

Expectations for the Ashland Volunteer Wildfire Risk Assessor

The Ashland Volunteer Wildfire Risk Assessor (WRA) performs wildfire risk assessments within Ashland City Limits to advise property owners and occupants on wildfire risks associated with their property. The WRA is expected to develop a relationship on-site with property owners/occupants to educate, empower, guide, and support them to independently reduce wildfire risks on their property and encourage their neighbors to do likewise.

- **Time Commitment**
 - Approximately 140-170 hours spread through the year, plus initial and annual training
- **Required Training**
 - Successful completion of the Ashland Volunteer WRA Course (~48 hrs)
 - Eight (8) hours of annual WRA training refresher
- **Required Field Training (Mentoring)**
 - Completion of the WRA task book to demonstrate competency in performing risk assessments.
- **Physical Fitness Level**
 - The WRA must be physically able to walk uphill, downhill, and on uneven terrain. Adjustments to the physical requirements may be considered to ensure the volunteer will be successful.
- **Requirements**
 - Background check performed by the City of Ashland before training begins.
 - Has a means of reliable transportation to and from assigned risk assessment locations.
 - Has reliable internet access and a digital device to enter data.
- **Essential Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (after completion of training)**
 - Competent in performing wildfire risk assessments on a broad array of site conditions.
 - Solicits information and listens to property owners'/residents' concerns before advising them on risks. Confirms that their concerns are addressed.
 - Provides subject matter expertise in home ignition zone risks, home hardening principles, fuels reduction, creation of defensible space, and relevant codes and ordinances.
 - Advises and strives to motivate property owners/residents before, during and after the assessment using appropriate communication techniques and interpersonal skills.
 - Documents findings using customized software and forms within prescribed timeframes.
 - Performs follow-up inspections confirming completion of work and condition status.
 - Monitors and documents risk reduction accomplishments on assigned properties.
 - Advocates for risk reduction in a manner that addresses specific vulnerabilities.
 - Follows established protocols & seeks out expert assistance for complex/unusual situations.
 - Provides information in a manner that balances individual judgment with realistic opportunities to address barriers to action.
 - Seeks out and clarifies work expectations with supervisor and teammate(s).
 - Practices situational awareness and follows established safe work practices.
 - Develops an effective personal relationship with every property owner/renter. Serves as the property owner's/renter's point of contact and advocate.