

Feb. 12, 2008

Learn to be Firewise at Feb. 16 workshop

The Sarasota County Firewise Coalition and the Florida Division of Forestry will hold a free workshop on the Firewise Communities program from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at Sarasota County Fire Station #2, 2070 Waldemere Street, Sarasota.

The national Firewise Communities program is a multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, developers and others in the protection of people, property and natural resources from the risk of wildfires. Creating a landscape that will make a home less vulnerable to wildfire is the key to help reduce the fire risk. With Firewise landscaping, a defensible space can be created around a home, reducing the risk of fire spreading quickly. The workshop will offer information on how to get started to become Firewise, grant information, fire's role in the Florida ecosystem and becoming a Firewise community. Michelle Steinberg of Firewise Communities/USA will be the keynote speaker.

For more information about the Firewise Communities program or to register for the workshop, contact the Sarasota Call Center at 941-861-5000 or Patrick Mahoney of the Florida Division of Forestry at 941-727-6481 or via e-mail at mahonep@doacs.state.fl.us.