

# WILDFIRE

## NEWS AND NOTES

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### WILDFIRE IN THE SOUTH:

## How the USDA Forest Service, Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry address WUI Challenges



Center researchers test burn mulch to determine the safest for use around homes.

By Karen Gardner

In a sense, Annie Hermansen-Baez's career with the Forest Service parallels the growth of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) that she works with in her capacity as center manager of InterfaceSouth, the WUI component of the Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry in Gainesville, FL -- which is part of the Southern Research Station (SRS) of the USDA Forest Service\*<sup>1</sup>. Hermansen-Baez earned her Master's degree in forestry from the University of Florida in 1998, the very same year that wildfires scorched a half-million acres of Florida's wildland-urban interface. Those fires and the costly damage that resulted -- in excess of \$600 million -- led the Forest Service to take a closer look at WUI issues in the South.

Fresh out of grad school, Hermansen-Baez was hired to work with Ed Macie, the Forest Service regional urban forester for Region 8 and current team leader of the Gainesville portion of the Centers, on the project -- an undertaking that took three

<sup>1</sup>The Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry is the result of an integration of two existing Centers, formerly known as the Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research and Information in Athens, GA and the Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information in Gainesville, FL. This integration combines expertise in urban forestry and wildland-urban interface (WUI) issues for the southern region and nationwide. The Centers are part of the Southern Research Station research work unit SRS-4952: Integrating Human and Natural Systems in Urban and Urbanizing Environments. The urban forestry component is now called Urban Forestry South (Athens, GA), and the WUI component is InterfaceSouth (Gainesville, FL). The 13 states that comprise the Southern region are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Puerto Rico is also considered part of the Southern Region.

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## Wildland Firefighter Fatalities Report Available from NWCG

A recently revised report on Wildland Firefighter Fatalities is now available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The report is based on data from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's (NWCG) Safety and Health Working Team "Safety Gram," issued annually to document firefighter fatalities and entrapment events across the United States.

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# WILDFIRE

## NEWS AND NOTES

Feedback? email us at  
newsletter@firewise.org



## IAWF Endorses Wildland Fire Legislation

The International Association of Wildland Fire recently surveyed its members and Board of Directors for their opinions about wildland fire legislation currently pending before the U.S. Congress. The majority of both the members responding to the survey and the Boards support all three pieces of legislation.

Support for S.1770 Stable Fire Funding Act of 2007 establishes separate funds to be used to pay 80% of the cost Federal agency emergency wildland fire suppression activities exceeding amounts annually appropriated. S.1635 is a bill to provide for the reimbursement of wildland firefighters for the cost of professional liability insurance. Lastly, S.1152 Wildland Fire Safety and Transparency Act of 2007, directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Federal agency directors to jointly submit annual reports to Congress on the wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use.


IAWF member comment about the upcoming legislation:

- "Yes, I am in favor of S.1770. By identifying emergency funding for wildland fires may alleviate the pressure to "borrow" from other programs. Every year has been and will continue to be major fire years as long as the western United States has drought conditions with excessive fuel build-up. The only thing the fire programs have experiences are budget cuts so having emergency funding designated for wildland fires would be helpful."

- "S. 1635 helps alleviate the concerns of field-level fire managers that if they are

personally sued for accidents that happen in the course of duty, they will have access to legal representation. The IAWF did a great service informing the wildland fire community about this issue last winter."

- "S-1152 is needed to enhance the safety of firefighters. Nothing focuses political/bureaucratic thinking better than a required report to Congress by the Secretary."

Please contact Chuck Bushey, President of the International Association of Wildland Fire at (406) 248-8307 or visit their web site [www.iawfonline.org](http://www.iawfonline.org) for more information. 



## Home Ignition Zone Training Workshops Coming in 2008


The national Firewise Program will once again offer the successful two-day training workshop on **Assessing Wildland Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone**. The program is please to announce the continuation of the workshop through the end of 2008. The workshop cover the myths of wildland/urban interface (W/UI) fire, the history and context of W/UI fire disasters, sequential elements of a W/UI fire disaster, research and case studies, risk factors in the home ignition zone, information needed to conduct an assessment, the general health of the ecosystem, inspecting the home ignition zone, accessibility in case of a wildfire emergency, documenting an assessment, and much more.

