

Fire Adapted Communities & Firewise

What's the difference?



The Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) helps residents and visitors in the Lake Tahoe Basin prepare for wildfire.

Led by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) in coordination with local fire districts, the program builds community connections by assisting neighborhoods in wildfire preparedness efforts. To achieve fire adapted status, neighborhoods can take various actions such as making evacuation plans, creating personal “go-bags,” and signing up for emergency alerts. The first step in becoming a fire adapted community is appointing a neighborhood leader to coordinate with Tahoe RCD staff.

Key activities include hosting community workdays where neighbors come together to create defensible space by clearing flammable debris. The FAC Program offers resources and services to support these efforts, including publications and assistance, free defensible space inspections and chipping services provided by local fire districts. This work is funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

Firewise USA, also facilitated by Tahoe RCD, is a nationally recognized program within the Fire Adapted Communities framework. While both programs complement each other, Firewise USA provides national recognition to communities that complete specific wildfire prevention criteria. Communities can work toward becoming both fire adapted and Firewise simultaneously.

The FAC Program is a comprehensive local network offering resources and guidance for wildfire preparedness, while Firewise is a national program under this umbrella, providing recognition for communities that meet certain wildfire prevention standards. Many actions, such as neighborhood workdays, contribute to both programs, helping to reduce wildfire risk and strengthen community bonds.

82
Fire adapted communities in the Basin

40
Firewise recognized

Fire Adapted Communities Program

Firewise USA

Works with your neighborhood on a higher level to support wildfire safety AND help you achieve Firewise USA recognition

Provides guidance for neighbors to work together to achieve greater wildfire safety

Provides free chipping services and defensible space inspections

Provides publications, website, resources, & local experts

Provides local workshops & presentations

Provides on the ground local resources & experts who can help coordinate & build communication



Both programs are a framework for wildfire action

Both encourage wildfire education & community building

Both programs require neighborhood leader involvement

Workdays can count for both programs

Nationally recognized program

Provides publications & website

Provides recognition and may lead to insurance discounts



FIREWISE USA™

Residents reducing wildfire risks