



What is Firewise USA®?



Jenna Trentadue, National Fire Plan Coordinator ODF



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Who runs the Firewise USA ® Program?



National: National Fire Protective Association (NFPA):

- Global self-funded nonprofit organization,
- Established in 1896
- Devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.
- Manage the Firewise USA ® program at a National Level



State: Oregon Department of Forestry and other states:

- Oregon State Liason (ODF): (Jenna Trentadue)
- Approve or Reject applications, manage program at a state level.
- Manage any statewide additional rules for the program.



Local: ODF District Offices/Fire Departments/Associations/Other:

- Manage the program with the community on the ground.
- Community assessments, action plans, and technical expertise.





FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



A framework to help residents get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.





- Started in 2002
- 12 original pilot sites, 9 are still active
- Partnership between NFPA, USFS, DOI, and NASF.

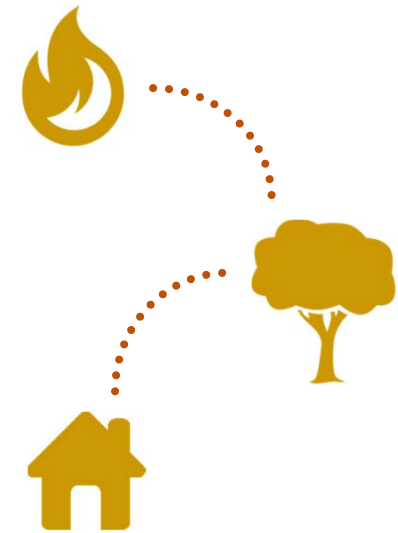
Goal:

Preventing the destruction of homes during a wildfire event



Program based in science

- Research by Dr. Jack Cohen (USFS, retired)
 - Fire does not engulf everything in its path
 - Fire only advances to locations that meet requirements of combustion
 - Altering the type, size, quantity, and spacing of vegetation and other fuels will reduce likelihood of combustion
- Research by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (embers)
 - <https://disastersafety.org/wildfire/protect-your-home-from-wildfire/>



- Individual responsibility
- Encourages neighbors to work together
- Voluntary participation
- A means to decrease risk for residents and first responders



What does the program look like today?

- Active in 42 states, 1,659 sites at the close of 2019
- Emphasis on the importance of the home and work done 0-5 feet from the base
 - Post-fire research tells us these are the critical areas to address
- Quality over quantity



