



2007 Executive Summary

Firewise Communities/USA® Project Report



On-Line Support for Firewise Communities/USA at www.firewise.org/usa

The Firewise Communities program maintains a web area dedicated to the Firewise Communities/USA project at www.firewise.org/usa. This site was created with an eye to maximizing its usefulness to program participants — both state liaisons and community residents. Practical information for participating communities includes the quarterly program publication, *"Firewise Communities: The How To Newsletter"*, 20 localized fire-resistant plant lists created by the USDA-Cooperative Extension Program, volunteer forms to be used during Firewise projects, application and renewal forms, and grant sources.

Each community and state liaison has access to a password-protected area that holds a downloadable media kit, specialized catalog items, sample Firewise proclamations and other useful materials. Recognized Firewise sites are also encouraged to provide information and photographs for posting in the Community Stories area. During 2007, seventeen communities provided written material and accompanying photographs, including:

Bay Tree Lakes	North Carolina
Beverly Hills	California
Conkling Park	Idaho
Cragmoor	New York
Fall River.....	Oregon
Lake Camelot	Wisconsin
Lake Lewman	Kentucky
Maynard	Ohio
SummerCamp	Florida
Highland Pines	Arizona
Taos Pines Ranch	New Mexico
The Currituck Club	North Carolina
The Horizon	Texas
The Rim Golf Club Community.....	Arizona
Turkey Hill	Massachusetts
Windsor Hills	Texas
Woodland Estates	Florida

In addition, the Firewise Forum area was updated, with an easier-to-use chat capability and the addition of a Firewise blog. Ten well-attended chat sessions were held during 2007, some designed for Firewise representative participation and others for a general audience.

Throughout the year, ten Firewise Alert e-mails were distributed to the Firewise user base with program activity information, and eight chat sessions were very helpful in maintaining a strong program network with Firewise sites. Two additional chat sessions were held to communicate with the state liaison network.

A wiki-style glossary was added as a web site enhancement to provide site visitors with current wildfire mitigation vocabulary. A new, easy-to-use, photo gallery was created to provide users with photographic examples of Firewise enhancements in various regions of the United States.

Firewise Home Page visitation increased during the year and averaged more than 963,912 hits and 40,368 site visitors per month. More than 8,700 individual e-mail addresses now receive the Firewise Alert.

Executive Summary



The Firewise Communities/USA program completed its sixth successful year. During 2007, the number of participating communities increased to 305, a 48 percent increase over 2006. Individual community investment in wildfire mitigation activities rose 40 percent. The program has tracked community investments in wildfire mitigation projects since 2003; they now exceed \$24,400,000. More than 381,000 people have been directly touched by Firewise Communities/USA activities across the country.

A network of 45 state and two tribal liaisons provides excellent support to Firewise Communities national staff. Firewise liaisons for the first time represent Maine, Nebraska and Vermont. Because of their dedication, 36 states and three reservations house one or more participating Firewise sites. The program retention rate stands at 90 percent at the end of its first six years. States recognizing communities for the first time include Mississippi and New Hampshire.

2007 marked the fifth anniversary of continued commitment to the Firewise Communities/USA program for its eleven original pilot communities. To commemorate this milestone, each was sent a Firewise Communities/USA banner that can be displayed at Firewise events throughout the year.

The *Firewise Communities: The How To Newsletter* is firmly established and extremely popular with program participants. Four issues were distributed in 2007 and it is now also downloadable from the program's web area at www.firewise.org/usa.

Citizen commitment to Firewise Communities/USA continues to be enthusiastic, as is evidenced by the strong retention rate in program renewals. Ninety percent of the sites that complete the Firewise Communities/USA application process choose to continue with the program and renew their Firewise status annually.

Firewise Communities/USA's goal — to actively engage small communities in taking responsibility for their ignition potential — is being achieved on increasing fronts each year. Visible change is occurring in communities that participate in the Firewise process — especially the many of them that renew their commitment to wildfire mitigation annually. Participating communities are, indeed, learning to make necessary wildfire preparations *before* a wildfire occurs.

COMMUNITY STORIES

Lake Camelot, Wisconsin

Four Firewise Communities/USA sites illustrate, on the following pages, their commitment to community wildfire mitigation.



