

Ready, Set, Go! and Firewise Communities: How They Complement Each Other



The Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve. The program helps the fire service teach individuals who live in high risk wildland fire areas – and the wildland urban interface (WUI) – how to best prepare themselves and their properties against wildland fire threats. The program’s tenets help residents be *Ready* with preparedness understanding, be *Set* with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to *Go* early when necessary. The RSG! Program works in complementary and collaborative fashion with the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition and existing wildland fire public education efforts, like Firewise, and amplifies their message to individuals.

NFPA’s Firewise Communities Program encourages local solutions for wildland fire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in creating fire-adapted communities— places where people and property are safer from the risk of brush, grass, and forest fires.

Firewise principles can help individuals and communities accomplish the “Ready” tenet of RSG by providing the proven steps to empower individual homeowners to lower their property’s wildland fire risk and to work with their neighbors to make their community safer.

Used together, the Ready, Set, Go! and Firewise Communities programs can save lives and property by:

- **Defining the risk and responsibility.** Fire is a natural process and plays an important role in our environment. However, loss of homes to wildland fire is not inevitable. Once residents understand what causes homes to ignite, they have a better understanding of their role in protecting their families, homes, and property from wildland fire – all year round.
- **Empowering individual action.** Ready, Set, Go! and Firewise provide residents with specific guidelines for reducing risk within the home ignition zone – which includes the home and extends out to 200 feet. This includes clearing property of debris and maintaining the landscape, as well as recommendations for fire-resistant home design and construction, such as Class A roofing and tempered glass windows.
- **Encouraging community-level engagement.** By taking a fire-adapted community approach to wildland fire preparedness, communities can greatly reduce their wildland fire vulnerability. The Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program facilitates this process with a framework for communities to work with partners including state forestry and local fire departments to organize, plan, and conduct activities each year that make a difference in community wildland fire safety.
- **Furthering firefighter and resident safety during a fire event.** A fire-resistant property enables firefighters to focus on containing the wildland fire itself, rather than defending individual structures. Ready, Set, Go! also brings fire departments and residents together to build important understanding, preparedness, and action.

Wildland fires may be referred to as brush fires, grass fires, or forest fires, yet the risk remains the same. Learn more about how to be Firewise and how to develop your personal “Ready, Set, Go!” action plan.

www.wildlandfireRSG.org • www.Firewise.org

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