The workshop features question & answer sessions, class discussions, and classroom exercises in which participants will perform home ignition zone evaluations, practicing the information they have learned. The course is designed for a diverse audience, including state and urban Foresters; staff of federal, state, county or local agencies;

Firewise State Liaisons; developers and builders; landscape designers and architects; community planners; and insurance professionals.

The Program has been approved as an authorized provider of continuing education and training programs by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Participants will be awarded 1.6 (one point six) Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

The cost of the workshop is \$200.00 per person and includes class materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and breaks. The 2008 workshops will be held at the following locations; February in Sacramento, California; March in Ontario, California; May, Little Rock, Arkansas; and June in Charleston, West Virginia. The final 2008 HIZ workshop will be held as pre-conference event before the Backyards and Beyond, National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Education Conference November 2008 in Tampa, Florida.

Registration for any of the workshops may be completed online from the Firewise web site under "Firewise You Can Use" section at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). We are pleased to announce that many of the resources for the workshop are also available from the **Firewise Catalog** also from the Firewise web site. 

## FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program Supports Organizations Working to Fight Fire

For organizations and agencies working to prevent the frequency and severity of fire in their communities but that also face ongoing budget constraints that can hamper their best efforts, relief may be in sight. FM Global, one of the world's largest business property insurers, has created a new Fire Prevention Grant Program so fire departments – as well as national, state, regional, local, and community organizations – can more effectively prevent fire, the leading cause of commercial and

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industrial property damage.

Funding from the new program is available to support a wide variety of fire prevention, preparedness and control efforts including, arson prevention and investigation; pre-fire planning for commercial, industrial and institutional facilities; fire prevention education and training initiatives; and fighting fires in sprinklered buildings, to name a few.

"At FM Global, we believe the majority of fire damage can be prevented and we are dedicated to helping those who share the same philosophy," said Michael Spaziani, the manager of the program. "Working together, we can make a difference in preventing fire loss, rather than simply responding to the incident after it occurs."


For more information or to apply for a Fire Prevention Grant, please visit [www.fmglobal.com/grants](http://www.fmglobal.com/grants). 

## Wildfire Awareness Training Inspires Texas Community Toward Firewise/USA Recogniton

Nancy Vaughan and Cynthia Johnson from The Horizon, a residential community located about 3 miles from Kerrville, Texas, were instrumental in learning about Firewise and bringing information back to neighbors quickly leading to recognition from the Firewise Communities/USA program. The two Horizon residents attended a 30-hour course offered by the Texas Forest Service called Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialist in February 2007. There they learned how to be better prepared for a wildfire event, gain knowledge about wildfire ecology, how to conduct assessments, and reduce the risk of wildfire around homes implementing Firewise principles.

Upon their return they helped form a committee within the Horizon Owners Association and sought help from Jan Fulkerson from the Texas Forest Service,

who provided assistance working with the local Firewise Board and fire department to conduct street level assessments. The community was broken down into levels of risk and identifying sections of the community with limited accessibility or high hazards. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWWP) was prepared, as well as an evacuation plan and submitted to the owners association for approval and action. Recommendations were made and funding provided, as community mitigation began during the summer. Jan Fulkerson stated, "This was truly a grassroots project where residents have made this happen (quickly)." In 2000, a 1250-acre fire damaged the community as did a 14-acre fire this past February, so the residents knew the urgency in protecting themselves.

The community of The Horizon was awarded Firewise Communities/USA recognition this past September after completing all the requirements of the program in just eight months. A sample of posters and brochures addressing individual concerns of this community are featured here. If you would like to read about The Horizon or other Firewise Communities/USA community stories, please visit the website: [www.firewise.org/usa](http://www.firewise.org/usa). 

## Wildland Firefighter Fatalities Report Available from NWCG, continued from page 1


Dick Mangan, a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Wildland Fire section member and President of Blackbull Wildfire Services had been tasked with updating the previous study by the NWCG Safety and Health Working Team. The previous report covered firefighter fatalities up to 1999; this report covers from 1990 to 2006.

