

Creating a map image of your Firewise Community

The Firewise USA Application requires a map of your community, which can either be embedded into page 11 of the Community Risk Assessment document, or uploaded as a separate file in the Community Risk Assessment upload portion of the Firewise online application.

One of the tools available that can be used to create community maps for Firewise applications in Santa Cruz county is this: <https://gis.santacruzcounty.us/gisweb/>. There are likely many other tools for GIS mapping available that can be used. These instructions are for this GISWEB tool.

1. From the landing page, enter the exact address of a home in your community (or your own) including town, state, zip, and select the "address" radio button then search. Or if you have your APN number use that.
2. Once your property comes up, Close the lower window pane that popped up.
3. In the top menu bar, Select Overlay = Assessors. This will give you a parcel view. Then click on the Select Basemap button, and select Basemap to remove any trees and "earthview" items.
4. Wait a bit for the whole map to draw. Then use the + and - keys to zoom in/out. You want to zoom out enough to capture your whole community but wait a bit so the software draws all the details.
5. Once you have all the parcels of your community displayed on the screen, use some type of screen shot or screen image capture tool to save that image into a JPG or JPEG file. I use Snip & Sketch.
6. Once the image is saved into a JPG or JPEG file, use a tool like Paint to open it and draw a colored line around your community boundaries. Save that file. That's what you'll use for your map.