



**FIREWISE USA™**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## Program Criteria for New Applicants effective January 8, 2018

### New Applicants must:

- Obtain a wildfire risk assessment in written document form from the state forestry agency, local fire department, or other state liaison approved entity. **Assessments must be updated every five years.**
- Form a board or committee that includes residents. Consider inviting the local fire department, local forestry agencies, elected officials, emergency manager, and if applicable, the representing property management company to participate in the board.
- Using the risk assessment as a tool to determine risk reduction priorities within the defined site boundary, the board/committee must develop a multi-year action plan based on the risk assessment. Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects/investments, suggested homeowner actions, and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually, or over multiple years.  
**The action plan must be updated at a minimum of every three years.**
- Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.
- Provide the total number of residents living within the site's boundary.
- The number of **dwelling units** within the site applying for recognition must be included in the application and updated annually. For explanation purposes, a single dwelling unit is a household/residence built for occupancy by one person, a family, or roommates for all types of housing including cabins, mobile homes, apartments, condominiums, etc.; i.e., an apartment building with 10 units would be counted as ten dwelling units.
- The site must **invest a minimum of \$24.14 per dwelling unit**, in wildfire risk reduction actions annually (based on the 2017 annual National Hourly Volunteer Rate). The rate will be updated in April of every year when the new hourly volunteer rate is published.
- **New criteria to calculate the investment requirement:**
  - As of January 8, 2018, the calculation for the investment requirement will no longer be based on the number of residents, it will be based on the number of dwelling units within a site's boundaries.
  - New Applicants must have a minimum of 8 individual dwelling units within their identified boundary.
  - New Applicants cannot have more than 2,500 individual dwelling units in their identified boundary.
  - Multiple individual participating sites can be located w/in a single large master-planned community
- An application must be submitted through the Firewise USA Portal. State liaisons will approve applications, with processing finalized by the National Fire Protection Association.
- If deemed necessary, states can include additional requirements. (WA requires a map showing the Firewise site boundary and parcels/lots.)