Lake Camelot in Adams County, Wisconsin, is a man-made lake in the center part of the state. It was developed in 1968-1970, and it was surrounded by red oaks, jack pines and white oaks, with a few aspen scattered throughout. Green common areas that were to be kept in their natural condition, according to the covenants, surround the private lots in the area. Lake Camelot has 37 subdivisions, and each has several acres of green areas. The jack pines in the area have reached full growth and are dying. The oaks are suffering from oak wilt, and they are dying as well. As a result, its green areas are full of dead, dying, and downed trees. This is an extreme fire hazard, as the land is sand country, and drought conditions have prevailed the last few years.

In 2006, Lake Camelot Property Owners Association (LCPOA) formed a Firewise committee to work with Firewise Communities/USA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources representative. A plan was set into place

for the Firewise Committee to grant permits to clean out an area, and a process was developed to apply for a permit through LCPOA. The state DNR Firewise representatives did a survey in March of 2006, and high-risk areas were identified. Lake Camelot would be eligible for a grant to start a Firewise program. The grant was applied for and, while we waited to hear something, we began to clean up a trial area of about five acres along one of the most frequently traveled roads in Chester Subdivision. We had volunteers working to drag out the dead and down wood; we had other volunteers using a chain saw to cut branches into sizes that could be handled. Still other volunteers brought trailers to haul loads of wood to the recycle center in the town of Rome. Over the summer, we had 27 volunteers that worked 430 hours — 59 hours with chain saws, 80 truck/trailer loads hauled to the recycle center, and seven cleaning and disposal days. In addition, three residents completed major Firewise projects to reduce their personal risk of wildfire. Recognition was given to

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COMMUNITY STORIES

Lake Camelot, Wisconsin
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the residents of Lake Camelot, Chester Addition in August of 2007.

Residents of Lake Camelot, Cadbury Addition were impressed with the results of the Firewise project in Chester Addition and started their project in the fall of 2006. 27 volunteers worked a total of 300 hours on 45 workdays. They cut, cleared and removed 88 truck/trailer loads of dead wood. Recognition was given to Lake Camelot, Cadbury Addition, in August of 2007.

Lake Camelot, Cranbrook Addition began a clean-up effort in December 2006. There were three areas they wanted to clean. One was an area about 100' x 300' that had mostly dead jack pines that needed to be removed. The next was a bad area of fallen oaks from strong down winds a number

of years ago. It was about 100' x 300'. The third area was about three acres and had downed oaks and jack pines. 43 volunteers worked about 223 hours on 18 different workdays on these areas. This project was the first one to rent a chipper from the LCPOA in order to dispose of the deadwood. By June of 2007, the work sites had been transformed. Recognition was given to the residents of Lake Camelot, Cranbrook Addition in August of 2007.

Thinning has begun on several properties in the development. The education of property owners started three years ago when they were provided with brochures and videotapes on Firewise principles. Since January 2005, over \$204,500 has been invested in Firewise activities.

Chocorua Ski & Beach Association, New Hampshire



Chocorua Ski & Beach: Located in Tamworth, NH, Chocorua (pronounced sho-kor-oo-ah) Ski & Beach Association is a small community set among pine barrens whose 50-year natural burn is a decade overdue. It is the first community in New Hampshire to achieve Firewise status.

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COMMUNITY STORIES

*Chocorua Ski & Beach Association, New Hampshire
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Members of the Ski & Beach community first sought advice from the local Tamworth Fire Chief, Steve Solomon, after a community member lost his life in a fire. Chief Solomon was aware that New Hampshire's Forest Ranger, Bob Boyd, was interested in approaching communities in the pine barrens to introduce the Firewise program and suggested that the Board for the Association meet with Ranger Boyd. After seeing a presentation by Ranger Boyd, the community's Board invited him to make his presentation at the Association's annual meeting. About half of the community members attended and all agreed that the Association should move forward with the program.

"Ranger Boyd had taken photos around our community that illustrated the fire hazards that placed us at high risk, including pine needle accumulation on our roofs, stacked wood too close to homes, and inadequate fuel clearance from structures," said Bob Pariseau, president of the Association's Board. "It was eye-opening to learn that our wildfire risk was so great and our community members were eager to do what was needed to make our homes safer."

