

How to Record Landowner's Mitigation Records into Firewise Program

Did you know that Santa Fe Trail Ranch has been a Firewise-Certified Community since 2006? Firewise communities offer a range of benefits for homeowners, including:

1. **Wildfire Preparedness:** Communities take proactive steps to prepare for wildfires, such as creating and implementing wildfire risk assessments and evacuation plans.
2. **Property Protection:** Firewise practices focus on creating defensible spaces around homes, reducing the risk of property damage during wildfires.
3. **Community Resilience:** Residents work together to implement wildfire mitigation measures, fostering a sense of community resilience and preparedness.
4. **Insurance Benefits:** Some insurance companies offer incentives or discounts to homeowners living in recognized Firewise communities.
5. **Environmental Stewardship:** Firewise principles encourage responsible land management practices that protect against wildfires and promote overall environmental health.
6. **Emergency Response Coordination:** Communities coordinate with local fire departments and emergency services to enhance communication and coordination during wildfire events.
7. **Government Support:** Firewise communities receive support and resources from local, state, and federal agencies, including funding for wildfire prevention projects.
8. **Reduced Firefighting Costs:** Implementing Firewise practices can decrease the risk of large-scale wildfires, leading to significant reductions in firefighting costs.
9. **Peace of Mind:** Residents living in Firewise communities gain peace of mind, knowing they have taken proactive measures to protect their homes and families.

These benefits highlight the importance of Firewise communities in enhancing the safety and resilience of homeowners in fire-prone areas.

To continue this certification, landowners who mitigate their properties must provide that information along with the Forest Health and Wildfire Committee's activity records, to Firewise USA® on an annual basis. This is where we need your help to keep this all-important certification.

This is an uncomplicated process for you, the property owner, to enter your personal mitigation activities into the Santa Fe Train Ranch Firewise Certification Program and here are the steps:

First, go to the SFTR website at www.santafetrailranch.com. No need to sign in. This means that all property owners can input their own mitigation records.

In the front left corner, click on the three lines to get the menu. Click on the word About on the left side to scroll down to the Firewise Program tab. Once there, the Firewise Mitigation Form link will appear midway down the screen titled "Firewise Volunteer Hourly Worksheet." This form is used to collect data regarding mitigation projects on the Santa Fe Trail Ranch for our Firewise Certification process.

The first page requires your email address.

The second page is to gather property owner information, such as first and last name, lot number, property address, method of contact preferred.

The third page is for mitigation “Hours Worked.” First, enter the specific details about the work performed and the total hours spent. After that, please divide hours spent into the 4 categories given: Dwelling Unit/Home; Landscaping (0-100 feet from base of dwelling unit); Common area; and Miscellaneous. You will find that under each section, examples are given.

The fourth page is for Money Spent. First, enter the special details about the money spent and the total. This could be the same explanation used on page 3. After that, please divide money spent into the 7 categories given: Chipper Costs; Other Equipment Costs; Contractor Costs; Home Improvement Costs; Landscaping/DIY; Miscellaneous and Vehicle Mileage. Again, under each section, examples are given.

Please review your answers by using the back button and any receipts you may have. Once you are comfortable with your answers, please click on the red Submit button. You will receive a confirmation email verifying that your file has been received and allows you to make any corrections. A member of the FHWM committee will then contact you for receipt copies of funds spent, mileage records and/or hours worked records.

If there are any questions regarding this process, please contact the Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation (FHWM) committee member contact: tonimoore93@gmail.com. The deadline for mitigation submission is November 1, 2025.