



FIREWISE COMMITTEE

CHARTER

PURPOSE: To ensure that the St James community is able to achieve an effective level of protection against the incidence and/or spread of wild fires and related damage to homes and property while protecting residents from physical harm.

PROGRAM: As an official Firewise USA Community, it is essential that St James residents become and stay educated regarding the potential dangers associated with wild fires. In this regard, the committee has access to a wide range of educational materials which can be used at various venues to provide information to residents relating to actions that can be taken to prevent and/or mitigate damage to homes from wild fires. Additionally, the committee will coordinate closely with the SJFD, POA and the Town's Emergency Management Team on all matters relating to the risk associated with wild fires.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct an ongoing community-wide educational effort regarding the risks and related mitigation actions pertaining to wild fires.
- Coordinate Firewise activities closely with the SJFD, POA, and the Town's Emergency Management Team.
- Seek monetary grants from relevant state and federal agencies to assist in implementing Firewise activities.
- Annually, take necessary action to ensure that the Town's recognition as a Firewise USA community is maintained.

- Coordinate with the NC Department of Forestry to have periodic assessments conducted regarding the risk of wild fires in and around the community.
- In coordination with the SJFD ensure that residents are informed of planned controlled burns in areas near the Town.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION: The committee will consist of resident volunteers at a number not to exceed eight. Appointments to the Committee shall be for a three year term.

REPORTING: The committee will report activities of interest to the Town Council and, as appropriate, to the POA, SJFD and Emergency Management Team.

March 2017

Approved by the St. James Town Council, April 4, 2017