New 24-month pilot program

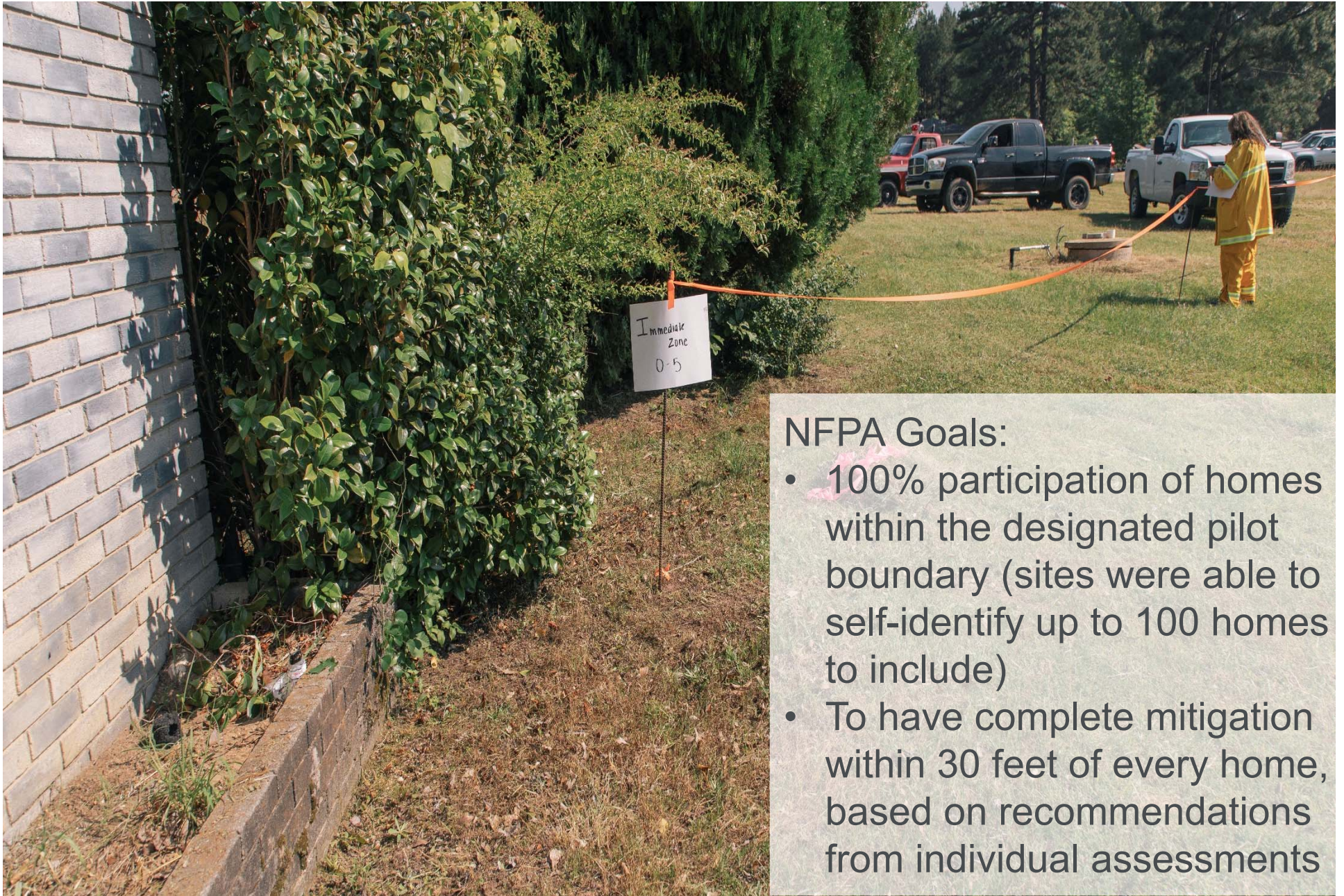
2019 & 2020,
partnering with 7
sites from 7 states

Increase resident
participation in
active wildfire risk
reduction through
a focused
approach.



NFPA.ORG

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NFPA Goals:

- 100% participation of homes within the designated pilot boundary (sites were able to self-identify up to 100 homes to include)
- To have complete mitigation within 30 feet of every home, based on recommendations from individual assessments



Firewise Success

- Blogs – examples of communities that have face wildfires and survived, largely in thanks to their efforts
 - www.community.nfpa.org/community/fire-break/blog
 - Always looks for stories to share
- Video - [Falls Creek, Durango, CO](#)



Thank you!!!

Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan

720-456-7423 (Desk)

303-903-3486 (Cell)

Mfitzgerald-mcgowan@nfpa.org



Arson	19	4.93
Debris Burning	180	628.21
Equipment Use	148	407.7
Juveniles	4	1.22
Lightning	177	1438.87
Miscellaneous	91	171.04
Railroad	2	.01
Recreation	63	13219.74
Smoking	26	2.89
Under Invest	44	614.14
Other	2	0
Grand Total	756	16488.75