"We discussed possible projects that the community could do," said Ranger Boyd. "These included fuel reduction, creating better egress in case of emergency, improving the water supply, and building a fire danger sign."

"Although a number of our residents are only present on weekends or part-time, most everyone has been enthusiastic about participating," said Mary Currier, who updates the community's web site and oversees its newsletter which both offer reminders about Firewise practices and upcoming activities. (The community often has 50% participation or better, with younger residents pitching in to help more elderly neighbors.) "Awareness is the cornerstone of our success. When we hold chipper days or clean-up activities, or consider other projects for improving our safety, it sure helps that we know what is at stake."

In its first year, Ski & Beach set the following goals:

- Smokey Bear Fire Danger Sign at the entrance to the community to raise members' awareness of current fire

conditions

- Post Firewise and fire rules/regulations information on the community's bulletin board
- Post similar information and notices on their web site with a link to Firewise's web site
- Patrol for illegal fires & check fire permits
- Clean-up days - homeowners remove fuels & debris (May & August)
- Hire a chipping contractor to remove homeowners' fuels & debris and mow sides of roads (7 miles)
- Construct a gated egress road for emergency evacuation only — made wide enough for fire apparatus
- Applying for grant funding to buy and install a 30,000 gallon cistern
- Purchase metal screening for members' decks, roof vents, etc.

* To create more space in the home ignition zones, the community also plans for members to remove heavier fuels in spring through fall of 2008 and to hire another chipping contractor to remove the fuels.

Partners in the Association's Firewise efforts include: Chocorua Ski & Beach Association, NH Division of Forests & Lands' Forest Protection Bureau, U.S. Forest Service, Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission, Tamworth Fire Department, Tamworth Forest Fire Warden, and contractors. Tamworth Fire Chief Steve Solomon assisted with the program from the beginning, educating the Ski & Beach Board members on fire rules & regulations, giving presentations, and assisting the Board in researching and applying for grant money to pay for purchasing and installing a 30,000-gallon cistern to address the community's currently inadequate water supply. Forest Fire Warden Milton Norcross also assisted by helping educate the community on fire rules/regulations and in issuing fire permits to homeowners after explaining proper burn pit construction, adequate fire suppression equipment, and how to burn campfires safely

COMMUNITY STORIES

Woodland Estates, Florida



In less than a year, residents and landowners of Woodland Estates in Sarasota County, Florida organized and identified wildfire risks and made great strides addressing them. This culminated in their being recognized as a Firewise Communities/USA site. A local celebration in January 2007 honored the community and those who worked hard throughout the recognition process.

Woodland Estates is a private estate community located in Southern Sarasota County. It consists of 34 properties — each of five to ten acres — with 23 existing homes and 63 residents. The residents of Woodland Estates are similar to other WUI homeowners and desire an authentic wildland aspect to be maintained in their neighborhood.

A hazard and wildfire risk assessment completed for Woodland Estates in early 2006 classified it as "Very High Hazard." Some of the items noted included:

- Limited access to the development, as only a single ingress and egress road via a bridge across a canal existed.
- Limited turn-around space and water supply for emergency vehicles. This included three dead-end roads having less than 50 feet turn-around space and no municipal water supply or hydrants.
- Dense vegetation, including many highly combustible trees, shrubs and grasses.
- Little if any defensible space due to heavy growth. Many of the plantings were protected Florida flora.

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COMMUNITY STORIES

Woodland Estates, Florida
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A meeting to discuss a nearby prescribed burn for the area identified several interested and motivated community residents. It was learned that a prescribed burn five years earlier had gotten out of control and threatened Woodland Estates.

Several residents attended a Firewise Community workshop sponsored by Sarasota County in June 2006. As a result, a Firewise Committee of twelve Woodland Estates residents was formed, working under the guidance and direction of Florida Department of Forestry (DOF) staff. Within a month, a highly successful Firewise presentation was held for the community with 21 residents attending.

In October of that same year, DOF area supervisors performed neighborhood risk assessments with most of the property owners participating. Their goal was to significantly decrease the fire hazard risk to the community with the secondary benefit of the Firewise Committee working to develop a sense of community among Woodland Estates neighbors.

