REPORT ON ACTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION TEAM

July 1998

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Executive Summary

The following report is based on findings of the National Wildland Fire Prevention Team assigning to the Florida Division of Forestry in Tallahassee during July 1998. The team conducted research and evaluated the current fire prevention situation within Florida. This was too short a time frame for any group to do a thorough analysis of fire prevention

program needs and to develop the contacts and cooperation needed to implement a professional program. Fire prevention concerns itself with human behavior that results in wildfire starts (risk management) and actions that modify fuels to reduce fire behavior intensity (hazard management). Fire Prevention Specialists assigned were selected because they are among the most experienced and knowledgeable in modern prevention methods. They also have developed strong interagency working relationships that allow for a more productive working environment. They are in a position to bring in new ideas and recognize high quality prevention tactics when observed. The weakness of the team is that they are not familiar with the local, social, political and cultural situations. Their strength is that they view the situation from a new perspective and bring innovative ways of approaching persistent problems.

The Fire Prevention Team benefitted by the presence of the Incident Information and Legislative Affairs officers assigned to Area Command at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in Tallahassee. During the first few days in Florida, the Team established a liaison with the information unit. The information officers provided a history of Florida's fires, a summary of the situation, facts, graphs and tables for comparison as well many other pertinent pieces of documentation and key contacts. The Legislative Affairs Officers put information in news releases about the Team, making the public aware of the its presence and purpose. Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public information officers also released information nationally through the media and on the World Wide Web about the Team. Media interest was heightened by this exposure and resulted in several interviews and requests from more details. Field Incident Information Officers assigned to fires across the State were also in the communication loop and gave the prevention effort an on-the-ground perspective.

Individuals who live and work in Florida may use the teams observations as guidelines and recommendations. Their observations suggest ways to deal with and manage current fire prevention problems. The reader of this report is encouraged to utilize their local fire community partnership expertise to interpret and modify the recommendations.

Chapter I: Introduction to Situation

Florida Fire Narrative and Summary

The National Wildland Fire Prevention Team was called to Florida, in mid-July, to help the people of Florida better prepare for future incidents of fire. The teams arrival followed an historic statewide wildland fire event occurring late May through early July.

Their task was to help expand cooperative fire prevention efforts, enhance methods to create defensible fire safe communities, and increase public understanding of prescribed fire.

They entered a particularly difficult situation. By mid-July approximately 2,221 fires had burned an estimated 498,400 acres in the state. The Keetch-Byram Drought index had hovered at a statewide average in the high 500 to 700 level for much of the late spring and early summer period. Several multi-county fire complexes involving national incident management teams had been established. An estimated 126 homes had been destroyed with an additional 211 damaged. There were 25 businesses destroyed and 8 damaged. Estimated losses of $393 million included damage to homes, vehicles and timber resources. Agricultural interests experienced more than $400 million in damages from drought and fires.

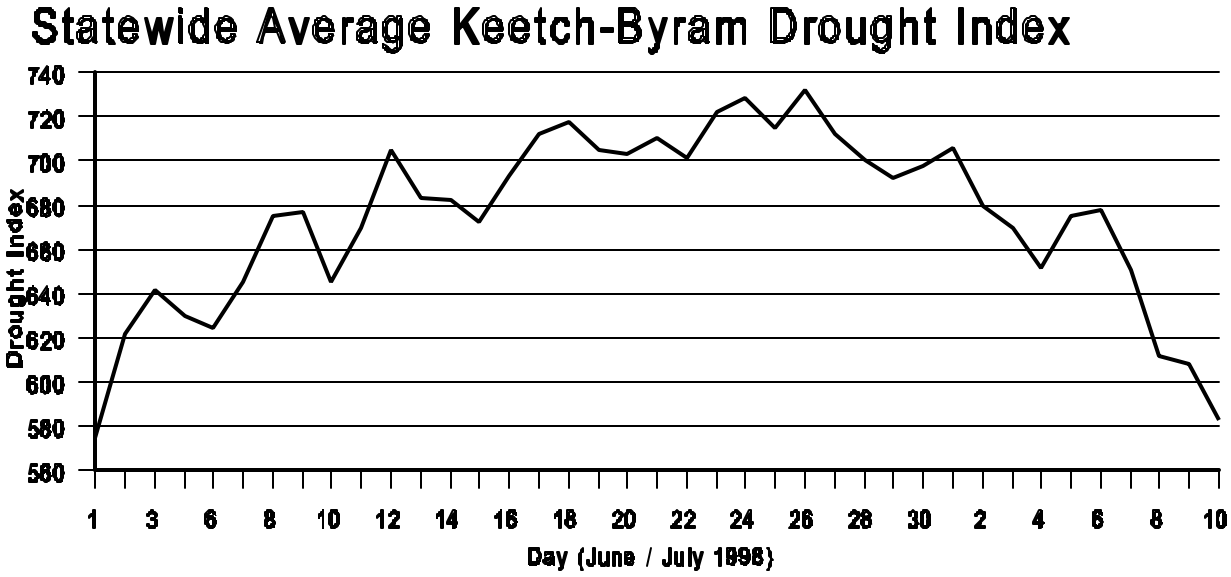
The Florida wildland fire situation was one of the largest national emergency responses to a natural disaster, with an estimated 7,000 personnel from 100+ Federal, state and local agencies and Indian Nations working together. Both the vice-president and president visited the state to review the operations at the height of the crisis.

Wildland fires in Florida burn an average of 170,000 acres although sharp peaks are liberally interspersed since record keeping began in 1928. Ignitions traditionally increase in the spring and again in the early fall months. The states long growing season quickly produces an abundance of vegetation. Drought conditions significantly contribute to large wildland fire activity, but in any given year, explosive localized fires can develop and quickly involve communities as the urban interface grows. Between 1995 and 1997 nearly 88 percent of wildfires were human caused.

1998 - Extreme Drought Situation

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (K-BDI) provides a continuing indication of the fuel moisture conditions occurring in a specific area. Each day (24-hour period) the index is increased if there has been no rainfall recorded for the area. This value is independent of other weather factors (wind and relative humidity). The amount of increase is constant. Conversely the index is reduced for each day (24-hour period) that there is recorded rainfall. The amount of reduction is based on the duration of the rainfall event. K-BDI is generally considered to be the best indicator of wildland fuel moisture for larger fuels (100 hour 1-3 diameter, 1,000 hour 3-8 diameter, and 10,000 hour greater that 8 diameter). This provides a consistent, long-term indication of over-all fuel and drought conditions. The index runs numerically from 0 to 800, with 0 indicating the highest moisture level (lowest fire danger) and 800 being the lowest moisture level (highest fire danger). For the purposes of this assessment the team has used K-BDI levels as an indicator in planning considerations. This document is not meant to be a format for solving the problems wildland fires pose for this Region. Rather, it is an instrument to facilitate planning efforts for dealing with the wildland fires that may occur in this area.

The 1998 spring drought throughout the State of Florida was a significant event with long term implications for the remaining year and potentially into 1999. According to a long-range fire assessment, completed July 14, 1998 by the National Interagency Fire Center, a season-slowing event began around early July with increased afternoon wet thunderstorms that more closely resembled a normal summer precipitation pattern. However, even with the increased rainfall, the cumulative severity of the recent drought in combination with long-term projections for the La Nina anomaly may induce further drying



late in the fall which will prolong full recovery from the precipitation deficit. So, a potential for heightened fire activity could continue, at a lower level, into the fall months. The cumulative precipitation deficit may require a considerably longer time period to recover, potentially lingering into calendar year 1999 before full recovery to normal levels.

Conditions Which Established the Event

Typically, Florida experiences two wet seasons. The first wet season generally moderates the fire season and occurs during the months of May, June, July and August. However, data from the National Forest in Florida show that fire starts continue through July. In fact, July is the third most active fire month contributing 12 percent of the annual fire load.

Heavy rainfall amounts occurred January through March of this year, which is generally the first wet time of the year. The wet mild winter promoted rapid growth of vegetation, especially the under story. The wet weather pattern was abruptly replaced by severe drought conditions experienced in late spring and early summer. The hot dry weather pattern was the primary reason for extremely dry fuels, extremely high K-BDI, and low woody moisture content.

By late April, a strong stable and very warm ridge of high pressure had begun to develop in the Gulf of Mexico. This strong high pressure cell would remain nearly stationary in the

Gulf from late April through the first week in July. April through June was one of the driest periods on record across north central Florida. The positioning and strength of this high pressure weather anomaly was the primary influence on the weather pattern that was setting up for the next month and a half. The El Nino episode began its slow erosion in March and was nearly gone by May, as sea surface temperatures began to cool. A La Nina episode has now begun to form.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Nina will not have a powerful impact on Florida in July, August or September, but an above average impact on the State is likely for the winter dry season starting about mid-October. This means Florida will experience below average precipitation from mid-October through December.

Fuels and Fire Behavior

Dryer than normal fuels played a major role in the spread and intensity of the wildland fires that plagued Florida in May through July of 1998. The continuity and amount of fuels were critical to describing how fire behaved. Live fuel moisture was determined to be much lower than is normal for this time of year. This factor contributed to fire spread rate and intensity. Live fuels in the pine and associated shrubs were measured to contain only 80 percent (central Florida) moisture in June as opposed to130 to140 percent.

Fire behavior was observed to be very intense and the fuel conditions contributed significantly to spotting problems. In addition, it was difficult to achieve a 100 percent mopup due to the lack of fully saturated organic matter.

By many measures this fire season was Florida's worst. Fire weather variables from May through July set or nearly broke long-standing weather records. Over the last 13 years, wildland fire averages were below or near 100,000 acres burned. 1985 and 1989 standout as exceptional fire seasons along with 1998.

What has distinguished 1998 from prior years is the intermingling of many burning wildland acres within rural and urban development areas. Fire protection organizations were frequently in a defensive posture, protecting human life and property. Over 7,000 people were sheltered due to evacuations and in fact the entire county of Flagler, in east central Florida, was evacuated when fires threatened to burn together and cut off exit routes.

National *White Paper* on Prevention Teams

When severe wildland fire situations occur as a result of extreme fire conditions, wildland fires can cause loss of life, property, and resources. As extreme conditions *approach* or *worsen*, wildland fire prevention and education is often overlooked as a possible source of help. Because fire weather conditions are predictable, these teams can be mobilized in advance of fires. Teams are available to support any area preceding and during periods of high fire danger or fire activity. Severity dollars may be appropriate to use in

support of these teams.

