

Northeast Region Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Restoring Resilient Landscapes - Creating Fire Adapted Communities - Responding to Wildfires

Northeast Wildfire Preparedness Resource Guide



A Wildfire Planning and Preparation Resource Guide to assist Residents, Homeowner Associations (HOA), Neighborhood and Civic groups, local Communities, and Fire and Emergency Services in the 20 States of the Northeast and Midwest U.S.



Prepared by the Northeast Regional Cohesive Strategy Committee

March 2020 Update



Northeast Wildfire Preparedness Resource Guide

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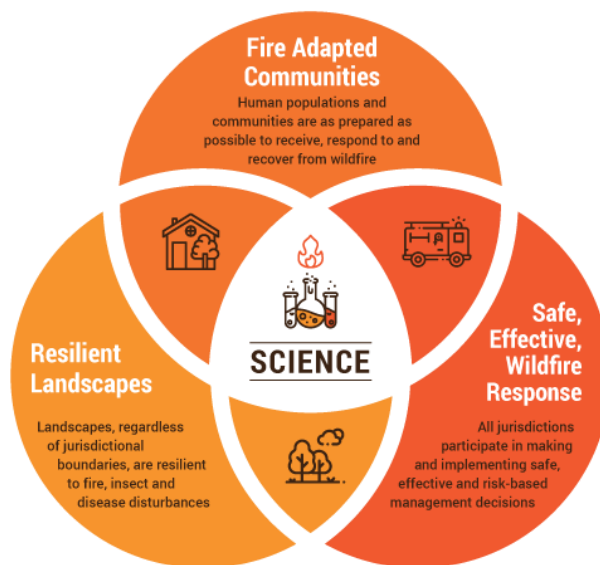
Purpose of this Guide

This guide on preparing for a wildfire, produced by the Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC), is intended to assist Homeowners, Homeowner Associations (HOA), Neighborhood groups, Civic and Community Leaders, and the Fire Service in the 20 States of the Northeast and Midwest U.S.

NOTE: Items marked **(New)** were added for this March 2020 revision.

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

The purpose of the Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC) is to provide a forum for Northeast and Midwest wildland fire management partners to collaborate in order to establish common objectives to advance the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy; to identify and overcome barriers to implementation, and to provide tools and resources to professionals and the public that can work to advance the three goals:



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Wildfires DO happen in the Northeast

Wildfires can happen in the Northeast. Wildfires occur wherever there are adequate burning conditions and a source of ignition. This is especially true wherever there are people, since 95% of all wildfires are caused by human activity.

The Northeast Area, that part of the U.S comprised of 20 states from Maine to Minnesota, then down to Missouri and east to Maryland, and has the greatest concentration of people in the U.S.



This area also has the largest number of wildfires year after year. The Northeast region experiences on average, over 11,000 wildfires per year burning an average of about 130,000 acres. [Source: 2016 Eastern Area Coordination Center Annual Report]. Although many of these fires are small, most of them are not far from homes and high value property. State Forest Fire agencies and local fire departments have been very efficient and effective in keeping wildfires small. But under certain conditions, even the most stellar fire organization can't control wildfires as desired, if at all.

Because of the proximity to people, almost all wildfires in the Northeast can have a devastating impact on homes and communities, including cities, towns, villages and individual homes. Annually, wildfires threaten homes in every state, and many times with devastating losses. A few recent examples include the following:



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Wildfire in Addison, Maine 2001

600 acres, 1 structure lost and 7 saved

*Photo courtesy Ranger Courtney
Hammond, Maine Forest Service*



***Warren Grove Fire in NJ, May 15, 2007,
caused by military flare, 15,541 acres
burned.***

*Photo courtesy New Jersey Forest Fire
Service*



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*The **Black River Falls wildfire** occurred on May 20, 2009 in Marquette County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. There were 200 residences threatened with 21 destroyed. Also, 350 out-buildings were threatened with 50 destroyed.*

Photo courtesy of Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources



***Carlos Edge Fire Complex**, near the Twin Cities, Minnesota, October 19, 2000*

The 8,513-acre started from an unattended burn pile that rapidly spread into the Carlos Avery Wildlife Refuge and northern suburbs near the Twin Cities. About 1,000 people were evacuated as 375 homes and 400 outbuildings were threatened. Four homes were destroyed. (MNICS archive photo).

What makes these examples stand out from other wildland fires? All of them experienced significant losses of homes, they all occurred in the Northeast, and they occur somewhere nearly every year. If you own a home or other valuable structure near a forest or other vegetated area, your property could be at risk.

When major wildfires are taking place, firefighters have their hands full trying to suppress and manage the fire. It is not feasible to be able to protect every home or structure because there are often too many at risk at the same time. There is often little time and too few resources available to help protect your specific property.



You can help protect your home, family and community from wildfires

The wildland urban interface or WUI are areas where homes are intermixed with forests and wildlands.