The Committee's action plan first implemented mechanical fuel mitigation in November/December 2006, with assistance from the DOF. This included adding or restoring firebreaks to allow fire and emergency personnel access to

power lines and to areas where a fire or other emergency may place residents at risk. In addition, 30-foot defensible spaces were created around all structures with removal of thick heavy brush. Non-combustible addresses were placed on all properties, and driveway clearance was improved to allow access for larger vehicles. A dry hydrant was installed near a creek and the community worked to create an alternate emergency exit strategy near property owned by Sarasota County.

The Firewise Committee continues to keep all residents educated and informed by distributing literature and holding regular meetings. The Committee feels that the recognition of Woodland Estates as a Firewise Community/ USA site will serve as a stimulus for other residents to become more involved with wildfire mitigation efforts.

"This experience has been an uplifting example of how city, county, state and federal officials can successfully interact with each other even as private citizens achieve improved personal and community safety," said Patrick Mahoney, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist for the DOF. "Woodland Estates is extremely appreciative of all the help and reassurance given by all."

COMMUNITY STORIES

Beverly Hills, California



The City of Beverly Hills is a world-class destination for many people; it is a community of people who care for each other and want to help their neighbors. The City is also known for Rodeo Drive, Sunset Boulevard, and Santa Monica Boulevard. One section of Beverly Hills is approximately 1.5 square miles with over 3,000 residents who live in the WUI. This area is located in the northern part of the city with the boundary line of Sunset Boulevard on the south end and contains 1,374 homes. The housing density is sufficient for home ignition zones to overlap in many locations. While the fire department is well equipped and staffed, it would be overwhelmed if faced with a major WUI fire. Residents approached the fire department to learn what they could do to help with this situation. The first community meet-

ing took place in 2003; this is where the story of the Community of Beverly Hills becoming a Firewise community began..

The first step was to develop a Firewise board consisting of community members, fire department personnel, planning personnel, and building and safety personnel. Firefighter Greg Barton was selected to be the fire department member on the Firewise board. Community residents were asked to locate residents who would like to serve on the board for a minimum of one year. From this, the Community of Beverly Hills developed a board consisting of seven community residents and a member of the fire department. Since that time, the Firewise Board has had no difficulties identifying community members who wanted to serve on the Board.

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Beverly Hills, California

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The Community of Beverly Hills Firewise Board next needed to enlist a WUI specialist to complete an assessment and create a plan from which it identified agreed-upon, achievable local solutions. The Firewise board was much honored to obtain Jack Cohen of the USDA-Forest Service to conduct the assessment addressing the wildfire-related characteristics of Beverly Hills north of Sunset Boulevard. It examines the area's exposure to wildfire as it relates to ignition potential. The assessment did not focus on specific homes, but examined the community as a whole. This assessment was conducted on May 3 – 4, 2004 by the National Firewise Team.

Another very exciting event also occurred during the assessment period. Jack Cohen presented "How Homes Ignite" at the Beverly Hills Hotel to an audience of approximately 100 community residents, including Mayor Mark Egerman, and other members from the City Council. Also in attendance were members of the Beverly Hills Fire Department, Chief Officers from the Los Angeles Fire Department, and Chief Officers from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The assessment was presented to the Firewise Board President Fire Captain Greg Barton; it was evaluated by the Firewise board and accepted. The next step was to invest a minimum of \$2.00 annually per capita. The Firewise Board started to work on a mitigation plan to address all of the issues in the assessment. The plan dealt with all items that were presented as potential problems to the community of Beverly Hills. The challenge was getting the word out to the community, and the Firewise Board sponsored Fire-

wise educational booths at numerous City of Beverly Hills events. Members of the Firewise Board and members from the fire department staffed these booths. This allowed questions to be answered by a team of community members and the fire department.

The Firewise Board also wanted to develop a public education display to assist the Beverly Hills residents in understanding the importance of Firewise principles. This project was the Firewise/Waterwise Mitigation Demonstration Garden. The Firewise Board collaborated with the City of Beverly Hills Fire Department, public works department, and the Office of Emergency Management to create the garden. The garden was funded through grant funds, City of Beverly Hills funds, and numerous volunteer hours from members of the community of Beverly Hills. The garden demonstrates how Firewise principles, Waterwise principles, and recyclable material can be aesthetically attractive and still be safe.

