

Taking Control of Your Wildfire Risk

An Introduction to Firewise USA®



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[Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)

Why Are We Here?



What makes a FIREWISE Community
-Elm Valley?



Condition of homes—what we see that make homes vulnerable to wildfire.



Tracking/reporting requirements to meet a FIREWISE Community.



FIREWISE USA®
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

Once recognized as a FIREWISE Community...potential homeowner's Insurance discount.



FIREWISE USA®
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

- Voluntary recognition program
- Created in 2002 by NFPA with support from USDA Forest Service and State Forestry organizations
- Addresses risk on private property



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Local Wildfire Context

GET ORGANIZED

Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other wildfire stakeholders.

COMPLETED Dennis Askin, Dr. Mark Teague, Jordy King, Todd Casey, Terry Hughes

Obtain a wildfire risk assessment. **COMPLETED by our Texas A&M Forest Service July 2026 On new ECCA Website**

Determine the size and boundary: **COMPLETED, 543 dwellings**

MAKE A PLAN

Create a 3-year action plan that identifies community education and risk reduction actions.

COMPLETED JULY 2026 on new ECCA Website

DO THE WORK

Host a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event. **COMPLETED**

Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment. **NOT COMPLETED**

1hr/\$34.79 per Dwelling
Your credit towards every hour working on your property towards the required
Elm Valley total for 2026=\$2,087.40

TELL US ABOUT IT

Create a Firewise USA® Portal account COMPLETED

Submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison. **NOT COMPLETED Target is End of October 2026 for acceptance for 2027**



WHAT CAN BE DONE?



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Everyone Has a Role to Play in Reducing Wildfire Risk

- **Individual residents** can take action to reduce the risk of loss on their property which will help our ELM VALLEY community as a whole.



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Do the Work



Clean up debris around your home and community.



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Science-based Recommendations for Individual Homes

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)—includes home and 0–100 feet from the base of a building or furthest attachment (e.g., deck).

Recommendations within HIZ:

- Use fire-resistant materials for roofs, walls, windows, decks
- Remove anything that can burn that is right next to the home
- Maintain home and landscape

