

Firewise Monthly Educational Community Meeting May 16th, 2026

Program Update

- Documents available at <https://ffldaz.com/firewise> to view previous meeting minutes, our 3-year action plan, the “0-5 feet” program, and “5-in and less” programs. Also find the Tracking Form at this site to submit our hours for compilation for our Forest Lakes Firewise community certification. Submit forms after Spring cleaning and again in the Fall.
- Drawings will be available each month for residents as incentive to become Firewise ready:
 - 5” or less ponderosa removal on your home. Please fill out a [form](#) for inspection to enter the drawing.
 - 0-5 ft firewise compliant is the second drawing. Please fill our [form](#) for inspection.
- Notes for readiness:
 - Take out dead leaves and debris 0-5’ from the house. Green, live plants are fine and don’t burn.
 - Move burnable items away from home and sheds. Deck furniture is included if flammable.
- Kickoff meeting was in April at the Fire Station. We had ~80 in attendance (in-person and zoom)
- A Firewise appreciation day was held on May 2nd with free hot dogs at the Green Waste Site on the first Saturday in May. This annual event keeps us in compliance.
- There are 976 lots in Forest Lakes, which means that we need to have that many volunteer hours or \$33,995 dollars to stay in good standing. Contractor costs count in addition to meetings, raking and hauling needles, fees collected at Green Waste, etc. We are at \$46,892 at the end of April (138% already accomplished), but we need to continue the efforts to make the community safer from wildfire.
- Benefits for staying in good standing
 - Forest Lakes will move towards the top of the list for future grant approvals like the tree thinning grant.
 - Another benefit includes insurance companies giving discounts on homeowners insurance. Some companies are already participating.
- The south side of Forest Lakes is a focus area for this year as they are vulnerable to fires coming up the Rim. Working with Black Mesa to see if we can create a buffer from the community to the National Forest.
- Firewise has 3 distinct zones
 - 0-5ft → our current focus
 - 5-30 ft → future focus
 - 30-100 ft → future focus

- Dino showed a video demonstrating the different types of materials in the 0-5-foot zone and how they respond to embers. Please view the video to better understand how to protect your home. [[look at the Firewise May Update at flfdaz.com/firewise](https://flfdaz.com/firewise)]

Ready, Set, Go (see instruction at [FLFD Website](#))

- Always assume we are in the Ready position.
- Have two lists already defined: 1) what you will take with you when the SET and GO commands come, 2) what you need to do to your home before you leave.
- When Set is called, gather the things from your list that you need to take with you and do the things around your house from the list if a Go is called.
- See list of [5 P's of Evacuation](#): people & pets, prescriptions, papers, personal needs, priceless things.

Community Questions and Answers

- Is there still Grant money available? There is a waitlist currently. Contact John Nelson to get on this list. The south side is currently a priority. Most bids are in the 7-10K range because of the number of trees on lots. We will be supplying DFFM with our grant use data to help shape future grants to allow for more participation and less homeowner's cost.
- We are not yet Firewise Certified. Stay tuned on when that will be finalized.
- A few insurance companies are giving discounts for Firewise communities. Dino will follow up to determine if insurance company zip code search results change once we are Firewise certified.

Call-to-Action for Residents (reminder):

- Attend these monthly educational meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month May-Sep following the FLOA community board meetings.
- Fill out a [tracking form](#) after you rake your pine needles in Spring and Fall as necessary and anyone that may be coordinating a group clean-up activity to track the volunteer hours.
- Work on your property for the "0-5-feet" and "5" or less" programs and request inspection to be entered into the monthly drawings. Find this and other forms at: <https://flfdaz.com/firewise>