[WUI Fact Sheet](#) - information about the U.S. wildland fire problem and the wildland/urban interface

More homes are at risk from wildfire as residential development continues to encroach on forest and wildland areas. Across the majority of states, debris burning is the most frequent human cause of wildfires. These human-caused fires can be prevented and the excessive cost of fire suppression reduced. The first step in wildfire prevention education is to raise awareness of the responsibilities of living in a fire prone environment. Individual and community action can ensure that homes and neighborhoods are prepared for wildfire.

This guide has been developed in order to help property owners become informed and to take an active role in protecting their valuable property from wildfires, well before a fire occurs. This guide contains the best information available, mostly in the form of web links to outstanding resources and tools, for residents, community leaders, and fire departments in the Northeast. Please take some time to get familiar with it, check out some of the links, and begin taking steps to protect your property. We want your home or structures to be left standing and in good condition should a wildfire occur near you some day.



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After the Warren Grove Wildfire in New Jersey, 2007. Photo: New Jersey Forest Fire Service



<< Residents, Neighborhoods, and Homeowners Associations >>

Why Should I Be “Firewise”?

Research has shown that making just a few Firewise improvements to your home and property can greatly reduce the risk of losing your home to a wildfire. It is therefore the responsibility of each homeowner in the Wildland-Urban Interface to take steps to protect themselves, their home, and their family. A weekend of work is often all it takes to reduce your risk.



Community members working to make their property Firewise in Maryland.

Photo: Maryland Forest Service

Firewise Resources for Residents

Below are links to resources and information on Firewise practices:

- [Wildfire Home Assessment & Checklist](#) (A tool from the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety to help determine what parts of a home and the surrounding property may be most vulnerable during a wildfire).
- [Wildland Fire Action Guide](#) (The Ready, Set, Go! "Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide" for residents).



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- [Understanding the Wildfire Threat to Homes](#) This NFPA online learning module is an overview of fire history, fire basics, and how homes burn. It's an excellent resource for residents and other stakeholders that are pursuing knowledge on the basics of how wildfires ignite homes and the actions that can be implemented to make homes safer. The module can be completed in approximately thirty minutes.
- [Preparing homes for wildfire](#) This website by NFPA describes methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).
- [Eastern United States Fire Performance Plant Selector Web Site](#) (This web site is an easy-to-use tool for selecting plants for use in fire-prone urban communities. It includes approximately 500 commonly occurring trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines, and grasses of the Eastern United States. It was developed to provide urban foresters, Firewise professionals, homeowners, and community planners with an accessible plant selection tool).
- [Firewise Landscaping and Plant Lists](#) (This Firewise web site provides the links to state Cooperative Extension Service plant lists. These sources are science-based, consistent with Firewise principles, and are updated periodically. Includes many Northeast & Midwest States).
- [Wildfires Near Me](#) (Wildfires Near Me is a beta web application that focuses on keeping you informed about wildfires in your area. You tell the app all the places you care about and you will receive an email or text message when a fire is possibly threatening that location).
- [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. - FLASH®](#) (The nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH®) is the country's leading consumer advocate for strengthening homes and safeguarding families from natural and manmade disasters. Their mission is to promote life safety, property protection and resiliency by empowering the community with knowledge and resources for strengthening homes and safeguarding families from natural and man-made disasters).
- [Wildfire Information Network eXtension](#) (The goal of this program is to teach homeowners how to live more safely in wildfire prone areas and provide current information to extension educators for use in their outreach programs. Educational materials include:
 - Pre-fire actions that reduce the wildfire threat to homes and other property.
 - Homeowner actions when the wildfire threat is imminent, including information on evacuation and staying to defend your home.
 - Post-fire actions pertinent to homeowners and their property.



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- Social science aspects of implementing plans to reduce the wildfire threat to your home.



The plants were selected for their low flammability, the foundation is rocked, and the siding is actually steel siding not real logs. Credit: Virginia Division of Forestry

Neighborhood Wildfire Preparedness

Preparing for a wildfire is a community undertaking. Neighbors must work together to educate each other on wildfire issues and create a community that is adapted to fire.

When a wildfire enters a Wildland-Urban Interface community, it can spread from house to house, independent of the wildland fuels. If one house in a neighborhood ignites, it can put all the other houses at risk. This is why it is important for everyone in the neighborhood to be Firewise.



