

Mandatory 1 General Hour of Continuing Education

Firewise Community – Protecting the Public.

This course will educate real estate licensees on the firewise program for reasonable skill and care in the practice of real estate. This course is to update the licensees on the Firewise program for a basic understanding of how to create defensible spaces that are more likely to survive wildfires and keep fire fighters safe when working to save a property.

Licensees will be encouraged to obtain a FIREWISE Community Assessor certification as well as share resources with their clients.

This course will outline

- What is the Firewise Program
- Why is Firewise important
- Where is the Firewise Program utilized
- Understanding Wildfires
- What to look for to protect structures
- Discussing Plans for Evacuation Steps
- Resources for Licensees and their clients

FIREWISEUSA™ is a program of the National Fire Protection Association

Time	Topic	Learning Objective	Method of Instruction
2 minutes	Introduction	Create a learning environment and review class objectives	Lecture and Discussion
7 minutes	Define FIREWISE	Create an understanding for what FIREWISE why it was created by the NFPA®, Why it is needed Arizona and Homeowners' Insurance Needs	Lecture and Discussion
7 minutes	Where is FIREWISE being used	Go over National usage and dig deep into Arizona Communities and Arizona Wildfire statistics with current news	Lecture, Discussion, Video, Real Examples
3 minutes	Fire Behavior	Overview of the elements that cause wildfire	Lecture, Discussion, Visual
15 minutes	Defensible Zone/Survivable Space	Focus on Single Family Home Developments and go over the 3 zones, what to look for at a property.	Lecture, Discussion, Video, Town hall Scenario
8 minutes	Evacuation	Preparing for an Evacuation – Having a plan	Lecture, Discussion, Visual
5 minutes	Resources	Going over the resource guide	
4 minutes	AZ Reality	Play Video from Department of Forest and Fire Management	Video
		End	

Slide 1 – Intro Set Class Expectations, the Instructor should introduce themselves.

Slide 2 – Agenda:

Today we are going to have a brief overview of what the Firewise program is. We are going to define what Firewise is, why it is important, what communities are Firewise, How to assist in prevention through defensible and survivable Space as well as providing you resources for you and your clients.

Slide 3: What is FIREWISE

FIREWISE is a national program through the National Fire Protection Association.

“In 2019, NFPA began a journey with seven active Firewise USA sites spread across the country, challenging them to improve their resilience to wildfire. The two-year pilot program, Sites of Excellence, was designed to increase participation in active wildfire risk reduction through a focused approach. At the end of the two years these communities showed that big goals of a focused approach are achievable.

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family’s safety.”

Slide 4: Why is Firewise Important

The Department of Real Estate made this course mandatory due to the continual need of education to communities on wildfires. Many people think Wildfires are in areas with large trees however, in Arizona wildfires are also grass fires due to the desert landscape in many areas

Licensees are trusted community leaders and are the contact person for ownership of real property such as homes, vacant land, investment properties, commercial, and so on.

Licensees are required to give reasonable skill and care in the real estate transaction to their client. Which is giving a source of information that could materially affect them in the purchase. Understanding where to send a client for information on how to decrease a chance of losing their property is an essential piece.

The more education the public has on reducing fire hazards may result in more insurance options and reduce the amount of insurance companies pulling out of certain areas.

Slide 5: Resource for updating: <https://difi.az.gov/home-insurance>

One of the items the Department is requesting is that when a licensee learns that one of their clients is struggling to find insurance for their property due to fire issues or any other natural disaster. Is to update the Department of Real Estate or the Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI).

DIFI keeps a list of insurances on their site for Homeowners Insurance companies of who insures and who does not insure certain areas. However, they have to wait to be updated by insurance companies. This is not always as fast as things change and this is why licensees can assist the public by updating departments as issues arise.

This site is a great resource for you and your clients when searching for insurance information in areas deemed to have wildfire issues.

Slide 6: Map located on Firewise.org

Firewise locations are all over the country and growing.

(Instructor may choose to go to interactive map on firewise.org)

Slide 7: Arizona Map – Firewise.org

Arizona as of May of 2024 has 147 certified Firewise areas these include cities, hoa's, and other organized communities.

