



No community is safe from wildfire, but we can be wise about our community design and vegetation management in Arkansas.

By being

FIREWISE

we can reduce the staggering impact and cost of a severe wildfire.

You do the math...

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = \$\$\$$$

and contact us
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Arkansas Forestry Commission

The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability; and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



USDA Forest Service



National Fire Protection Association

Arkansas Firewise Steering Committee



Community Assistance

The efforts of homeowners, stakeholders, and your fire services add up to a **FIREWISE** Community

Wildfire math

Fire is a natural part of our environment. Our forests and grasslands were burning long before there were any settlements here.



Many homes are built and maintained in this fire environment without regard to the threat of wildfire.



With more people using our wildlands, there is a greater chance of fires starting.



Today's wildfires can burn intensely and be difficult to control.



Potential for:

- * Greater loss of life
- * Increased property loss
- * More damage to natural resources
- * More money needed for firefighting

The solutions are as simple as

1, 2, 3

1. Hazard Assessment

- ◆ Fill out and study one of the available hazard rating sheets (Samples may be obtained by contacting the Arkansas Forestry Commission--their address is on the back page of this brochure)
- ◆ From the hazard rating sheet, you will recognize some improvements you can make immediately

The rating sheet mentioned above covers 6 hazard rating areas.

- ◆ Fuel Hazard Rating
- ◆ Slope Hazard
- ◆ Structure Hazard Rating
- ◆ Means of access for emergency vehicles
- ◆ Safety Zone Rating
- ◆ Additional Factors

2. Create and Maintain a Defensible Space

- ◆ Choose a firewise location (consider the local fire history and overall terrain)
- ◆ Design and build a firewise structure

- ◆ Employ firewise landscaping and maintenance
- ◆ Consider the native vegetation (plant characteristics and placement)
- ◆ Leave 30 feet around the house to accommodate fire equipment and provide a fire break
- ◆ Use the firewise zone concept in landscaping (you can get a copy of the Firewise Landscaping Checklist and the Firewise Construction Checklist from the Arkansas Forestry Commission)

3. Provide adequate access, signs, and water supply

- ◆ Construct roads, driveways, and bridges that allow access for large emergency vehicles
- ◆ Make sure that dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas large enough for emergency vehicles
- ◆ Try to maintain a minimum 2,500 gallons of water on your property
- ◆ Clearly mark all emergency water sources and notify your local fire department of their existence
- ◆ Post clear road signs to show street or road names and traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and weight and height restrictions
- ◆ Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road, and make sure the number is not duplicated in the county