



WILDFIRE RISK

Wildfire is a real and ever-present danger across Yavapai County and near your home. Each resident has a role in reducing wildfire risk, helping make their neighborhood safer, and protecting their home. As we all know, the vegetation that surrounds us is continually growing and creating more dense fuel for potential wildfire. Hazardous fuels (vegetation) must be continuously managed and selectively thinned in order to significantly reduce wildfire risk and the potential of loss of homes.

IMPORTANT FACT

The cost to fight a wildfire is about 23 times the cost of preventive Firewise mitigation.

Yavapai Firewise is working to reduce Wildfire risk in Yavapai County

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YAVAPAI FIREWISE ... OUR FOCUS

Vision: All Yavapai County communities safely co-exist with wildfire

Mission: To reduce wildfire risk in Yavapai County communities through education and joint efforts among neighborhood and relevant agencies

Goals

- Implement a strategic marketing plan across Yavapai County
- Communicate information regarding county-wide efforts to reduce wildfire risk.
- To be sought after to provide assistance to reduce wildfire risk
- Implement effective Firewise educational programs



WORKING TOGETHER for neighborhoods, communities, and the county

It all started in 1983 when a fire on Thumb Butte was the catalyst to improving communications and beginning the standardization of equipment among area firefighting agencies. Prescott Fire Department, Central Yavapai Fire District and Prescott National Forest could not work together efficiently because the fittings on their fire hoses were not compatible. This started the Basin Operations Group which remains active, but has expanded to include community leaders, fire professionals and community volunteers in facing the challenges of urban growth in the wildland urban interface.

Additionally, on the first Thursday of the month, we facilitate a meeting to bring together local, state and federal agencies along with homeowner association, Firewise Sites, and any interested participants. We share information regarding the collective concerns, ongoing projects and educational efforts, and progress in reducing fuel load around neighborhoods, management of forest lands, efforts of local fire agencies. This collaboration and sharing has helped improve/decrease fuel load in the Wildland Urban Interface and is keeping communities safe ravages of wildfire.

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OUR STORY:

Originally formed in 1990, Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC), is the only commission of its kind in the country. We bring together firefighting professionals, Arizona Public Service, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County Emergency Management Services, businesses, homeowner associations, and volunteers across Yavapai County to work together to reduce wildfire risk.

We hold the unique distinction of having the first nationally recognized Firewise-USA® site in 2002: Timber Ridge. The work of this volunteer organization is highly regarded nationally and a great phenomenon. Yavapai County is home to approximately half of the Firewise-USA sites in the state of Arizona.

PAWUIC has been working on the challenges of urban growth in the interface between the wildlands and private property, especially when it comes to wildfire.

In June 2021, PAWUIC adopted the name Yavapai Firewise.

Yavapai County Firewise Sites:

Cathedral Pines	Crown King
Foothills East & Blue Hills Forest	Highlands
Forest Trails	Groom Creek
Haisley Homestead	Hassayampa Village
Hidden Valley	Hidden Valley Ranch
Highland Pines Hometown	Pine Lakes Iron Springs
Jerome	Kingswood III IV & V
Long Meadow I & II	Manzanita Village
Old Senator-Juniper Heights	Pinon Oaks
Ponderosa Park	Prescott Canyon Estates
Prescott3 Lakes	Prescott Skyline
Prescott Summit	Quail Hollow
Rancho Vista Hills	Santa Fe Springs
Southview Trails	The Foothills
The Mountain Club	The Ranch at Prescott
Timber Ridge	Verde Lakes
Victorian Estates	Vista del Cerro
Walker	Wildwood Estates
Willow Cove	Yavapai Hills

and more in progress

Join us now! We currently rank 3rd in the country for most Firewise-USA sites.