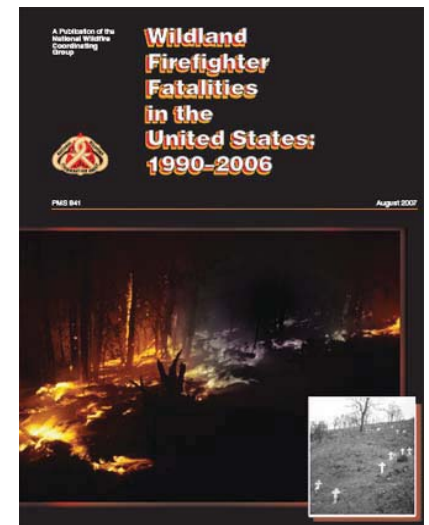
"*Wildland Firefighter Fatalities in the United States: 1990–2006*," continues to rely on the "Safety Gram," comparing data from the original nine-year period (1990 to 1998, called the initial period) to data from the following eight years (1999 to 2006, called the most recent period). During the

research it was found that the previous report had underreported aircraft accidents by three fatalities and heart attacks by one fatality.

Serving as the Fire & Aviation Program Leader at the Missoula Technology & Development Center at the time, Mangan first compiled the initial report. This updated version documents in detail 310 wildland firefighter fatalities occurring over the past 17 years showing causes, agencies, geographic locations, and other important information. The four leading causes of death in wildland firefighting over the past in that period are: 1. Aircraft accidents; 2. vehicle accidents; 3. heart attacks; and 4. burnovers. Fatalities were broad range occurring in 41 States including personal from Federal, State, County, rural firefighters, volunteer firefighters, contract employees, military and private citizens.

You can download a copy of the report from the NWCG website, under publications and search for *PMS-841 Wildland Firefighter Fatalities in the United States* or click on this web link [http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pms841/pms841\\_all-72dpi.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pms841/pms841_all-72dpi.pdf).

Dick Mangan can be reached at [blackbull@bigsky.net](mailto:blackbull@bigsky.net) for additional information about the report. 





## Wildfire in the South, continued from page 1

years to complete. The result was *Human Influence on Forest Ecosystems: The Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment*, in which the authors summed up as “a first step towards addressing WUI challenges, opportunities, and needs in the South.” The authors also noted that “Challenges in the WUI in the South differ somewhat from those of other U.S. regions due to differences in the number of private landholdings, topography, climate, vegetation type, and culture.”



Annie Hermansen-Baez and Sara Sillars examined mulch after test burn

“The demographics of people living in and close to our forests have changed dramatically,” says Hermansen-Baez. “Our region is the fastest growing in the nation, with a 14% population increase reported between 1990 and 2000 and another 24% projected between 2000 and 2020.”

“The average land tract size is decreasing as the number and diversity of landowners increases, and millions of acres are projected to be lost to accommodate the population growth. Traditionally foresters weren’t trained to work with the diverse group of people you find in the interface.”

To that end, she and Macie stated that the main purpose of the Assessment was to “provide a foundation for developing an integrated USDA Forest Service program of research, application, and development that addresses the issues, challenges, and opportunities of the WUI.”

Indeed, the Assessment served not only as a foundation, but as a springboard for Forest Service efforts to address WUI concerns, both those related to fire and those relevant to other critical issues that affect the interface. These efforts included the

establishment of InterfaceSouth (formally known as the Southern Center for WUI Research and Information) in Gainesville, Florida.

Opening in 2002, the Centers’ activities represented an immediate Forest Service response to the critical findings reported in the Assessment edited by Macie and Hermansen-Baez.

Initially, InterfaceSouth focused on research and technology transfer needed to address fire in the WUI in the South. It has since expanded its focus to include a range of issues related to how people living in urban and urbanizing landscapes influence and is influenced by natural systems.



Florida retro-fit house BEFORE mitigation measures.



Florida retro-fit house AFTER mitigation measures.

“Within the fire arena, the concept of the WUI has been around for awhile, but it wasn’t until recently that it has caught on as a term used outside of fire,” says Hermansen-Baez. “One of our aims is to get people thinking about the interface as much broader than just fire and to include a range of issues related to the effects of urbanization on natural resources. For example, you cannot think about fire without thinking about land use planning. They’re all connected.”

