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HAWAIʻI WILDFIRE
HWMO
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Hawaiʻi Wildfire Management Organization

Wildland-Urban Fires, Community Readiness & the Firewise Program

Presentation by Erin Conway
August 19, 2025

MISC. COM. 406
HHP

Submitted by Hawaiʻi Wildfire Management Organization for the August 19, 2025 Committee on Housing, Homelessness & Parks Meeting, Informational Briefing.

ABOUT HWMO

25 years

Years of experience and service.

Our Mission

To Serve as the Hub Organization for wildfire education, information, planning, mitigation, and collaboration.

Our Vision

To keep Hawai‘i and the Pacific wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient.

100%

Dependent on competitive grants and donations- not a government entity



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Wildfire safety takes everyone!

There is a lot we can do ahead of wildfire to be prepared



Reduce ignitions



Manage land & reduce fuels



Make houses & towns safe & fire-resistant



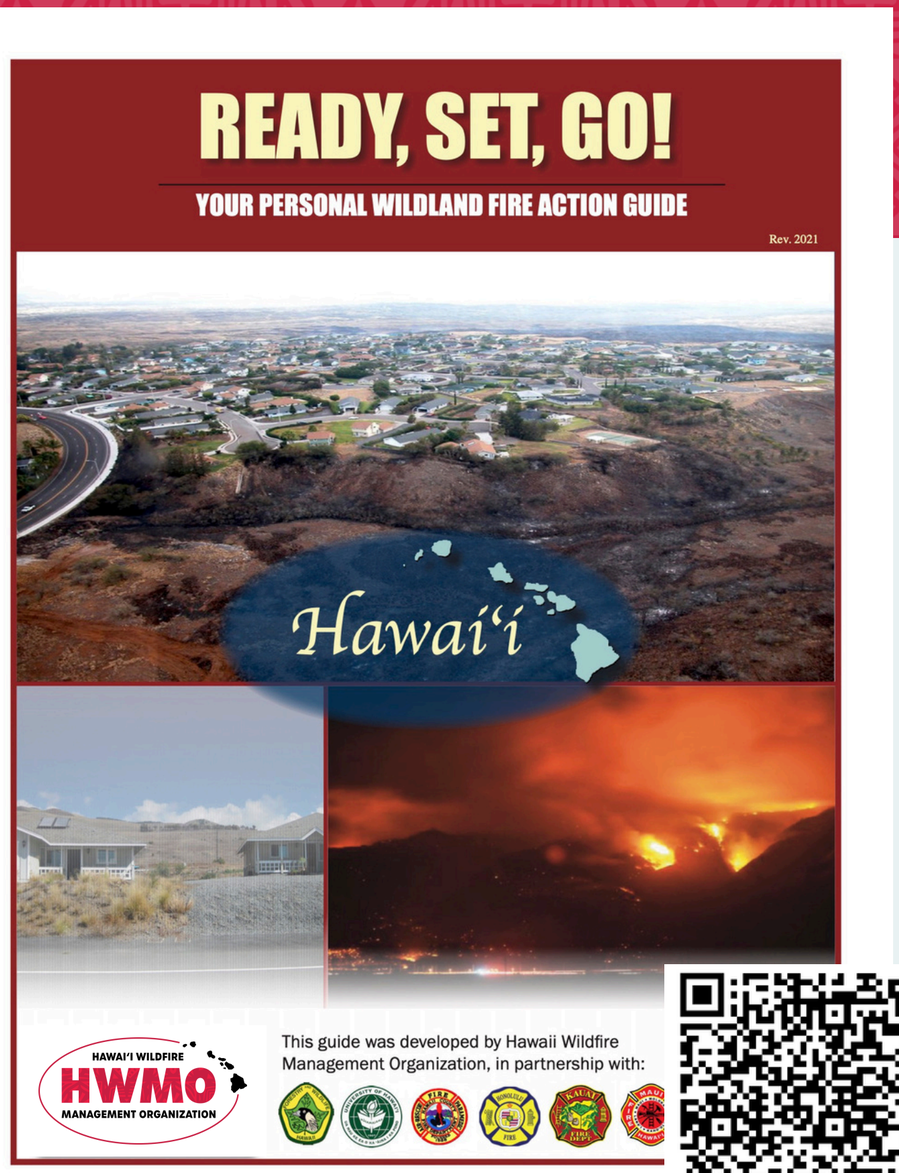
Prepare communities for evacuations & wildfire season

Know your role and take action.

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Ready, Set, GO!

In-depth look at the tips and tools you need to prepare for a wildland fire threat (Ready), have situational awareness when a fire starts (Set), and to evacuate early (Go!)