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Community members working to make their property Firewise in the Redwood of Wildewood community in Maryland. Photo: Maryland Forest Service

Benefits of Neighborhood Wildfire Preparedness

Neighbors who work together to implement Firewise practices in their community often experience:

- Reduced wildfire risk to homes throughout the community
- Increased community cohesion and comradery
- Increased property values
- Improved ISO ratings



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Firewise Resources for Neighborhoods

Below are links to programs designed to help neighborhoods and communities implement Firewise practices:

- [Firewise USA™ Program](#) (*Firewise* is a key component of Fire Adapted Communities – a collaborative approach that connects all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with comprehensive resources to help reduce risk. Firewise USA™ is a program of the *National Fire Protection Association*).
- [New Firewise USA® Brochure \(New\)](#) - NFPA's Wildfire Division is excited to announce the release of a new brochure: Taking Control of Your Wildfire Risk. This brochure is an introduction to the Firewise USA program with information on the critical role that residents play in reducing their wildfire risk and why it is also important to work together with neighbors.
- [Firewise USA™ Toolkit](#) (The Firewise USA™ Toolkit provides a number of proven tools and resources for homeowners and other community residents who work tirelessly to help prepare for and reduce the risk of wildfire damage and loss in their neighborhoods).
- [Community Wildfire Readiness Toolkit](#) (The CWR Toolkit helps agencies and individuals promote the fire adapted concept within their communities. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is an active partner in the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy).
- [CWPP Leader's Guide](#) (This is a guide from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is designed to help develop and implement a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan in communities and across the country. It has a local community level approach to include code, development review, ordinances and local authority, and is used by leaders in the Fire Service, including SMEs and local, state, and federal officials. With the guidance of this guide, leaders in the Fire Service will be able take the steps to create a CWPP that addresses community risk of wildfire with respect to other resource values).
- [Community Wildfire Readiness \(CWR\)](#) (Community Wildfire Readiness recognizes that all community members play an important part in preparing your community for the threat of wildfire. CWR resources help community members create a fire-ready community through education, mitigation and the establishment of a community coalition).





Barnegat Township, New Jersey. Photo: Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

<< Civic and Community Leaders >>

Why Should My Community Plan for a Wildfire?

- All community members have a responsibility to protect themselves and each other from the risk of wildfire. Taking a community approach to reducing risks from wildfires is most effectively accomplished through a collaborative approach that connects all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with comprehensive resources to help reduce risk. It also teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses.

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- A CWPP or Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a tool for communities to address their wildfire risk. A local Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative plan created by the fire department, state and local forestry, land managers, community leaders, and the



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public. The planning process maps values at risk, and requires actions to reduce risk, such as prescribed burning, fuel reduction, or other measures that adapt a community to better confront their wildfire threat.

What are the Benefits to My Community?

- Spending an adequate amount of time developing a CWPP can help clarify and refine priorities to protect life, property, infrastructure, and valued resources. This process can lead communities through critical discussions about private and public land management, as well as identify opportunities for fuels reduction within a designated wildland–urban interface boundary.



An aerial view of New Jersey's wildland-urban interface. Credit: New Jersey Fire Safety Council

Resources for Communities

- [Planning the Wildland-Urban Interface](#) (New) – Published by the American Planning Association, PAS Report 594, Planning the Wildland-Urban Interface, offers planners an in-depth introduction to the WUI and wildfire basics, covering challenges, trends, and historical context along with the latest wildfire science. It then moves to solutions, providing a holistic planning framework and practical guidance on how to address WUI and wildfire challenges in plans, policies, and regulations.
- [NACo County Wildfire Playbook](#): A County Leadership Guide to Help Communities Become More Fire Adapted and Learn to Live with Wildland Fire (New) - This playbook has been designed by county commissioners, for county commissioners, as you endeavor to fortify and protect your communities from high severity impacts of wildland fire.



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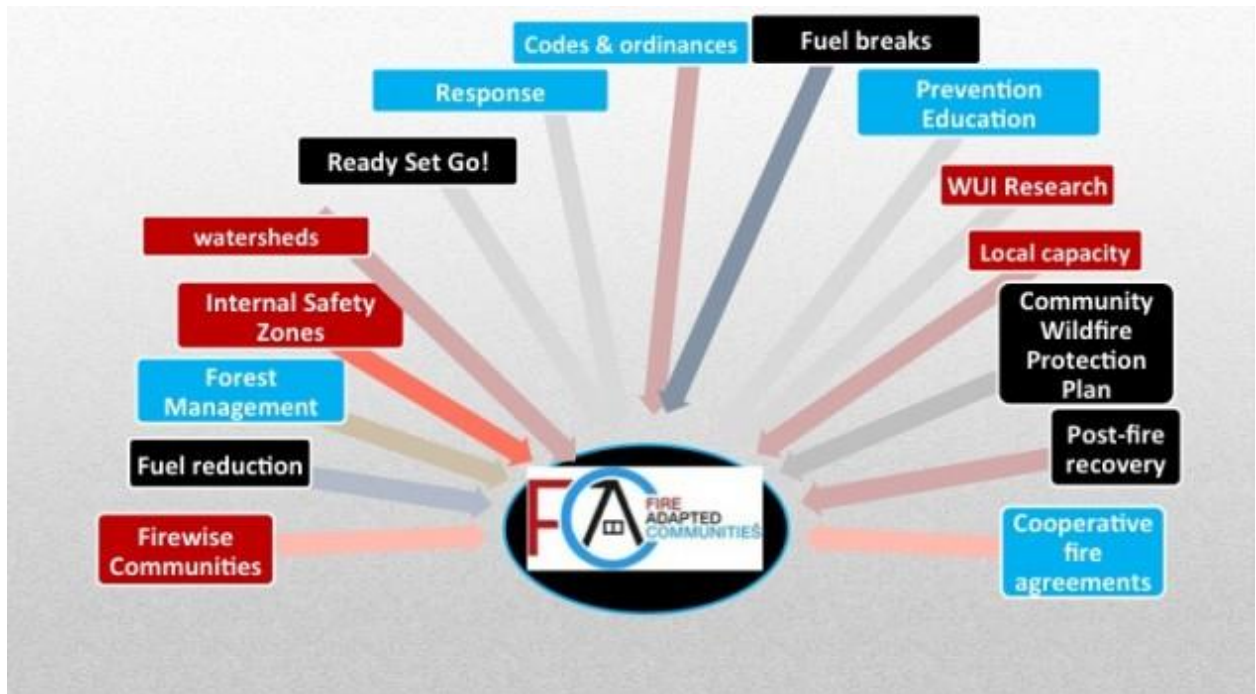
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- [FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#) (The Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (Handbook) is the official guide for local governments to develop, update and implement local mitigation plans. It also offers practical approaches, tools, worksheets and local mitigation planning examples for how communities can engage in effective planning to reduce long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters).
- [Prepare and Implement a CWPP](#) (A guidebook to preparing a CWPP produced by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF))
- [Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (Guide produced by the US Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry)
- [Fire Adapted Communities \(FAC\) Self-Assessment Tool](#) (The Fire Adapted Communities Self-Assessment Tool (FAC SAT) was created to help communities assess their level of fire adaptation and track their capacity to live safely with fire over time).