Purpose: The purpose of prevention and education teams is to assist the local unit in the prevention of human caused wildfire. This involves working together to-

- Complete fire risk assessments
- Determine the severity of the situation
- Facilitate community awareness and education in fire prevention and provide awareness and knowledge of ecosystem benefits from prescribed burning
- Coordinate interagency restrictions and closures
- Coordinate fire prevention and education efforts with the public, special target groups, state and local agencies, and elected officials
- Promote public and personal responsibility regarding fire prevention in the wildland/urban interface
- Fire protection planning

Mobilization of a team may occur when an unusual event or circumstance warrants or is predicted. Examples are:

- Severe burning conditions
- Unusually high fire occurrence
- Majority of firefighting resources committed
- Preparedness levels above normal

Benefits include:

- Reduce the loss of human life and property
- Reduce resource losses
- Reduce the cost of suppression
- Reduce exposure to firefighting
- Improve interagency and community relations and cooperation
- Increase understanding to prescribed fire

Organization and Ordering: A team will often consist of a Team Leader, an Operations Specialist, a Public Affairs Officer, and other specialists as needed. Personnel can be mobilized through dispatch channels to assist in fire prevention and education at any level.

Refer to the National Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20, 22.5.10, Cooperative fire prevention/Education Teams, for ordering information. For further information, contact Pat Durland, National Fire Prevention Officer, BLM/NIFC, 208-387-5162, Bill Terry, National Fire Prevention Officer, FS/WO, 202-205-1503, or Merrie Johnson, National Fire Prevention Officer, NPS/NIFC, 208-387-5224.

Chapter II: Short and Long Term Goals

Matt Weinell, Cooperative Fire Protection Manager for the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) served as the liaison between the DOF and the National Fire Prevention Team. Matt briefed the team on desired short term and long term goals.

Short Term Goals

- Provide residents with information on how to protect their home in the wildland urban interface.
- Support Division of Forestry districts with materials on fire safety in the wildland urban interface, role of prescribed fire, and children's Smokey Bear materials.
- Update where necessary and reprint division materials on wildland urban interface fire safety and the role of prescribed fire in Florida.
- Develop press releases on wildland urban interface fire safety and the importance of prescribed fire to reduce fuel hazard.

Short Term Accomplishments

- Participated in conference calls with fire complex incident information officers.
- Television interviews on channels 27 and 40 regarding fire safety in the wildland urban interface and purpose of the national fire prevention team.
- Additional information through the team and the EOC Information group was provided to other media outlets regarding the fire prevention effort such as major state newspapers and USA Today.
- Set up the team budget for salary and support and development of fire prevention materials.
- Ordered $26,000 of "Wildfire Strikes Home" and Smokey Bear materials for the fifteen District Division of Forestry offices to help them provide fire safety information in their communities.
- Sent wildland urban interface materials to the Jacksonville DOF District and Flager/Volusia and Orlando complexes for incident information officers and crews to use while working in the communities.
- Conducted a conference call on July 23 with DOF Districts to explain why the fire prevention team is in Florida and obtain District input into the long-term fire prevention program.
- Created and distributed to the media a series of fire prevention articles titled "The Ranger Says…"
- Provided several newspapers with information on how to protect your homes from wildfire.
- Reviewed and made recommendations regarding DOF publications including, Fire Safe in the Interface door hanger, Good Fire/Bad Fire door hanger, Prescribed Fire in the Wildland Urban Interface, Woodland Homes Fire Safety, Mobile Home Fire Safety, Know the Law Before You Strike that Match in a Rural County, Know the Law Before you Strike that Match in a Non-Rural County
- Provided DOF with a comprehensive "How to Protect Your Home in the Interface" in *MS Front Page 98* to be included on their webpage.
- Visited St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to document a case where a prescribed fire stopped a wildfire from advancing towards a residence.

- Traveled to the east coast of Florida to visit with fire fighters and residents and identify areas where defensible space and prescribed fire protected residences from wildfire.

The team was able to accomplish a number of the short term goals by working closely with functions at the State Emergency Operating Center (SEOC) including Public Affairs, Plans, and Legislative Affairs. The SEOC had been in place for some time and had many good internal and external media contacts. Our ability to accomplish short term goals seemed to end with the disbanding of SEOC and the need to pass all documents and press releases through the State Division of Marketing for approval and release.

Long Term Goals

- Assist the Division to develop the wildfire prevention mitigation portion of their three-year FEMA funding request.
- Develop resource materials or program ideas to show residents how to protect their homes from wildland fire in Florida.
- Develop resource materials or program ideas to show residents the importance of prescribed fire in reducing fire hazard and protect their residence from wildfire in Florida.
- Locate and file with the Division still photographs, video, and testimony of cases on Palm Coast and other locations where prescribed fire or defensible space saved homes from wildfire.

The team spent much of the first week assimilating information about fire in Florida and the past and present fire situation. Most fires and complexes were beginning wide scale demobilization when the team arrived as fires were contained and statewide precipitation was finally occurring.

Activities towards reaching long term goals:

- Trip to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to document a case where a prescribed area stopped a wildfire from advancing towards a residence.
- Trip to the East Coast of Florida to visit with firefighters and residents and identify areas where defensible space and/or prescribed fire protected residences from wildfire.
- Received a power point presentation, “Why We Burn in Florida”, from Jim Brenner, DOF Fire Management Administrator.
- Trip to Oscar Scheirer and Myakka River State Parks to meet with an interagency group of prescribed fire experts and tour areas of prescribed fire.

Chapter III: Fire Prevention Program Recommendations

Wildfire prevention actions generally fall within one of the following categories:

Education
Education is aimed at changing people's behavior by awareness and knowledge.

Engineering
Engineering is an activity designed to shield an ignition source (e.g. spark arrester) or remove the fuel, which could ignite from a spark or fire brand (clearance around a home, fuels management, prescribed fire).

Enforcement
Enforcement is used to gain compliance with fire regulations and ordinances (interface development ordinances, public use restrictions).

Administration
Those agency activities such as planning, budgeting and training.

Education

State-Wide Wildland Fire Prevention Program

The National Fire Prevention Team recommends a statewide interagency wildland fire prevention program implemented at the community level. This long-range program, lasting over a 3-5 year period, should involve county, state and federal land management agencies, structural fire service, and partnerships with the private sector.

Although smaller in scope, a template for this program is found on the West Coast in the town of Bend Oregon under the title, *FireFreeÔ ! Get in the Zone*. In 1996, the Skeleton Fire in Central Oregon burned over 17,000 acres and damaged or destroyed 30 homes and structures. *FireFreeÔ* is a multi-year public education program aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire to Bend-area homes and property. SAFECO Insurance Corporation sponsors the program in cooperation with the Bend Fire Department and Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District.

While on duty in Florida, team leader, Pete Martin, spoke to SAFECO Public Relation's spokesperson, Cheryl McRae, who said her company views *FireFreeÔ* as a pilot program which SAFECO is willing to share across the Nation. Gary Marshall, Bend Fire Department Fire Marshal, provided the Florida Division of Forestry with a *FireFreeÔ* program starter kit.
The *FireFreeÔ* pilot project consists of a number of elements including homeowner presentations, a video aired on television and available at video stores, point of purchase displays with an educational brochure, radio, television, print and outdoor advertising, and scheduled *FireFreeÔ* clean-up weekends in the local community. The starter kit describes these elements and steps to tailor a program suitable for Florida. Although it will be necessary to customize many of the materials, the *FireFreeÔ* program will provide a template for successful creation of these products.

There are a number of key components in the Bend pilot program we believe are essential to the success of this program:

- Contract the marketing plan development to a private marketing firm.
- Hire program coordinator.
- Due to scope, hire a staff of persons to implement the plan.
- Schedule specific weekends to create the fire free zone of wildfire defense around your home.
- Lead up to these weekends with numerous programs described in this report and designed to support this statewide program.
- Provide for interagency cooperation and partnerships in the planning and implementation of this plan across federal, state and county wildland agencies and structural fire departments.

Specific team comments regarding the *FireFreeÔ* program.

Prescribed Fire Element: An integral part of any wildfire prevention program is fuels management. Creating a fire free zone or defensible space is a fuels management function and is part of the engineering component of wildland fire prevention. Prescribed fire is one of the more useful and important tools in Florida for fuels management. The Central Oregon *FireFreeÔ* program was not designed with a prescribed fire component.

An element will need to be developed for the Florida version of the program in regards to "Why We Burn" in Florida and the resulting smoke and ash. This is an opportunity to explain the benefits of prescribed fire to WUI residents in mitigating the wildfire hazard, providing defensible space around structures, and restoring and maintaining Florida plant and animal communities. It will be necessary to make this a tool of the *FireFreeÔ* program rather than a piece that stands alone.

Statewide Assessment: A statewide assessment will be necessary to determine wildfire hazard zones and locations to target with the *FireFreeÔ* program. This will be necessary to determine where to locate program personnel, quantities of materials to be printed, media to target, and partnerships to be developed.
The team does not believe this assessment needs to be as comprehensive as the Wildfire Prevention Planning and Analysis process described in the administration portion. It may be possible to use the process's risk, hazard and value mapping system to develop compartments of wildfire hazard zones, however. The team has no knowledge of examples of applying this process across a state.

Logo and slogan: Adopt as designed. *FireFreeÔ* Wildfire defense. Get in the Zone. We believe this creates a visual in the mind regarding a fire free zone around your home for defense from wildfire.

Video: Work with SAFECO Corporation to use their template/storyboard and create a Florida version of the video. What a great place to celebrate the diversity and beauty of this state! We have heard this video described as the MTV version of fire prevention and we like it...a lot! This short 8-minute video doesn't look like anything our agencies normally create and that is why it works. In Florida the closing shot of a rocket ship needs to be the space shuttle at Cape Kennedy.

Brochure: The brochure provides the WUI educational message necessary to compliment the video. There are only a few changes to make to use this in Florida. Brochure changes include phone numbers, partnerships, a description on Florida's landscape under the title "Get in the Zone! located on a back panel of the brochure.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Pay for them on mass media, television, radio, newspaper, and billboards, so they appear where and when you wish them to appear to support the Florida *FireFreeÔ* program implementation.

Television PSAs: The television public service announcement with wildfire in the background is emotional and hard-hitting as the speakers describe items lost in a string of Central Oregon fires. This is an easy one to create in Florida with the number of recognizable fires in the State in 1998.

Media PSAs: There are a number of good radio and newspaper PSAs in the kit. All provide a good framework for similar public service announcements for Florida.

SAFECO Corporation: Contact Cheryl McRae, 206-545-5706, SAFECO Corporation, Public Relations, T-8, SAFECO Plaza, Seattle, WA 98185.

Following are programs of the educational component of the fire prevention plan. Most programs tier to and support the statewide Florida *FireFreeÔ* program although many can stand-alone should the Division of Forestry decide not to proceed with our suggestion of adapting *FireFreeÔ* to Florida.

Homeowner and Structural Fire Department Presentations

Component 1: Community Fire Safe Awareness

During the conference call on July 23 with District DOF Fire Management personnel (see appendix for phone call notes) we heard a number of requests for a canned WUI program they could take to local community and homeowner groups.

