



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

FIREWISE USA/TOWN OF ST. JAMES

May 2024

Amidst the beauty of the vast areas of forest in St. James, we often overlook the potential for forest fire. The Town's Firewise Committee wants to again remind residents that the potential for forest fire in St. James is real, especially as we come into the summer months when the ground can be particularly dry in the absence of rain. We are reminded of the devastation that took place in Lahaina, Hawaii where a forest fire devastated the community.

Where developed areas are contiguous to forested land, it is known as the Wildlife Urban Interface. Residents of St. James may be surprised to learn that North Carolina ranks #1 in the nation for areas of Urban Wildlife Interface. Where Wildlife Urban Interface exists, so does the potential for damaging forest fires.

To address this issue, the Town of St. James participates in the Firewise USA program sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. The program is designed to assist communities with finding ways to reduce the potential for forest fires. St. James is one of only three communities in Brunswick County to be recognized by Firewise USA as a certified Firewise Community.

Maintaining our Firewise Certification can be of great value in the event of a community fire. Firewise certified communities are often the first to receive Federal and State Aid for disaster recovery. There are some simple, easy steps to help reduce damage from a wildfire AHEAD of the fire itself. Log onto the National Fire Protection Association website and go to the Firewise section.

Information about what you can do to protect your home is also available at the St. James Town Hall.

Town of St. James Firewise Committee