Taking Control of Your Wildfire Risk

An Introduction to Firewise USA®

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Why Are We Here?

What makes a FIREWISE Community -**Elm Valley**?

Condition of homes–what we see that make homes vulnerable to wildfire.

Tracking/reporting requirements to meet a FIREWISE Community.

Once recognized as a FIREWISE Community…potential homeowner's Insurance discount.

FIREWISE USA®

Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

- Voluntary recognition program
- Created in 2002 by NFPA with support from USDA Forest Service and State Forestry organizations
- Addresses risk on private property

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Local Wildfire Context

GET ORGANIZED

Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other wildfire stakeholders. **COMPLETED Dennis Askin, Dr. Mark Teague, Jordy King, Todd Casey, Terry Hughes**

Obtain a wildfire risk assessment. **COMPLETED by our Texas A&M Forest Service July 2026 On new ECCA Website**

Determine the size and boundary: **COMPLETED, 543 dwellings**

MAKE A PLAN

Create a 3-year action plan that identifies community education and risk reduction actions. **COMPLETED JULY 2026 on new ECCA Website**

DO THE WORK

Host a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event. **COMPLETED**

Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment. **NOT COMPLETED**

1hr/$34.79 per Dwelling
Your credit towards every hour working on your property towards the required
Elm Valley total for 2026=$18,890.97 (No Physical Funds are Spent)

TELL US ABOUT IT

Create a Firewise USA® Portal account **COMPLETED**

Submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison. **NOT COMPLETED Target is 1st week of December 2026 for acceptance for 2027**

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WHAT CAN BE DONE?

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Everyone Has a Role to Play in Reducing Wildfire Risk

- **Individual residents** can take action to reduce the risk of loss on their property which will help our ELM VALLEY community as a whole.

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Do the Work

Clean up debris around your home and community.

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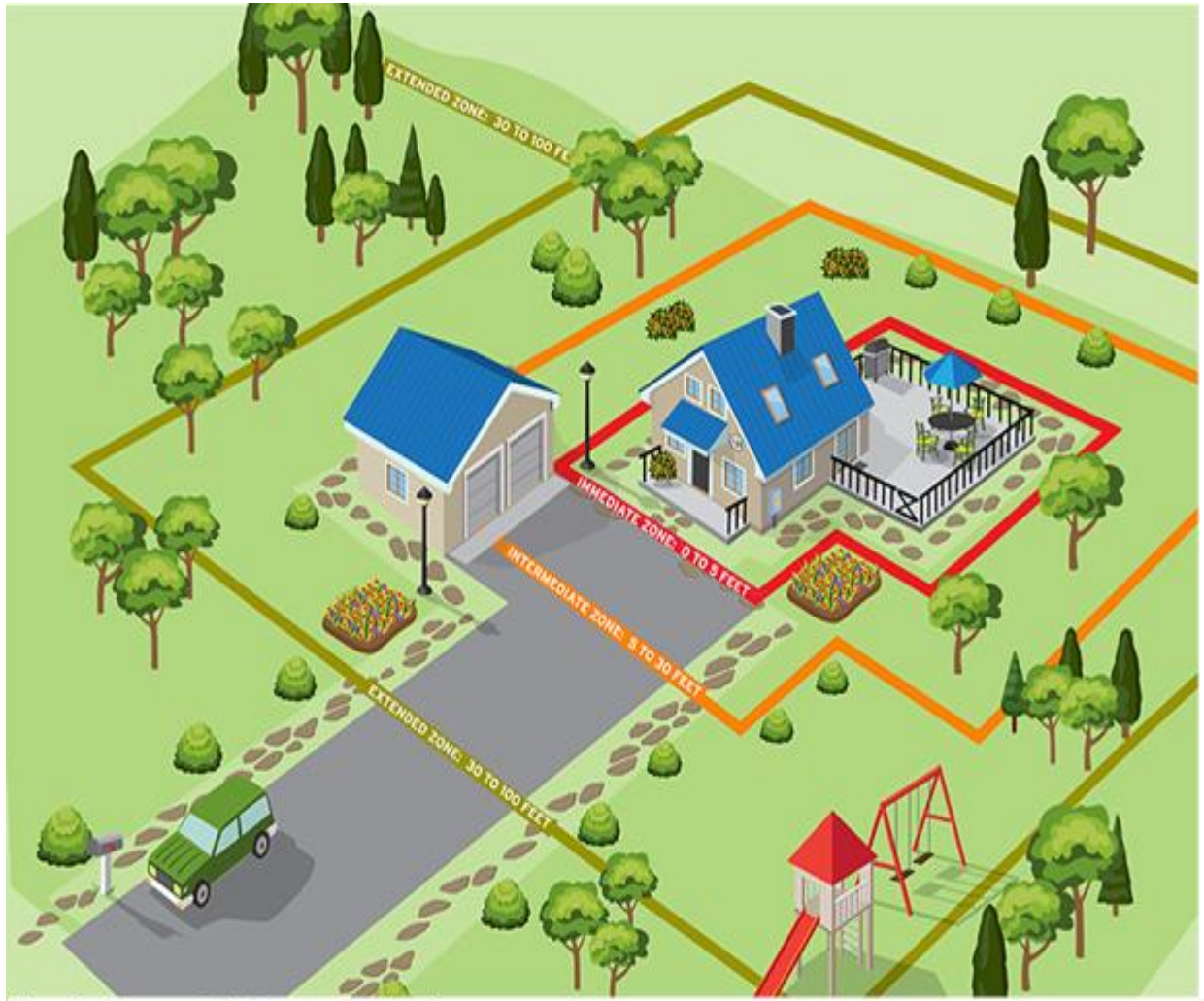

