



NEWS RELEASE

## **FIREWISE USA®**

**Residents reducing wildfire risks**

[www.firewise.org/usa](http://www.firewise.org/usa)

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2018

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### **CARNELIAN WOODS TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS**

**First Firewise USA® Community in the Lake Tahoe Basin**

Years of efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire has earned Carnelian Woods Townhouse Association, Firewise USA® recognition status from the National Fire Protection Association. Carnelian Woods completed a rigorous set of criteria to become a participant in the national program.

“We are very proud that we’ve achieved the Firewise USA® designation. Reducing the risk of wildfire can only be accomplished when we all work together,” said Celia Barry, Carnelian Woods Board Member. She hopes that other communities in the Lake Tahoe Basin will join the Firewise USA® program to help prevent wildfires in Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Resource Conservation District’s Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator, Carlie Murphy, illustrates the need for community outreach and education when working with neighborhoods, “One of the most effective tools for bringing a neighborhood-wide program into your community is ensuring there are plenty of opportunities for individuals to ask questions and get involved in the process.” Murphy also emphasized that there is no better time for neighborhoods to prepare for wildfire. Learn more about what you can do to prepare for wildfire at [tahoe.livingwithfire.info](http://tahoe.livingwithfire.info).

“Prepared, informed, engaged and proactive communities must take the responsibility to mitigate their wildfire risk head-on, and understand that we all live, work and play in a fire-dependent ecosystem. Communities must take responsibility, while working with local Fire and Resource Conservation agencies, to help engage and inform community members that it is imperative to work towards a common goal of meeting defensible space requirements on all properties, as well as emphasizing the necessity of emergency preparedness,” states North Tahoe Fire Protection District’s Defensible Space Inspector, Eric Horntvedt.

Carnelian Woods worked with North Tahoe Fire Protection District and the Fire Adapted Communities Program (through Tahoe Resource Conservation District) to complete a community wildfire hazard assessment and develop an action plan that will guide their efforts to reduce risks to residents and their homes. Implementation of their plan has begun and will continue as part of the program’s annual renewal requirements.

Firewise USA® is a nationwide program that provides formal recognition to communities implementing actions to protect people and properties from the risk of fire in the wildland/urban interface. Participants reduce their wildfire risks by actively participating in the program and completing requirements each year.

Communities interested in participating in the Firewise USA® program can learn more at [www.firewise.org/usa](http://www.firewise.org/usa).

