

TAHO Firewise GOALS for 2026

Timberland has been recognized as a Firewise USA community since 2024.

To obtain certification, members of the TAHO Board formed a community Firewise Committee. In 2023, the committee, following the program's guidelines, met with liaisons from local agencies to develop a *Timberland 3-Year Action Plan*.

The plan includes annual goals and activities in four categories, building on what was accomplished in previous years. Certification each year depends on how well we carry out those activities and meet our goals, based on community participation and measurable outcomes. Our *3-Year Plan* was based, in part, on the results of a Fire Risk Assessment of Timberland, performed by North Tahoe Fire in 2023. **Both the Plan and the Risk Assessment are available on the TAHO website.**

Our goals for 2026 are as follows:

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Designate the early summer HOA member meeting with Fire Wise Community updates and celebrations as one of its main objectives. **(May 23)** Invite a representative from North Tahoe Fire or the Fire Wise/Fire Adapted Community of experts to provide important "Living with Wildfire" information to property owners
2. Continue to provide Defensible Space and Home Hardening resources to property owners through the TAHO website, Newsletters, and Google Group
3. Provide online resources for using fire-resistant native plants in the home landscape plan.
4. Organize and run a community work day. **(May 23)**

Home Hardening Goals

1. Provide education and examples of skirting to prevent sparks and embers from entering underdeck spaces. The committee will schedule an expert to speak on this topic at the early summer HOA meeting.
2. Encourage homeowners to regularly maintain houses and decks with new paint and stain. Encourage replacing wood siding with non-flammable materials when remodeling or planning new construction.
3. Committee members pass along information gained from their Year One research into financial or other assistance to homeowners whose homes have wood shake shingles and other highly flammable materials. Continue to research opportunities for financial or other assistance.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Schedule a Spring and Fall community Work Day with provided dumpsters for flammable debris. ([May 23](#))
2. Increase participation in the Work Days to 40% of property owners by holding a community celebration at the end of one of the work days. ([May 23](#))
3. Make the work day challenge to focus efforts in the treated 5-30' zone. (Last year we focused on the 0-5' zone)

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Encourage owners and residents to have Go Bags packed at the beginning of fire season.
2. Advise STR (Short Term Rental) owners and managers to include evacuation plans and instructions in their rental instructions.
3. Update phone tree as needed.

As lessons learned from recent wildfires in the region, we know that:

1. Defensible space and home hardening significantly reduce risk;
2. Our homes are only as safe as our neighbors' homes.

For more information, visit: <https://www.livingwithfire.org/>