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- [Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire \(CPAW\)](#) (Working with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning)



Source: <http://www.fireadapted.org/>

- [Fire Adapted Communities Learning Hubs Field Guide](#) (Launched in 2013, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is stewarded by the Watershed Research and Training Center and The Nature Conservancy. Together with the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, they share a vision to accelerate the adoption of fire adapted community (FAC) concepts across the nation using a tested learning network approach. This guide includes two NE community examples).
- [Fire Adapted Communities Graphic and Facilitator's Guide \(New\)](#) - This graphic was designed to help explain the fire adapted communities (FAC) framework. It describes a set of components that make up community wildfire adaptation, and gives examples of specific programs and activities that communities can undertake to reduce their wildfire risk and increase their resilience.
- [Wildfire Home Assessment Program](#) (National Volunteer Fire Council - Wildland Fire Assessment Program)



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- [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#) (National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a reminder that there are many things we can do to be prepared for wildfire. The event serves as means to inspire and encourage people of all ages to plan and participate in a risk reduction or wildfire preparedness activity that makes their community a safer place to live).
- [Get Ready for a Wildfire](#) (Dept. of Homeland Security website that explains what actions to take if you receive a fire weather watch alert from the National Weather Service for your local area and what to do before, during, and after a wildfire.)
- [WILDFIRE SMOKE: A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 2019](#) (New) - This EPA Guide is intended to provide state, tribal, and local public health officials with information they need to be prepared for smoke events and, when wildfire smoke is present, to communicate health risks and take measures to protect the public.



<< Fire Service >>

The Role of the Fire Service in Community Planning

The fire service has a proud history of fire prevention efforts to educate citizens on the threat of fires originating inside the home, mostly in the urban setting. EDITH (Exit Drills in the Home), Stop Drop and Roll, Sparky and Put a Finger on It are instantly recognizable themes for fire prevention programs. Similarly, forestry agencies have a history dating to the 1920s (?) of educating citizens on the need to prevent forest and wildland fires. It is rare to find someone who can't immediately recall the tag line *"only YOU can prevent forest fires"* when shown a picture of Smokey Bear.