An important component of the Centers’ WUI fire research efforts is related to plant

and mulch flammability. In a joint project with researchers at the University of Florida—School of Forest Resources and Conservation and National Institute of Standards and Technology, USFS research forester Wayne Zipperer is identifying Firewise shrubs and mulches that are safest to use in and around interface properties. Information about these studies is documented in several publications that can be found on the InterfaceSouth website.



Wayne Zipperer and Alan Dozier conducting research burns.

“Being such a small research work unit has really made partnerships critical to accomplishing the work that we do,” notes Hermansen-Baez, (the Centers’ have three technology transfer staff, three researchers, and two administrative support staff spread between two locations). Among the internal and external partners to the USDA Forest Service are: Region 8 State & Private Forestry and the National Forest System, the University of Florida—School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Auburn University’s Center for Forest Sustainability, and the Southern Group of State Forester’s Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Council (the advisory council for InterfaceSouth).

“All of our partners were instrumental in the initial stages of the WUI Center’s development, providing guidance, personnel, and financial support,” she adds. “They continue to be critical to the growth and development of the Center.”

In addition to collaborating with University of Florida (UF) faculty and staff on a number of research projects, InterfaceSouth also collaborates with UF to develop publications, training and outreach programs, conferences, and web resources.

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Several UF employees have office space within the Center, including a newly hired wildland-urban interface/urban forestry faculty member. This collaboration has enhanced the capacity of the Center to engage undergraduate and graduate students in WUI coursework and research projects.

“Our aim in all 13 states comprising the Southern region is to provide the public with information that they can use to make sound decisions,” says Hermansen-Baez. “If they know what the consequences may be – whether creating defensible space around their homes or determining which plants and mulches to use when landscaping – they can make informed decisions.”

InterfaceSouth provides this information in a variety of formats, first and foremost through its web site – [www.interfacesouth.usda.gov](http://www.interfacesouth.usda.gov) or [www.interfacesouth.org](http://www.interfacesouth.org), where offerings include publications (starting with the Assessment, but also including a fact sheet series), training and outreach programs, decision support systems, a literature database, a photo gallery, and a listing of WUI news and events. Individuals also can sign up for the Southern WUI Network Listserv, through which they will receive the *Interface South Update*, a monthly electronic bulletin focusing on critical WUI issues; the *InterfaceSouth Post*, which is sent out weekly and offers timely information about upcoming conferences and topical news items; and, starting this fall, a quarterly bulletin about the Centers’ activities.


“I think the InterfaceSouth website and the “Fire in the Interface” fact sheet series have been our best methods for reaching the public and natural resource professionals,” says Hermansen-Baez. “The Firewise Retrofit project, which is documented in a Flash presentation on the InterfaceSouth website, represents a great example of cooperation among a variety of partners to provide information on Firewise practices in a format that is easy to follow and implement. It’s a project that has gotten a lot of support, including a video produced by Firewise that has gotten a lot of exposure.”

In addition, the web site offers the “Changing Roles: WUI Professional

Development Program”, which consists of four modules covering WUI issues and connections, managing interface forests, land-use planning and policy, and communicating with interface residents and leaders. This program helps natural resource agencies with the transition that they must make in order to work effectively in the wildland-urban interface. The program made possible when the Southern Group of State Foresters led a partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the Center, the University of Florida, the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service toward its development.

The research, programs, and resources provided by SRS InterfaceSouth are vital to the Southern states as the WUI continues to expand. Both the Southern Forest Resource Assessment and the Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment, conducted in 2002, found that the *single greatest threat* to southern forests is urbanization.

That said, the single greatest threat to the Forest Service’s ability to conduct its research and continue providing its programs and resources is funding. A recent Forest Service fact sheet cautions how the rapid expansion of homes constructed in the WUI, coupled with hotter and drier climates throughout regions of our nation, are driving up fire suppression costs. And even though these factors (construction and climate) are beyond Forest Service control, a greater proportion of its budget is being slated for fire suppression, potentially threatening its ability to address other critical interface issues.

Despite this reality, Hermansen-Baez prefers to focus on the many opportunities created by the wildland-urban interface. She notes, “Land will continue to be developed, so we must be aware of the changes brought about by urbanization and understand the diverse issues, challenges, and opportunities in the changing environment of the wildland-urban interface.” 