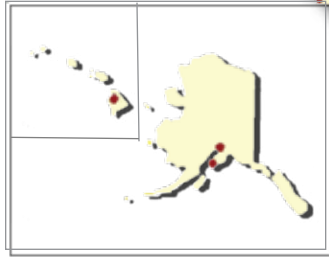
The community of Beverly Hills was the 3rd community in the State of California to become a Firewise Communities/USA site. This was a great accomplishment for the Community of Beverly Hills, but the work did not end with the award — it only started. The Community of Beverly Hills Firewise Board continues to get the message out on how to be Firewise. Plans are in the works for upcoming Firewise projects and programs for the residents of Beverly Hills. This is a great partnership between the citizens of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Fire Department. Both organizations have the same goal in mind—protecting life and property from a WUI fire.

RECOGNIZED FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Affirm the Success of the Program



Each red dot on the above map marks an active Firewise Communities/USA site, effective December 31, 2007.



Firewise Communities/USA Sites

The year 2007 saw a 48 percent increase in the number of recognized Firewise Communities/USA participants, for a total of 305 sites. Recognized communities can be found in 36 states and on three BIA reservations. More than 381,000 people have been touched by the program, and have invested more than \$24.4 million in local wildfire mitigation projects since 2003. Program retention stands at 90 percent over six years. States recognizing their first Firewise Communities/USA sites include Mississippi and New Hampshire.

Eleven of the program's original pilot areas marked their fifth anniversary with the program. They include Briargate (FL), Emigration Canyon (UT), Genesee Foundation (CO), Greater Eastern Jemez WUI Corridor (NM), Perry Park Municipal District (CO), River Bluff Ranch (WA), Sundance (UT), Timber Ridge (AZ), Wedgefield (FL), Whiting Woods (CA) and Wilderness Ranch (ID).

Number of Firewise Communities/USA sites, by state, December 31, 2007

Arkansas.....	52
Florida	45
Washington	27
Virginia	21
Arizona	20
Texas.....	17
Kentucky.....	13
New Jersey	12
North Carolina	10
California	9
Colorado and Montana	8
New Mexico	7
Wisconsin	6
Idaho and Pennsylvania	5
Tennessee	4
Georgia, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.....	3
Alaska, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Ohio	2
Alabama, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, and West Virginia	1

One hundred six communities applied for Firewise Communities/USA status for the first time in 2007.

Alpine Meadows	California
Antoine	Arkansas
Aspen Hill Farms Section II	Virginia
Belfry	Kentucky
Benny's Beach	Virginia
Blue Mountain	Virginia
Buffalo Gap	Texas
Bull Run Mountain Estate	Virginia
Caddo Valley.....	Arkansas
Caldera Springs.....	Oregon
Camp Albert Pike.....	Arkansas
Canterbury Lakes.....	Florida
Cape San Juan Commission	Washington
Carrollton	Arkansas
Chaparral Pines	Arizona
Chocorua Ski & Beach Club Association	New Hampshire
Colony Surf Club	Washington

Continental	Arizona
Cottonwood.....	Arkansas
Deer Creek Valley Ranchos.....	Colorado
E-Tik-Etu	North Carolina
Exie	Kentucky
Fairfield Bay	Arkansas
Grab.....	Kentucky
Greensburg.....	Kentucky
Grizzly Flats	California
Haldeman Heights.....	Kentucky
Harbor Isles Manufactured Homes.....	Florida
Harlan	Kentucky
Higginson.....	Arkansas
Hilltop Estates	Kentucky
Hillview Terrace II	Washington
Hillview Terrace III.....	Washington
Hot Springs Village.....	Arkansas
Indian River Estates.....	Florida
Lake Camelot, Cadbury Addition.....	Wisconsin
Lake Camelot, Chester Addition	Wisconsin
Lake Camelot, Cranbrook Addition.....	Wisconsin
Lake Camelot, Excaliber Addition.....	Wisconsin
Lake Camelot, Falk Addition.....	Wisconsin
Lake Lewman	Kentucky
Lake Wildwood Association.....	California
Langley.....	Arkansas
Laurelmor	North Carolina
Lazy River Mobile Home Village.....	Florida
Lockett Ranches.....	Arizona
Manning	Arkansas
Meeks Settlement	Arkansas
Misty Isle	Washington
Mosby Mountain Estate	Virginia
Mt. Holly	Arkansas
Newhope	Arkansas
Oak Grove-Batson-White Oak.....	Arkansas
Paris.....	Arkansas
Peace River Shores & Palm Shores Social Club	Florida
Pisgah Forest Farms/Estates	North Carolina
Pleasant Plains	Arkansas
Potomac Vistas	Maryland
Powelltown	Texas
Richland	New Jersey
Riverwalk Grove.....	Florida
Riverwalk Hammock	Florida

