

WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION PROGRAM

Wildwood Highlands has agreed to become a part of the *Firewise* program that is administered by the county in order to reduce the risk of wildfire ignition and consequent damage to property. As part of this program we will:

- Meet with State Forestry and Fire Department officials to provide a community assessment
- Form a *Firewise* committee that will accept the assessment, create an action plan, and monitor activity
- Set dates for community chipper-days, and
- Set a date for an educational *Firewise* day.

Although completion of the program can lead to national recognition and certification as a *Firewise* community, that is not our main objective. Rather, we hope that all landowners that have improvements on their property will work to modify their “home ignition zone”. The home ignition zone is site-specific but here are some general guidelines:

- Eliminate fire fuels within 30 feet of any structure on the property. This includes clearing dead wood or timber that could ignite or provide fuel for fire.
- Maintain trees and bushes in a fire safe manner. Trim tree limbs to a level of 6 to 10 feet above ground to prevent them acting as “ladder fuel” for fire.
- Ensure that tree canopies do not overhang any structure.
- Keep roof gutters and downspouts free of leaves and other fire fuels.
- Build and maintain a non-flammable barrier of 3 feet or more from any structure to prevent ignition of the structure. Use rocks, stone, or other non-flammable material as much as possible.
- Keep grass and weeds mowed at least 20 feet around any structure.
- Make sure that your driveway has sufficient width and height room for a fire truck and that the truck can turn around.
- Maintain wood piles at least 10 feet from the house.

As part of the program each property owner can get an assessment of their property from the *Firewise* coordinator for Catron County. While there is no guarantee, it is possible that fire insurance rates might be reduced as a result of our participation in this program.