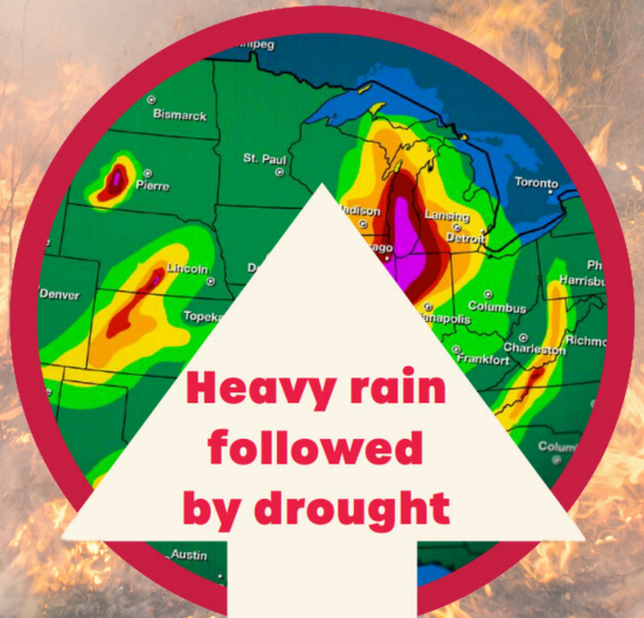


Modern Hawai‘i is Fire Prone

The main causes and conditions of wildfire involve people, climate & fuel.



Human-caused ignitions



Heavy rain followed by drought



Combustible buildings & vegetation

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But we can change fire outcomes!

We can take action starting where we have the greatest influence AND impact - in our homes, families, and communities