*Karen Gardner is a contributing writer for Wildfire News & Notes and the Firewise Newsletter.*

### More Information about the Centers

The Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry support and conduct research, disseminate new and existing information, serve as a clearinghouse of WUI and urban forestry information, build partnerships and collaborative efforts and approaches, and facilitate and create linkages. The Centers’ websites, InterfaceSouth and Urban Forestry South Expo, are useful tools for providing easily accessible information to partners, natural resource practitioners, and the public. As the WUI component of the Centers, InterfaceSouth has initiated/taken part in a variety of activities focused on the WUI and being Firewise. Some of these include:

- The InterfaceSouth website [www.interfacesouth.usda.gov](http://www.interfacesouth.usda.gov) or [www.interfacesouth.org](http://www.interfacesouth.org)
- Fire in the Interface fact sheet series ([http://interfacesouth.org/products/fact\\_sheets.html](http://interfacesouth.org/products/fact_sheets.html))
- Online decision support tools (<http://interfacesouth.org/products/dss.html>)
- WUI fire research, particularly the flammability research on shrubs and mulches ([http://interfacesouth.org/products/research/flam\\_natural\\_veg\\_and\\_home\\_landscapes.html](http://interfacesouth.org/products/research/flam_natural_veg_and_home_landscapes.html))
- The Firewise Retrofit project, of which InterfaceSouth was one of the main partners. To learn more about this project, visit: <http://interface-south.org/fire/firewisehome/introduction.htm>
- Talks at fire conferences and firewise workshops. A few abstracts/articles: <http://interfacesouth.org/products/publications.html?results=10>, <http://interfacesouth.org/products/pdf.php?id=3142>, [http://ams.confex.com/ams/FIRE2003/techprogram/paper\\_65327.htm](http://ams.confex.com/ams/FIRE2003/techprogram/paper_65327.htm)
- The Changing Roles: WUI Professional Development program – [http://interfacesouth.org/products/training/changing\\_roles.html](http://interfacesouth.org/products/training/changing_roles.html)

The SRS has research units in Asheville, NC; Athens, GA; Auburn, AL; Coweeta, NC; Gainesville, FL; Hot Springs, AR; Knoxville, TN; Pineville, LA; Research Triangle Park, NC; Saucier, MS; and Stoneville, MS. It also collaborates with the National Agroforestry Center, located in Lincoln, NE.



## Shelter-In-Place in San Diego, CA Passes First Challenge

*This article was first printed in the San Diego Union-Tribune, on October 25, 2007 by Lori Weisberg, Roger Showley and Emmet Pierce and is reprinted with permission.*

A disputed land-use strategy designed to protect new developments from devastation in the county's exurban, fire-prone areas appears to have passed its first and most critical test this week. As the Witch Creek fire raced through some of San Diego County's priciest neighborhoods and crept to the edge of others north and east of Rancho Santa Fe, not a single home in the five subdivisions that have implemented the strategy was lost, fire authorities said.

The communities, which together cover hundreds of acres, are The Bridges, The Crosby, Cielo, Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch. Officials with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District credit the lack of property damage to a defensive program called "shelter in place." It is a wildfire protection plan that imposes construction and landscaping standards intended to be so stringent – including mandatory interior fire sprinklers and broad swaths of protective landscaping – that homeowners can remain sheltered in their houses if they cannot evacuate.

The five communities, all within the Rancho Santa Fe fire district, are the only ones in the county where the plan has been adopted. Critics remain skeptical and insist that the county's continued willingness to permit development in outlying areas with little infrastructure puts people at risk no matter how strict the regulations are. "Shelter in place doesn't change the fact you're building in a danger zone," said anti-sprawl activist Duncan McFetridge, president of Save Our Forest and Ranchlands. Keith Harrap, an assistant commissioner with the New South Wales Rural Fire Service in Sydney, Australia, has been watching the San Diego County fires on TV. Broader use of shelter-in place programs would make the defense of homes in the county much

easier, he said.