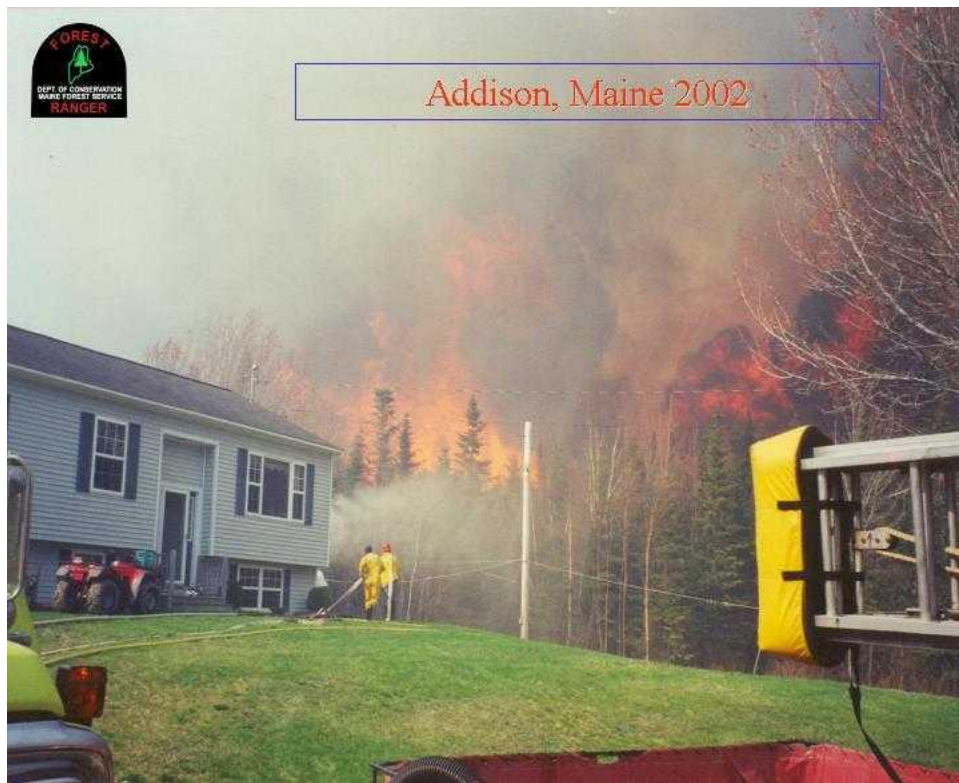


With the growth of wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires, the local fire department is uniquely positioned as a trusted voice in the community to advocate for and lead community planning efforts. In addition to emergency response, many fire departments have the authority and responsibility to cooperate with all stakeholders to mitigate the risk of WUI fires. Looked to as role models, fire departments can initiate and lead mitigation efforts that benefit not only the firefighters themselves, but the community, its infrastructure and resources.



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Role of fire departments in CWPPs

Recognized for their leading role in many community events and programs besides emergency response, local fire departments can serve as an organizing force in developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Fire departments can serve as the lead in developing a CWPP or they can support a community effort. Fire departments will have special expertise when developing a community risk assessment, establishing hazard reduction priorities and educating the public on recommendations to reduce structural ignitability.



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Benefits of Community Wildfire Planning to Firefighter and Public Safety

Leading or participating in a community effort to reduce wildfire and WUI fire risk can benefit wildfire response by firefighters in many ways. Conducting hazard reduction activities based on a community risk assessment not only reduces risk to the citizens, but it also improves firefighter safety. A community risk assessment can inform the development of a WUI tactical map or pre-fire plans that maximize the efficiency and safety of wildfire response.



Figure 1. Credit: CapeCod.com



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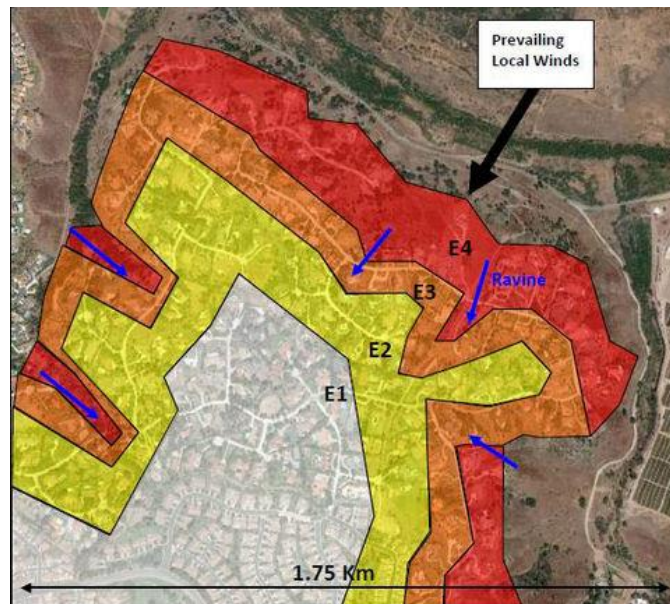


Figure 2 Credit: Alex Maranghides/NIST

- Programs and Tools
 - [Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) toolkit](#) (New) – Provided by the FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration, this toolkit contains resources to help your fire department prepare for, and respond to, WUI fires.
 - [Ready, Set, Go!® program](#) (The RSG! Program tenets help residents be Ready with preparedness understanding, be Set with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to Go, acting early when a fire starts).
 - [Wildfire Home Assessment Program & Checklist](#) (The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to provide volunteer firefighters and non-operational personnel, such as Fire Corps members, with training on how to properly conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)).
 - [WUI Chief's Guide](#) – This guide was developed by the IAFC's Wildland Fire Policy Committee to help provide a better understanding of the wildland-urban interface and the necessary information to help prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from these events. The guide helps individuals understand how a fire chief or other official can help a community effectively



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manage the emerging risk of fires in the wildland-urban interface. Each section contains information and advice, case studies, and where possible, links to applicable resources.