Twenty Fire Safe Community Awareness Program Instructor Kits were duplicated by the National Fire Prevention Team for distribution to Division of Forestry District offices. The instructor kit consists of lesson plans, a floppy disc with community fire safe checklists, and twenty slides. The kits were adapted for National Fire Prevention Teams from a product from the 1996 Alaska Fire Prevention Team. Districts are encouraged to add local slides to tailor the program to their area.

The Fire Safe Community Awareness Program is designed to be presented to local homeowners, homeowner associations, at community town meetings. It can also be effective for volunteer firefighters, rangers, firefighting professions, fire managers, and other persons having fire prevention responsibility.

Component 2: "Why We Burn" in Florida

On July 12 the National Fire Prevention Team enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation by Division of Forestry employee, Jim Brenner, State Administrative Officer, titled "Why We Burn". This program describes the history of fire in Florida and how the State's ecosystem depends on frequent fire.

The team recommends this program is duplicated and becomes part of the homeowner/fire department presentation packet with the following change:

> Remove the Smokey Bear slide and reference from the program. Smokey is a symbol of unwanted human caused wildfire. Prescribed fire is wanted human caused fire conducted under a prescription with a desired outcome. Smokey is a legislated tool to teach children about unwanted human caused wildfire and has no prescribed fire role.

During our field trip to Oscar Scheirer State Park (see appendix for report) we heard:

1) Newcomers to the state of Florida do not understand the importance of prescribed fire.
2) Structural fire department personnel often talk against prescribed fire and do not understand how to fight wildland fire.

The fire prevention team expects a number of newcomers are structural firefighters who would benefit from:

- Fire Safe Community Awareness Program
- Why We Burn in Florida
- Fire Behavior in the Wildland/Urban Interface, NFES 2132,2273
- NIFC Course, S205 Fire Operations in the Urban Interface

Implementation of Homeowner/fire department programs
These programs can be implemented through the following methods:

District Division of Forestry employees visiting homeowner groups, civic organizations, and rural fire departments.

Community wildfire prevention specialists hired through the *FireFreeÔ* program whose time will be largely dedicated to presenting these programs to these same audiences.

"Show -me" Media days doing wildland fire assessments and triaging residental homes

in the wildland urban interface.

Website

The team worked on one of the short-term goals by producing homepage information for residents in the wildland urban interface to be placed on the Florida Division of Forestry website. This custom program was developed from the Fire Safe Community Awareness Program Instructor Kit. (These are the same kits as the 20 copies left for the Division of Forestry.) Graphics were provided by Judith Leraas-Cook, contractor, for the FireWise homepage sponsored by the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program. The team passed this product disc to the Division of Forestry for installation.

FireFreeÔ Website

The team recommends establishment of a *FireFreeÔ* website if and when Florida adopts the program. A *FireFreeÔ* website should be interactive so residents can submit questions and receive answers, request *FireFreeÔ* home inspections, learn about information to protect a home from wildfire, and publicize activities of the *FireFreeÔ* program.

Fire in Florida's Ecosystems Workshops

The team believes exposing children and young people to land management issues, such as fire ecology, is important in order to make informed decisions as citizens. In January 1996, the Florida Division of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Tall Timbers Research Station collaborated to produce an educator's guide, grades 4-8, titled Fire in Florida's Ecosystems.

Jim Brenner, Fire Management Administrator, Division of Forestry, has a proposal for hiring personnel over a three year period to conduct teacher workshops using this guide. The team recommends this proposal be adopted and funded with FEMA mitigation. The scope and number of positions is contingent on the amount of FEMA funding.

The team believes these positions have multiple duties doing home assessments, homeowner and structural fire workshops, *FireFreeÔ* implementation, and "Why We Burn" in Florida media days. Duties for these community wildland fire prevention specialists may be found in the administration section of this report.

Workshops would need materials such as the guide, Fire in Florida's Ecosystems and the poster, Fire in the Longleaf/Wiregrass Ecosystem. These materials would need to be printed in quantities sufficient to support teacher workshops across the state.

Neighborhood Watch

BACKGROUND: The Wagon Wheel Lane Neighborhood Association (WWLNA) in Silver City, New Mexico, was formed in 1996 as a result of numerous nearby forest fires. In the words of one member "We choose to live in the middle of the forest. We recognize the hazards and are not trying to eliminate all of them. We are trying to be aware of our

alternatives and be prepared as a first line of defense when wildland fires do occur. We know they will occur---someday---and the WWLNA will be ready." Although this association has grown into a 'suppression team', they initially began as a concerned neighborhood. The partnerships they developed with each other and the fire protection agencies helped to alleviate some defensiveness they had with governing agencies. Instead they now have an atmosphere of cooperation and an understanding of prescribed burning programs and fire prevention. After the fires of 98' in Florida, perhaps a Neighborhood Watch program would be effective. (See hard copy in files)

Target Audience: Homeowners who live in the wildland/urban interface and those who are affected by the smoke of prescribed burning.

Purpose: To promote a self-help Neighborhood Watch Association that encourages awareness of fire prevention and prescribed burning and the role it plays in the wildland/urban interface. This would be done in partnership with federal, state, county and local fire protection agencies.

Goals: Collectively, neighborhoods would benefit by having an established organized group, with a lead homeowner to coordinate with officials. The objective is to have a uniformed approach to hazard and risk assessment, fire prevention and mitigation in the wildland/urban interface.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increased communication with Wildland/Urban Interface property owners and others, through education and awareness materials containing the process of prescribed burning and its mitigation of hazards by wildfires.
- Develop cooperative cost- share programs, which includes training and equipping Federal, State, County, and local agencies who are responsible for wildland/urban interface areas.
- Support and participate in implementing neighborhood programs such as Homeowners Hazard and Risk Assessment, that would provide training of individuals from the neighborhood group. This will encourage a pro-active involvement from the homeowners and improve interactive relations with governing agencies.
- Homeowners could develop a website and form a chat room that updates and informs members of current actions and needs in their area. This would also be a tool to reach secondary homeowners who are unable to attend monthly meetings. In this manner, if actions are needed and absentee homeowners are unable to accomplish these tasks, permission could be granted and the homeowner group could move forward.

PRESCRIBED BURNING AND MR. CLARK SMITH

BACKGROUND: On July 18,1998, three members of the prevention team traveled to Waldo for a field review, the notes of this field review can be found in the appendices.

Mr. Clark Smith and his wife Juanita, are native Floridians. Mr. Smith has practiced prescribed burning as his father did before him. During the 98' Fires, his home and property and the town of Waldo were threaten by the Race Track Fire. When the front of this fire continued its push, despite the fire breaks put in by heavy equipment, most firefighters believed the worse scenario would take place, a catastrophic loss of homes or a whole town. As the fire burned to the edge of Mr. Smiths prescribed burned property, the intensity immediately died down and firefighters were able to begin containment and control. All those involved including, David Conser, Forester from the Waccasassa Forestry Center, believe this was possible only because of Mr. Smiths practice of prescribed burning. Although some of his property did burn, it did so with less intensity, and regrowth began almost immediately. These photos are a testimony for the environment relating to timber, soil and water, wildlife and aesthetics of the land when treated with prescribed burning.

Product Recommendations:

- Additional photos from the Waccasassa Forestry Center (Alachua) and from Mr. Smith himself, could be utilized in a slide format in conjunction with Community Fire Safe or Get in The Zone programs.
- Video of Mr. Smith that captures his story and his stewardship of the land. Commentary from David Conser and Jim Brenner, from the Division of Forestry. Together they could correlate what Mr. Smith does and what the Division would like to do more of to provide a healthier and safer wildland/urban interface.
- Newspaper series on fire prevention and fire safe articles, that addresses the positive effects of prescribed burning and to acknowledge that prescribed burning is not a new practice but has a history of its own in Florida.

With Mr. Smith's permission the team purposes to document his use of prescribed fire as a tool in land stewardship. The growing population in the wildland/urban interface, and his personal story will support the goal to teach the public about prescribed burning.
(See hard copy in files)

Billboard Promotion

Target Audience: General Public

Purpose: To trigger awareness and preparedness needs for fire prevention and to promote new *FireFreeÔ* "Get in the Zone" type campaign.

Message: Floridians prepare early for Hurricanes and Tornado's, and the same preparation is needed for fire season. Billboards reach a large number of people including urban, rural and secondary residents.

Recommendations: Pursue a public service announcement, and to also provide funding

in purchasing space.

- Cooperative sponsorships with large chain stores (i.e.) Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and Albertsons. Also contacts with the State Highway Department, where recent fires directly affected HWY 1 and A1A. The Department of Insurance, separate insurance companies, the timber industries, and communities such as Palm Coast.
- Include website www.fl-dof.com
- Reference to call local DOF office.

Republic Media is an example of a Florida billboard company who provided an estimation of costs and location visibility of signs in areas where many fires occurred. See billboard package in hard file.

BAG IT!

PROPOSAL: Establish a cooperative agreement with grocery and hardware stores to print a Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Prevention messages on their shopping bags.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Patrons of retail merchants, especially residents of neighborhoods located in the WUI and other wooded areas.

RECOMMENDATION: Use the shopping bag campaign in conjunction with a "Fire Free-Get, in the Zone" type program. This is a good stand-alone product which is effective for use as a periodic reminder.

ACTION**:** Provide a camera- ready logo for your partners. They are responsible for printing it on their bags. Choose a logo, slogan and message that carries your particular campaign efforts. For example, if your community sponsors a clean up week, emphasize the idea of cleaning up the yard to create a fire free zone, or defensible space.

EXAMPLE OF A QUIZ TO ACCOMPANY A *FireFreeÔ* ZONE MESSAGE
This quiz, “FIRE DRILL” is taken from the “Fire Free, Get in the Zone” brochure
To find out if your house makes the grade, answer the following questions.
True/False

1 I have a minimum of 30 feet of non-combustible area around my home.
T…. F…

2 My landscaping includes fire-resistance varieties.
T…. F…

3 Overcrowded or weakened trees have been thinned or removed from my property and low-hanging branches have been pruned.
T…. F…

4 The grass and weeds are consistently cut.
T…. F…

5 My woodpiles and left-over building materials at least 30 feet from my home.

T… F…

6 I've cleared pine needles, leaves and debris from my roof and deck.
T…. F…

7 Street signs and the address of my home are visible from the road.
T…. F…

_ I have evaluated my shake roof for treatment or replacement.
T…. F…

_ I have considered recycling my yard debris.
T…. F…

_ I have an emergency checklist in the event of wildfire and I know to monitor local media sources for up-to-date information and evacuation procedures.
T…. F..

Once you have passed the quiz, pass it on! This is one test that's OK to share with your neighbors.

Cooperators Newsletter

Target Audience: Cooperators who have a newsletter circulation that coincides with wildland/urban interface principals or that indirectly helps with the continuation of education, planning and preparedness for living in the wildland/urban interface.

