

*Shelter Bay Firewise Community Action Plan
2022 - 2027*



Fire Marshal's Office



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Skagit County FIRE PROTECTION DIST. #13

October 29, 2021

Shelter Bay Firewise Community Leadership

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Advisors:

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Chief Wood Weiss, Fire District #13

Goals:

- Minimize the potential for loss of homes during a wildland fire.
- Protect Shelter Bay Community from damage or loss due to a wildland fire.
- Implement the Shelter Bay Firewise Community Action Plan to facilitate wildfire safety and forest health issues.
- Partner with Skagit County Fire Protection District No. 13, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Skagit County Fire Marshal's Office and other neighboring landowners, Public and Private, to our mutual benefit to reduce the Wildfire Hazard in and around the community.
- Provide education to the community on Wildfire prevention and preparedness.
- Serve as an example and leader in Wildfire Prevention and Loss Mitigation for surrounding communities.
- Maintain Firewise Communities/USA status.

Objectives:

Unless otherwise noted, the yearly objectives will be accomplished through joint coordination of Shelter Bay Community and the following agencies: Skagit County Fire Marshal's Office, Skagit County Fire Protection District #13, Skagit Conservation District and Washington State Department of Natural Resources. For specific projects, the lead coordinator will be determined at the time of implementation.

2022 - 2027 Objectives

Board of Directors' Communications

1. As soon as practicable inform the Shelter Bay Board of Directors and appropriate Committees of the revised Firewise Community Action Plan in order to evaluate R&R's, Covenants, and policies as they relate to wildfire protection and preparedness.

Access (ingress/egress)

1. In consultation with Skagit County Fire Protection District 13 and the Conservation District Forester develop a map of the Emergency Evacuation routes, utilizing the three points of ingress/egress (Appendix A)

Fire Protection Planning and Services

1. Develop priority Greenbelt areas to partner with the WA Department of Natural Resources and Skagit Conservation District for fuels reduction.
2. Continue to include Fire District #13 representative(s) in Firewise meetings and coordinate on projects as determined.
3. Annually review Firewise materials and make available any checklists for Lot owners who would prefer printed materials.

Fuels Reduction

1. Continue to record annual Greenbelt and Lot activities aimed at restoration of forest health and fire fuels reduction. Make sure to note the hours spent by staff and lot owners planning, coordinating, and conducting Firewise activities.
2. Provide a summary of fuels reduction practices each Lot owner and the Greenbelt maintenance contractor can implement when altering vegetation. (Appendix B)
3. Sponsor and designate routine community clean-up events, such as yard waste and tree debris collection and chipping/composting.

Community Education and Outreach

1. Post the Emergency Evacuation route map and provide notice to the community of this map online. Add map link to Shelter Bay website.
2. Provide the community with access to all the most current Firewise information and web content provided by advising organizations on reduction of home ignitability in the home ignition zone.
3. Increase awareness of the wildfire potential in and adjacent to Shelter Bay and prevention techniques through the Community Newsletter and website www.shelterbay.net.
4. Develop a key dates calendar for management to implement this plan and activities to promote events such as Washington's Wildfire Awareness Month and [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#) - the first Saturday in May.
5. Sponsor a community open house for a Fuels Reduction Demonstration project.

6. Identify appropriate staff, agency advisors, and Board of Directors representatives to present this plan to the appropriate Swinomish Indian Tribal members.

Recognition

1. Annually recognize those volunteers who participate in Firewise activities and projects by offering prizes and highlighting their name on the readerboard. (Appendix C)

Appendix A

Map of the Emergency Evacuation routes, utilizing the three points of ingress/egress



Note: Three points of ingress and egress added to [web map](#)

Appendix B

Summary of wildfire fuels reductions practices

****Individual property wildfire risk assessments are recommended in order to provide specifics on the below-listed actions***

1. Within 5 feet of every structure remove all potential fuels, particularly dead vegetation or materials that are highly combustible when exposed to embers.
2. Within 30 feet of every structure remove all ladder fuels that are or will conceivably grow into surrounding greenbelt vegetation.
3. Within the 30 to 100 feet distance of every structure, reduce ladder fuels, particularly dead limbs and branches of vegetation or shrubs and trees that will conceivably grow into the surrounding greenbelt vegetation.

4. Beyond the 100 feet distance of a structure within the greenbelts, prioritize vegetation removal to provide the most vigorous trees of the desired species with more water and remove as much of the current and potential ladder fuels as feasible.
5. Within the greenbelt, and to the greatest extent possible maintain overstory tree canopy cover to reduce understory and soil evapotranspiration.
6. Within the greenbelt promote native conifer species by removing competing vegetation around those trees which will not likely become ladder fuels to adjacent trees and which will not be removed for view maintenance.
7. In all Firewise activities, review the current Skagit County Noxious Weed Board list of invasive species and Firewise highly flammable plant species and encourage their removal in conjunction with Firewise Activities.

Appendix C

List of Names and Activities