



FIREFIGHTERS CAN'T DO IT ALONE

**New report underscores why residents must collaborate
with fire departments to tackle wildfire threats**

Every year, brush, grass and forest fires burn across the U.S. and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. NFPA recently published a report, "Wildland/Urban Interface: Fire Department Wildfire Preparedness and Readiness Capabilities," based on a survey and interviews with local fire departments across the U.S. to better understand how they are addressing wildfire in their communities.

The reality of fighting wildfires

During a wildfire that threatens multiple homes, firefighting resources are often limited and firefighters must make quick decisions on which homes they can work on defending. A few of the factors that affect how firefighters respond to wildfires include:

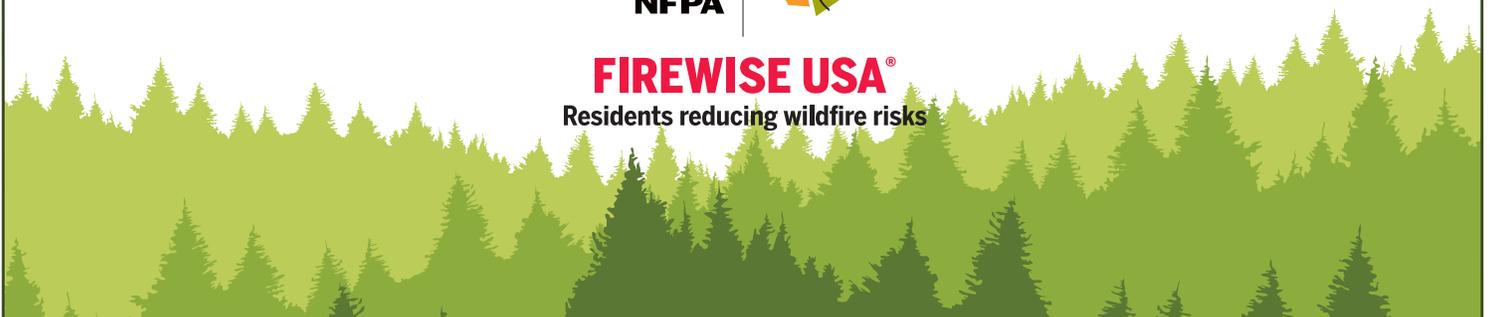
- a.** Budgetary constraints
- b.** Geography/topography of the fire
- c.** Suppression vs. pre-fire risk reduction strategies

How fire departments help you and your community

Despite some limitations that fire departments have when fighting wildfires, there are ways departments are partnering with communities to raise more awareness around preparedness and risk reduction projects that can make a difference when it comes time to fight a fire. ►



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Residents reducing wildfire risks





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How fire departments help you and your community (*continued*)

The following are a few examples:

- » Provide more public outreach and education about wildfire prevention, mitigation and emergency situations to residents, including one-on-one meetings with homeowners, giving community presentations, and using social media.
- » Assist property owners with chipping brush (dead leaves and branches) that property owners collect on their land.
- » Assist local residents in adopting and implementing community-based programs like NFPA's Firewise USA™ recognition program (www.Firewise.org).

How you can help your local fire department

Firefighters around the country battle hundreds of wildfires every year, but they can't do it alone. It's important that homeowners help prepare their property and neighborhoods for the next wildfire. The following action steps help support local fire departments in their efforts to reduce risks and keep firefighters safer on the job:

- » Talk to your fire department and learn what to expect from them when the next wildfire approaches your community.
- » Download a free home wildfire safety checklist for homeowners at www.Firewise.org/toolkit.
- » Encourage your local fire department to participate in the "Ready, Set, Go!" program (www.wildlandfirersg.org) to ensure that everyone is ready for the next wildfire.

Contact your local fire department to learn more about the specific actions you can take to reduce your risk. Find homeowner resources about wildfire safety and preparedness including videos, checklists, toolkits and more at www.Firewise.org and www.NFPA.org/wildfire.



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