After major wildfires in 1994, Australia "totally embraced" shelter-in-place strategies and property losses have greatly diminished, he said. "A correctly managed shelter-in-place community reduces the fuel levels in proximity to the properties to such an extent that they cannot support a fire," Harrap said. The shelter-in-place concept remains a subject of debate among fire-prevention professionals in the United States, said Ronny Coleman, former California state fire marshal and vice president of Emergency Services Consulting Inc. in Elk Grove.

The program is controversial, he said, because fire officials don't know exactly when evacuations should occur. "Let's say your house is set up for sheltering in place. What about the neighbors on each side of you? There is a lack of confidence on most fire officials' part about when it is safe to leave people in these areas." Local fire officials say the unscathed homes speak for themselves. "I believe shelter in place made the difference in this case," Rancho Santa Fe Fire Marshal Cliff Hunter said. "The bottom line is if you build appropriately and place the houses appropriately, and the landscaping and vegetation are appropriate, the homes should still be there."

Probably the most dramatic example of that is Cielo, a development of 178 multimillion-dollar custom homes that escaped damage despite a blaze that blackened hillsides all around it. "It's quite amazing," said Mike Andrews, a superintendent for Rancho Cielo Estates, developer of the subdivision. "When you look up at the homes from the bottom of the hill, you see that the whole hill is black until you get within 100 feet of that house, and from there up to the house, it's green. "I was just blown away to see how well everything worked." Hunter had heard that 12 families remained in the development despite an evacuation order. The idea behind shelter in place, though, is not to let people remain in their homes when an evacuation is ordered. But if conditions become too dangerous to leave and access to roads becomes impossible, then residents who stay in their homes will be much safer.

Common requirements for homes built

in the shelter-in-place communities include indoor fire sprinklers, noncombustible roofs, wide roads and driveways for firefighting equipment and 100 feet of defensible space around homes with irrigated, fire-resistant plants. Earlier this year, county supervisors expanded the concept by adopting shelter-in-place guidelines for developers wishing to build in backcountry areas where access is limited. They include tough building and landscaping standards with the requirement that property owners pay for monitoring and enforcement.

The county policy defines shelter in place as "a last-resort design concept with relocation (evacuation) of residents to a safe location being the preferred action." No projects incorporating the new guidelines have been submitted since the standards went into effect, county planning officials said. Paul Marks, chairman of the San Dieguito Community Planning Group that reviewed the existing shelter-in place projects, said he remains skeptical that the idea worked in this week's firestorms.

The Witch Creek fire was not a valid test because the threat to those particular communities was not significant enough, he said. Richard Montague, whose Firesafe 2000 company of retired fire chiefs prepared some of the shelter-in-place plans, said the guidelines only work if homeowners and their communities maintain the strict standards for landscaping, construction and other improvements. Joel Hirschhorn, author of "Sprawl Kills – Better Living in Healthy Places," says shelter-in-place developments might provide "a second line of defense" but they can't overcome the problem of building homes in suburbs subject to wildfires.

Crosby homeowner Dennis Samaritoni was relieved to learn that houses in his development were spared. But he said the fire-safety regulations didn't necessarily make him feel any safer. He and his wife evacuated Exclusive homes emerge unscathed as fire-protection concept is tested from their 5,500-square-foot golf-course home Monday morning. "We lived through Hurricane Andrew," Samaritoni said, "and I lived in the Bay Area during the Loma Prieta earthquake, so when someone says there's an impending disaster, we leave." 🔥

## New Offerings from the Firewise Catalog

Three new resources for the homeowner have recently been added to the Firewise Catalog. The items include bookmarks and brochures featuring information about the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program, the Firewise Online Learning Center, and resources available from the Firewise website. Designed to be given to homeowners individually, at community events, or information kiosks – they are packaged in groups of 50 (limit 3 per order) and available for ordering with only a minimal shipping cost charged. To order these products or to view other resources available from the Firewise Catalog, simply visit the website [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) and click on “catalog” from the navigation bar.



### Be Firewise Around Your Home – Door Hangers

Use these Firewise door hangers to help educate and help homeowners in your community. The two-sided hanger provides home and landscape information homeowners can do before a wildfire approaches on one side. With the opposite side providing tips on important tasks you can do when a wildfire is imminent. These are packaged in groups of 25 and the quantity is limited.