These are located all through the state.

(go over counties on slide)

(Instructor may choose to go to the firewise website and show them on the interactive map)

Slide 8:

Instructor to go over statistics. The stats were pulled from the 2023 Annual Wildland Fire Report from the Department of Forest and Fire Management.

Play current local news video (May 2024) may want to update with a new local fire.

Video is not embedded you may want to embed the video Link is
<https://youtu.be/vuWR9fcmPag?si=xmrBb6UGO7ESOCnj>

Slide 9: go over different forest fires. Instructor may choose to go to the news article and show pictures directly from there: pics <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2023/08/26/over-120k-homes-at-risk-of-wildfire-damage-in-arizona/70672259007/>

Slide 10:

There are elements that together are what cause the wildfire and the size of the wildfire.

The elements are:

1. Fuel can consist of live and dead vegetation. This element is required for fires to burn.
2. Weather – Dry, Hot and Windy, weather are three conditions that are a trigger for wildfires to begin and expand.
3. Topography - Slopes with the wind can be the driver to increase the spread of wildfire.

All of these added together plus the Human element of building, landscaping, or creating the fuel are the reasons we have so many wildfires today.

Slide 11: Firewise Community Program

This is why the human element understanding what can be done to reduce or prevent wildfires is so important. The Firewise community program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses.

Slide 12:

Video is not embedded.

Video link: https://youtu.be/bPILXb_MHuo?si=_SwjzE8DJwDgGD6

This video is from California however, is extremely relevant to Arizona and goes over the Firewise program. Please note we do not have mandatory Firewise program laws in Arizona. However, some communities may have by laws that require items to comply with the firewise program.

Slide 13

Instructor: Discuss the three zones using the diagram and mention all areas need to be aware of plants, housing materials, and embers.

Slide 14

Instructor: Go over the Red Zone and the list of items with the home. Town hall the students to discuss other items that should be looked for in this zone.

Reference: <https://www.nfpa.org/en/education-and-research/wildfire/preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Reference page 8: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339207.pdf

Slide 15

Instructor: Go over the Orange Zone and the list of items with the home. Town hall the students to discuss other items that should be looked for in this zone.

Reference: <https://www.nfpa.org/en/education-and-research/wildfire/preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Reference page : https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339207.pdf

Slide 16

Talk about plants and how many HOA's require plants in the front area within the red and orange zone.

Instructor: Video not embedded.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/mr7RitXO0Rk?si=4T0Sn4r-CES1TYif>

Slide 17

Instructor: Go over the Green Zone and the list of items with the home. Town hall the students to discuss other items that should be looked for in this zone.

Reference: <https://www.nfpa.org/en/education-and-research/wildfire/preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Reference page 9: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339207.pdf

Slide 18:

This home appears to be ready for going on the market...Town hall the class on red flags they may see.

Items:

Tree too close to the roof

Bush is against the front patio post

Gutters may need to be clear of debris

Slide 19:

It is essential that you and the ones you live with have a plan of what to do if an evacuation occurs.

In the situation of an Immediate Evacuation, please know the five P's. (Go over list on slide)

Town hall: To be prepared for an evacuation that may not be immediate what are some things that you can do?

Reference page 12: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339207.pdf

Slide 20 My Natural Hazard Disclosure is one report option that assists on every type of property for any Natural Disaster in the region the seller is selling in and the buyer is buying.

Slide 21 The First American Natural Hazard Disclosures - Assists Arizona homebuyers in the "due-diligence" investigation of their property before signing the purchase contract, and protects sellers by disclosing up front the hazards, which the state considers important in a property transaction—all in a clear and simple report format.

Slide 22:

Go over the Resources pull up and show the websites.

Slide 23:

Go over the Resources pull the Firewise products up on www.Firewise.org to show how to order free booklets.

Make sure everyone receives a copy of the 'Living with Wildfire

Homeowners' Firewise Guide for Arizona'

PDF in resource folder also link is

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339207.pdf

Slide 24:

Play Video showing what our firefighters face from Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

Video not embedded.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/FVULkg30vXs?si=hN51iZhQ-l1Dkk6e>

Slide 25:

Questions

Thank you. The class is completed.