Purpose: By utilizing a network of newsletters through cooperatives, wildland/urban interface articles can be published by a wide variety of groups, who are connected by responsibilities and activities within the wildland/urban interface. Their participation will enhance the educational measures of prevention and protection necessary to maintain a healthy and safe wildland ecosystem.

Recommendations: Ideally a newsletter would single out groups who are significantly involved with wildland/urban interface issues. Information in the newsletter would also be an informative way of explaining the process of prescribed burning. Often articles are submitted to newsletters have no cost. This is especially true of groups sponsored by state, county and local organizations. Following is a suggested list of groups to approach for cooperation via their newsletter:

_ Homeowners associations
_ Home and garden groups
_ County Extension Offices
_ Homebuilders associations
_ Fire protection agencies
_ Associations of Insurance Companies
_ Senior citizens organizations
_ Gardening associations and clubs
_ Planned communities developments
_ National Associations of Realtors
_ Sports and outdoor organizations

- Church organizations
- Recreational organizations and interest groups
- Community Publications

TV Series " A Zone of Safety Starts With You"
Develop a five night series for television that will focus on living in the Wildland Urban Interface. The target audience is residents of the WUI. As recommended in the state-wide wildland fire prevention program pay to have this series aired during prime time and schedule the series to run just prior to *FireFreeÔ* weekend cleanup time. (A complete description of this recommendation is found in the appendix.)

Future Fire Education CD ROM
Florida State University (FSU) and the USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have entered into a cooperative agreement to develop an interactive multi-media program. The program is being designed for secondary school students to learn about the role of fire in natural ecosystems and the use of fire in ecosystem management. This program will allow the student to design a suitable WUI residence, and learn about prescribed burning in Long-leaf Pine in the Southeast, fire management in a Ponderosa Pine community, and fire effects on the Golden Eagle in the Great Basin. The program is scheduled to be field tested fall 1998. Pat Durland, BLM National Prevention Specialist (208) 387-5162

Summary of Team Products in Appendix F
Clown Skits
Florida Division of Forestry has a group of employees who do wildland fire prevention educational clown skits. These skits were written by team member Jimmye Turner to supplement the existing library of skits.

Articles
Newspapers often include a weekly insert or tabloid under the heading of "Home and Garden". These articles were written to distribute through a Florida newspaper wire service for statewide publication in a weekly insert. David Olson, PAO working at the SEOC was the author of these articles. The articles were submitted to the Florida Division of Marketing approval and distribution.

Public Service Announcements
Copy of team public service announcements distributed to media through the PAO function at SEOC.

The *Ranger Says* Series
Articles to be distributed weekly by the Division of Forestry to Florida newspapers. The articles were submitted to the Florida Division of Marketing for approval and distribution.

Recommendations for New and Reprinted Products
The team reviewed existing DOF materials and made recommendations for reprinting as designed or reprint with revisions. The new or revised products included:

Utility Insert deigned as a bookmark to be included in WUI resident electric bills. The team felt the window of opportunity closed for use of this product but the product could be used to advertise the *FireFreeÔ* program cleanup weekends.

Dear Neighbor doorhanger to be used in neighborhoods to inform residents of the intent to use prescribed fire near their home and a number to phone for more information.

TV Script
The description of this product is found under the heading TV series within this educational section.

Engineering

Hawkin's Bill (590.025)

Florida statutes allow the Division of Forestry to assess private land for hazardous accumulations of fuels, notify the landowner and county of their intent to burn, and then implement the prescribed burn. The stumbling block to this wildland fire prevention tool is funding for assessment and implementation must come from the local District budget.

The team recommends utilizing this tool to treat hazardous acres funded from the FEMA mitigation grant. The Division of Forestry is in the best position to determine the budget for this type of hazard mitigation. We see these duties falling with District Division of Forestry employees due to training and experience required to conduct prescribed burning. The team suggests contracting much of the prescribed burning if allowed for in the statute in order to treat significant acres.

Acres to be treated should be prioritized in order to reduce the wildfire hazards around subdivision development. The Community Wildland Fire Prevention Specialists should be utilized in these areas to conduct homeowner workshops about prescribed burning and protecting your home in the WUI. Specialists should also utilize the door hanger, "Dear Neighbor…" (see appendix under products) to notify residents of the intent and scheduling of these fuels treatment activities.

Enforcement

Legislating Fire Safe Developments

Perhaps the most effective method to mitigate the risk of wildfire to new residences in high hazard zones is the adoption of a state, county, or local ordinance that requires the developer and resident to take action during the construction process and maintenance after occupancy.

The team continually heard about new residents moving to Florida and the subsequent developments necessary to house these residents. Developments are being located in forested areas where fire has been excluded for years, and there are no provisions in these new developments for wildfire mitigation. In fact some developments have covenants that do not allow adequate clearing of fuels to provide for a fire safe buffer from the wildland. Most new residents do not understand the important role of fire in Florida's ecosystem and do not like smoke and ash from prescribed fire. What many new residents perceive as natural is really not very natural but the result of fire exclusion and contains very little plant and animal diversity.

An article, "Will Wildfires Force Changes for Developers?" July 12, 1998, in The Orlando Sentinel, by Christine Shenot and Katherine Bouma provides an introduction to the subject of legislating fire safe development. "Natural disasters are a fact of life in Florida, and the State has plenty of laws to make sure developers plan for them. Except when it comes to wildfires(sic). For all the restrictions related to hurricanes and floods, developers typically face no major hurdles when they want to build in fire-prone areas." The article goes on to describe rules for development in the wildland urban interface (WUI) in Oregon and California.

Two very comprehensive WUI codes have recently been developed. These are the:

1) Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 1997 edition, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269, 617-770-3000.
2) Urban-Wildland Interface Code, 1997, International Fire Code Institute (IFCI), 5360 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-2298, 562-699-0124.

Each of these codes establishes regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practices for the safeguarding of life and property in the WUI. The purpose of these codes is to establish minimum standards to prevent the loss of structures even without fire department intervention. Each code provides requirements tiered to the relative level of hazard present at the development. Information regarding adoption of these regulations may be received by contacting NFPA or IFCI directly.
The state of Oregon felt these codes were too comprehensive for their state, and adopted Senate Bill 360, Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997. Senate Bill 360 was a joint effort of the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal. With this system, owners will self -certify their compliance with the standards and owners who do not comply will be accessed the full cost of fire suppression up to $100,000, for any fire that starts on their property. Further information regarding this legislation may be obtained from Rick Gibson, Fire Prevention Specialist, Oregon Department of Forestry, 503-945-7440.

An example of regulating fire safe development at local level is found in Jackson County Oregon. A memorandum of understanding between the county and the Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs' Association establishes guidelines for fuel breaks, roof coverings, emergency vehicle access, water supply, and addressing homes in wildfire hazard areas.

A Wildland Interface Fire Committee consisting of wildland and structural fire protection agency representatives meet twice a month to review county development requests. They conduct fire safety inspections and inform the county planning department of the results of the inspection. A successful inspection is required to obtain the permit to live in the residence. Further information regarding this local solution may be obtained from Lou Gugliotta, Fire Marshal, Jackson County Fire District #3, 541-826-7100.

Administration

Wildfire Prevention Planning and Analysis

It will be essential for Florida to do a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of wildfire in order to implement a successful wildland fire prevention mitigation plan. Such an analysis is beyond the scope of the National Fire Prevention Team. The team does recommend a process called Wildfire Prevention Planning and Analysis (WPAP). A course is available, P301, Wildland Fire Prevention Planning (1997), NFES 2539, 2540, and 2541, from the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise Idaho.

The Department of Interior Land Management Agencies, USDA Forest Service, and at least one structural fire department (Boise ID) have been applying a risk/hazard/value analysis and planning process for wildland fire prevention mitigation purposes for the past 6 years. The purpose of this planning is to analyze the potential of wildfire impacts and identify actions that mitigate the undesirable effects of wildfire in priority areas.

This analysis includes the assessment of an area's; Risk (potential of a wildfire to ignite), Hazard (potential of a wildfire to spread based on fuels and topography) and Value (potential of a wildfire to case economic losses). Each of these components is rated as high, medium, or low. The area being assessed is sub-divided into compartments an each receives a rating for risk, hazard, and value. Compartments rated HHH (high risk, high hazard and high value) become the priority areas for comprehensive mitigation action planning.

A mitigation plan or fire prevention action plan is then developed using the most effective strategies and actions. These actions are developed for both the total unit (general actions) and more specific actions are developed for individual compartments (specific actions). An example of a general action is signing on a highway where a specific action would prescribe fire to mitigate a fuels hazard around the XYZ Subdivision on a 5-year rotation.

A workload analysis process is used to attach cost factors to the identified actions and determines required funding and personnel to accomplish various levels of program plan implementation. Custom Windows software is used to document the assessment, strategic plan, and workload analysis. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping is an excellent method for documenting risk, hazard and value assessment and the fire prevention compartments developed from this assessment.

The process has been applied to over 100 units throughout the United States and Canada and to individual and interagency combinations of Federal, State, local agencies, areas and units. The DOI has implemented this process through their wildland fire prevention specialists and uses contractors for training and workshops to facilitate the planning process. Realistic cost for a single comprehensive plan produced by a private contractor including all travel, per diem, materials; software is approximately $5,000 per unit.

Cooperatives and Partnerships

The team encourages wildland fire managers and structural fire departments to continue to search for ways to work cooperatively. The team heard a desire and need to work cooperatively to better accomplish wildland fire prevention from fire management personnel during the 7/23 conference call and at the 7/24 field trip to Oscar Scheirer State Park.

All members on the team are from the West where we belong to interagency organizations called fire prevention cooperatives. A fire prevention cooperative is a community-based partnership of county, state and federal wildland agencies and structural fire services. Most fire prevention cooperatives are non-profit which helps acquire donations or sponsors from the private sector. Cooperatives combine agency resources, individuals and their talents, limited dollars and time to accomplish high caliber wildland fire prevention programs. The public likes them as it makes sense for their public service organizations to work together.

Community Wildland Fire Prevention Specialists

A number of the fire prevention team recommendations include hiring personnel to accomplish these special fire prevention programs. We have assumed this will be funded with FEMA mitigation grant and the quantity of the grant will determine the scope of the wildland fire prevention program and staffing.