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IS YOUR HOME SAFE FROM EMBER? BE EMBER PREPARED

During a wildfire, thousands of embers may rain down on your roof and pelt your property like hail during a storm. If these embers land on something easily ignited, your home will be in jeopardy of burning. Embers coming into contact with flammable material is the major reason why homes are destroyed during wildfire. Embers can be carried more than a mile ahead of the wildfire, depending on type of vegetation burning, fire intensity, wind speed, and the size of air-borne burning material.

Your home CAN survive when the embers arrive.

Being Ember Prepared means taking action ahead of time to maintain a lean and clean yard and consider a recommended checklist around your home. You can substantially reduce the threat of embers starting your home on fire.



22 things to consider to reduce the chance of embers starting a fire near your home (checklist available at YavapaiFirewise.org).

To learn more go to YavapaiFirewise.org
and review the information relevant to Being Ember Prepared.

To request help educating your neighborhood about Being Ember Prepared
call 928-277-8032

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IS THERE A SECURE ZONE AROUND YOUR HOME? CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE? It is the modification of landscape design, fuel load, and/or building materials that reduces the likelihood of home ignition caused by wildfire or embers even without direct firefighter intervention. Oftentimes, a defensible space is simply a homeowner's own yard.

DOES HAVING DEFENSIBLE SPACE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes. Investigations of homes threatened by wildfire indicate that houses with an effective defensible space are much more likely to survive a wildfire.



Defensible Space & Zone Management ... brief overview

Zone 1 (immediate zone; extends 5 feet around structures)

- Measured home's eaves and any attached structures (decks, stairs, etc.).
- Minimum plantings. Recommend decorative gravel, flagstone, or concrete patio

Zone 2 (intermediate zone; extends 30 feet from structures)

- Create space between shrubs and trees of at least 12 feet between crowns
- Remove any "ladder fuels" (ground fire that climbs into tree canopies).
- Remove all dead plants and cut out dead or dried branches

Zone 3 (extended zone) extends 100 feet from structures

- Create space between shrubs and trees of at least 6 feet between crowns
- Remove debris from the ground such as branches, leaves, and needles

To learn more go to YavapaiFirewise.org

and review the information relevant to Creating Defensible Space

To request a property assessment to determine recommendations for creating defensible space call 928-277-8032

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IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIREWISE? YAVAPAI FIREWISE ROLE IS TO HELP

Education is the key. Many neighborhoods in Yavapai County are rated as high risk for a wildfire starting & spreading and high intensity for flame height & heat. With awareness of vulnerability, each resident has a stake in making sure that their home is safe, possessions are not lost, the neighborhood is safe, and area surrounding their home/neighborhood provides safe access for firefighters.

Your site may receive assistance from Yavapai Firewise volunteers to help you to become Firewise around your home and to learn what neighborhoods can do to take responsibility to reduce wildfire risk. In addition, we can assist you in helping residents prepare for evacuation in case of a wildfire.

Yavapai Firewise can assist your site in becoming a Firewise-USA site. Firewise-USA provides recommendations and guidelines to help your site become safer and less vulnerable to wildfires. Once you have implemented the recommendations and earned Firewise-USA recognition, your sites might be eligible for Firewise mitigation grants through PAWUIC (Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission).

WILDFIRE EXPO Spreading the Word

Yavapai Firewise facilitates an annual education event. The Wildfire Expo is held in the spring in conjunction with Earth Day Celebrations. The Wildfire Expo takes place in downtown Prescott near the Courthouse Plaza. This educational event provides free information on constructing a wildfire resistant home, creating defensible space around the home, being ember prepared, and planning for evacuation in case of a wildfire. Protecting our homes and preserving the natural beauty throughout Yavapai County is the premise of Being Firewise.

VOLUNTEER

Do not miss the opportunity to help Yavapai County lead the nation!

Volunteers are need to help communicate to residents in your neighborhood, help with the Wildfire Expo, and assist with numerous tasks that might be completed for the comfort of your own home.

To learn more or to volunteer call Lois at 928-277-8032.