

# Fireshed Ambassador Program

# 50 ideas for ACTION!



## Community Education and Outreach

1. Establish a group of folks within your neighborhood who are interested in working collectively towards building a more fire resilient community.
2. Create a neighborhood email list to distribute information.
3. Familiarize yourself with the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed website and the resources available to you and your community. Make sure your community knows about the website ([www.santafefireshed.org](http://www.santafefireshed.org)) and the prepare page: (<http://www.santafefireshed.org/prepare>).
4. Plan a regular community workday as a cheap and effective way to complete mitigation projects and build a sense of community around fire mitigation.
5. Host a neighborhood potluck or barbeque to introduce wildfire preparedness principles and develop a sense of community around a shared concern.
6. Host a mini seminar at your house to learn more about fire ecology, preparedness, evacuation, or another topic that interests your community. Invite a speaker from the fire department or the Forest Stewards Guild to address the topic.
7. Use the months of March and April to introduce yourself to your local fire chief and/or fire department personnel (*the worst time to meet your local fire officials is during a wildfire*).
8. Attend bimonthly Fireshed Ambassador meetings to connect with your Fireshed Ambassador Coordinators and other Ambassadors who are doing similar work in their communities.
9. Attend trainings and learning opportunities put on by your Fireshed Ambassador Coordinators.
10. Build and distribute welcome packets to introduce new residents to the idea of fire mitigation. Make sure to include a welcome letter that introduces you as a Fireshed Ambassador, a summary of actions the neighborhood has already taken, Emergency planning tips, and what plans you have for the future.
11. Compile a text group within your neighborhood to quickly and efficiently inform residents of any pressing information about fires or other emergency events. Send an email to your community to have them sign up for [Alert Santa Fe](#) for emergency notifications from the City.
12. Distribute Fireshed information to your community found either from our [blog](#) or emails that we send to Ambassadors.
13. Invite neighbors on a tour highlighting exemplary defensible space, fire resilient



landscaping, fire resistant construction, and/or a community fuel break.

14. Talk to neighbors who might be elderly or disabled and discuss their evacuation plans and needs.
15. Ensure that community fire resilience is a regular line item in any agenda for either HOA meetings or other neighborhood gatherings where information is presented.
16. Check with your Fireshed Ambassador Coordinators to see if there are any grants currently available to your neighborhood for mitigation or education.
17. Apply for Firewise USA recognition program or renew your registration. The initial application and renewal application are both available here:  
<http://www.firewise.org/usa-recognition-program.aspx?sso=0>.

### Prevention

18. Post current fire conditions, red flag warnings, or other restrictions in a public place so residents are aware of the conditions of the day and can modify their burn plans appropriately.
19. Consider adopting neighborhood burn restrictions.
20. Maintain an existing fire danger sign.

### Planning

21. To help get your community get engaged in mitigation, talk to your Wildland Urban Interface Specialist about developing a Community Assessment for your neighborhood that will provide recommendations for action. Contact: Porfirio Chavarria, 505-955-3119.
22. Visit with your Wildland Urban Interface Specialist to see whether developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) makes sense for your community.
23. If you have an existing Community Assessment or CWPP, review it annually and update as needed. Follow this up by distributing updates to your neighbors and emergency responders.
24. Organize a community Home Hazard Assessment training for residents. You can run this training yourself or contact Porfirio Chavarria, 505-955-3119 for assistance. There are [HHA booklets and worksheets](#) available for your use.
25. Seek funds to implement Community Assessment or CWPP recommendations.
26. Work with adjacent landowners to ensure there are multiple access routes in the event that the primary one is shut off in an emergency.
27. Work with adjacent landowners to plan and secure permission for community fuel breaks, access thinning or safe areas.
28. Organize a mitigation day to help elderly or disabled folks in your community assess and mitigate the risks around their home.

### Risk Reduction

29. Do a Home Hazard Assessment on your house and follow up with the appropriate mitigation actions. Your house is now a model home for community wildfire resilience. You can show it off to your community when you have a Fireshed Ambassador meeting or potluck at your house.



30. Publicize, in all ways possible, the Fireshed defensible space suggestions available for download at: [www.santafefireshed.org/homehazardassessment/](http://www.santafefireshed.org/homehazardassessment/)
31. Plan an event to raise wildfire awareness or complete a project in your neighborhood the first Saturday in May which is national Community Wildfire Preparedness Day.
32. Mitigate communal areas so residents can see completed work and therefore are encouraged to work on their own homes and within their own property.
33. Establish a communal slash pile with a slash disposal mechanism (air curtain burner day, pile burn, tub grinder, etc.).
34. Organize a community curbside chipper day by contacting the City (505-955-3119) or County (505-995-6532).
35. Encourage your HOA Board to create a line item for fire mitigation work.
36. Set up a way to receive donations from your HOA/POA or neighbors for community fire mitigation projects.
37. Share grants and programs that support fuel reduction on individual properties.
38. Mitigate land around evacuation route(s) and other roads so residents or first responders can safely move throughout the community during a wildfire.
39. Make your community aware of the HEPA filter loan program offered by the Forest Stewards Guild and the City of Santa Fe ([www.santafefireshed.org/hepa-filter-loan-program/](http://www.santafefireshed.org/hepa-filter-loan-program/)).
40. Help organize a pile burn. If someone in your neighborhood wants to organize a pile burn, make sure residents are aware of the need to get a burn permit by contacting your local fire department, and make sure you are complying with New Mexico Air Quality Bureau (not applicable if you are burning 1 pile at a time). The process is not difficult and this can be a great option to dispose of slash. Contact your Fireshed Ambassador Coordinators for more information on how to set up a pile burn.
41. Establish covenants within the HOA or an agreement among your community to require residents to maintain defensible space once it has been created.
42. Establish covenants within the HOA to recommend or require ignition resistant building materials to be on new construction, especially on roofs, siding, and decks.

### Emergency Response

43. Do an inventory of your neighborhood street and home addressing signs. Encourage your neighbors to use reflective house numbering. Find ways to make signs more visible to emergency responders.
44. Invite fire department personnel to visit your neighborhood to assess driveways, turnouts, turn-arounds, etc. for emergency access.
45. Share “Emergency Planning Tips” list and encourage residents to create one that includes important medications, papers, personal items and priceless items so they are prepared to evacuate.
46. Work with your local fire department to establish an evacuation plan so residents can safely exit the community during a wildfire or other emergency event. Make all residents aware of the plan.
47. Work with your fire department or Emergency Manager to plan a practice evacuation so residents clearly understand where and how to exit in the event of a fire.



48. Widely disperse evacuation preparedness information from American Red Cross: [http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0\\_77\\_00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_77_00.html) and
49. Create turnouts on one-lane roads so fire trucks and residents can use the road simultaneously.

**And last, but not least:**

50. **CELEBRATE** small and big successes alike – neighbors like to see success and be recognized for their efforts!