Our staffing strategy for accomplishing these recommendations would include:

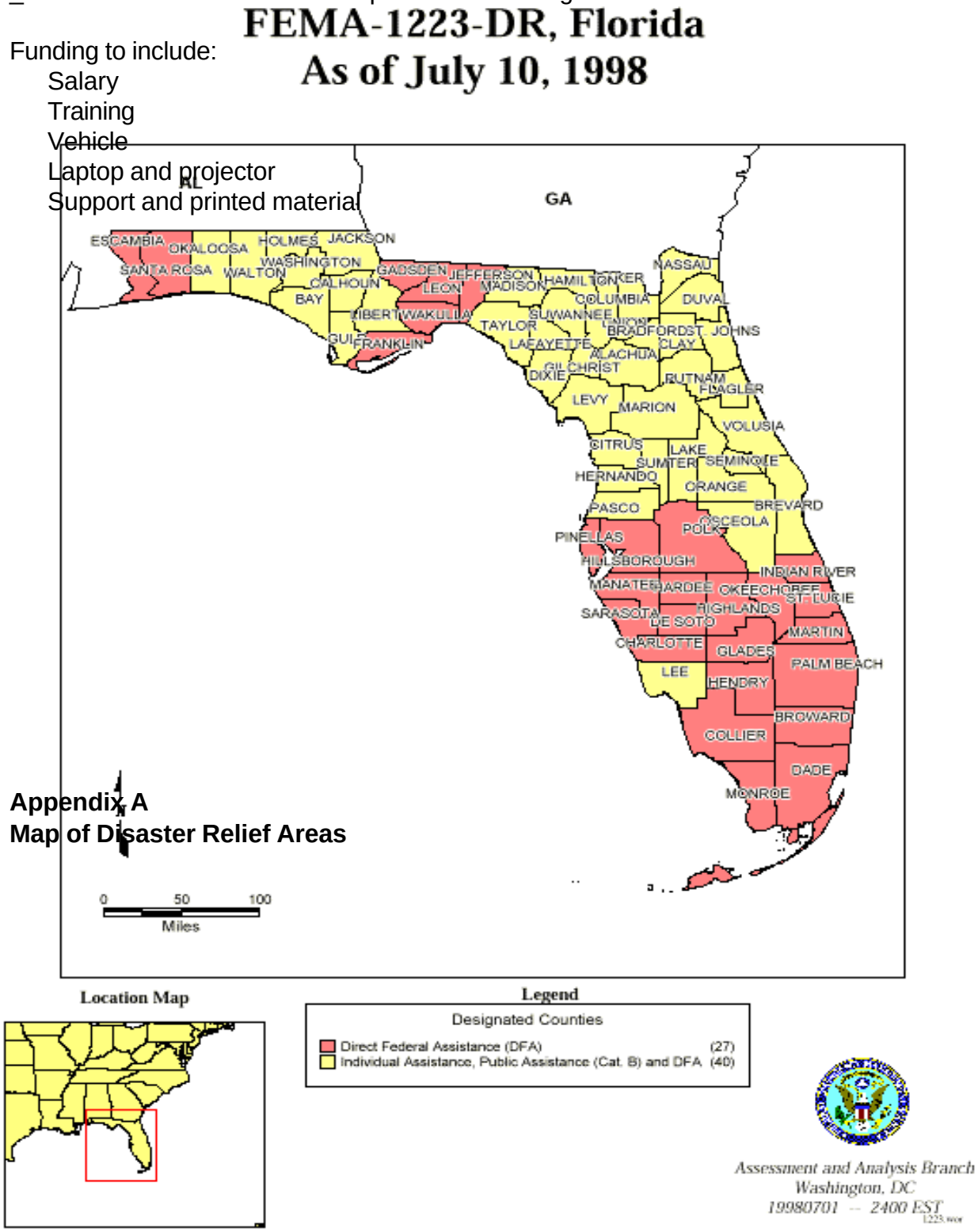
- Contracting the *FireFreeÔ* marketing plan development to a private marketing firm in cooperation with SAFEO Corporation.
- Hire a *FireFreeÔ* Program Coordinator who would report to Matt Weinell, Cooperative Fire Protection Manager, DOF.
- Hire Community Wildland Fire Prevention Specialists who would report to the *FireFreeÔ* Program Coordinator.

Duties of the Community Wildland Fire Prevention Specialists would include:

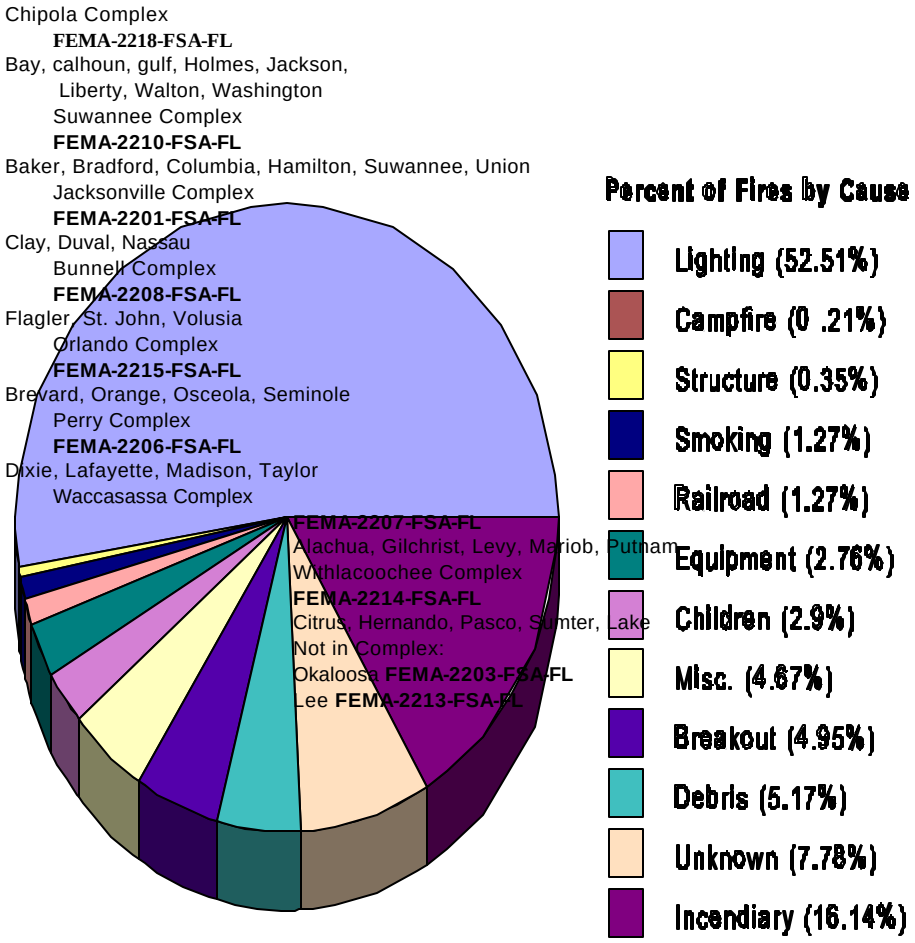
- Community Fire Safe Awareness Program Presentation.
- *FireFreeÔ* implementation in targeted communities.
- “Why We Burn” PowerPoint presentations
- “Why We Burn” show-me trips with media, cooperators, homeowners.
- Developing partnerships and sponsors within communities.

_ Teacher Workshops, Fire in Florida's Ecosystems, grades 4-8.
_ Home protection assessments in the WUI.
_ WUI hazard assessments for prescribed burning under Hawkin's Bill.

Funding to include:
- Salary
- Training
- Vehicle
- Laptop and projector
- Support and printed material



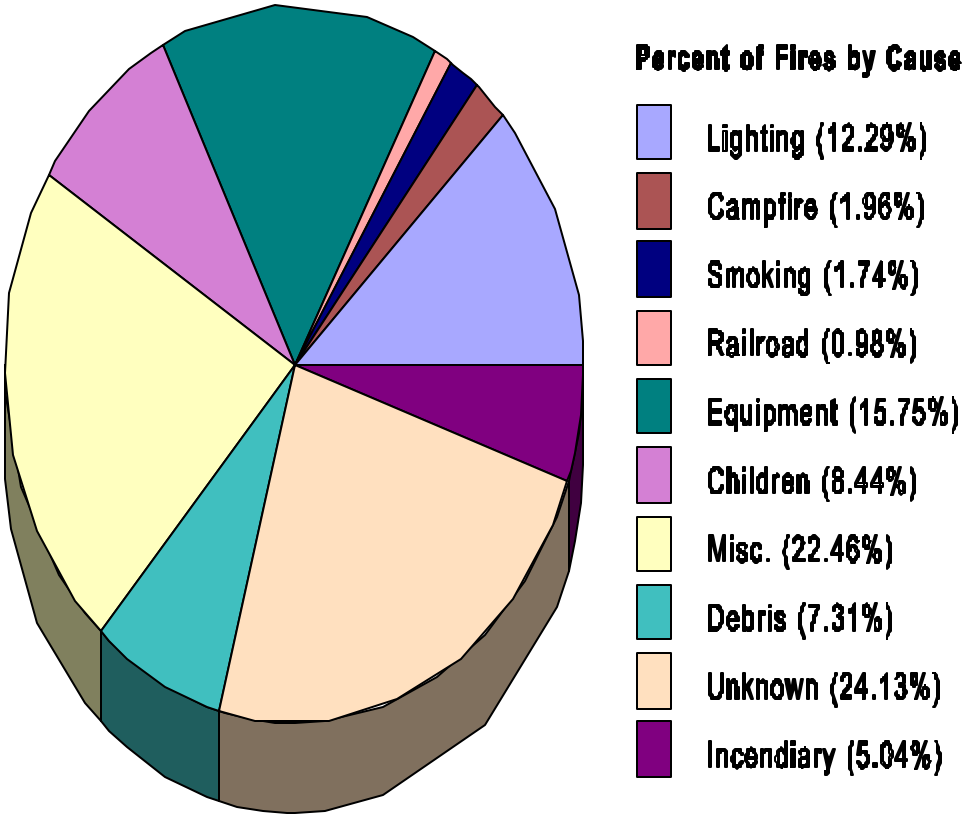
Appendix A
Map of Disaster Relief Areas



Appendix B
Fire Cause Summary

Percent of Fires by Cause
in Florida
Since June 1, 1998

Percent of Fires by Cause
in Florida
for 1995 - 1997



Budget Estimate
National Fire Prevention Team
Florida FEMA Task III

Salary

Base 8: Not part of FEMA Funding
Base 8 of Federal Employees to USDA Forest Service Region 8, management code 523410
USDA Forest Service Region 8 Funding Commitment to Team…...……....$7,854.00

DC Haas, Montana Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation, 406-542-4250
7/13 – 7/30 = 14 days $132/day cost to government.....$1,848.00

Overtime
Assumptions:
Weekdays; 2 hours OT per day, and weekends; 10 hours OT per day.