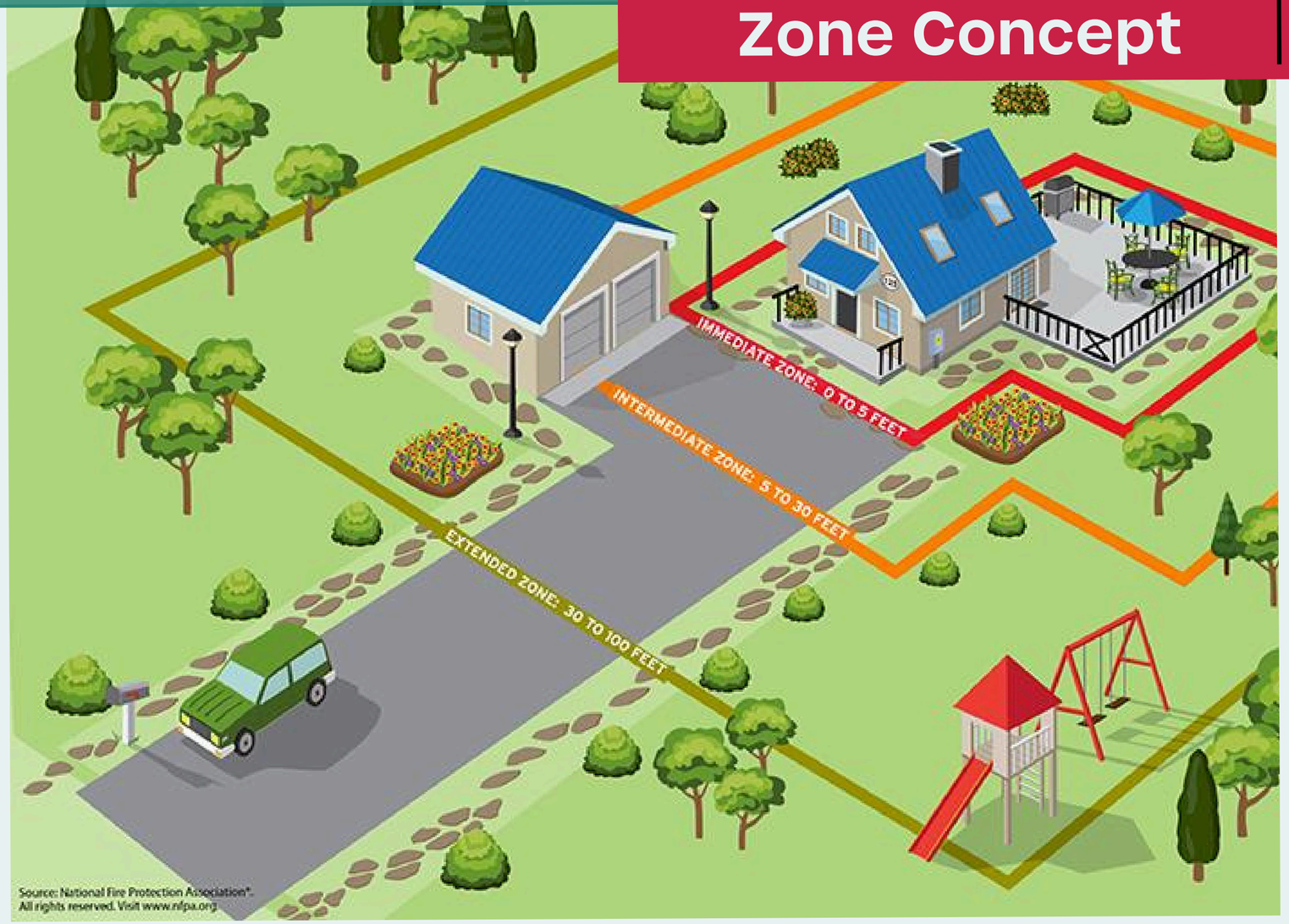


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OWN YOUR ZONES

The Home Ignition Zone Concept

Home materials and immediate surroundings dictate ignitability

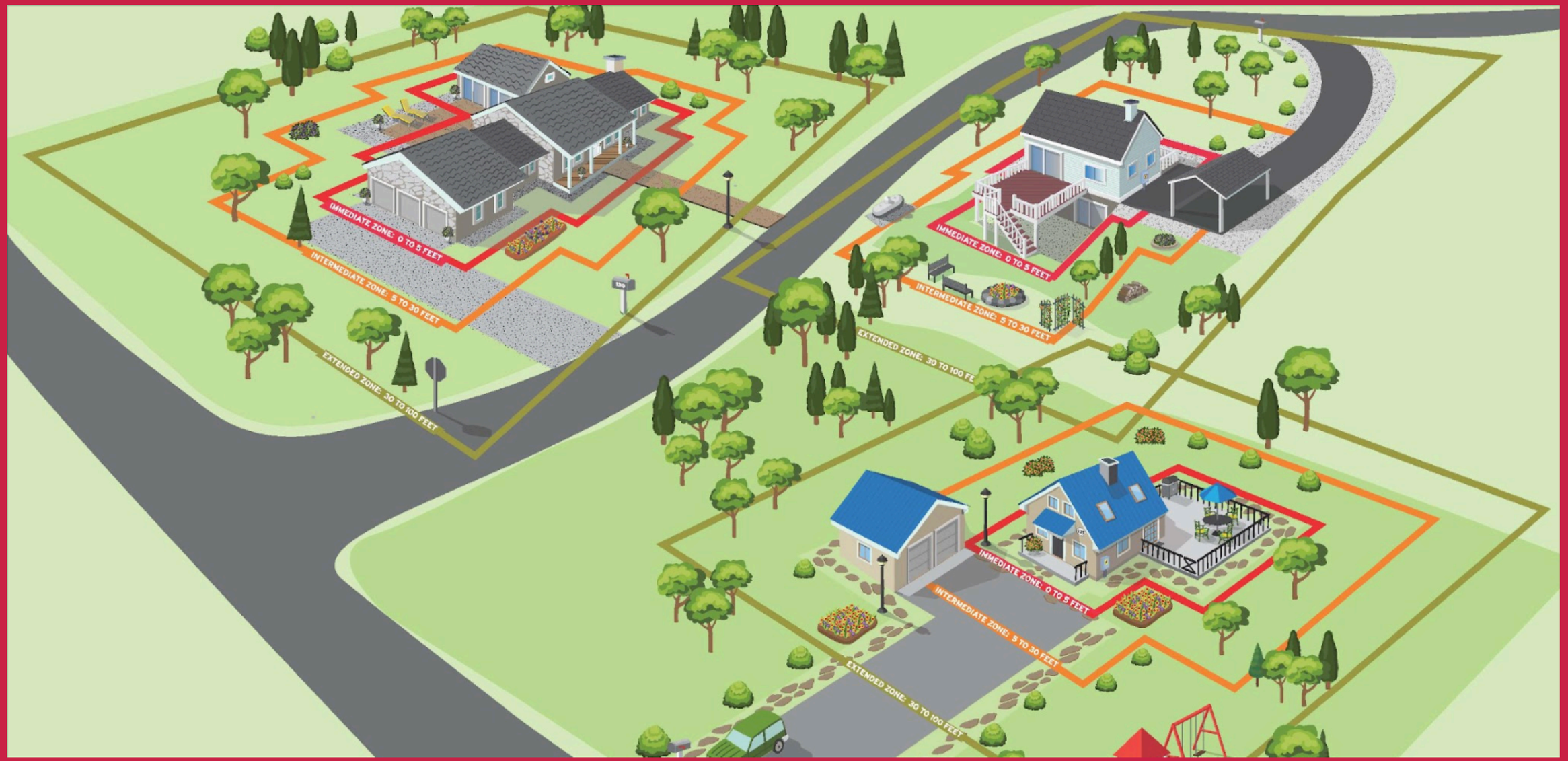


Immediate Zone:
0 to 5 Feet

Intermediate Zone:
5 to 30 Feet

Extended Zone:
30 to 100+ Feet

- **Start closest to the home, and work your way out!**
- **Working on 0-5' zone has the greatest impact!**