Figure 1: Diagram of the Structure Ignition Zone

Science-based Recommendations for Individual Homes

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)—includes home and 0–100 feet from the base of a building or furthest attachment (e.g., deck).

Recommendations within HIZ:

- Use fire-resistant materials for roofs, walls, windows, decks
- Remove anything that can burn that is right next to the home
- Maintain home and landscape

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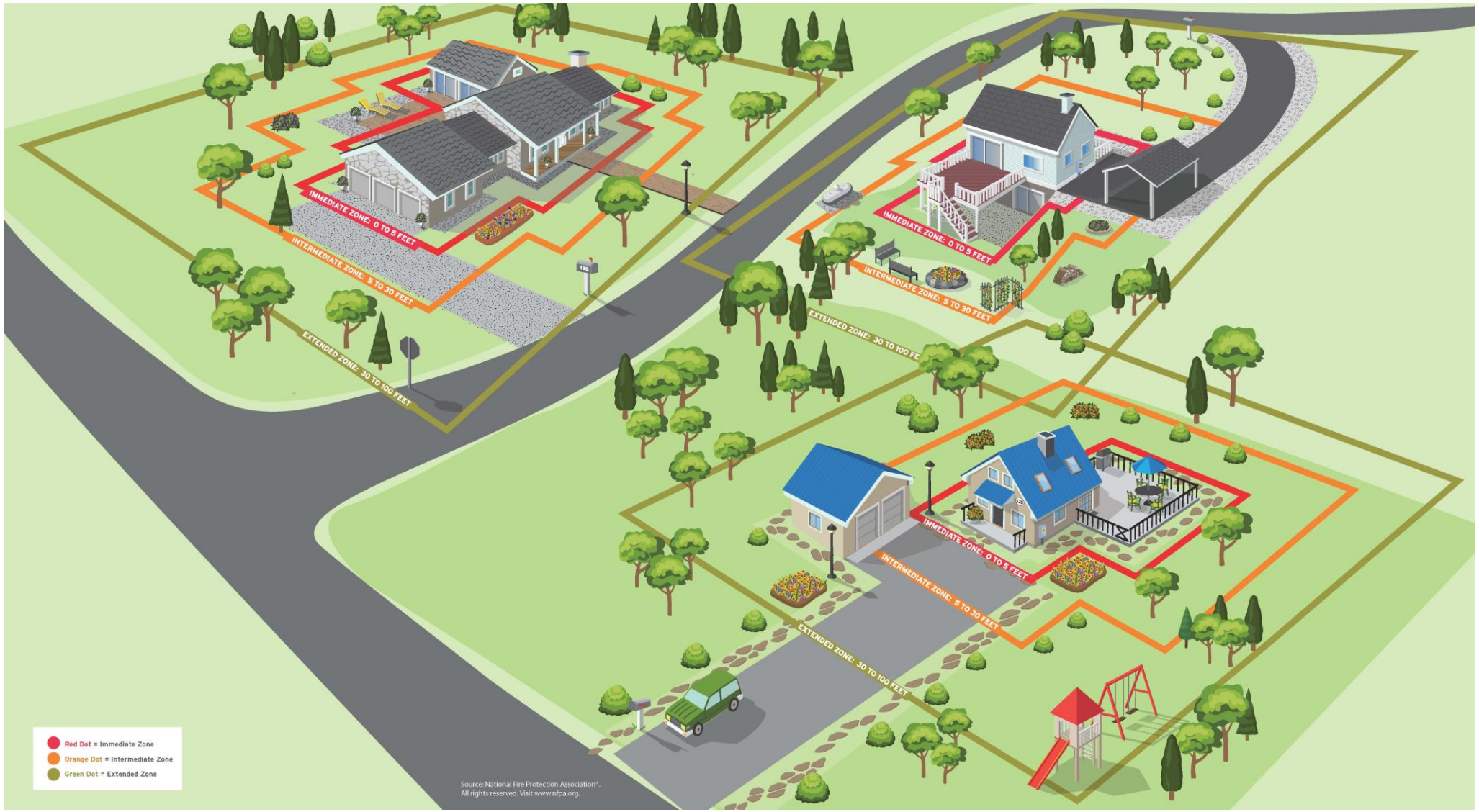
Creating an Ignition-Resistant Community



