

## Firewise Communities

*"Be Wise, Be Very Wise, Be Firewise"*

A slogan adopted by several states and many communities throughout the country as part of an outreach and awareness effort to educate residents of the benefits of wildfire preparedness.

Wildfire planning and preparedness is at the core of a new national initiative -The Firewise Communities/USA program. This effort, sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, is designed to facilitate and provide information and resources to towns, municipalities, developments and communities that need to adopt long-term, proactive solutions to protect homes and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire.

In addition to working closely with communities to achieve these few simple steps to enrollment, the NJ Forest Fire Service will also assist communities in obtaining grant funding to implement firewise concepts, and wildfire prevention and education events.

Agencies and organizations responsible for wildland fire management agree: we can reduce the loss of lives, property, and damage to natural resources from wildfire, by building and maintaining communities that are compatible with their natural surroundings.

There is no single solution, however, to achieving this common goal. The Firewise Communities/USA concept is successful because it emphasizes local decision-making and encourages community representatives, including homeowners to develop their own plan for achieving a set of common goals. In general, the most successful wildfire mitigation programs are driven by the individuals that will benefit most from their efforts; the residents.

### NJDEP - Ember Awareness - New Jersey Forest Fire Service



[+ What is the Home Ignition Zone?](#)



For more information on Firewise Communities USA visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

Joe Battersby  
NJ Firewise Communities Liaison  
732-928-0029  
New Jersey Forest Fire Service  
Department of Environmental Protection

## Department of Environmental Protection

### About DEP

Commissioner  
Deputy Commissioners  
Senior Staff  
Organizational Chart (pdf)  
Calendar  
Councils & Commissions  
Employment Opportunities

## HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

Simple steps from roof to foundation to make a home safer from embers and radiant heat.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches



- [Phone Directory](#)
- [Rules](#)
- [Directions to Our Office](#)
- [Warn DEP](#)

## Index by Topic

---

## Programs & Units

---

- [Air Quality, Energy & Sustainability](#)
- [Water Resource Management](#)
- [Land Use Management](#)
- [Climate & Flood Resilience](#)
- [Natural & Historic Resources](#)
- [Site Remediation & Waste Management Program](#)

## Information Tools

---

- [DEP Online](#)
- [DataMiner](#)
- [NJ-GeoWeb](#)
- [GIS Data](#)
- [GIS Maps and App Gallery](#)
- [Public Records \(OPRA\)](#)
- [Rules & Regs](#)
- [DEP Bulletin](#)
- [Environmental Standards](#)
- [Environmental Research Library](#)
- [Environmental Education](#)



## Contact

---

## Statewide

---

- [Governor Phil Murphy](#)
- [Lt. Governor Tahesha Way](#)
- [NJ Home](#)
- [Services A to Z](#)
- [Departments/Agencies](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Privacy Notice](#)
- [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#)
- [Accessibility Statement](#)



Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2024  
 Department of Environmental Protection  
 P. O. Box 402  
 Trenton, NJ 08625  
 609-777-3373

Last Update: March 29, 2023