Riverwalk Meadow	Florida
Riverwalk Mobile Home Village	Florida
Riverwalk Oaks	Florida
Riverwalk Ridge	Florida
Route 504 Fire Protection District	Kentucky
Roxborough Park.....	Colorado
Savanna Club of St. Lucie	Florida
Shawnee Country Open Space Association	New Jersey
Skagitwilde	Washington
Snow Lake Shores	Mississippi
South Cady Mountain.....	Washington
South Gulf Cove.....	Florida
Spruce Ridge.....	Tennessee
Starlight Pines Homeowners Association.....	Arizona
SummerCamp.....	Florida
Summerfield Bluff	Florida
Summerfield Crest	Florida
Summerfield Forest	Florida
Summerfield Glades.....	Florida
Summerfield Glen	Florida
Summerfield Green	Florida
Summerfield Hollow	Florida
Summerfield Knolls	Florida
Summerfield Lakes	Florida
Summerfield Park.....	Florida
Summerfield Pines.....	Florida
Summerfield Place.....	Florida
Summerfield Strand	Florida
Summerfield Woods.....	Florida
The Currituck Club	North Carolina
The Horizon	Texas
The North Forty.....	Washington
The Tree Tops at Ranger Point	Florida
Thunderbird Farms	Virginia
Tri Lakes Fire Service Area	Montana
Turkey Hill Community.....	Massachusetts
Twin Run Estates.....	Virginia
Volcanoville	California
Waterview Preserve	Florida
Westside Story.....	Washington
Whitewater Springs	Texas
Wild River	Oregon
Woodmoor.....	Colorado
Wynward Pointe	South Carolina

Play Key Role in Program Success

Firewise Communities/USA is supported by the National Association of State Foresters and, in 45 states, state forestry agencies have appointed Firewise liaisons to serve as local program liaisons. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has provided liaisons in two regions as well. The total liaison network numbers 47. States appointing representatives for the first time in 2007 include Maine, Nebraska and Vermont. It is because of the outreach abilities and technical expertise of these individuals that communities are successfully receiving and adopting action plans that lower their communities' wildfire risk. Firewise liaisons include:



Alabama Forestry Commission	Gerald Steeley
Alaska Division of Forestry	Arlene Weber-Sword
Arizona State Land Department	Cliff Pearlberg
Arkansas Forestry Commission	David Samuel
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Wayne Mitchell
Colorado State Forest Service	Frank C. Dennis
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.....	Ralph Scarpino
Delaware Forest Service	Bryan Hall
Florida Division of Forestry	Jim Harrell
Georgia Forestry Commission	Roger Browning
Hawaii Division of Forestry & Wildlife.....	Wayne Ching
Idaho Department of Lands	Harry Steele
Kansas Forest Service	Jason Hartman
Kentucky Division of Forestry	Jennifer Turner
Louisiana Office of Forestry and Fire Protection	H. Alan Small
Maine Forest Service	Kent Nelson
Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service	David Robbins
Massachusetts DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control.....	Philip Gilmore
Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Forest, Mineral & Fire Management.....	Paul Kollmeyer
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Larry Himanga
Mississippi Forestry Commission.....	Leslie Blackwell
Missouri Department of Conservation	Bill Altman
Montana DNRC - Forestry Division.....	Pat Cross
Nebraska Forest Service	Don Westover
New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands	Robert Boyd
New Jersey State Forestry Service	Gregory McLaughlin
New Mexico State Forestry	Karen Lightfoot
New York State Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management.....	David Brooks
North Carolina Division of Forest Resources	Gary Wood
North Dakota Forest Service	Jeremy Olson
Ohio Division of Forestry	Aaron Kloss
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	Steve Mattax
Oregon Department of Forestry	Ann Walker
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.....	Richard Deppen
South Carolina Forestry Commission.....	Michael Bozzo
South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression	Robert Lehmann
Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry.....	Leon Konz
Texas Forest Service.....	P.J. Pearson
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands	Tyre Holfeltz
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation	Jay Lackey
Virginia Department of Forestry	John Miller
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Sarah Griffith
West Virginia Division of Forestry	M. Rodger Ozburn
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Jolene Ackerman
Wyoming State Forestry Division	James Webster
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest and Eastern Regions.....	Gary Hilton
Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Interagency Fire Center	Val Christianson

