



## **Firewise Will Impact Insurance Rates – With Your Help**

**Many of our members have been challenged with fire insurance coverage over the past few years. Several have experienced rate increases or cancelations.**

**We now have an opportunity to influence the factors that insurance carriers must consider in rate plans. One of the proposed requirements is community-level wildfire mitigation efforts....i.e. ....Firewise projects and certification. Below is an excerpt from the proposed text for the new requirements.**

**The requirements are being developed by the CA Department of Insurance.**

**See the following from the CA Department of Insurance:**

- March 30 invitation for comment ([link to PDF](#))
- Draft of proposed text for the new requirements ([link to PDF](#))
- Press release from CA Insurance Commissioner Lara ([link to PDF](#))

### **New Requirements From the proposed text on Mitigation in Rating Plans and Wildfire Risk Models**

**“(D) Use of Mandatory Factors. (1) No insurer shall use a rating plan or wildfire risk model that does not consider and take into account the following mandatory factors:**

- A. Community-level mitigation efforts:** The rating plan’s, or any wildfire risk model’s, the output shall reflect the reduced wildfire risk resulting from community-level mitigation efforts. Specifically, the rating plan and any wildfire risk model shall take into account: 1. To the extent applicable, the fact that a particular community has a Fire Safe Council, participates in or is certified by another nonprofit fire safety organization, or employs a defensible space program including, but not limited to, a program developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. 2. The degree to which the community uses firebreaks, fire-watch efforts, or other measures that may reduce individual exposure to wildfire loss. 3. Any community-wide wildfire mitigation standards issued by the State of California and implemented by the community in question. 4. The degree to which building codes implementing wildfire mitigation measures in wildfire-prone areas are stringent, and the extent to which there is widespread adherence to such building codes in the community in question.
- B. (B) Property-level mitigation efforts:** The rating plan or wildfire risk model output shall reflect the reduced wildfire risk resulting from property-level wildfire risk mitigation efforts undertaken with respect to an individual property being assessed for risk. Individual property risk mitigation efforts include defensible space, including but not limited to brush clearance, implementation of building standards recommended by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and other building or structure fortification and construction measures intended to suppress fire, including but not limited to retrofits that provide for comprehensive site and structure fire risk reduction to protect structures from fires spreading from adjacent structures or vegetation and to protect vegetation from fires spreading from adjacent structures. “

As a Firewise community that has and will continue to invest in wildfire risk reduction, our members will benefit from the proposed changes. John Casaudoumecq, our DPA Board President, will be sending comments in support of the proposed requirements. Second, members can also express support individually. More input in support of the proposed changes increases the chances of rates reflecting community fire risk reduction efforts.

Here is what you can do to help:

- Review the links above
- Send an email of the DPA member support letter to the email address in the invitation
  - See the draft letter below for DPA members to voice support for section D of the proposed text. Copy and paste the letter into your email for sending.
  - Submit written comments via electronic mail to [Alec.Stone@insurance.ca.gov](mailto:Alec.Stone@insurance.ca.gov) by March 30, 2021.
- Attend the virtual workshop on March 30 to express your support
  - Date: March 30, 2021
  - Time: 1:00 p.m. The virtual workshop shall continue until all in attendance wishing to provide comments have commented, or 5:00 p.m., whichever is earlier.
  - Location: Link to Register for the Web-based Virtual  
Format: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_G2-teZm1Ti-HXmcsUm5h4w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G2-teZm1Ti-HXmcsUm5h4w)

Help us make Firewise a mandatory consideration in determining insurance rate plans. Please voice your support today.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Firewise Projects!

Stay safe and well,

Dollar Point Firewise Committee - <https://www.dollarpoint.org/committees/firewise-committee>

Please send any questions to:

Nate Walker [njwus@comcast.net](mailto:njwus@comcast.net)

Joy Walker [njw25@comcast.net](mailto:njw25@comcast.net)

Donna Hartley [hartley@donnahartley.com](mailto:hartley@donnahartley.com)

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**Draft Letter to Voice Support – Copy to email, send email to Alec Stone by March 30**

**To: Alec Stone, California Department of Insurance** ([Alec.Stone@insurance.ca.gov](mailto:Alec.Stone@insurance.ca.gov))

**From: (Insert DPA Member Name)**

**Subject: Support for Section D - MITIGATION IN RATING PLANS AND WILDFIRE RISK MODELS**

Thank you for requesting input on the proposed text for new regulations being considered to minimize the impact of wildfires.

As a member of the Dollar Point community in Tahoe City, we take wildfire prevention seriously. Our community of 500+ homes has been active in wildfire prevention for many years. In 2019 we established a Firewise Committee and began the process for Firewise USA certification. In March 2020 we were certified by Firewise USA. The certification process has led to community-wide fire safety awareness and multiple projects to reduce fire risk. These projects include community education on wildfire safety topics, dumpster days to remove fire fuel, and fire hydrant painting. The Firewise projects and certification have led to a 300%+ reduction in fire fuel, creating more defensible space and shake roof replacements in our community.

These contributions to reduce wildfire risk must be recognized by insurance companies. Rather than raise rates or

cancel policies, insurance companies must consider Firewise certification and related individual projects that reduce fire risk in their communities.

I am writing to voice support for Section D of the proposed regulation (copied below). Please include these requirements in the final regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stay safe and well,

(DPA Member Name)

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