



NEWS RELEASE

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Mark Brehl

Community FireWise Coordinator

(928) 556-1207

mbrehl@ci.flagstaff.az.us

“Firewise Home Ignition Zone Course”

Despite a relatively mellow wildfire season throughout the southwest, wildfire remains one of the greatest threats to all who live here. Wildfire will always be a part of our landscape and will continue to threaten homes and communities. Understanding wildfire and the factors contributing to its spread and structure ignition can help prevent home loss disasters.

To help increase community protection the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership is sponsoring a Firewise Home Ignition Zone course with instructors from the Flagstaff Fire Department and University of Arizona Agricultural Extension Office.

This course is designed to teach homeowners, landscapers, firefighters and others about factors that contribute to structure loss from wildfire and how these hazards can be mitigated. This course covers the myths of wildland urban interface (WUI) fire, the history and context of WUI fire disasters, sequential elements of a WUI fire disaster, research and case studies, risk factors in the home ignition zone, information needed to conduct an assessment, the general health of the ecosystem, inspecting the home ignition zone, accessibility in case of a wildfire emergency, documenting an assessment, and much more. This workshop also includes Q & A, class discussion, and exercises to practice what has been learned.

This course is for You if...

- You want to learn what the home ignition zone is
- You want to learn what can be done to reduce the risk of wildfire in your community
- You are responsible for assessing homeowner properties for hazards in the home ignition zone
- You want to learn how the home ignition zone is key to reducing losses in the interface
- You want to learn what can make your property Firewise

This single course will be held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department 3500 S Lake Mary Road in Flagstaff on September 12th, 19th, and 26th from 08:30 to 12:30 each day. Upon completion of all three days, attendees will receive a certificate of completion, and a state Firewise Assessor certificate from the State Forester’s Office qualifying them to perform home assessments in AZ.

A registration fee of \$10 will cover snacks and drinks. Course materials will be provided by the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership. Space is limited to 35 attendees. Contact Mariel Watt at the Coconino County U of A Agricultural Extension office at (928) 774-1868 ext 10 for registration details and to find out if seats are still available.

For more information on this course or how your neighborhood can become a Firewise Community, contact Firewise Coordinator, Mark Brehl at (928) 556-1207 or by email at mbrehl@ci.flagstaff.az.us.