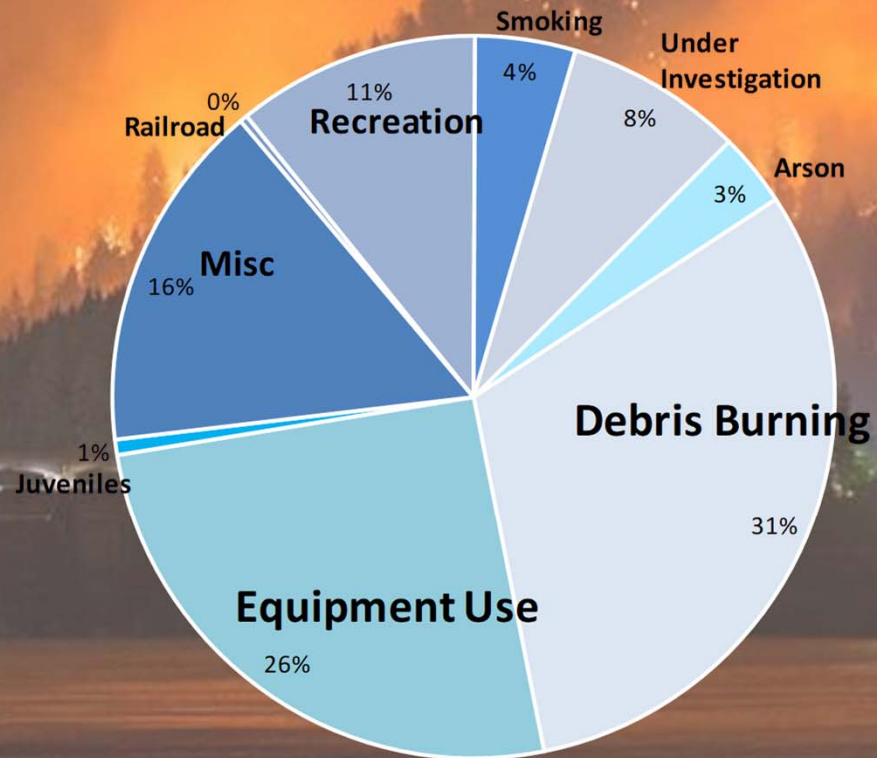
ODF 2019 Human-Caused Fires

ODF Fire Intel 9/05/2019.

Total ODF Fires YTD: 756.

Total *Human Caused Fires* YTD: 579 (77% of total).

10-Yr Avg 2009-2018 *Human Caused Fires* : 694.



This can happen when wildfire comes your way.....



Remember: Fires are naturally occurring part of forest ecosystems and retain forest health.

Or with Defensible Space...



