

Firewise at Kohala by the Sea

Kohala by the Sea is proud to be a Firewise Community.

As the State of Hawaii's first Firewise Community, Kohala by the Sea has diligently maintained its standing in the **national Firewise Program** since 2004.

The **Firewise Communities Program** provides homeowners with simple steps to reduce a home's wildfire risk. These steps require that each property owner take responsibility and prepare ahead of a wildfire. Easy to implement, each step is rooted in principles based on solid fire science research into how homes ignite. The research comes from the world's leading fire experts whose experiments, models and data collection are based on some of the country's worst wildland fire disasters. As recent fire catastrophes in California have shown us, it is wise to prepare.

Click to *learn more about our Firewise Committee.*

Because our properties are vulnerable to the frequent risk of wildfires, Kohala by the Sea has adopted the following Firewise Regulations:

- All limbs of extremely flammable trees, such as **kiawe** and **ironwood**, must be trimmed to establish several feet of clearance between the ground and the lower limbs. If possible, trim all limbs eight to ten feet from the ground. Remove dead limbs.
- Tree limbs must be trimmed to ten feet away from your house.
- All dead trees and shrubs must be removed from your property.
- The area around your propane tank must be cleared of flammable grasses.

When investing in the construction of your home in paradise, it is important to know that we are located in a lava desert. Wildfires are common here. Whether designing or retrofitting your home for maximum fire resistance, it is essential to create a zone surrounding your home that is fire resistant; covered with either gravel, stone or grass, and a good distance from flammable material.

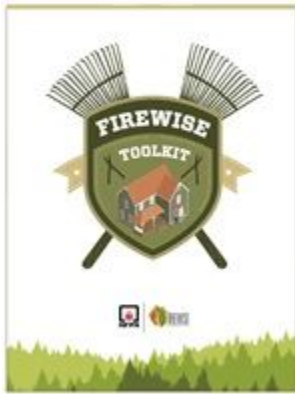
Every homeowner can and should take the following steps **BEFORE** a fire in order to safeguard home and valuables as much as possible:

1. **Prepare for wildfires** by installing fire resistant landscaping.
2. Trim tree limbs to ten feet away from roofs and structures.
3. Clear flammable vegetation to allow a 30 foot defensible boundary (either an irrigated green belt, or a gravel barrier) around your home.
4. Plant fire resistant shrubs at least 10 feet apart to prevent fire from jumping from tree to tree, ladder fashion, toward the house.
5. Prune tree limbs 8-10 feet above ground; remove any dead limbs to prevent fire from spreading UP the tree.
6. Clear area near propane gas tank of flammable material or vegetation.

7. Post your house number and make sure it is easily visible so firefighters and emergency drivers can find it.
8. Consider purchasing a portable high capacity pool pump to assist you in extinguishing nearby flames.
9. Have a plan and practice your plan.
10. Know your Fire Automated Call Procedure.

Helpful Documents and Information

Download the **complete Firewise Toolkit** from the Firewise organization's national website. Browsing the national Firewise website reveals many **additional useful materials**.



KBTS specific documents include:

- *Firewise Evacuation Plan,*
- *Information if You Are Unable to Evacuate Your Home,*
- *Location of Fire Hydrants in Kohala by the Sea.*

Also, please enroll in our **Call-Em-All Automated Alert System**.



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Firewise® is a registered trademark of the **National Fire Protection Association** (NFPA). The program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.