Creating an ignition-resistant community

NFPA® | FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

HAWAI'I FIREWISE | HWMO HAWAI'I WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Firewise is a framework to help residents get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities







FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



- National voluntary program developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- 35 Firewise sites in HI
- 16 Firewise sites in HI in the application process

HWMO

In Partnership with Dept. of Land & Natural Resources- Division of Forestry & Wildlife





Steps to achieving national recognition

NFPA | FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Organize it!

- Create a board or committee of volunteers, including residents and partners
- Collaborate with local wildfire expert to complete a community wildfire risk assessment



Plan it!

- Develop a three-year action plan based on the site's risk reduction priorities
- Updated every 3 years in the portal



Do it!

- Host a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction or educational outreach event
- Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment (the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per house)

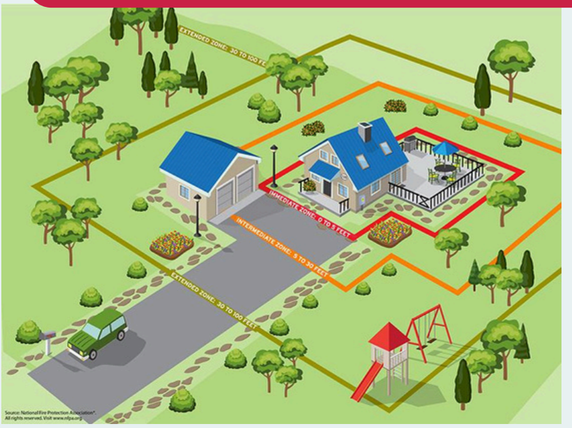


Tell us about it

- Create a Firewise USA® Portal account and submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison
- www.firewise.org

FIREWISE CONCEPTS

1 – Own your zones



Immediate Zone:
0 to 5 Feet

Intermediate Zone:
5 to 30 Feet

Extended Zone:
30 to 100+ Feet

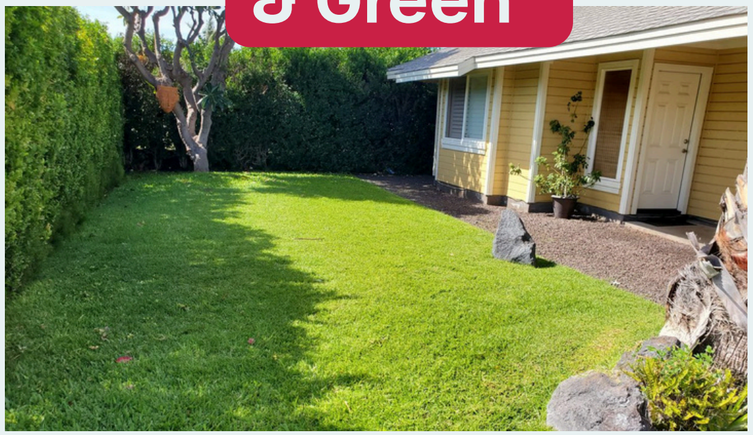
2 – Harden your home



3 – Be ember aware



4 – Think "Lean, Clean, & Green"



5 – Build a buffer



6. – Plant pono

PFX
Pacific Fire Exchange
A Joint Program of Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization & the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

pacificfireexchange.org.

PLANT PONO

plantpono.org

EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROJECTS



HOME ASSESSMENTS

Residents can request a home assessment (completed by a trained community member)



RSG PRESENTATIONS

Residents are encouraged to attend and HWMO takes Firewise attendance



ROADSIDE INFO TABLES

Residents learn about Firewise and defensible space



EVACUATION DRILLS

Residents practice an evacuation scenario

COMMUNITY MITIGATION PROJECTS



FIRESCAPING DEMOS

Residents learn from their neighbors who are applying Firewise landscaping best practices



CURBSIDE CHIPPER DAYS

Residents have access to a curbside chipper for larger debris



GREEN WASTE DUMPSTERS

Residents have access to a roll-away dumpster for green waste



COMMON SPACE WORK DAYS

Neighbors work together to reduce fuels in and around common areas

Why?



- Ongoing planning and action framework
- Being apart of the solution
- Builds community and partnerships
- Opens access to resources (recognition, expertise, funding)
- Connects with other Firewise neighborhoods
- Strong leverage opportunity
- Opportunity to build community

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MAHALO NUI LOA

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