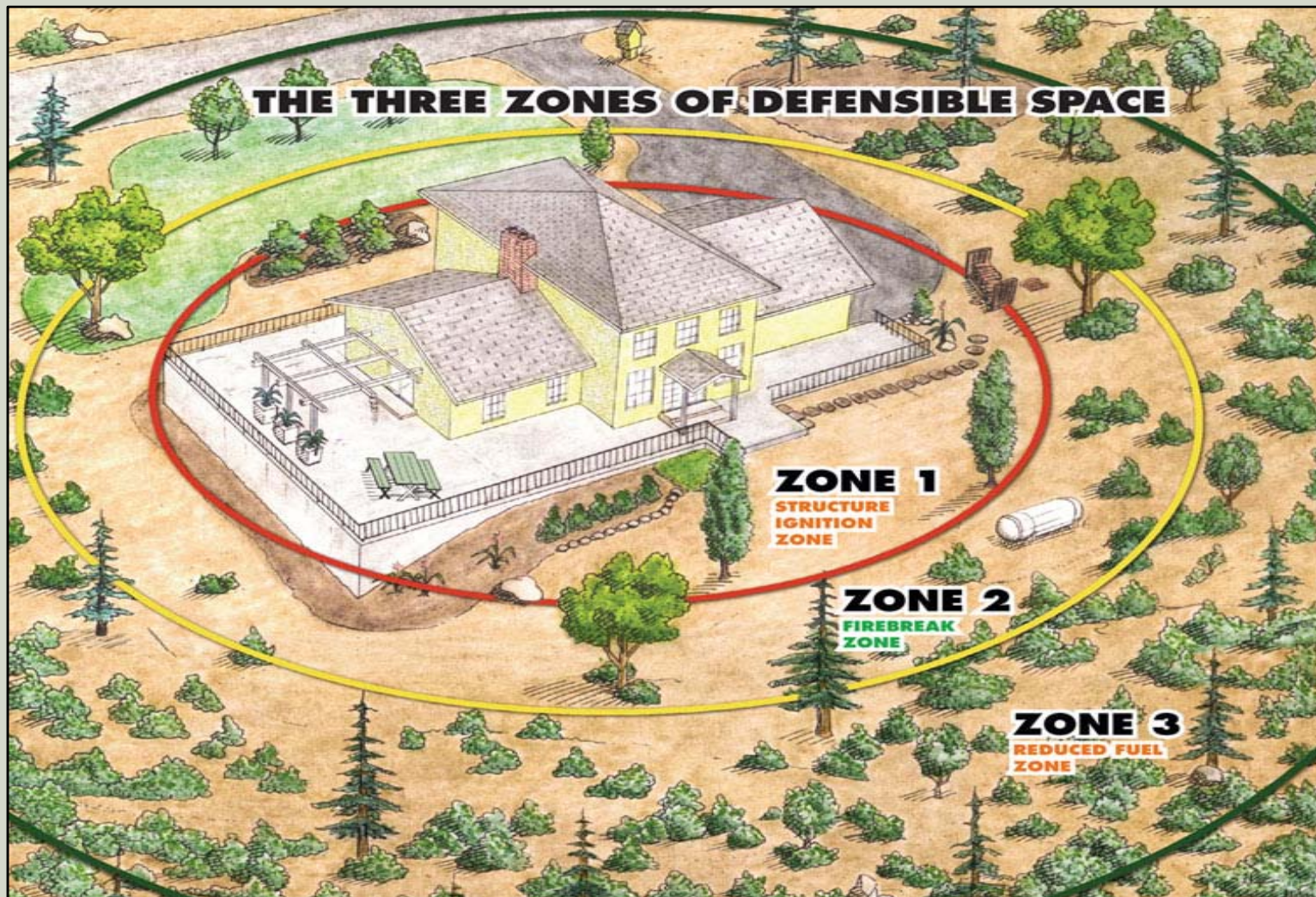
What is Firewise Community?

- A community taking initiative.
- Positive collaboration: take action before a fire.
- Action plan and fire planning.
- Enhances prevention, response, and recovery from fire.
- Education and awareness.
- Access to Resources.



Things to do on your property to be more fire safe.

- Create Defensible Space- 30-100 foot of fire resistant space around the home.





The USAA insurance has recognized Firewise Communities through insurance discounts!



USAA gives homeowners insurance discounts to communities recognized by the Firewise Communities/USA® program. Evaluates risk through assessment tools and WSDProapp available on usaa.com and applies premium discounts to USAA policy holders.



Firewise Benefits?

1. Creates a Framework
for Action
Action Plan/ CWPP
Ready, Set, Go

2. Learning About
Wildfire:
Assessments
Education

3. Peace of Mind
Organization vs. Panic
Safer/ Knowledgeable

4. Community-Building
Firewise education
Cleanup day
Common Goals



Firewise Benefits?

5. Citizen Pride
Self-accountability
Plaque/Annual Renewals

6. Publicity
Firewise USA Nationally
Plaque/Recognized
Signage

7. Access to future
Funding and Assistance
Wildfire Preparedness
Day Grant Funding



Requirements for Firewise USA



- Community Assessment done by Fire Experts (local Fire Department or ODF) and community leaders. (updated every 5 yrs.)
- Create a Board or Committee that includes residents.
- Action plan developed as a multi-year plan (that needs to be updated every 3 years).
- Firewise Day: Minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event or fuels reduction event annually.
- Minimum of 8 dwelling units with a max of 2,500.
- Minimum of one volunteer hour (\$25.43) per each participating dwelling unit annually.

Jenna Trentadue
503-945-7444
Jenna.a.trentadue@oregon.gov

Questions?

