

Lesson 2: What is Firewise?

LESSON OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students are introduced to Firewise terminology and assessment techniques, home fire risk factors, and steps communities can take to reduce risk through a PowerPoint presentation and outlining activity.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

1. Outline a PowerPoint presentation.
2. Define Firewise terminology.
3. Identify home fire risk factors.
4. Understand assessment techniques used to determine Firewise property.
5. Identify steps communities can take to promote Firewise goals.

ESTIMATED TIME

One 30-minute class period.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Teacher

Computer and LCD Projector, Internet connection,
Firewise MN Bound video and What is Firewise 2016? PowerPoint presentation
(2016 Teacher DVD)

Student

Firewise Student Guide - Section 8

WEB LINKS

Firewise Communities

<http://www.firewise.org/>

Minnesota Firewise

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise/index.html>

2010 Wildland-Urban Interface - USA – University of Wisconsin

<http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/maps/wui>

Minnesota

http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/maps/wui/2010/white/Minnesota_wui_2010_white.gif

2010 U.S. Housing Density (Block Group Level) – University of Wisconsin

<http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/maps/housing>

Minnesota

http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/maps/blk_pla/2010/white/Minnesota_blk_pla_2010_white.gif

VOCABULARY: Firewise, Wildland/Urban Interface, home ignition zone, defensible space, access, site, ladder fuels, flying embers, structure, burning practices, defensible space, Level 1 Firewise Community Assessment, Firewise, Density Surface Model (DSM), Level 2 Firewise Community Assessments, Firewise Community Plan

Lesson 2: What is Firewise? (continued)

ACTIVITY

1. Begin Lesson 2 by reviewing the previous day's learning. Answer any student questions related to the content.
2. Direct student's attention to Section 8 of the Student Guide, What is Firewise? PowerPoint Outline. Prepare to show the PowerPoint presentation.
3. Inform students that they will be utilizing this information in future classes to conduct a Firewise Community Assessment and to prepare a Community Report.
4. Direct students to complete the outline as they watch and discuss. Show the What is Firewise? PowerPoint.
5. After the presentation is completed, allow students a few minutes to finish the outline. Discuss student responses.

CONCLUSION

Answer any questions related to the day's topics.

ASSESSMENT

Formal - Firewise Student Guide 1 - Section 8

EXTENSION

Students can explore the Firewise Communities and Firewise Minnesota websites and share their findings. Type in the links below or see Teacher Resource Links.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise/index.html>

Home > Assistance > Stewardship in your backyard >

Firewise

- [Main page](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Homeowner](#)
- [Landscaper / Contractor](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Forestry education](#)

Firewise in Minnesota

Firewise addresses the risk of homes in the wildland/urban interface to wildland fire. As more homes are built in the woods and fields of Minnesota, the existing firefighting resources are less able to protect everyone's property while trying to control a wildfire.

Homes close to evergreens and the tall grasses of prairies or marshes are most at risk. Making your home able to survive an approaching wildfire is the goal of the Firewise program.

Minnesota has adopted the national Firewise program. From this page you will find links to some of the national Firewise sites and all of the Minnesota related Firewise sites, plus general wildfire information.

See first hand how the Firewise program saved a home burning the Ham lake fire. Watch the Minnesota bound video.

Media Type	Bandwithth	
WMV	Low (1.5mb)	High (6.7mb)
	Low (1.0mb)	High (6.4mb)




Legend/Key

- **High** - WMV files for Windows, playable with the [Windows Media Player](#), for broadband internet connections such as a cable modem or DSL.
- **Low** - WMV files for Windows, playable with the [Windows Media Player](#), for lower speed internet connections such as dial-up.
- **Macintosh / Other** - MP4 files for Macintosh or Windows, playable with the [Real Player](#) or [Quicktime](#), for broadband internet connections such as a cable modem or DSL.

Lesson 2: What is Firewise? (continued)

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/wildfire/firewise_communityproject.html

Wildfire prevention education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main page• Curriculum K-6• Curriculum 6-12• Forestry education	Firewise in the Classroom Project
Wildfire prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main page• Wildfire prevention education• Burning permit information• Wildfire information• Wildfire related links	New Simplified Firewise in the Classroom Curriculum is Internet Based and Works on Windows PC or Macintosh 
Division of Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main page	<p>Young people, as community members and future homeowners, can play a critical role in helping communities reduce the wildfire risk of homes by conducting Firewise Assessments. These assessments of a community are critical to planning and implementing mitigation to prevent homes from loss to wildfire. A community needs to know where its high-risk homes are, and what factors make those homes high risk. Many communities have very few paid staff, and do not have the resources to do an assessment. There is an untapped resource in every community - middle and high school students.</p> <p>The Firewise Community Assessment with JavaMaps project provides a unique, hands-on opportunity for students to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assess the wildfire risk of their community and to educate their community on steps that can be taken to reduce that risk. The new, simplified curriculum uses an Internet based GIS Wildfire Risk Assessment process called JavaMAPS. The curriculum has only five lessons that can be completed in as little as 5 class periods using Macintosh or PC computers. The curriculum is correlated to national and Minnesota Academic Standards in Geography and Science.</p> <p>Through the Firewise in the Classroom Project, students gain content knowledge, apply new skills, are exposed to potential career paths, and provide valuable data to their community and state.</p> <p>Firewise in the Classroom was a recipient of a 2006 National Council for Geographic Education / George F. Cram Award and a 2006 Governor's Commendation from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information.</p> <p>Firewise Communities Teacher Training available: Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education</p> <p>Technical Assistance available from: Ken Pekarek, GIS4Schools email: kenpekarek@comcast.net</p>

RESOURCE LINKS

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- **Minnesota Firewise**
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- **Minnesota**
 - http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/maps/wui/2010/white/Minnesota_wui_2010_white.gif
- **2010 U.S. Housing Density (Block Group Level) – University of Wisconsin**
 - <http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/maps/housing>
- **Minnesota**
 - http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/maps/blk_pla/2010/white/Minnesota_blk_pla_2010_white.gif
- **YouTube Firewise Videos**
 - [YouTube Firewise Videos](#)