



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



## Fire Safety Committee FAQ

### Topic/Question

### Answer

#### Financial

How much money to date has been allocated to the Fire Safety Committee?	\$10,000 has been allocated from the budget and we will be getting \$5,000 in the form of a grant from the Federal Government.
What is the projected cost of the project's first phase which would include all of Greenbriar?	As already stated \$10,000 has been allocated from the budget and we will be getting \$5,000 in the form of a grant from the Federal Government. The budget for subsequent phases is being developed and will be presented to the board for approval.
What is the projected annual cost to maintain the program?	The ongoing maintenance is yet to be calculated and this has to be agreed with the board.

#### Remediation

Will the ground cover be dug up like they showed in pictures or just cut?	No, we will just have the ground cover cut to a height of 6" and removed or mulched.
Where the removal of ground cover start and how far does it go.	The removal of the ground cover will be from the foundation of each house out to 100 feet unless the land is owned by the township. In this case the township will be working on the land that they own or the Forest Fire Department will manage controlled burns in the remaining area.
If we have plantings on the berm area, could we keep them?	This would depend on the plantings and their location. The decision as to plantings by residents in the area owned by the association will not be made until after the Board, the Fire Safety Committee and the contractor inspect all the homes in the first phase of the fire mitigation plan.
Curious why 100 feet was chosen as the ideal distance from a house foundation? Why not 100 feet from the woods line for added protection?	The Forest Fire Service has conducted research and investigated hundreds of forest fires. They have advised us that 100 feet from the property is adequate to minimise the risk.
Why were 6 inch trees and thinner chosen? What will happen to those "felled"?	The is a recommendation from the Forest Fire Service. The tree that are felled will be shredded or removed.
Since I am not a believer that <b>any</b> house is protected from a wind blown raging forest fire with only 40-50 feet of undergrowth ripped up, why not simply clear cut 100 feet into the woods to at least give us a fighting chance to survive? Maybe plant a meadow?	The Forest Fire Service has conducted research and investigated hundreds of forest fires. They have advised us that 100 feet from the property is adequate to minimise the risk.
I've heard that the process will be repeated every 3-4 years. I've noticed in the trial area near the tennis courts that already a significant amount of underbrush has re-grown in less than a year. Is this a concern?	The process will be ongoing. It is a little like painting the Verrazano Bridge, we start at one end and keep going until we get to the other end. Then we start all over again. We are advised that the regrowth of brush is not significant enough to be a concern.
When and how will the areas to be mitigated be identified?	Area to be mitigated have already been identified in the risk assessment that was carried out in conjunction with the Forest Fire Department and our local Volunteer Fire Department.

When will the mitigation take place?	The mitigation will take place during fall of 2019 and Spring and Fall 2020. This is the recommended time to carry out this work.
Where will it begin?	We will start along the rear of houses that back onto the woods on Harvey Cedar Way, Bayville Way and Ship Bottom.
Why are Harvey Cedar Way and Bayville Way being done first?	We conducted a detailed risk assessment with the assistance of the Forest Fire Department and our local Volunteer Fire Department. The houses backing onto the woods in these areas were calculated to be the highest risk.
<b>General</b>	
There was someone camping in the woods on the first trail behind Bayville Way. He was camping on the trail around 127 Bayville or there about. He had a tent and a campfire. Thankfully he is no longer there. My problem is that when i called the police they said they could not do anything about this person. I told them about the campfire and all they said was they would check it out. I find this scary since my house is on the woods side of Bayville and luckily there wasn't any problems but the potential for the start of a fire was real. What can be done about this type of situation and who should we alert in the community if we find someone camping in the woods again?	The police did talk to the person and they prevented him from lighting fires and he was eventually moved along. One of our committee had the same conversation with the police and they explained that they had moved him along.
After the brush in the woods has been cut back, who will be in responsible for keeping the area clear of leaves in the fall?	Leaves will mulch down over the winter and will not be an issue in the late winter and early spring when the risk of fire is at its peak.
What are the dates of the upcoming briefings?	Upcoming briefings will be held on August 5th and again on September 17th for people living on the forest side of on Bayville Way, Harvey Cedar Way and Ship Bottom Lane
Can someone visit my house to to determine if my plantings can remain?	Yes, we can arrange to visit with a representative of the NJ Forest Fire Service and a final determination will be made.
Is there a list of acceptable fire resistant plantings?	Yes. Please see the attached link. <a href="https://www.firesafemarin.org/plants/fire-resistant">https://www.firesafemarin.org/plants/fire-resistant</a>
If a fire starts, won't the fire department put it out?	Local volunteer fire departments are the first responders, and always make their best efforts to deal with fires of any kind. But fires in brush, grass or forests pose a special challenge. First, it may take firefighters longer to find out about the fire if it starts in the woods or a field. They may not get a call until the fire is threatening homes. If the fire is severe the NJ Forest Fire Service will also be called to attend and may even be the first to see the fire from their lookout towers. Second, about 85% of our nation's fire departments rely on volunteers. Depending on when the fire happens, it may be difficult for the volunteer departments to respond as quickly as they would like. Ultimately, firefighters will not be able to protect all of our homes during a wildfire. It's our responsibility to prepare our homes and private property before a fire threatens our area. Taking action now means our community has a better chance of reducing the damage from wildfire without additional protection.

<p>If I make my home safer, do I get an insurance discount?</p>	<p>Typically, individual improvement efforts by homeowners are not reflected in discounts to their policy premiums. Most insurance rates are set using other factors, including community fire protection resources such as the presence of fire hydrants. In addition, fire protection is only one small piece of the insurance policy, so discounts for fire protection would be fairly small if they were available.</p>
<p>What is the Firewise USA® Program?</p>	<p>The Firewise USA® Program encourages local solutions for safety by involving homeowners in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes from the risk of wildfire. The program provides resources to help homeowners learn how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together to take action now to prevent losses. Initiated in 2002 with 12 pilot neighborhoods, the national Firewise USA® Recognition Program has nearly 1,000 active member communities in 40 states, as well as a participation retention rate of 80 percent over the past decade. The program, aimed at homeowners, provides specific criteria for communities regarding wildfire preparedness, and based on this criteria, offers national recognition for their work.</p>
<p>How do I keep my home from burning in a wildfire?</p>	<p>Briefly, your home needs to be “fire safe”. That is, the flammable vegetation within 100 feet of the structures must be reduced to the point where fire can not easily spread from the natural vegetation to your home. And the structures must be of fire-resistant materials and design. <a href="http://Firewise.org">Firewise.org</a> has much more information.</p>