

According to the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**, a "Firewise Day" (often referred to formally as a **Firewise Event**) is a core requirement for a community to achieve and maintain its status in the **Firewise USA® recognition program**.

It is a dedicated day or series of events where neighbors come together to implement their community's wildfire action plan through hands-on mitigation or educational outreach.

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### Key Components of a Firewise Day

To meet the NFPA's standards for recognition, the event should focus on two main pillars:

- **Risk Reduction (Physical Work):** Community-wide efforts to reduce "fuel" for wildfires. This often includes:
  - Chipping days (where a chipper is brought in to process brush).
  - Community clean-up of common areas or neighborhood "target zones."
  - Assisting elderly or disabled neighbors with defensible space work (cleaning gutters, raking needles).
- **Educational Outreach:** Activities designed to inform residents about wildfire risks, such as:
  - Hosting a wildfire expert or local fire department speaker.
  - Distributing educational materials about "hardening" homes (Zone Zero).
  - Holding a neighborhood walk-through to identify common ignition risks.

### Why It Matters

A Firewise Day serves as the **annual "proof of work"** for the community. The NFPA requires at least one such event per year because:

1. **It Builds Community Spirit:** It turns a daunting individual task (fire proofing) into a social, collaborative neighborhood effort.
2. **It Sustains Recognition:** To maintain active status, a community must document this event and show that they have invested a minimum amount of time or money (currently calculated at approximately **\$27.40 per household**) into wildfire risk reduction.

### The "National" Version

While a community can hold its Firewise Day at any time, the NFPA also promotes **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**.

- **When:** The first Saturday in May.
- **What:** A national campaign co-sponsored by State Farm that encourages people across North America to participate in a Firewise Day simultaneously. Many communities use this specific date to fulfill their annual program requirement.,