Team Member	Rate/hour	Weekdays	Weekends	Total
Peter Martin	27.94	15 days = 30 hrs.	6 days = 60 hrs.	$2,514.60
Cathy O'Brien	21.52	12 days = 24 hrs.	6 days = 60 hrs.	1,807.68
Jimmye Turner	22.19	11 days = 22 hrs.	4 days = 40 hrs.	1,375.78
Teresa Wheeler	18.59	15 days = 30 hrs.	6 days = 60 hrs.	1,673.10
DC Haas	24.74	15 days = 30 hrs.	6 days = 60 hrs.	2,226.60

Overtime Total……...……..….....$9,597.76

Total Salary……..….....$11,445.76

Rental Cars

Two at $177/week for 3 weeks……...…….....…....$1,062.00
One at $159/week for 3 weeks……...……..…….....477.00
Gas……..……...…….....250.00
Total Vehicle $1,789.00

Per Diem

Peter Martin, $100 x 21 days…….....$2,100.00
Cathy O'Brien, $100 x 18 days……...…….....1,800.00
Jimmye Turner, $100 x 15 days……..…….....….1,500.00
Teresa Wheeler, $100 x 21 days……..……....…….2,100.00
DC Haas, $100 x 21……..…….....……. ..2,100.00
Phone Calls…….....400.00
Per Diem Total 10,000.00

Air Travel
Peter Martin.....$1,100.00
Cathy O'Brien.....1,100.00
Jimmye Turner.....1,100.00
Teresa Wheeler.....1,100.00
DC Haas.....1,500.00
Total Air Travel $5,900.00

Subtotal

Salary…….....…….....$12,000.00
Vehicles…….....1,800.00
Per Diem…….....10,000.00
Air Travel…….....6,000.00
Total $29,800.00

FEMA Task III Allocation……...…...…$100,000.00
Subtotal……..... 30,000.00
Remaining for material and program development and supplies…….....70,000.00

Material and program development and supplies

Two PC Printers…….....$800.00
Wildfire Strikes Home and Smokey Materials……...…..26,000.00
Trinkets(Jar Grips, Pins)…….....…..8,000.00
Smokey Lapel Pins…….....4,200.00
Print Rx Guide for Educators, …….....7,000.00
Printing, 4 products x $600/20,000 x 10…….....24,000.00
Good Fire/Bad Fire Door Hanger
Fire Safe in the Interface Door Hanger
Prescribed Fire in Florida
Prescribed Fire Poster

Contingency

Replacement Team Kit back to MIFC cache:
Total.....$70,000.00

FIRE PREVENTION TEAM CONFERENCE CALL
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1998
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTER, TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

SUMMARY: Input and suggestions received from various DOF field offices are summarized below. A majority of the staff shared similar successes and challenges.

The discussion was focused on three main topics: 1) what was done to reach the fire affected public in the district; 2) what materials were used and how the information was communicated; 3) priority needs to manage fire prevention and prescribed fire programs in the future.

- More public educational programs concerning wildland urban interface in a preformatted package that can be taken to a homeowners association or civic group. The wildland urban interface needs to be the priority for cooperators, fire councils, and community affairs.
- Each district needs a full time fire prevention employee that is trained in public affairs. This person could handle media contacts, target on ignition sources/causes, and coordinated interagency prevention forums. This position could also assist in arson monitoring and patrolling.
- Prevention materials provided to the field were often limited. Funding made available from FEMA to purchase materials was greatly appreciated.
- The roadside signing efforts, although limited, provided an avenue for the public to ask follow up questions of DOF staff regarding campfires, burning, fireworks, etc. Additional signing should be considered.
- The “Fire and Smoke Trailer” in use by some districts was very successful.
- Burn Barrel program was successful although time consuming.
- Prevention awards will be presented to communities and individuals that assisted with the past fire situation. Many individuals kept fires from increasing in size.
- The close working relationships with other public officials added to the successful suppression. More contacts need to be made.
- Door to door contacts with homeowners need to be conducted.
- Red flag warning program works well; more material needed.
- There needs to be better coverage of DOF employees and their role in fire suppression activities state wide. Too much attention was directed to out of state engines and personnel. Some districts wrote letters to television stations to redirect this issue.
- Consider mass mailings to identified subdivisions and homeowner associations for targeted publication distribution (mail lists available from tax assessors office).

- More publications directed to the adult audience. Consider additional support

material on arson and defensible space. Unsure of the effectiveness of arson related posters; they seem to be effective, but may make an arsonist hide after they are posted near an arson caused fire. The signs have been proven to deter arson in some districts.

- Rural areas need a localized tie-in for effectiveness. They must be locally oriented for the message to be successful.
- Provide districts with a public information officer kits and information officer training.
- Monitor the need for bilingual publications. Some items have been translated (ie: arson signs), copies of these need to be forwarded to fire control.
- More efforts need to be directed toward interagency cooperation. Door to door campaigns need input from all area fire suppression forces. Include other agencies when discussing prescribed fire projects. Invite fish and game, DEP, and structural fire departments. Provide a well rounded presentation.
- Document and inventory the values of prescribed fire from situations seen this summer. Produce a video about the Waldo area, interview tanker pilots and dozer operators to document their encounters. Show how prescribed fire helped to reduce fire intensity.
- Facilitate more preplanning with our structural fire departments. Work toward painting a more vivid picture of evacuations, triage and write off areas.
- Timber companies need to understand the significance of prescribed fire.
- There is a real lack of ordinances that prohibit fuel load or promote defensible space. Most people would understand the severity of fuel loading if ticketed according to incorporated law.
- Structural fire departments need additional training in wildland firefighting. There is significant turnover in volunteer departments. Training needs to evolve and be continuous.
- There is never enough money for prevention materials or programs. Prevention is always the first thing dropped in a job description. DOF prevention displays are outdated compared to other structural departments. There should be more cooperation with other departments and agencies to provide a better prevention message in Florida.
- Web sites were found to be outdated, containing inaccurate information. Often sites were posting conflicting information.
- Insurance companies need to participate in fire prevention measures (can they be encouraged to give insurance breaks in deserving neighborhoods, or more likely to increase rates in high risk areas).

Participants
Matt Weinell, DOF Coordinator
DOF Districts

Blackwater: Steve Tolbert
Tallahassee: Matt Setterich
Perry: Fidel Alverez, John Jackson
Suwannee: Allen Parish

Waccasassa: Eric Black
Bunnell: Gary Carpenter
Withlacoochee: Bob Duty
Orlando: Joe Borroughs
Lakeland: Chris Kintner, Mark Hebb
Myakka: Ed Flowers
Okeechobee: Joe Spataro

Fire Prevention Team: Pete Martin, team leader
Jimmye Turner
DC Haas
Teresa Wheeler
Cathy O'Brien
Merle Glenn

FEMA: Tony Manlick
Fred McGarrahan
Jason Greenlee
Mark Dickerson

USDA Forest Service: Denise Rains

ST. MARKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FIELD TRIP

13 July 1998

Haas and Turner went to St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge to investigate a lightning-caused fire on the refuge that reportedly stopped traveling when it hit a previously prescribe burned area.

They met Mike Granger at St. Mark's NWR office and proceeded to the fire site.
The fire was located about ¼ mile from the refuge border at Shell Point. Mike had been the initial attack IC and upon arriving at the fire had immediately called for backup. Mike described the fire as being very hot, burning with 10-15 ft flame lengths. It reached over a small dirt road to the other side. Mike orchestrated the initial attack but did not feel it could stop the fire.

As the firefighters struggled with the fire, Mike noticed that the head of the fire had only singed the vegetation across the road and had stopped its forward charge. The area that did not support the fire had been prescribe burned the year before; March of '97 to be exact.

Mike's fire forces quickly quelled the fire and lined the area that had been the head. Mike is firmly convinced, that the prescribed treatment to the area is the factor that stopped the fire and essentially saved the houses at Shell Point. The fire grew from a single lightning strike to 50 acres in a matter of minutes.
Upon examining the area burned we found it had created great heat and reduced almost all the vegetation within the burned area to black ash and dust. The area that had been treated was still green with no dead vegetation built up on the ground. Haas and Turner took pictures of the area comparing the two sides of the road.

Members of the Fire Prevention Team Tour Fire Areas
Wheeler, Turner and Haas left for Gainesville on 18 July 1988. Jim Brenner from Florida DOF provided assistance throughout the tour. The group was in the field on the 18th and 19th.

Gainesville
In Gainesville, they met with Steve Abrams at the county EOC. Mr. Abrams explained how the facility operated and provided communication and logistical support for disasters. Although mainly used for flood and hurricane incidents, the Center was fully operational during the recent wildfires. The facility was designed during the cold war as a fall out shelter. Used as a 911 emergency dispatch center, the EOC office is located in the basement of an administrative facility. The center has a close working relationship with the Division of Forestry.

Waldo Area
From Gainesville they traveled northeast to the Waldo area and met with Clark Smith. Mr. Smith owns a large land holding of forested area that he manages for profit. He explained that the economy of the wood product industry has slumped in recent months. Prices of timber was quoted as follows:

	Pre-fire	*After fire*
Pulp wood	$45 – 50	$15 a cord
Ply board	$100 – 110	$90
Chip wood	$70 - 75	$65

Mr. Smith discussed how the timber lost value from weight loss during the drought and after the fire, often upwards to 50% compared to being sold while still green. His present concern was the possible infestation of turpentine beetle. Mr. Smith felt that herbicide would kill encroaching vegetation, but would not remove the fuels. It would simply die and provide for fuel loading on the forest floor. Prescribed fire was the best means of controlling the encroaching vegetation while reducing the risk of an intense wildfire. Mr. Smith has been using prescribed fire for many years and for many beneficial reasons.

Perhaps the best example of how prescribed fires works in the Waldo is the fact that Waldo still remains. The removal of heavy fuels from the area on Smith's property may have saved this community from wildfire. Mr. Smith's actions and efforts should be recognized. Mr. Smith would be the perfect example of how a private landowner can impact the threat of wildfire. Our group strongly recommends that this 'window' of opportunity be developed. He is also a source of valuable information.

Bunnell District
At the Bunnell District office of DOF they met with Michael Kuypers. They also had the pleasure of meeting Joe Clifton, retired DOF, who was back to assist with fire dispatch and support for the summer.

On the morning of 18 July they met with Forest Supervisor Ray Durham at the Flagler

office. Ray went into great detail to explain how the fires were fought, what methods were used, and provided some valuable 'war stories' that helped paint a better picture of the past month. Ray explained that the Florida firefighters attacked fires at the head, rather than using the indirect attack and backfiring that western firefighters practice.

Ray talked about a horrifying event where he was involved. A husband and wife were preparing to evacuate their home as the fire was approaching. The husband decided to leave the area first thinking the wife was just behind him. The wife found herself caught in heavy smoke and took a wrong turn into a neighbor's driveway. The car was stuck in a garden along the driveway wet from the sprinklers. She made an attempt to escape the flame front and ran, but was burned on the face, neck and arm. She returned to her car and began blowing the car horn. Her car battery was weak from use when Ray happened to hear the faint sound. He was directing residents out of the area when he accidentally stumbled upon the trapped lady. Ray said that she did not look well at all. Besides her burns she had tripped and ripped the skin from her knees. He placed her in his truck and drove her to a waiting medical transport, that he had radioed from his truck. She spent some time in intensive care and is recovering.

