

# Firewise Grant Program

Using funding received during the 2016 Legislative Session, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) launched a grant program for conservation districts to implement local Firewise program activities.



## TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING: \$1 MILLION

### PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- ▶ All work completed in high-priority and/or high-risk areas.
- ▶ Allocated 100 percent of funds (no overhead).
- ▶ Partnered with Department of Natural Resources to leverage funds and get more work done.
- ▶ Took advantage of existing funding mechanism between SCC and conservation districts to quickly get dollars out the door.
- ▶ Utilized conservation districts' capacity to conduct local education and outreach events.

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Cost-share to help landowners reduce fuels (e.g. tree thinning, pruning, and chipping).
- ▶ Installing signs to mark evacuation routes and help emergency responders find homes.
- ▶ Conducting homeowner / landowner fire risk assessments.
- ▶ Helping landowners implement recommendations from fire risk assessments.
- ▶ Outreach and education to new and existing "Firewise Communities."



Firewise practices help reduce home ignition risk (photo courtesy of firewise.org)

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

**39,303**

landowners provided with  
Firewise information (e.g.  
through workshops, mailings)

**173**

Firewise home assessments  
completed

**238**

acres treated for fuels reduction  
(e.g. tree thinning, pruning, and  
chipping)

**33**

existing Firewise Communities  
assisted

**10**

communities assisted to  
achieve "Firewise Community"  
status

**280**

homes provided with signage  
to direct emergency responders



After the 2016 Suncrest Fire, fire chiefs praised landowners' use of Firewise principals, which allowed for safe, efficient response and resulted in no structure losses

## FIREWISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Grant programmatic guidelines and all work proposals submitted to the SCC Firewise Grant Program were reviewed and subject to approval by an advisory committee.

Committee members:

- ▶ Dean Longrie, SCC Commission Member (Western Rep.)
- ▶ Todd Welker, SCC Commission Member (DNR)
- ▶ Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan, DNR Firewise Coordinator
- ▶ SCC Staff
- ▶ Skagit Conservation District
- ▶ Okanogan Conservation District
- ▶ Cascadia Conservation District
- ▶ Kittitas County Conservation District

*In 2016, Washington led the nation with 32 new Firewise Communities.*

## Your Home & Wildfires

**Schedule your FREE Firewise Risk Assessment, including:**

- Basics of wild fire behavior and how homes ignite
- Important home ignition risks
- Easy steps to reduce threat of unnecessary losses
- Firewise funding opportunities
- Free Address Sign to help firefighters find your home



**Be prepared before another wildfire strikes your area.**

Spokane Conservation Districts advertisement for free Firewise services

*"We value our independence in the Northwest, but in truth, the foresight and decision to acknowledge our interdependence when it comes to wildfire risk is vital to our future safety. I especially appreciate the Firewise Community program because it is built on what I consider to be the greatest strengths of our valley - community, collaboration, and cooperation."*

Debbie Newell, landowner in Plain, Washington who is working with Cascadia Conservation District to make her community Firewise.

## FIREWISE CONTACTS

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