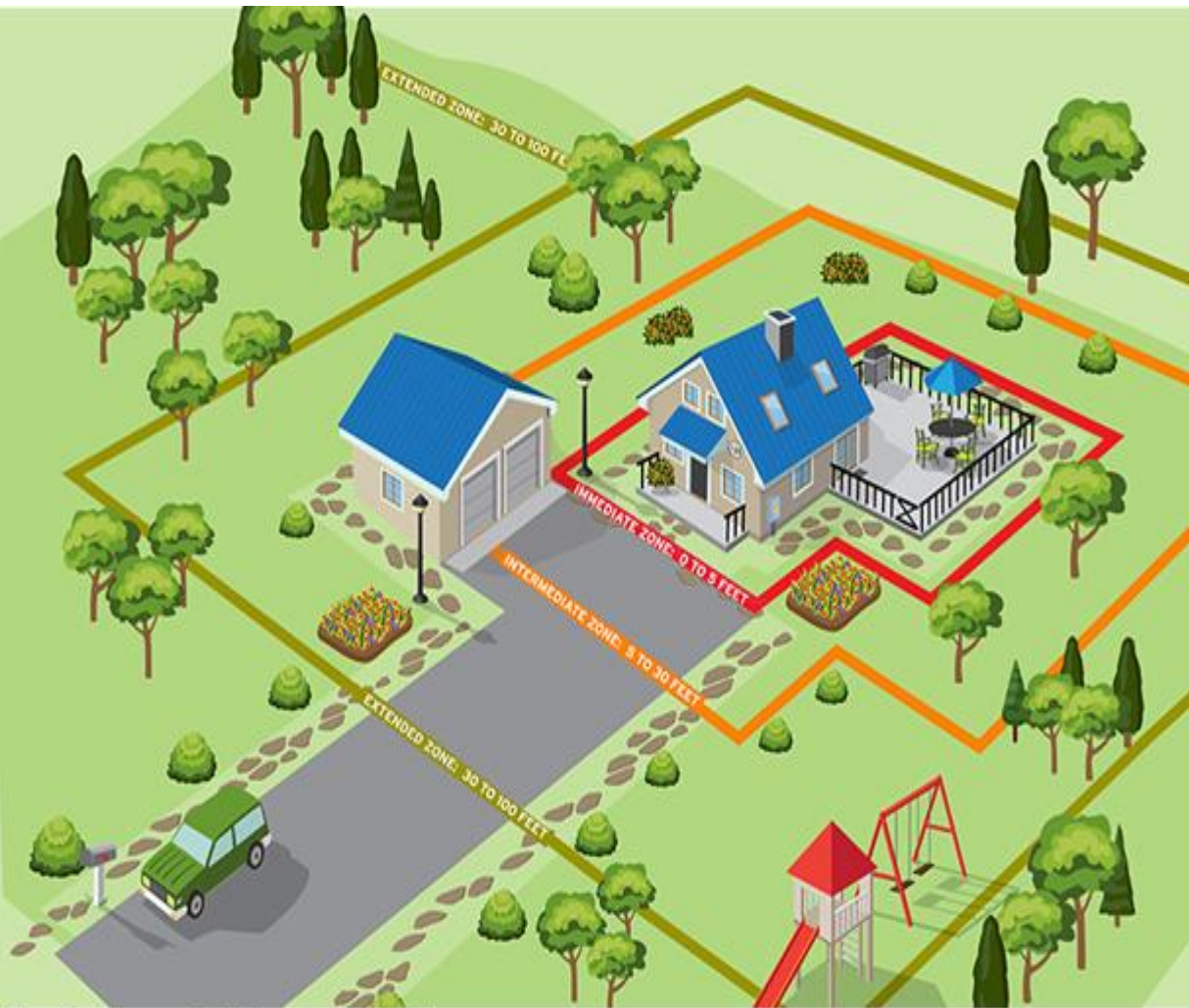
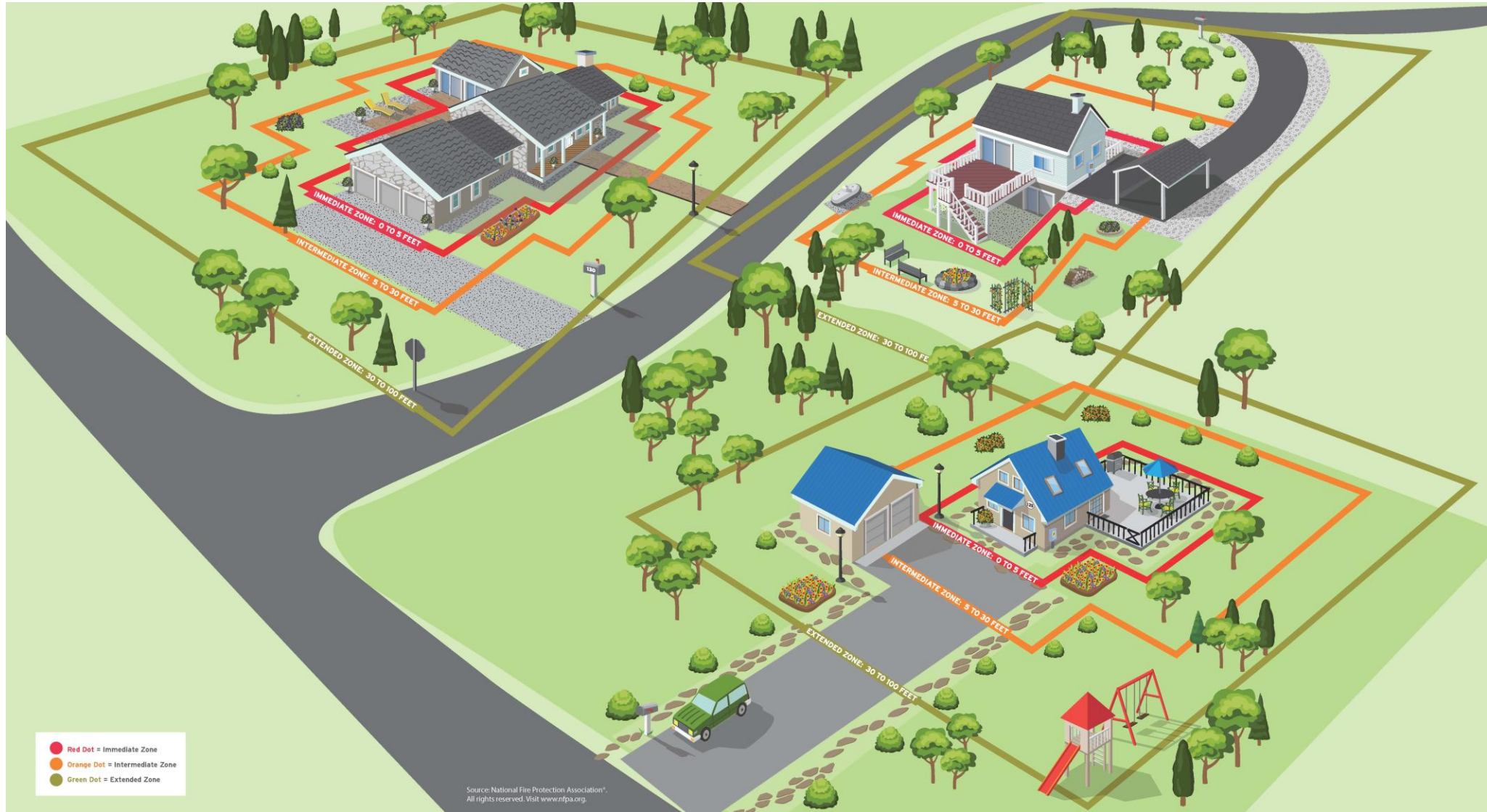


Figure 1: Diagram of the Structure Ignition Zone

Creating an Ignition-Resistant Community



Features of an Ignition-Resistant Home



- Noncombustible siding all the way to the ground
- Rock mulch close to the house
- Paved walkway and driveway to break up vegetation
- Plants spaced to reduce fire spread
- Neighboring home is also ignition-resistant