- [Fire Adapted Communities for the Fire Service \(New\)](#) – This free, online training course is designed for members of fire and emergency response organizations operating in an area with wildland urban interface (WUI). It will introduce them to the key components of working with their community to adapt to the wildland fire threat. The course takes up to two hours to complete and includes interactive features such as knowledge checks and learning activities.
- [CWPP Leader's Guide](#) (This is a guide from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is designed to help develop and implement a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan in communities and across the country. It has a local community level approach to include code, development review, ordinances and local authority, and is used by leaders in the Fire Service, including SMEs and local, state, and federal officials. With the guidance of this guide, leaders in the Fire Service will be able take the steps to create a CWPP that addresses community risk of wildfire with respect to other resource values).
- [FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration - Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) toolkit](#) (Resources to help your fire department prepare for, and respond to, WUI fires).
- [NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center Wildfire Probability Interactive Map](#) (An interactive map system showing the probability of a wildfire of various sizes by date of the year. You can choose what size fire you're interested in, 100, 300, 1,000, or 5,000 acres and allow the map to animate the entire year, or manually step through in three-day intervals. The data is based on wildfire occurrence between 1992 and 2015.
- [A Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families](#) [July 2019] (New) - This Guide, produced by the [National Wildfire Coordinating Group \(NWCG\)](#) will help firefighters and their families prepare for and respond to a realm of planned and unplanned situations in the world of wildland firefighting.



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Event and Project Ideas



- **Want to encourage fuels reduction and reduce the amount of debris burning in your town?**
 - Establish a brush and leaf collection site where property owners can drop off this fallen debris.
 - Design leaf collection bags with a wildfire safety message. Hand out the bags at neighborhood meetings.
 - Offer curbside brush chipping or pick up.



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A neighborhood cleanup day in the Hickory Nut of Wildewood community in Maryland.

Photo: Maryland Forest Service

- ***Want to help people understand what types of wildfire mitigation work they should do around their properties?***
 - Offer free home ignition zone assessments to property owners.
 - Create a home ignition zone self-assessment for people to use on their own property.
 - Construct a demonstration site to show fire resistant building materials, Firewise plant choices or the properties of an effective defensible space.
 - Host a workshop for property owners, with demonstrations on management actions in the home ignition zone (e.g., cleaning rain gutters, alternatives to wood mulch, proper tree pruning, tree spacing).
- ***Wondering about unique ways to get fire prevention and preparedness information to the public?***
 - Create wildfire information packets to be handed out when people apply for a building permit.
 - Create a community newsletter that goes out at the start of fire season.



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- Create a calendar that provides ideas on Firewise activities people can do year-round.
 - Post signs that tell people they are entering a wildfire high hazard area.
 - Hold a community event on the anniversary of an historic large forest fire.
 - Have a wildfire awareness booth at a local event.
 - Create magnets to promote use of a website or phone hotline.
 - Bring awareness to the start of fire season with a billboard message.
 - Post wildfire risk information on kiosks at community boat landings, along hiking & biking trails
 - Place ads in newspapers to bring awareness to fire season.
- ***Looking for ideas to address emergency vehicle access?***
 - Create a flyer featuring the dimensions of your local fire department's engine truck and hand it out when people apply for a driveway permit.
 - Create a banner about driveway access for use on fire engines parked at local events.
 - Update fire number signs to a two-sided, reflective variety.
 - Offer free driveway assessments to property owners.
 - Remove woody vegetation along town road rights-of-way.
 - Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the road system to identify emergency vehicle access issues.
 - Develop driveway recommendations or ordinances.
 - Identify locations for additional water points and need for improvements to existing ones.
- ***Want to send wildfire information to people, but you don't have much of a budget?***
 - Create an information flyer that can be inserted into tax bill mailings.
 - Ask to include an article in homeowner association newsletters.
 - Volunteer to be interviewed by your local radio or TV station.
 - If you have a website, link to your state's fire danger/wildfire information page.



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Success Stories

Community Preparedness



- [Barnegat Township, NJ](#)
- [Mashpee, MA](#)
- [Partnership Training Builds Community Wildland Fire Preparedness, Cape Cod National Seashore, Massachusetts](#)
- [Building a Wildfire Preparedness Plan in New Jersey](#)
- [FAC Learning Network Field Guide – Ely, Minnesota - Dovetail Partners](#)
- Lakeside Maine Residents Becoming LakeSmart and Firewise
- Minnesota Hazard Mitigation Project - Chipper Days Turn Vegetative Fuels Into Energy
- Maine Defensible Space Chipping Program
- Rum River Boy Scout Camp Becomes Firewise
- Lake Camelot Firewise Program
- [Hazardous Fuel Loading Reduced through Mechanical Operations, Saratoga National Historical Park, New York](#)
- [Fuel Reduction and Fire Response on Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation Wisconsin](#)



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Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)



*Firewise Maryland educational outreach booths at the Downs Park Community Day.
Photo credit: Maryland Forest Service*

- [Barnstable County \(MA\) Wildfire Preparedness Plan Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)
- [CWPP - New York State's Central Pine Barrens](#)
- [Community Wildfire Protection Plan is Developed Collaboratively in the Ozarks, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri](#)
- Town of Rome, Wisconsin
- [Communities at Risk Report FY16 \(NASF\)](#)



Resources

Financial Assistance Opportunities

- [FEMA Grants](#) (FEMA has 3 grant programs that can fund WUI/wildfire mitigation projects and activities – the [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\) grant](#), the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#), and the [Assistance to Firefighters Grant \(AFG\)/Fire Prevention & Safety \(FP&S\) grants](#)).
- [Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire \(CPAW\)](#) (Working with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning).