### Firewise Learning Center Brochure

The Firewise vision is that wildland fires can occur in areas of residential developments without disastrous loss of life, property and resources. Firewise now offers web-based training on a variety of wildfire safety topics that can help you create a more Firewise future. The Learning Center offers education on; Firewise Landscaping; Conducting Firewise Community Assessments; and Firefighter Safety in the Wildland/Urban Interface. This brochure describes each course offered and how it uses interactive video to teach the subject providing for certification after completion.



### Firewise Communities/USA Bookmark

This bookmark introduces homeowners to the benefits of positive community action toward safety and how to achieve national recognition for local efforts. The Firewise Communities/USA recognition program provides a unique opportunity to America's interface communities. The program offers a simple process adapted to different locales that creates a Home Ignition Zone preventing fires from advancing and endangering homes and lives. Using these items will help you build support within your community. 🔥



## Firewise Communities by the Numbers

### Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program

- Community participation has doubled in the last 18 months to 279 communities active in 36 states
- Retention rate of 90% over five years – communities renew their status yearly
- Communities in the program invest in their own safety – more than \$16 million dollars worth since 2003
- Approximately 325,000 people live in Firewise Communities/USA recognition areas
- Forty-five states and two Bureau of Indian Affairs regions now participate with a formal Firewise Liaison.

### Firewise Website – [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

- More than 1 million hits during each of the past summer months with 41,000 unique visitors
- Chat sessions are being held monthly on a variety of topics
- Online learning center enrollment now over 300 for two current courses

### Publications and Products

- New publications include *Be Firewise Around Your Home* brochure, *Firewise: Community Solutions to a National Problem* book, *Becoming a Recognized Firewise Community/USA* brochure; quarterly *Firewise Communities How-To Newsletter*, revised *Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment Methodology* booklet, Firewise Communications CD-Rom
- Firewise Catalog receives over 1,000 orders a year distributing 150,000 items nationwide 🔥

2008



ASSESSING WILDFIRE HAZARDS  
IN THE  
HOME IGNITION ZONE  
TRAINING WORKSHOPS



**DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS TO REDUCE LOSSES FROM WILDLAND FIRE**



*The National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program*



## About This 2-Day Workshop . . .

This 2-day workshop covers the myths of wildland/urban interface fire, the history and context of W/UI fire disasters, sequential elements of a W/UI fire disaster, research and case studies, risk factors in the home ignition zone, information needed to conduct an assessment, the general health of the ecosystem, inspecting the home ignition zone, accessibility in case of a wildfire emergency, documenting an assessment, and much more. This workshop also includes Q & A, class discussion, and three classroom exercises where participants will perform home ignition zone evaluations, practicing the information they have learned.



### Class Materials

*A Student Workbook* - packed with information covering W/UI fire, the home ignition zone, and how to assess wildfire hazards in the home ignition zone, student exercises, and simulation exercises.

*A Student Handout Booklet* - containing the instructor slide presentation with space to take notes.



### *This Workshop is for You if...*

- *You are responsible for assessing homeowner properties for hazards in the home ignition zone*
- *You want to learn about the home ignition zone*
- *You want to learn how the home ignition zone is key to reducing losses in the interface*

### Cost: \$200 per person

Includes class materials, continental breakfast, lunch, breaks.

### Learn from the Experts

*Hank Blackwell*, Consultant, Santa Fe County, NM Fire Department Deputy Chief (retired); *Randy Bradley*, Deputy Chief, Alameda County Fire Department and Chair, NFPA Forest and Rural Committee; *Pat Durland*, Vice President, Wildfire Programs, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes; *Jon Jones*, Fire Protection Consultant, Jon Jones Associates, Inc; and *Jim Smalley*, Manager, Firewise Communities Program.

### Who Should Attend

- State and Urban Foresters
- Federal, State, County or Local Agencies
- Firewise State Liaisons
- Developers/Builders
- Landscape Designers/Architects
- Community Planners
- Insurance Professionals

### Earn Valuable CEUs

NFPA has been approved as an authorized provider of continuing education and training programs by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). 1.6 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be awarded.



