



Conservation Initiative Fact Sheet

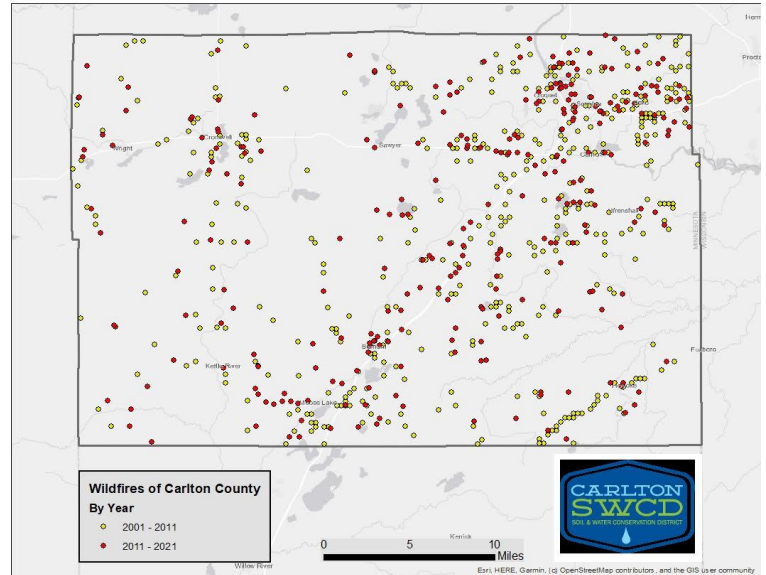
Carlton SWCD Firewise Program

What is Firewise?

Firewise is a national program administered in Minnesota by the MN Department of Natural Resources. The main goal of Firewise is to help communities become more resilient to wildfires. The Carlton SWCD is using state and national resources to bring the Firewise Program to residents of Carlton County.

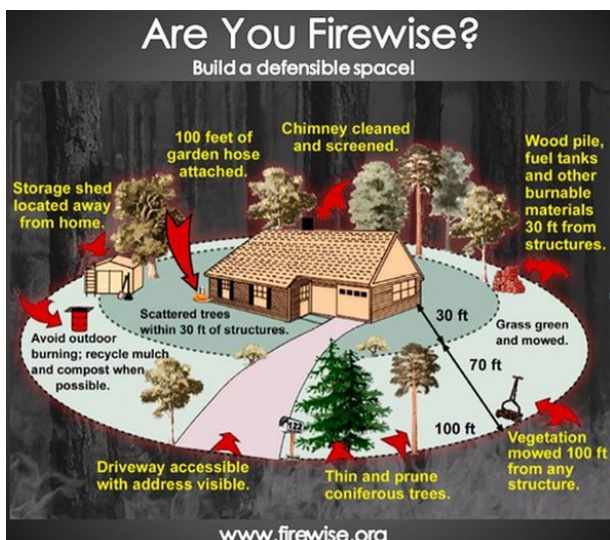
Why Firewise?

The history of wildfire in Carlton County is vivid despite the 1918 fires happening over a century ago. That fire was the worst natural disaster in Minnesota history in terms of the number of casualties in a single day. In total, 453 people died, 52,000 people were injured or displaced, 38 communities were destroyed, 250,000 acres were burned and \$73 million (\$1.241 billion USD in 2020) in property damage was suffered. Even to this day there are multiple smaller fires happening in Carlton County that have the potential to become a catastrophic wildfire that can endanger residents that live in the Wildland-Urban Interface.



The Carlton SWCD Firewise Program Summary:

1. SWCD staff will complete a free 28 point evaluation of your home and property that will help identify potential wildfire risks around your home.
2. An Evaluation Report and Mitigation Plan will be developed for your property to help you implement strategies to keep your home safer during a wildfire.
3. You are eligible for voluntary participation in reduced cost woody fuels removal events when they are scheduled.



Want to Learn More about the Firewise Program?

Contact the Carlton SWCD to learn more about the program or to set up a Firewise Evaluation with our staff. Your calls and emails will be directed to Sam Horner - Conservation Technician. Sam's contact information is as follows:

Phone: 218-384-3891

Email: sam.horner@carltonswcd.org

We look forward to working with you and making Carlton County more resilient to wildfires.

Mitigation Planning:

One focus of your custom Mitigation Plan is to identify potential wildfire risks within the 30' Defensible Zone around your home.



The Firewise Evaluation Report and the Mitigation Plan will help you understand the risks on your property that could fuel a wildfire, and describe specific steps you can take to make your property more resistant to a wildfire.

The photo to the left is a sample of an aerial view included in your Mitigation Plan, with areas identified for recommended mitigation actions.

"A simple 1 hour visit will result in a comprehensive plan. It has been shown that 80% of homes lost due to wildfire may have been saved with simple steps outlined in these plans. Your home and family is worth it. There is no better time than now to prepare and educate your family, friends and neighbors," Russ Kurhajetz, SWCD Board Chair.

The second focus of your custom Mitigation Plan is to help ensure fire fighting crews and their trucks can reach your home.

A key to fighting residential property fires is being able to get large trucks into effective firefighting positions near the structures. One of the best things homeowners can do is to open up driveways by cutting back brush and trees both along the sides and overhanging branches according to FireWise recommendations. And always keep your 911 sign visible at the end of your driveway." Derek Wolf, Carlton Fire Department Chief.

SWCD Firewise Program Partners:

Carlton County Land Department	Carlton County Emergency Management	Carlton County Board	City of Carlton Fire Department
MN Department of Natural Resources	FDL Firewise Coordinator	Dovetail Partners	Chub Lake Association