renewal applicants are required to invest the equivalent of 1 volunteer hour (valued at \$24.69 per dwelling unit), in wildfire risk reduction efforts annually, as part of the national recognition program's criteria for obtaining/maintaining an in-good standing status.

Landscaping, cleaning your gutters and other activities that you typically perform qualify as wildfire risk reduction (creating defensive space) on your property. These activities can also help us obtain federal grant money for future Firewise endeavors on our common grounds. These Firewise projects can reduce the threat of wild fires to our homes and community. When you make changes to your landscaping, complete the attached In-Kind Tracking Form and return it to the front desk in the clubhouse.

**Firewise Activities:** Most landscaping activities qualify. One of the most important activities you can do is to remove "ladder fuels" from your property that could easily ignite thereby spreading fire to the trees or your house. Ladder fuels include highly flammable plants, low hanging tree branches, dead or diseased shrubs, and weeds.

The second most important item is to properly maintain your plants by giving them enough water and pruning them to eliminate dead or diseased branches or entire plants. Studies have shown that vegetation within 30 feet of your home should be less than 18 inches high and watered regularly to reduce the potential for wild fires, however, in the end any plant will burn if it gets hot enough.

**Completing the Tracking Form:** Please complete the entire form. If we have questions, we may need to contact you, so all information is important.

1. We especially need the names of the resident(s) who perform the work in order to properly track the total number of hours spent by you or your family members.
2. Rental of a specialized piece of equipment may also qualify, so be sure to obtain an itemized receipt.
3. If you hire a landscaper, obtain an itemized receipt from them as this expense also qualifies. Please note that you will not be reimbursed for the cost of your landscaper, but that cost can help the entire community in the future.

**Questions:** If you have any questions about completing the Volunteer Form, please contact: Cosmo LaCosta 917-992-1817 or Jim Pasquariello 973-296-4361.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA  
VOLUNTEER/IN-KIND TRACKING SHEET

Use this form to report Firewise landscaping activities that you perform on your property. See attached information sheet.

Resident Information

Resident Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone No.	

Firewise Activities Information

DATE'S		
Description of work		
Total Time (in hours)		
Cost's	Item	Cost
	Item	Cost
	Item	Cost

Signature

Signature	
Date	

**PRINT FORM AND DROP OFF AT CLUBHOUSE**

List all items purchased and submit copies of receipts for your project. For additional items purchased, attach separate sheet of paper.