

Idlewild Firewise Essentials

Revised May 28, 2018

(blue underlined text indicates a hyperlink)

FIREWISE COMMITTEE (AD HOC) 2018

Firewise Representative – Frank Ray, (512) 809-9979, frankray@swbell.net

Volunteer and critic – Helen Hyams, hhyams@swbell.net

IWCC President – Maxi Millican, (817) 988-1409, maxitoo@swbell.net

Grant Research – Joe Craig, (505) 263-8258, joe@craigandcompany.net

IWCC Caretaker – Kevin “Goose” Jarigese, (575) 377-2228, goose@idlewildcommunity.org

NEW MEXICO OFFICIALS & COLFAX COUNTY OFFICIALS

New Mexico State Forester – Arnie Friedt, (505) 376-2204

New Mexico Firewise Liaison (receives the committee’s annual report)

Eagle Nest Fire Chief - Scott Gibson, (575) 595-0197

Colfax County Fire Marshal – Larry Osborn, (505) 445-8931

INTERNET RESOURCES

Idlewild website – www.idlewildcommunity.org

Webmaster, Craig Sutton, csutton@idlewildcommunity.org.

This website is our community’s **main information center**. Digital **Portable Document Format** (PDF) files of Fall and Spring “**IDLE TIMES**” newsletters are archived here, as are **PDF map images** of our area. Many useful forms for IWCC members are available via links on the home page. You will also find on the home page a link to the 17-page Idlewild Application to Firewise Communities/USA, meticulously prepared by former IWCC president Paul Fahrenthold and NM Forester Arnie Friedt in 2014, in PDF format.

Facebook Group – [Idlewild Community,NM](https://www.facebook.com/IdlewildCommunityNM)

Administrators & Moderators - Kathleen Michael, KathleenMichael1@me.com, Craig Sutton, csutton@idlewildcommunity.org, and Chris Herring, cherriflyfish@aol.com

Only Idlewild Community Center members and their families are allowed to post in this **closed and private** group. Anyone can see who is in the group, but only members can post and read posts. Firewise information for all members will be stored in the FILES section of this group. At the upper left of the home page is a list of categories, where you will find one labeled **Files**.

Digital Idlewild – The IWCC Board of Directors intends to make more effective use of the Internet for distributing information, and the Firewise activity fits neatly with this intention. The heart of this effort is a user-managed set of Idlewild email addresses serviced by the mass email server “MailChimp.” We ask all IWCC members to click on the big green button on the **Idlewild website’s** home page (www.idlewildcommunity.org) next to “**Join our Mailing List**” and register or re-register a valid email address. This enables messages sent through MailChimp to reach all who have subscribed. Your subscription amounts to permission for the IWCC to send email messages to you. As a registrant you have complete control over your email record; you can edit it at your convenience. You may also supply written permission in some way, and an administrator will set up your record for MailChimp and retain the written permission to do so. Eventually, as the community gains Internet competence, U.S. Mail costs will be greatly reduced.

National Fire Protection Association – <https://www.nfpa.org> This is the public Firewise USA education page administered by the **NFPA**, National Fire Protection Association, containing links helpful to the organization of a Firewise Community plan. The NFPA has built an **Internet portal** for reporting our annual IWCC Firewise activity, something we have used since 2015. Two **people**, the IWCC Firewise Representative and a backup person, can log into the Firewise USA program management portal. Both are advised to keep the login information in a secret place.

Data Collection – Using digital tools and the Internet, the Firewise Representative will compile a list of completed Firewise activities for each year and submit an annual report to the **New Mexico Firewise Liaison**. The deadline for

collecting activity data (on our end) is usually November 1, and the **deadline for submitting our completed report via the portal in 2018 is November 16. See below for activity notes and how to frame your report.**

Qualification for Firewise Community Status – The State of New Mexico will pass our final data set to NFPA headquarters, where it will be evaluated to determine whether the IWCC will qualify for Firewise status. Each year the parameters are adjusted for inflation and other factors.