National Information Sources

- [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) - The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a strategic push to work collaboratively among all stakeholders and across all landscapes, using best science, to make meaningful progress towards the three goals:
 1. Resilient Landscapes
 2. Fire Adapted Communities
 3. Safe and Effective Wildfire Response
- [Planning the Wildland-Urban Interface \(New\)](#) – Published by the American Planning Association, PAS Report 594, Planning the Wildland-Urban Interface, offers planners an in-depth introduction to the WUI and wildfire basics, covering challenges, trends, and historical context along with the latest wildfire science. It then moves to solutions, providing a holistic planning framework and practical guidance on how to address WUI and wildfire challenges in plans, policies, and regulations.
- [NACo County Wildfire Playbook](#): A County Leadership Guide to Help Communities Become More Fire Adapted and Learn to Live with Wildland Fire (New) - This playbook has been designed by county commissioners, for county commissioners, as you endeavor to fortify and protect your communities from high severity impacts of wildland fire.
- [Multihazard Planning Framework for Communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface](#) (The Multihazard Planning Framework for Communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface lays out a comprehensive framework that:
 - addresses risk from wildfire and other hazards
 - encompasses scales from site to neighborhood, community, and region
 - identifies a range of planning interventions that can be used to reduce risk and maximize the benefits that forests provide across the scales of concern



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It includes a planning systems audit tool, which can be used by regions and the communities within them to identify strengths, gaps, and potential areas for improvement in the jurisdiction's planning system (plans, codes, and public investment and other programs) as they relate to multi-hazard risk.

- [Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Desk Reference Guide](#) (Designed to provide basic background information on relevant programs and terminology for those, whether community members or agency personnel, who are seeking to enhance their community's wildfire mitigation efforts)
- [Ready, Set, Go!® program](#) (The RSG! Program tenets help residents be Ready with preparedness understanding, be Set with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to Go, acting early when a fire starts).
- [Wildfire Home Assessment Program & Checklist](#) (The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to provide volunteer firefighters and non-operational personnel, such as Fire Corps members, with training on how to properly conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)).
- [Firewise USA™ Program](#) (*Firewise USA™* is a key component of Fire Adapted Communities – a collaborative approach that connects all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with comprehensive resources to help reduce risk. Firewise USA™ is a program of the *National Fire Protection Association*).
- [NFPA/IBHS Research Fact Sheets](#) The fact sheets cover the following topics: coatings, fencing, decks, attic and crawl space vents, and roofing materials.
- [International Code Council's International Wildland Urban Interface Code](#) (IWUIC)
- National Fire Protection Association's Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire (*Standard 1144*)
- [FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#) (The Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (Handbook) is the official guide for local governments to develop, update and implement local mitigation plans. It also offers practical approaches, tools, worksheets and local mitigation planning examples for how communities can engage in effective planning to reduce long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters).
- [Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network](#) (Works with communities across the nation to create a more wildfire-resilient future. A "fire adapted community" consists of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely co-exist with wildland fire.)
- [Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire \(CPAW\)](#) (Working with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning)



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- [US Fire Administration/National Training Center](#) (The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and National Fire Academy (NFA) are working to advance the professional status and expand the knowledge and skills of fire and emergency services personnel. Their free training and education programs support fire departments and emergency services organizations in preparing for, preventing and responding to fires and other hazards).
- [Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) toolkit](#) (New) – Provided by the FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration, this toolkit contains resources to help your fire department prepare for, and respond to, WUI fires.
- [WILDFIRE SMOKE: A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 2019](#) (New) - This EPA Guide is intended to provide state, tribal, and local public health officials with information they need to be prepared for smoke events and, when wildfire smoke is present, to communicate health risks and take measures to protect the public.
- [Fire Adapted Communities for the Fire Service](#) (New) – This free, online training course is designed for members of fire and emergency response organizations operating in an area with wildland urban interface (WUI). It will introduce them to the key components of working with their community to adapt to the wildland fire threat. The course takes up to two hours to complete and includes interactive features such as knowledge checks and learning activities.
- [A Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families](#) [July 2019] (New) - This Guide, produced by the [National Wildfire Coordinating Group \(NWCG\)](#) will help firefighters and their families prepare for and respond to a realm of planned and unplanned situations in the world of wildland firefighting.

