



Firewise Task Force Mission Statement 10.29

The Firewise Task Force is dedicated to providing educational resources to assist Oakmont residents in reducing the risks of loss of life and property due to wildfires. The Task Force aims to promote best practices in home hardening, defensible space creation, vegetation management and other fire mitigation strategies.

Responsibilities of the Firewise Task Force

1. Follow the evolving science of wildfire prevention and mitigation.
2. Information Management: Create a systematic approach to gather, organize, and present wildfire safety information to residents and sub-HOAs, prioritizing content based on risk reduction.
3. Resource Center Material for OVA Website: Provide articles and information for the OVA website in the Firewise education section, along with emails and phone numbers for residents seeking assistance or information on wildfire risk reduction. This includes easy methods to obtain on-site property assessments.
4. Educational Outreach: Develop and distribute educational materials on home hardening, defensible space, vegetation management, and other fire mitigation strategies.
5. Assessment and Advice: Offer vegetation management assessments and guidance to homeowners and HOAs, ensuring alignment with state and local authorities as well as OVA policies. Advice on home hardening techniques is also offered as voluntary education for the homeowner, as vegetation management and home hardening go hand in hand to protect homes.
6. Collaborative Planning: Collaborate with Sub HOAs as requested to improve vegetation management and fuel reduction plans tailored to their specific neighborhood needs, within existing policy guidelines.
7. Community Engagement: Foster community involvement and encourage residents to support one another in risk reduction initiatives to enhance overall safety in Oakmont with speakers and special events, such as Firewise Landscape tours, Disaster fairs in coordination with the MYN Task Force, Oakmont Emergency Preparedness Task Force, Environmental Task Force and the OVA Architectural Committee.
8. Communication Strategy: Develop a clear and effective messaging strategy for all communications with the community, including articles, Town Halls, and onsite interactions for requested assessments. Find ways to increase the requests for onsite Firewise assessments.
9. Progress Monitoring: Continuously monitor and evaluate the community's progress in improving fire resilience, identifying opportunities for further support and encouragement.

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10. Regulatory Updates: Stay informed about new ordinances or laws and enforcement initiatives related to wildfire safety and bring appropriate officials into discussions to ensure coordination and community awareness within the community.

11. Reporting to the Board: Provide periodic progress reports to the General Manager, Oakmont Board of Directors, and community detailing the latest insights, emerging opportunities, and updates on the community's wildfire safety initiatives.

12. Maintain Firewise USA Status: Actively work to maintain Oakmont's Firewise status by engaging residents in risk reduction activities, ensuring compliance with Firewise USA standards, and participating in necessary evaluations and assessments. Work in conjunction with the OVA Architectural Committee on education to complement AC education and AC's enforcement of OVA policies.

Responsibilities

1. Primary Mission: The Task Force's focus is on continuing education:

- a. Identify risks and inform homeowners or sub-HOA Boards regarding wildfires and assist in prioritizing potential remedies.
- b. The Task Force does not have enforcement authority over any recommendations or policies. Enforcement of any policies remains the responsibility of the Architectural Committee and the OVA Board.

2. Collaboration: Work collaboratively with other committees and task forces to enhance wildfire safety initiatives and share best practices across organizations, particularly with MYN (Meet Your Neighbors), Oakmont Emergency Preparedness Task Force and Environmental Stewardship Task Force.

3. Property Access: Members of the Task Force will enter properties only with the consent of the property owner.

4. Documentation of Recommendations: Any suggested remedies concerning landscaping or home improvements will be documented and communicated to the homeowner or sub-HOA. This activity is critical to maintaining our Firewise USA status.

5. Role of Firewise Task Force: The Firewise Task Force is dedicated solely to education. Firewise assessments will be copied to OVA staff, however, no Architectural Committee complaints will be used based on Firewise assessment information.

Structure and Leadership

Membership

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1. The Firewise Task Force will be composed of a minimum of 5 voting members chosen by the Firewise Task Force with final approval by the General Manager along with other non-voting Task Force members.
2. Members of the Firewise Task Force will be appointed or reappointed on an annual basis by the General Manager.
3. Members can serve terms that last from the establishment of the task force until its dissolution.
4. The Firewise Task Force may expand its membership at any time with the approval of the General Manager in collaboration with the Task Force.

Leadership

1. The chairperson of the Firewise Task Force will be appointed by the General Manager in collaboration with the Firewise Task Force volunteer voting members.
2. The chairperson will oversee the task force and facilitate its meetings.

Meetings

1. The Firewise Task Force will set the schedule for its meetings, which will be conducted in accordance with Oakmont's meeting policies.
2. The task force will establish its own procedures for conducting meetings.
3. A quorum will be constituted by a majority of the voting task force members.
4. Decisions made by the Firewise Task Force will require a majority vote from the members present.
5. Meetings may be held in person or via conference call or video conferencing (e.g., Zoom), as determined by the chairperson.
6. The chairperson (or designated OVA staff) will send an email to all task force members, as well as to the General Manager, informing them of the meeting time and location at least two days in advance. An agenda of discussion items requiring action will be attached to the email. Any Board member may attend any in-person meeting and may monitor any meeting conducted by conference call or video conferencing.

Review and Amendments to the Charter

The Firewise Task Force shall review this charter on an annual basis and recommend any changes to the General Manager.

Disclaimer:

The Firewise Task Force is committed to providing accurate and helpful information regarding

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wildfire prevention and mitigation. However, any on-site assessments or recommendations made by Task Force members are conducted with the understanding that they are advisory only.

1. Homeowner Responsibility: Homeowners are ultimately responsible for their own property and decisions related to Wildfire prevention and mitigation measures. Liability is not assumed by Task Force or OVA for actions or inactions, based on Firewise Task Force recommendations.

2. No Guarantee of Outcomes: While the Firewise Task Force aims to provide reliable information and resources, it does not guarantee specific outcomes related to wildfire risk reduction or fire prevention and mitigation compliance.

3. Third-Party Resources: The Firewise Task Force may refer residents to third-party resources or experts for further assistance. However, the Firewise Task Force and OVA do not endorse any specific services or providers and is not responsible for the actions or recommendations of such third parties.

4. Scope of Information: The information provided by the Firewise Task Force is based on current best practices and guidelines. It is subject to change based on evolving fire safety standards, regulations, and expert recommendations. Residents are encouraged to stay informed about updates and changes in fire safety laws and ordinances.

5. The Firewise Resource Task Force does not endorse specific products or service providers for Oakmont residents. The OVA office maintains a service provider list available on the OVA website or per request. While the Firewise Task Force informs residents about this list, each resident remains solely responsible for their choice of provider and assumes all responsibility for that decision.

Final Approved 11/13/2024

CA and Firewise Taskforce