



FireWise is a cooperative effort among Federal, State, and private agencies and organizations to promote fire safety in the wildland/urban interface. The primary FireWise tenet is that it is unnecessary to lose homes or other buildings in wildfires IF those homes or buildings are built and maintained according to simple FireWise principles. Firefighters cannot be everywhere when a wildfire occurs, but if homeowners follow FireWise suggestions, homes and buildings will survive wildfires without any firefighters being there to protect them. We have learned that we cannot prevent wildfires from happening, but we can prevent loss of homes and other structures. My goal is to spread FireWise information throughout Hot Springs enabling our citizens to learn how to become more FireWise and fire safe in the wildland/urban interface.

The wildland/urban interface is the area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland and vegetation. Most of the forested areas in Hot Springs are populated with residential structures. We are trying to help homeowners learn how to protect themselves by creating an environment in which they will be safe from wildfire.

The Hot Springs Fire Department has created a FireWise board with members of the community and they are currently involved in making Hot Springs a certified FireWise Community. This board is chaired by Fire Marshal, Nate Schanlaber. Any further request for information please call the Hot Springs Fire Department at 321-6972.