Features of an Ignition-Resistant Home

- Noncombustible siding all the way to the ground
- Rock mulch close to the house
- Paved walkway and driveway to break up vegetation
- Plants spaced to reduce fire spread
- Neighboring home is also ignition-resistant

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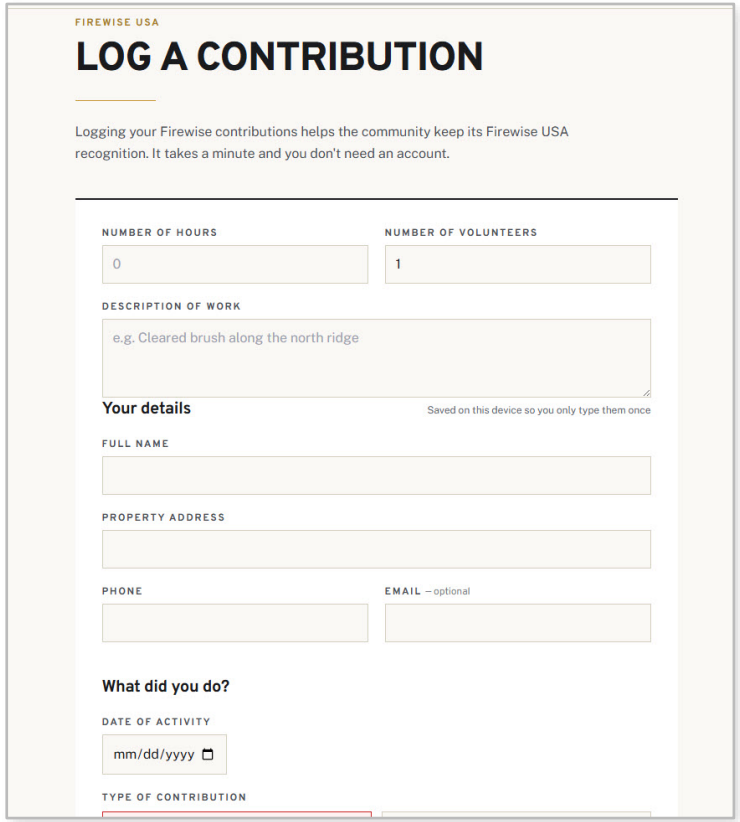
Easy Online Tracking of your FIREWISE activities