IDLEWILD VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY AND REPORTING

Firewise-related tasks for Idlewild property owners include the following:

1. Remove limbs over fireplace or stove chimneys.
2. Remove trees that are too close to your building(s).
3. If possible, plan on reducing the number of large trees on your property. The NM Forestry Service recommends 40 trees per acre in Idlewild, or about 3 per one Idlewild lot (25' X 100').
4. Store firewood well away from combustible structures and trees.
5. Remove excessive debris, leaves, pine needles, wind-blown paper, etc., from your property, including rain gutters and downspouts.
6. To reduce fires climbing up the limbs of a tree (the ladder effect), remove limbs up to a height of 10 ft. or more.
7. Keep chimneys clean to avoid chimney fires. It's best to hire a professional chimney sweep for this.
8. Roofing should be made of noncombustible material. Steel or aluminum is best.
9. Replace combustible siding, if you are able, with cement-based material (for example, Hardie Products) or stucco.
10. Examine your property and evaluate the situation from a firefighter's point of view. Become familiar with the fire department and what is likely to happen on your particular property. The more difficulty a firefighter encounters, the less likely for success in minimizing fire damage, and the more likely a dangerous situation for the firefighter. Do what you can to help these public servants and other emergency responders do their job.
11. Learn about the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) within 30 feet of your cabin or house. Time spent doing this is a loggable Firewise activity. Most structure fires are the result of airborne embers igniting seemingly unimportant flammable materials adjacent to your building. The site <http://Firewise.org> has a large amount of HIZ information suitable for residents in the Wildland-Urban Interface.

While most residents will not be able to do certain tasks, every single volunteer-hour spent doing what you can each summer reduces the risk of fire damage and increases the probability of success by volunteer firefighters. Paying for expert workers is credited to our Firewise risk reduction effort according to what you spent for their labor.

Reporting Firewise Activities – Please document your time and effort in Firewise-related work. Please note the use of vegetation zones V1 - V5 that roughly define a location of the vegetation removed. The NFPA will use these numbers and the date of each removed batch to show positive risk reduction as a function of time.

Vegetation zones: **(V1) House, (V2) Immediate (0-5 ft. from house), (V3) Intermediate (5-30 ft. from house), (V4) Extended (30-100 ft. from house), (V5) community property (IWCC-owned).**

For your property, please include the following (your numbers are totals for the year):

1. **Name and Idlewild property address**
2. **Volunteers** – number of individual volunteers who did Firewise work on your property
3. **Volunteer-hours** – total number of volunteer-hours

Include a short description of the tasks completed, and in which zone on your property the volunteers worked.

4. **Dollar amount** of grants, in-kind services, hired help, and loaned equipment, if any. Also include a zone the money was applied to, and a short description of the work paid for.

5. **Vegetation removed** – include the **date of each batch removal from your property, number of residences served, and number of cubic yards, or number of truckloads and size of the truck or trailer.**

Send via email (preferred) to frankray@SWBELL.NET or U.S. mail to F. Ray, 8703 Granada Hills Dr., Austin, TX 78737. Our Caretaker, "Goose" (Kevin Jarigese), can help you estimate the volume of batches you remove from your property, and also will be available to haul vegetation to a collection center. Eagle Nest has set a fee for dumping at the transfer station. If Goose hauls your load, please reimburse him for his work.

Sample property report for 2018 (for a single private property)

Name, address, number of volunteers: John Peterborough, Cabin 27 Rd 8, 5 volunteers

Time: Work hours total of 23 volunteer-hours

Tasks: Zone V1 2 volunteer hours, cleared gutters of pine needles, swept roof
 Zone V2 13 volunteer hours, removed 3 dead trees, mowed tall grass
 Zone V3 6 volunteer hours, picked up and bagged slash, filled large 8-cubic-yard pickup bed twice
 Zone V4 2 volunteer hours, hauled vegetation to a transfer station
 Zone V1 6 volunteer hours, learning about Firewise Community organization
 Zone V1 18 volunteer hours assisting in Firewise Community administration @\$65/hr. (Peterborough's most recent pay rate)

Expense: Money spent

Items: Zone V4 \$1,600 Paid professional tree cutter to cut and remove 3 large ponderosa pines
 Zone V4 \$32 Fuel for veg. hauling
 Zone V2 \$35 dump fee
 Zone V3 \$35 dump fee
 Zone V3 \$75 hired labor

Transport: Vegetation removal

Removal 1 on 6/23/2018, 2 residences served, 6 cubic yds.
 Removal 2 on 6/27/2018, 3 residences served, large trailer with sideboards, est. 8 cu. yd.
 Removal 3 on 7/15/2018, 1 residence served, filled F150 Ford pickup bed