Ray also found himself disoriented in the smoke. He managed to avoid the pending flames by driving fast, narrowly missing obstacles such as a telephone pole, trees, and street signs in the smoke. He was not alone in this predicament, as others were nearly trapped on dozers nearby. The dozer operators were guided out by a helicopter overhead.

When Ray met up with fellow coworkers and discussed the days events he found that some were scared and fearful about returning to the fires. He said it was like getting back on the bull after being bucked off. However all of them did return to the fires.

Ray was easy to talk to and was very, very informative. Our group felt that he should be recognized for his heroic efforts. Although there were many heroes in Florida this summer, few had the experiences that Ray was faced with.

Subdivision Review

The field team had the opportunity to see the damage caused by the recent wildfires. Ray took them to a subdivision near Palm Coast that had experienced loss during the fire storm. The first home they inventoried survived the fire, but just barely. A privacy fence built around the back of the structure provided a heat barrier from the impending forest fire. The fence, although completely consumed, had stood and acted as a heat barrier until the main force of the fire had passed. Through the windows they could see the inside blinds had melted. Vinyl soffits and the vaporized privacy fence were the only outward signs of damage. A second house also had a privacy fence in the back yard, but the fire had been approaching from the front and the house was destroyed. Both houses had a stucco exterior, had privacy fences, neither one had adequate defensible space. What made the difference was the angle of which the fire rushed the houses. The woods around the homes were charred and black. Palmetto had begun to regenerate even though it had been only a week since the fire.

The next home they observed was a success story. The homeowners had created defensible space. This home did not have any melted soffits or smoke smudges. The owners had not used prescribed fire, but rather chopped, and stacked the wood to physically remove the fuels from the area. This appeared to be the most fire prepared of all the nearby homes. The owner was a firefighter from Indiana.

The continued population growth in Florida adds to this fire prevention problem. Ray stated that he contacts all of the homeowners that would be impacted by a prescribed burn. The address information from the tax rolls takes his notices all over the world. He explained that even when he sends out these notices and prepares his planned burn, more homes are built before he returns to the planned burn area. In the area they toured there were 521 paved streets, 126 ditches and canals, and 900 cul-de-sacs, with a population of 35,000. In comparison, DOF has eight rangers, four dozers and the assistance of two paid structural fire departments.

An important, and often overlooked tool Ray has is the interagency cooperation of other offices in the area. He makes it a point to take structural firefighters out to prescribed burns and uses the fire as a training tool. He knows that by training with them on a burn, future operations will run smoother and allow for a more organized incident.

Later that day the team continued its inventory of homes destroyed by the fires. They found dozer line and fuel breaks were not enough to stop the head of these fires. Even where fire hydrants were present, roads paved and marked, on flat terrain, there were homes lost. Defensible space was certainly the key to their survival, or destruction.

Personal note: We were certainly fortunate to have the opportunity to tour these areas. Our thanks to the staff of DOF and others who took time out of their busy schedule to assist us.

Notes-7/23-24 field trip
Oscar Scheirer State Park
Gator Creek Subdivision
Myyaka River State Park

On July 24, 1998, Jim Brenner, Florida DOF, Cathy O'Brien and Pete Martin traveled to Oscar Scheirer State Park and met with an interagency group of fire managers. They spend the morning discussing the role of prescribed fire in Florida. In the afternoon they visited an upscale subdivision, Gator Creek, which is in dire need of fuels management, and prescribed burns in the Myyaka River State Park. The group included:

Mike Klemmerer, Florida Game and Fish Commission, 941/575-5768
Geoff Babb, The Nature Conservancy, 407/935-0002
Jon Thaxton, Cascade Realty/Uplands Inc., 941/924-1156
Barbara Harle, Legislative aide for Representative Lisa Carlton, 941-966-2606
Jim Brenner, Florida Divison of Forestry, 850/488-6111
Chuck Johnston, Sarasota Co. Fire Dept., Rural Operations, 941/951-4211
Ed Flowers, Florida Divison on Forestry, Myakka District, 941/751-7629
Bill Conrod, Friendly Fire, Inc. 941/694-7274
Robert Dye, Florida Park Service, 941/361-6515
Butch Neal, PBS & J, Winter Park, Florida, 407/647-7275
Rosi Mulholland, Florida Park Service, District 3, 407/884-2000

The meeting began with introductions followed by a slide presentation by Rosie Mulholland, Florida Park Service, District 3, Regional Biologist. Highlights of the presentation are:

- Most landowners know they need to do something about fuels, they just aren't sure what to do.
- Fire season in Florida is predominately May-July.
- Prescribed burning act is a great tool.
- Smoke is our second concern next to public relations. Smoke and traffic. We need to raise people's tolerance of smoke.
- Every smoke mistake is another nail in the coffin to our use of prescribed fire.
- Ways to reduce smoke include; burn smaller units, burn during the day when people are at work, utilize backing and flank fires, good immediate mop-up, avoid burning muck, utilize wind and weather for dispersion.
- Talk to neighborhoods about importance of prescribed fire; maintains plant communities,
- Use brochures, signs, and "dear neighbor" letters.
- Media tours develop a solid support base.
- Interagency cooperation and partnerships is key.
- Florida Parks burn to maintain biological communities and for the wildfire benefits.
- Two thirds of the counties have ordinances supporting Prescribed fire.

Following are typed compilations of handwritten notes taken by Cathy O'Brien and Pete Martin. The discussion was lively and these notes do not capture everything said at the meeting or are all the individual names making the comments.

Robert Dye- Myyaka River State Park
More prime time media messages, pay for them.
We can reduce fuels.
*We have county comprehensive plans and most recognize fire's role, yet the county doesn't manage their lands.
*Someone needs to weed out conflicts between rules; in Sarasota Co unless you are agricultural you cannot burn. We have laws that say you should burn and other laws that won't let you burn.
*Reduce fuels now because we know we're going to have wildfires.

Bill-Friendly Fire Inc.
Public education is the key-educate the new resident.
Thinks a lot of fires enter houses through melted vinyl soffets.
Found houses where fences attached to houses brought fire to the house and burned the house.
Boats and other objects stored or placed next to the house provided burned, melted the soffit, and fire entered the house thru the attic.
We need subdivision regulations prior to development.
Can't let the timber go 20 years without prescribed fire; timber company has responsibility.
When timber sells land to development they should have to treat the land prior to development.
Knows of instances where public meetings about fire copied hurricane seminars and were well attended.
Need to burn at least every 5 years.
We have a big problem coming in S. Florida in the mode of exotic plants.
1. Melaluca (sp)-seeds big time after fire and gets worse.
2. Grass (couldn't catch the name) will take over and choke out everything.

Jon Thaxton, Cascade Reality/Uplands Inc.
Two suggestions:
1. Statewide editors/media workshop; early reporting of fires was anti-productive. Media needs to learn about the significance of maintenance burning and the cost of not doing it (burning). Terminology used by media was extremely damaging. They need to be educated.
2. Federal lands need to put their lands in order. Set an example. Used Cape Canaveral as a location that has large tracts of land and they do not manage.

Chuck Johnson-Sarasota county Fire Dept.-Rural Operations
Cooperation between wildland and structural agencies is fragmented-we have good and bad examples.
DOF is eroding away, not enough employees to respond to fires.
No central agency or voice speaks and the public hears confusion.

You hear structural depts badmouthing prescribed fire-they do not support it.
Fire Departments may reflect the problem-we have new residents moving to the state and they don't understand fire in Florida.
* NOTE: target audience is fire service with training and education, as they need to be supportive. Their training is, all fire is bad, should be prevented, and put out immediately which is true in structures.
Believes there is a correlation between destruction of rain forest and burning in Florida in public. Public hears "Slash and burn in rain forests is bad". Florida is tropical; therefore burning and fire in Florida must also be bad.

Rosi Mulholland, Florida Park Service, District 3
Blanket burn ban by Dept of Environmental Protection was bad as there were less populated areas in the state where burning could have continued without effecting or causing air stagnation.
The people in this room are dedicated prescribed burners-the best fire managers, and they still cannot get the desired burning accomplished. Imagine those who do not burn or do not try very hard to burn. Their lands are even farther behind in acres needing to be burned.
Take the certified burner act further. Recognize not everyone has the same skills. Recognize skills and experience and use discretion in providing authorization. Take a chance on the good burners and let them get more of the job done.
Many fires were not initial attacked as DOF did not have personnel available.
These fires occurred in conditions we would not have burned under so results are not comparable.
Once were not able to initial attack; the multiple fires were uncontrollable.

Barbara Harle, Legislative aide
Encouraged those in room to talk to their legislators so they understand fire.

Robert Dye, Myakka River State Park Manager
We have the tendency to not ask for all the money we need to do the job.
Need to speak with a single voice.
Use prescribed fire billboards.

Appendix E
Contact List

Conferencing with Others:
The National Fire Prevention Team made numerous contacts with wildland and structural

fire personnel throughout the United States. Integral to the success of the fire prevention team process is the diversity of training, experience, and contacts each individual brings to the team.

Billy Jack Terry	National Fire Prevention Specialist	USDA Forest Service
Pat Durland	National Fire Prevention Specialist	DOI Bureau of Land Management
Jeanette Hartog	Regional 4 Fire Prevention Specialist	USDA Forest Service
Karen Curtiss	Assistant Fire Staff, R-6, Deschutes N.F.	USDA Forest Service
Lou Gugliotta	Fire Marshall, Jackson Co FD #3	White City, OR
Rick Gibson	State Fire Prevention Specialist	Oregon Department of Forestry
Jim Smalley	National Fire Protection Specialist	Quincy, MA
Lee Clark	District Fire Management Officer,, R-1	Lolo, MT, USDA Forest Service
Judy Kissinger	Public Affairs Specialist, WO	USDA Forest Service
Wit Leer	Florida Fire Staff, retired	USDA Forest Service
Gary Marshal	Fire Marshall, Bend Fire Department	Bend, OR
Cheryl McRae	Safeco Insurance Company	Seattle WA
David Olson	Public Affairs Officer	George WA/Jefferson N.F., USDA
Malcolm Gramley	Fire Management, R-8	USDA Forest Service
Tim Murphy	Fire & Aviation Management Bureau	Montana DNRC
Sandra O'Bryant	Fire & Aviation Management Bureau	Montana DNRC
Tom McIsaac	Fire & Aviation Management Bureau	Montana DNRC
Kent Gizzard	Public Affairs Officer	Mississippi Forestry Commission
Robert Valen	Public Affairs Officer	Big Thicket Nat'l Wildlife Preserve
Mary Zabinski	Public Affairs	Southwestern Region USDA FS
Judith Leraas-Cook	Firewise	Leraas-Cook & Associates
Faith Duncan	Public Affairs Officer	USDA NII Desk, Washington D.C.
Terry Virgin	Public Affairs Officer	USDA NII Desk, Washington D.C.

