



## Firewise is About Neighbors Teaming-up to Mitigate Wildfires



*Our committee has worked hard in finalizing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the plan is being reviewed by Cal Fire and moving towards an official signing in Sacramento. It will form the basis for future community efforts and for securing grants for common area clean-up. We are also pleased that the LACC Handbook Section 4.5, Property Condition, has been amended to include general guidelines for maintaining all parcels in a fire safe condition. Coming up is our 2016 LACC Firewise Day program. Please look for announcements on the program's activities to be held in early summer.*

*Beginning with this article, the newsletter and the website section on FIREWISE will be providing periodic articles, recommended guidelines, pictures, slideshows and videos on making our community fire safe. As "spring clean-up" begins at the end of the wet season, members will be able to use these references for information on best practices.*  
*Barbara MacArthur, Firewise Committee Chair*

Behavioral science research shows that once people understand there is something they can do to reduce their vulnerability to wildfire, they are more apt to act. NFPA's Firewise Communities /USA® program is an important step to teaching homeowners how to adapt to living with wildfire. By neighbors working together and actively, they can learn that wildfires can occur without disastrous loss of life, property and resources.



### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The program goal is to reduce the loss of lives, properties, and resources to wildfire by building and maintaining communities in a way that is compatible with our natural surroundings. One of the most important things Firewise Communities/USA participants learn is that neighbors can help neighbors and they are often inextricably linked together in their wildfire safety solutions. With little or no preparation before a wildfire event, communities can lose much.

While all of us understandably prefer to make choices relating to our home and lot features, some choices can adversely impact wildfire transmission and our neighbor's safety. To believe there's nothing we can do, that wildfire mitigation is too difficult or prohibitively expensive is no longer an option.

Firewise Communities /USA provides up-to-date information for homeowners and communities to help change this situation. Residents, who participate in the Firewise process, work with a community-developed action plan that commits them to a sustained program of wildfire mitigation, which is generally both physically doable and cost-effective. Ultimately, by working with Firewise plans and practices, residents will be able to develop unique solutions to LACC's wildfire mitigation challenges.



### Neighbors Relying on Neighbors

By working together, we can make a difference. The need to work together is great. Consider that in a major wildfire, available fire-fighters and equipment can only be at very few of the 1800 plus lots making up LACC. Also, within fire prevention guidelines (and State law), there is a concept called "defensible space". A "defensible space" around your home involves zones of 30 feet where the vegetation should be "lean, clean and green", and of another 70 feet of "reduced fuel (vegetation)". With LACC's narrow width lots, such zones overlap neighboring lots such that discussion and cooperation will certainly be needed.

*NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association  
Firewise Communities USA website link:  
<http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness.aspx>*

**NEXT MONTH:** Regulations and Recommendations within the zones of "defensible space" for homes and lots.