



ARIZONA FIREWISE COMMUNITIES  
Seminar and Workshop Series - 2006

# News Release

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## **VALLE TO HOLD COMMUNITY DISCUSSION AT FIREWISE SEMINAR**

VALLE, AZ – Every year, an average of 1,100 families lose their homes to wildfire in the US. In Arizona, over 400 homes were lost in the Rodeo-Chediski fire in 2002, and more than 330 homes and businesses were lost in the Aspen Fire in 2003. Last year's Cave Creek Complex Fire just north of Phoenix burned 11 homes and over 240,000 acres. Wildfire will occur whether you and your loved ones are prepared or not.

The people of the Arizona Firewise Communities Program want to help. Through a series of regional state seminars and workshops, they are offering simple solutions and an opportunity to meet with community leaders who are wrestling with associated issues of public safety and protection of homes and property. One of these seminars is coming to Valle in April.

The goals of the Arizona Firewise Communities Seminar are to provide an opportunity for community dialogue to address wildland fire risks and hazards, and to share solutions for living in a fire-prone environment. "We want people to know the risks associated with living in the wildland/urban interface, and what they can do to reduce those risks," says Alix Rogstad, Fire Education Specialist with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. "We also want to encourage community members to become more engaged with their local Fire Departments to protect their community from catastrophic loss due to wildfire," she says.

Launched in the fall of 2002, the Arizona Firewise Communities Program has offered more than 50 seminars and workshops in various Arizona communities. Seminars and workshops are free and open to all interested community members. Information presented focuses on the realities of preparedness

planning and successful implementation as well as what individuals can do to reduce their risks.

The Valle Arizona Firewise Communities Seminar is scheduled for 9:00 AM-12:30 PM, Saturday, April 8, 2006, at the Valle Airport. The Seminar is sponsored by many organizations, including the Howard Mesa Property Owner's Association, Valle Fire Board, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Arizona State Land Department, and USDA Forest Service. For more information, visit the website at [www.cals.arizona.edu/firewise/](http://www.cals.arizona.edu/firewise/) or [www.azstatefire.org](http://www.azstatefire.org).

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