

Living with Wildland Fire

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Much of the Southwest is considered a high hazard fire environment. Based on recent history and experience, these areas possess all of the ingredients necessary to support large, intense and uncontrollable wildland fires.

Within this hazardous environment are individual houses, subdivisions and entire communities. Many homeowners, however, are ill prepared to survive an intense wildland fire. It is not a question of "if" a wildland fire will occur, but when. As such, the odds of losing human life and property are growing.

Our ability to live more safely in this fire environment depends on pre-fire activities. These are actions taken before a wildland fire occurs that improve the survivability of people and homes. The national Firewise

Communities/USA program is administered by the State Forester, so communities can pursue a comprehensive approach to having a Firewise community.

The look of our Southwest landscape has changed dramatically during the twentieth century. In many instances trees are smaller in our forests, but they are far more numerous. Invasive grasses are overtaking our deserts, which threatens the desert's health and long term viability. The buildup of fuels coupled with recent insect and disease outbreaks has greatly increased potential for severe wildland fires. Climate factors such as drought and warmer temperatures also play a role.

Protect your home from wildland fires in your home ignition zone by following the suggestions in the picture.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/firewise>
<http://www.azsf.gov>