- ECCA WEBSITE

https://eccavfd.com/firewise

Point your phone camera here



The "Log a Contribution" page — no account needed

Examples

- Improvements/Maintenance within the Home Ignition Zones:
  - Cleared debris at the base of combustible fences
  - Cleared vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
  - Created a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
  - Created small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (Driveways, walkways/paths, patios,
  - stone walls, etc.
  - Limbed and removed lower tree branches
  - Moved firewood piles at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
  - Mowed lawn, native grasses and weeds as needed
  - Raked and removed pine needles, leaves and ground debris
  - Replaced combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
  - Replaced highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
  - Reduced ladder fuels
  - Stacked/piled slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
  - Tree thinning/removal
  - Door-to-door canvassing to get new neighbors involved in reducing wildfire risks
- Improvements/Maintenance on the Home and Outbuildings
- Collaboration with Forestry, Fire and Related Experts
  - Time spent performing fire risk overviews at individual homes
- FIREWISE Education/Training Events and Meetings for Residents
- Coordination of FIREWISE Projects, Meetings, etc.

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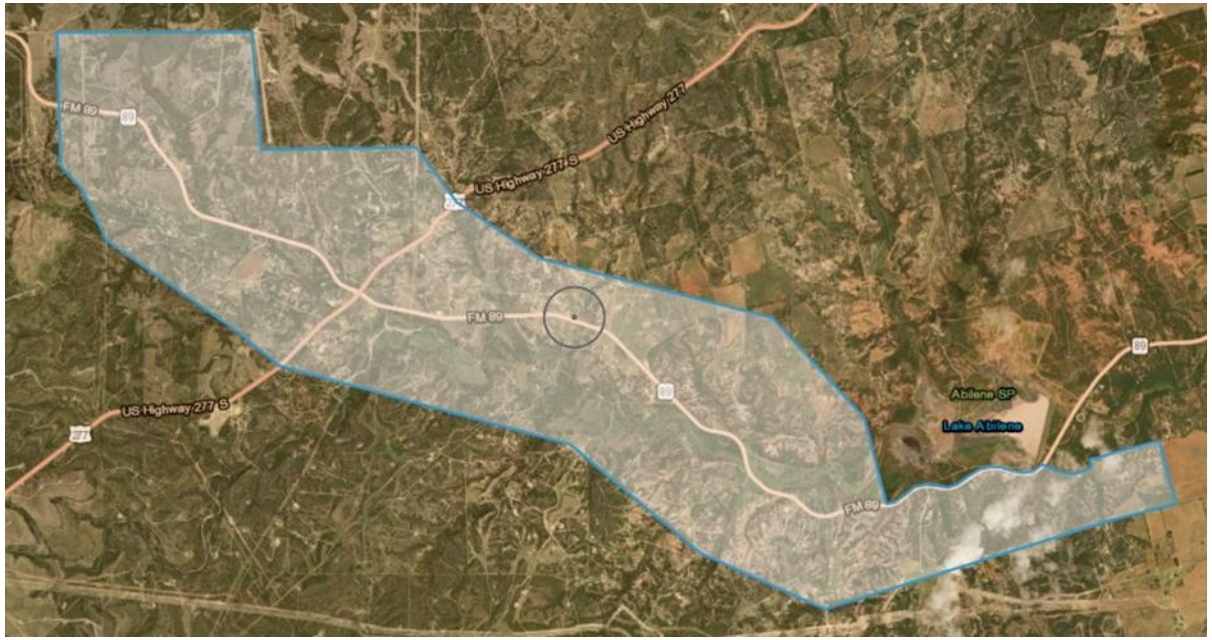
Potential Home Owners Insurance Discount



- Once ELM VALLEY obtains FIREWISE recognition from NFPA then a

a certificate of participation is provided for you to give to your insurance company.

- All insurance company underwriters are different; you may need to provide pictures or have them inspect your home outside.

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QUESTIONS?

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