Easy Online Tracking of your FIREWISE activities

- ECCA WEBSITE

<https://eccavfd.com/firewise>



Point your phone camera here

A screenshot of the 'LOG A CONTRIBUTION' page on the Firewise USA website. The page has a light beige background. At the top, it says 'FIREWISE USA' in small orange letters, followed by 'LOG A CONTRIBUTION' in large, bold, black letters. Below this is a short paragraph: 'Logging your Firewise contributions helps the community keep its Firewise USA recognition. It takes a minute and you don't need an account.' The form itself is divided into several sections. The first section has two input fields: 'NUMBER OF HOURS' with the value '0' and 'NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS' with the value '1'. The next section is 'DESCRIPTION OF WORK' with a text area containing the example 'e.g. Cleared brush along the north ridge'. Below this is a section titled 'Your details' with a note 'Saved on this device so you only type them once'. It contains three input fields: 'FULL NAME', 'PROPERTY ADDRESS', and 'PHONE'. There is also an 'EMAIL - optional' input field. The next section is 'What did you do?' which includes a 'DATE OF ACTIVITY' field with a date picker icon and a 'TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION' field. The form is clean and user-friendly.

The "Log a Contribution" page — no account needed



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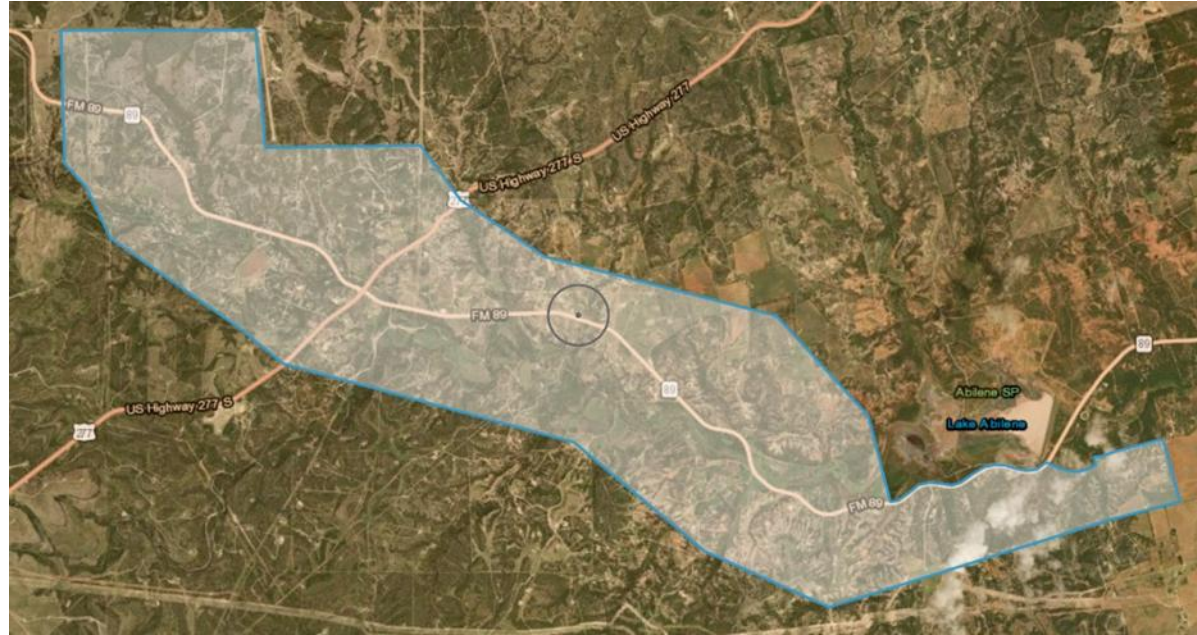
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Examples

- Improvements/Maintenance within the Home Ignition Zones:
 - Cleared debris at the base of combustible fences
 - Cleared vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
 - Created a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
 - Created small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (Driveways, walkways/paths, patios, stone walls, etc.
 - Limbed and removed lower tree branches
 - Moved firewood piles at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
 - Mowed lawn, native grasses and weeds as needed
 - Raked and removed pine needles, leaves and ground debris
 - Replaced combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
 - Replaced highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
 - Reduced ladder fuels
 - Stacked/piled slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
 - Tree thinning/removal
 - Door-to-door canvassing to get new neighbors involved in reducing wildfire risks
- Improvements/Maintenance on the Home and Outbuildings
- Collaboration with Forestry, Fire and Related Experts
 - Time spent performing fire risk overviews at individual homes
- FIREWISE Education/Training Events and Meetings for Residents
- Coordination of FIREWISE Projects, Meetings, etc.



Potential Home Owners Insurance Discount



- Once ELM VALLEY obtains FIREWISE recognition from NFPA then a certificate of participation is provided for you to give to your insurance company.
- All insurance company underwriters are different; you may need to provide pictures or have them inspect your home outside.

QUESTIONS?

