

Idaho Firewise Charter

MISSION:

The mission, as set forth in this charter, is to increase statewide wildland fire education effectiveness through a coordinated effort. This effort is to achieve a level of awareness that will ultimately result in a "firewise" culture in Idaho. Our hope is that it becomes well-understood that wildfires are a part of our natural systems and a part of living in Idaho.

The education program will:

- assist in personal, public, and fire fighter safety;
- increase public awareness about wildland fire management, science, home and community fire protection, and preventing unwanted fires; and
- provide information and resources that help protect public and private property and other resource values.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue to build and expand the new statewide wildland fire education program called Idaho Firewise.
2. Through Idaho Firewise promote a coordinated approach to wildland fire education by:
 - Developing and supporting education programs across the state that are compatible with Firewise principles and practices.
 - Creating and maintaining an online clearinghouse where all educators can store and find each other's education materials.
 - Creating a public website that provides common access to educational materials that meet the needs of diverse audiences including school children, property owners, elected officials, planning and zoning officials, etc.
 - Developing mechanisms for obtaining feedback from education material providers and consumers about education materials.
 - Overseeing mechanisms for education material providers and consumers to interact in an online public forum.
 - Building and maintaining a network of experts and volunteers with varied skills in facilitation, project planning, and implementation that can be resources for Idaho citizens and can assist them in their communities across the state.
3. Promote personal responsibility by:
 - Reducing careless behaviors when using fire.
 - Educating homeowners on Firewise principles for their homes and community.
 - Emphasizing personal accountability for those living in fire adapted ecosystems.

4. Promote the appropriate use of hazard reduction treatments and alternatives by:
 - Increasing the understanding of fire's important role in diverse ecosystems.
 - Increasing the understanding of alternative management tools (e.g., thinning, biomass removal, etc.) that are available.
 - Recommending mitigation strategies in the wildland/urban interface and rural communities as mechanisms that reduce property owner's wildfire risk.
5. Increase the effectiveness of wildfire prevention programs through cooperative relationships By:
 - Supporting and enhancing existing relationships with national, regional, tribal, state, and local partners while continuing to build new relationships.
 - Supporting the efforts of fire prevention cooperatives.
6. Promote the integration of a Firewise program with zoning, codes, and ordinances at the appropriate government level.
7. Through Idaho Firewise, the program will provide standards and examples of approaches for counties to use to guide new construction and development that is "firewise".
8. A function of Idaho Firewise will be to raise and manage funds to be used for educational expenses.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Idaho Firewise executive board will be comprised of a representative from each of the following: US Forest Service, Idaho tribes, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Homeland Security, University of Idaho Extension, Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, RC and D's, Idaho Association of Counties and the Idaho Department of Lands. The board may invite agencies or other organizations to become members of the Executive Board or to participate as ad hoc members.

OFFICERS:

The Chairperson shall serve a two year term. The Vice-Chair Person shall advance to the position of Chairperson upon vacancy of the Chairperson or in the event a chair vacates their position early.

OFFICER DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Chairperson

- Responsible for administrative action to ensure mission attainment for Idaho Firewise; assign tasks groups as needed.
- Establish the time and place for all committee meetings.
- Request attendance of specially qualified individuals for any meeting.

- Assemble, correlate, and otherwise prepare all material to be acted upon by Idaho Firewise
- Ensure notes are taken and distributed.

Vice-Chairperson

- Assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson during the absence of the Chairperson.
- Be responsible for maintaining copies of progress reports, recommendations, and information on committee activities. Arranges for a note taker and distributes meeting notes.

Board Members

- Responsible for active participation in Idaho Firewise meetings and projects.
- Responsible for developing and reporting upon projects as assigned.
- Give assistance, as requested by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, and review information submitted by other group members.

MEETINGS:

Regular committee meetings will be held at least quarterly or more frequently if deemed necessary.

QUORUM:

A majority of the organizations represented are needed in order to make a valid and binding decision.