State and Regional Information Sources

- [Northeast Regional Strategy Committee](#) (Cohesive Strategy) - The Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC) provides executive leadership, coordination and guidance for implementation of the Northeast Regional Action Plan while providing a forum for members to recommend and guide joint strategic direction on fire and land management activities. The NE RSC continues to collaboratively support, recognize and assist the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals and implementation efforts.
- [New Jersey Fire Safety Council](#) (The NJFSC's goal is to protect the people and property of New Jersey from the effects of catastrophic wildfires through education, awareness, innovation and action).
- [Firewise USA™ Communities List](#) (Current list of all communities in the US that are recognized as a Firewise USA™ Community by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA))



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Partner & State Contact Directory

- Cohesive Strategy
 - [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#)
 - [Northeast Regional Strategy Committee](#)
 - [Southeast Regional Strategy Committee](#)
 - [Western Regional Strategy Committee](#)
- Federal Wildland Fire Management websites
 - [Fire Management in the Northeast](#) (US Fish & Wildlife Service brochure)
 - [Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry – Fire and Aviation Management](#)
 - [US Forest Service, Eastern Region Fire & Aviation](#)
 - [National Park Service – Wildland Fire](#)
 - [US Fire Administration](#)
 - [FEMA – Wildfire Mitigation](#)
 - [DOI - Office of Wildland Fire](#)
 - [US Forest Service – Wildland Fire](#)
- State Forest Fire Management websites
 - [Connecticut Division of Forestry - Forest Fire Prevention and Control](#)
 - [Delaware Forest Service, Forest Protection](#)
 - [Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Wildland Fire Program](#)
 - [Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Fire Management Program](#)
 - [Iowa Department of Natural Resources Rural Fire Protection and Fire Prevention Programs](#)
 - [Maine Forest Service, Forest Protection](#)
 - [Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Firewise Living in Maryland](#)
 - [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Bureau of Forest Fire Control](#)
 - [Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fire Management](#)
 - [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fire Management](#)
 - [Missouri Department of Conservation, Fire](#)
 - [New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau](#)
 - [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Forest Fire Service](#)
 - [New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Wildfires](#)
 - [Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fire Management](#)
 - [Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Wildland Fire](#)



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- [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Forest Environment Program](#)
- [Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Agency of Natural Resources](#)
- [West Virginia Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention and Control](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forest Fire Protection](#)
- Forest Fire Compacts websites

State forest fire programs are reinforced through forest fire compacts between the states. Established under the Weeks law and other specific legislation enacted by Congress, state forest fire compacts reduce wildfire suppression costs for local, state and Federal jurisdictions by allowing states to share personnel and equipment and by minimizing the firefighting burden on any single state during periods of high fire occurrence.

 - [Alliance of Forest Fire Compacts](#)
 - [Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact](#)
 - [Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact](#)
 - [Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact](#)
 - [Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact](#)
- Prescribed Fire Council websites

The purpose of a Prescribed Fire Council is to promote the exchange of information, techniques, and experiences of the prescribed fire community, and to promote public understanding of the importance and benefits of prescribed fire.

 - [Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils](#)
 - [Illinois Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [Indiana Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [Michigan Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [Missouri Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [New Hampshire Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [Ohio Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council](#)
 - [Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council](#)



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Fire Science Resources

National

- [National Joint Fire Science Program](#) (A Department of the Interior program designed to fund and communicate wildland fire research. Provides syntheses of large research projects on subjects such as smoke science, fuel treatment effects, and landscape resilience.)
- [Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science Lab](#) (A USDA Forest Service lab focused on developing management and modeling applications for fire spread, smoke, and fuel management.)
- [Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Group](#) (A division of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology focuses on ember and firebrand spread from wildland fires into communities.)
- [WUI Home Ignition Research](#) (A list of home ignition research sites including building materials research and flame radiation ignition probabilities.)
- [Prescribed Fire Science Consortium](#) (The Prescribed Fire Science Consortium was formed to address the lack of research on the mechanisms driving fire behavior and fire effects in prescribed fires.)

Regional

- [Wildfire Management in Wildland-Urban Interface Areas: Northern Research Station](#) (Research into existing and future housing areas at risk of wildland fire.)
- [Fire Research Program: Northern Research Station](#) (An overview of fire physical fire science, fire ecology, social fire science, and outreach efforts of the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station)
- [Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center](#) (A USDA Forest Service research office focusing on numerous projects including fire and water quality, landscape scale assessments, and ecosystem services.)
- [Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists](#) (The focus of the exchange (or Consortium) network is to communicate new and existing science to land managers in meaningful ways. Exchanges also work to gather information from managers on what kind of wildland fire research is needed in each region.)
- [North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange](#) (A science exchange of the Atlantic states from Delaware to Maine.)
- [Lake States Fire Science Consortium](#) (A science exchange in states surrounding the Great Lakes.)
- [Tallgrass Prairie & Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium](#) (A science exchange running from Minnesota to western Ohio.)
- [Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium](#) (A science exchange covering Texas northeast to Kentucky, including southern Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana)



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Developed by the Partners of the Northeast Cohesive Strategy Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC)