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA STANDARDS

IN ORDER TO BE RECOGNIZED, EACH COMMUNITY MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS.

- Enlist a wildland/urban interface specialist to complete an assessment and create a plan that identifies locally agreed-upon, achievable solutions to be implemented by the community
- Sponsor a local board or committee that maintains the Firewise Community USA program and tracks its progress or status
- Observe a Firewise Communities/USA Day each year that is dedicated to a local Firewise project
- Invest a minimum of \$2.00 per capita annually in local Firewise projects (Work by municipal employees or volunteers using municipal and other equipment can be included, as can state/federal grants dedicated to that purpose.)
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA that documents continuing compliance with the program



The Currituck Club, North Carolina

University Park, Kansas



Langley, Arkansas



FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA PROCESS

COMMUNITIES TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO BECOME FIREWISE

- 1) A community representative completes an on-line request for contact by a Firewise representative at www.firewise.org/usa or contacts his/her state forestry representative directly
- 2) The state/tribal Firewise representative, a specialist in wildland/urban interface (WUI) fire, visits the community and conducts an assessment. This visit is coordinated with local fire officials
- 3) The community recruits local representatives to create a multi-disciplined Firewise board/committee, mainly comprised of area homeowners
- 4) The community assessment is presented to the Firewise board/committee by the WUI specialist
- 5) Using the findings of the assessment, the Firewise board/committee creates an action plan that addresses the community's wildfire mitigation issues. The WUI specialist approves the plan upon its completion
- 6) The action plan is implemented. Once the first action item has been completed, the community can apply for Firewise Communities/USA status
- 7) The community submits its application form along with its Firewise action plan and documentation of its Firewise event to its Firewise representative. The application is available at www.firewise.org/usa
- 8) Annual renewal of Firewise Communities/USA status is completed either electronically or by hard copy, and must be submitted by December 31 each year



Turkey Hill, Massachusetts



San Juan Island, Washington



Windsor Heights, Texas

Firewise Communities/USA

Facts and Stats

The following information provides an overview of the growth and effectiveness of the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program. In six years, the number of communities has grown from thirteen to 305.

- 2001** Firewise Communities/USA pilot project initiated. Seven communities participated: Arizona, California, Florida, Montana and New Mexico.

- 2002** Pilot project continued. Six additional sites identified in Idaho, Michigan, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah. Total pilot communities – 13. Program approved by the NWCG Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team. The National Association of State Foresters and the USDA-Forest Service agreed by MOU to proceed with the program.

- 2003** 162 individuals from 42 states were trained to implement the recognition program. An initial network of 34 state liaisons was established. Program participation increased to 41 recognized sites in 17 states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

- 2004** State representative network increased to 39 liaisons. Program participation increased to 98 communities. Nine new states submitted successful site applications: Georgia, Hawaii, Oregon, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

- 2005** Firewise liaison network increased to 40 states, plus two Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regions, for a total of 42. Added 46 new communities, bringing the number to 144. Four states submitted site applications for the first time: Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts and Montana.

- 2006** Firewise liaison network remained at 45 states, plus two BIA regions. Added 83 new communities, for a total of 211 active sites in 33 states, including three BIA reservations. States recognizing communities for the first time include Alaska, Kansas, New York and Ohio.

- 2007** Firewise liaison network increased to 45 states, plus two BIA regions, for a total of 47 members. Added 106 communities for a total of 305 in 36 states. States recognizing communities for the first time include Mississippi and New Hampshire.