# Choose From 4 Locations ..... Workshop Hotels

**FEBRUARY 19-20, 2008**

DoubleTree Hotel  
2001 Point West Way  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
**HOTEL RATE: \$139 S/D**  
**GROUP CODE: NFP**  
Phone: 800-222-TREE (8733)  
Fax: 916-924-0719

**JUNE 17-18, 2008**

Marriott Town Center  
200 Lee Street East  
Charleston, WV 25301  
**HOTEL RATE: \$149 S/D**  
**GROUP CODE: NAF**  
Phone: 800-228-9290  
Fax: 304-353-3722 or  
[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

**MARCH 18-19, 2008**

DoubleTree Ontario Airport  
222 North Vineyard Avenue  
Ontario, CA 91764  
**HOTEL RATE: \$115 S/D**  
**GROUP CODE:** (Assessing Home  
Ignition Zone Training)  
Phone: 800-222-TREE (8733)

**MAY 20-21, 2008**

The Peabody Little Rock  
Three Statehouse Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
**HOTEL RATE: \$139 S/D;**  
**\$149 TRIPLE; \$159 QUAD**  
(Ask for Assessing Home  
Ignition Zone Workshop)  
Phone: 800-527-1745  
Fax: 501-399-8071;  
Attn: Nellie Ashley




*Be sure to make your hotel reservation by contacting the appropriate hotel! Ask for the Group Code Rate for the location where you will be attending the workshop or identify workshop as noted.*

*Hotels have reservation cut-off dates 1 month prior to the workshop date. Don't delay in making your reservation to receive the listed rate. Please note that hotels charge an early departure fee without notification at or prior to check-in. Check with the appropriate hotel.*

\*S/D = single/double rate; rates do not include applicable taxes.

## HIZ Workshop Registration Form – Register Early! Space is Limited

### 3 Ways To Register:

-  **Internet:** Register online 24 hours a day at: [www.firewise.org/hizworkshop](http://www.firewise.org/hizworkshop)
-  **Fax:** Complete the registration form below and fax to: 1-800-984-7056. Payment must be made by credit card.
-  **Mail:** Complete the registration form below and mail with payment to: Firewise, Attention: HIZ Workshop, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169.  
**Payment must accompany registration.**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Identify Location & Date of Workshop (e.g. Sacramento, CA Feb 19-20): \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:** *Workshop fee of \$200.00 must be prepaid.*

Enclosed is my check/money order # \_\_\_\_\_ *Payable to: NFPA.*  
***(Registrant's name must appear on check.)***

Charge to the following credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex  Discover

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** To receive a full refund, you must notify us in writing via fax: (1-617-984-7056); mail: Firewise, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169; or e-mail: [fwceduc@nfpa.org](mailto:fwceduc@nfpa.org) at least three weeks prior to the workshop. If notification is received less than 3 weeks, you may transfer to another workshop or transfer your registration to another person. If no notice is received, you will forfeit your registration fee.

**ATTENDEE INFORMATION:** (please check one)

- State/Urban Forester
- Firewise State Liaison
- Developer/Builder
- Insurance Professional
- Federal, State, County or Local Agency
- Landscape Designer/Architect
- Community Planner
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Important Facts You Should Know!

☞ **Hotel** – You are responsible for your own hotel reservation and expenses. Please see page 3 for phone numbers and rates for the location you are planning to attend.

☞ **Meals** – We provide continental breakfast, lunch, and two breaks each day.

☞ **Attire** – Casual. We recommend layered clothing as room temperatures fluctuate.

☞ **Schedule** – Registration begins @ 7:15 am with continental breakfast. Instruction begins each day @ 8:00 am and ends @ 5:00 pm.

☞ **Confirmation** – You will receive a registration confirmation. Check it carefully and bring it with you!

*Do you have a colleague that has an interest in assessing wildfire hazards in the HIZ and would benefit from this workshop? Please feel free to share.*

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☞ **Special Attendee Needs** – Please make us aware of any special needs you may have by calling: 1-617-984-7486.

☞ **Transportation** – Some hotels provide transportation between the airport and hotel. We recommend you check with the hotel when making reservations.

If driving to the hotel, please note that parking rates may apply. Some locations have offered special parking rates.

Firewise Communities/USA  
c/o National Fire Protection Association  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169

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