Appendix F
Fire Prevention Products

Clown Skits

Fire Triangle

Fire Affects Animal Habitat

Outdoor Clown Skit

Articles

Careful Home Planning and Construction Can Save Your Home From Wildfire

Fire Free Zone - Landscaping Tactics Homeowners Can Easily Do

Prescribed Fire Next Door- What's the Answer?

Public Service Announcements

Reminder

Defensible Space

The Roof

The *Ranger Says* Series

I. Fire Safe Homes Have Defensible Space

II. Start at the Top

III. Fire Prevention Starts with the Weather

IV. What Should I do if I Have to Evacuate

V. Kids can Help Too

VI. Firesafe Landscaping Brings a Zone of Safety

VII. Smokey Bear was Right (and he still is!!)

TV Series Script

Recommendations for New and Reprinted Products

Clowning Skits

In writing up these short skits I wanted to share my thoughts with you. My philosophy in teaching kids (or anyone for that matter) has three facets. One is to simplify, one is to personalize and the last is to

entertain. I have found that I can stand up in front of a group of kids and bleat out facts and figures about so many million board feet of lumber lost, or 10,000 acres of prime land burned or even 4.5 million dollars used in suppression and it takes almost 3 nanoseconds for the kids to become bored to the point of mischief. Look, I've been fighting forest fires for 17 years now and I can't describe a million board feet of lumber so that kids can visualize it. I can imagine a 10,000 acre fire because I've been there and seen it, but most kids haven't. 4.5 million dollars even leaves me a little distant because I've never seen that much money, I'll wager most kids never have either.

One of the advantages that structure fire prevention officers have is they have a very personal message. YOUR house is on fire, YOU crawl beneath the smoke, YOU stop, drop and roll. It's directed at the kids and they immediately identify with the message. Their imagination sees their house on fire in a moment. It's a powerful message because it's simple and personal. The challenge is to make wildland fire personal and simple. Entertaining falls into the category of "How" we present the message. *Jimmye Turner, Fire Prevention Specialist*

Concept: the Fire Triangle

Tools needed: Three objects that are small enough to juggle and large enough to have a message on them. One should be marked "Heat," one should be marked "Fuel" and one should be marked "Oxygen."

Skit: “It takes three things to make a fire in the forest, or anywhere else. I need a volunteer. “ (Clown juggles three objects and volunteer tries to grab one)(When volunteer grabs one, Clown stops juggling and explains each part of the triangle as volunteer grabs corresponding object) “Fuel, anything in the forest that burns is fuel. What are some examples?”(trees, bushes, muck, palmetto, etc.) “Heat, a lot of things bring enough heat to start a fire. What are some examples?” (lightning, matches, cigarettes, campfires, etc.) “Oxygen, oxygen is in the air all around us. Fire has to have air to breathe like people.”
Option: You might make a big triangle and let each volunteer hold up one corner. If you pull one kid out, the triangle falls down. It takes all three to hold up the triangle.

Concept: Fire Suppression by ‘breaking’ the Fire Triangle

Tools needed: Big glass bowl, candles, water, clear drinking glass, spritz bottle, narrow length of paper for fuse, black balloon with the paper fuse attached by black tape, matches or lighter.

Skit: “The way a firefighter ‘puts out’ or ‘suppresses’ a forest fire is to take away one side of the Fire Triangle. As we’ve seen (in the above skit) a fire needs all three sides to keep burning.

Station one: Glass bowl with candle mounted on bottom (melt a little wax and stick the candle to it), enough water to surround the candle leaving a bit of it out of the water. Clown lights the candle and it burns. He then puts the clear drinking glass over the candle and lowers it until the glass is in the water. The candle used up the available oxygen and goes out. “Fire fighters take away the oxygen by covering a fire with retardant or dirt. This smothers the fire out just like in the glass bowl. Note: older kids might notice that if you lift the glass out slowly it pulls water up higher than when it was placed over the candle. The water displaced the burned up air in the glass.

Station two: candle, spritz bottle, water. Clown lights candle. “I need a volunteer.” Place volunteer with spritz bottle behind candle and be sure the spritz bottle is set on ‘straight stream’. “My volunteer will now remove the heat of the candle flame by misting water on it.” Volunteer shoots straight stream past candle in to the audience. “Wait a minute! Let me see the bottle,” says clown, taking bottle. Squirts at the audience a couple of times trying to ‘fix’ the bottle. Clown set it on mist and hands it back to the volunteer. Volunteer mists the candle and puts flame out. “Firefighters use helicopters, fire engines, volume pumps, back pack pumps and sometimes even dig new wells to get some water to cool off a fire in the forest.”

Station three: scissors, black balloon ‘bomb’ with fuse. (Note: to make a balloon bomb, fill a deflated big balloon with small confetti. Blow the balloon up and tie the end. Place the fuse on the end and use black tape to cover the end and the end of the fuse.) Volunteer holds balloon bomb. Clown lights fuse. “The fire keeps burning as long as it has fuel.” Fuse burns toward volunteer. “The way firefighters take fuel away from a forest fire is by digging a line in front of the fire. The fire burns up to the end of the fuel and, since dirt doesn’t burn, the fire goes out.” Clown cuts fuse saving volunteer from exploding bomb. “As we can see the fire goes out as soon as the last of the fuse is burned up.” Volunteer is relieved when bomb doesn’t explode. Clown pokes balloon. Balloon blows up throwing confetti all over volunteer. “See what happens when we’re careless?”

Concept: Fuel in Forests, even Green Forests

Tools needed: an orange, a candle, two waste baskets, crumpled paper.

Skit: Fill one wastebasket with paper. Fill the other one only a little bit. “Anything that burns is fuel in a forest fire. Trees, plants, etc, etc. One of the things we try to do is keep the fuel fairly small. If we lit

these two wastebaskets on fire, which one would burn the longest? “ “Which one would be the hardest to put out?” “These are easy questions aren’t they? We can see that one wastebasket has a bunch of paper to burn and the other one only has a little bit.” “Forests are not so easy to tell sometimes.” Light candle and hold orange. “How many of you see fuel in this orange?” “It doesn’t look like fuel.” “If I hold it over the candle flame it might BLOW UP!!” (orange doesn’t blow up) “Maybe the fuel is hidden inside.” (cut open orange and take out a section) (hold it over the flame and yell) “It’s going to BLOW UP!” (section doesn’t blow up) “Maybe the fuel is inside the peel.” (take a piece of peel to hold over flame) “It’s going to BLOW UP!” (peel doesn’t blow up) “Maybe there isn’t any fuel inside this orange. How many of you think there'' no fuel inside an orange?""(count hands) "I guess the fuel is gone, or hidden or something… WHOA!” (squeeze the peel so it squirts fluid into the flame, flame will WHOOSH!) “The fuel is hidden inside the orange but it’s still there. Just like a green, wet forest has fuel that we can’t see very well, even a wet, juicy orange has fuel inside it.” “The job of the forest fire fighter is look for this hidden fuel and be ready when it catches on fire. “ Note: (keep your hands moving when you do this so the kids won’t see it well enough to try to copy you.)

Concept: Fire Affects Animal Habitat

Tools needed: White Dry Erase Board, Colored Markers, Rag

Skit: Walk up to dry erase board after ensuring that all the kids can see it clearly. “We’re going to play a game. As soon as you recognize the animal I’m drawing, raise your hand, I’ll call on you and we’ll vote on your guess.” (draw one line at a time. See supplement sheet) As kids guess animal’s

identity, finish cartoon and ask how a forest fire would affect that animals habitat. Animals need three things, food, water and cover. Use that information to lead the discussion.

Examples:

Duck: Ducks swim in water so they probably won't burn up but, (and here you can draw a nest with eggs) they aren't ALWAYS in the water. If the forest fire burns in the tall grass where the eggs are can the eggs jump up and run away? Can the mother duck put the eggs in her backpack and swim away? If they eggs burn, will they still hatch into baby ducks?" "Just like you and I can lose our house in a fire, the ducks lose their nest. Just like you and I can lose our lives or our families in a fire, the ducks lose their eggs."

Frog: "Frogs don't build nests up on land like ducks. Their eggs, like fish eggs, are in the water all the time. Do you think a forest fire would affect a frog? The answer is 'Yes.' Even though a frog stays in the water the heat from a fire can hurt a frog. Burning limbs and trees can fall in the water, harming the frog. Ashes from the fire and burning grasses can get in the water and cover the frog's eggs and they won't hatch. Many zillions of insects get burned up in a forest fire and what does a frog eat? Insects." "In the future the grass will grow back and make wonderful habitat for the frog. More insects will come into the area and the frog will be happy."

Fox squirrel: "A fox squirrel is one of those interesting animals that actually need a fire to burn an area to clean it up before they'll move in. If there are too many brushy, weedy plants in an area, the fox squirrel won't be able to find food. After a fire comes through an area it's just right for the fox squirrels to move in with their families. "

Black Bear: "A bear doesn't like the smell of fire so he usually just runs away when a fire is burning. It burns up the rotting logs that the bear likes to tear up looking for grubs to eat. It sometimes burns up the trees and bushes that bears like to hide in. But a fire also makes new flowers grow and the bees love to use those flowers to make honey. Bears LOVE honey! Bears also love the new berry bushes and plants that grow after a fire.

Alligator: Much the same as the duck, lives in water, lays eggs on land.
Fish: Much the same as the frog. Ashes in water, lays eggs in water.
Hawk or Owl: "One of the things that help out a hawk/owl is that much of the cover is burned off for the little animals that hawk/owls hunt, like mice and rats. With the grass burned away the little creatures don't have as many places to hide and it makes hunting just a bit easier for these birds. Hawk/owls will nest in trees and they may lose their nest in the fire but they can find food easier afterwards.

Concept: Fire Affects Animal Habitat

Tools needed: Flagging, (optional: name tags, i.e. "Food" "Water" "Cover")

Skit: "I need three tall volunteers. (use adults if they're handy) "This volunteer will be "Food" (give a roll of flagging to 'food') This volunteer will be "Water" and this volunteer will be "Cover." (one roll of flagging to each of them) "Food, Water and Cover will stand up here and make a triangle. Each one will hold their roll of flagging and another will hold the end of the flagging making a three cornered

pen." "Now I need some volunteers to be the wild animals." (Kids LOVE to be wild animals) "All the animals need to be inside the triangle of habitat. There's enough room for everyone." "But what if…." Take some of Water's flagging away "Oh no! There's a chemical spill into the water." As the flagging is removed the triangle gets smaller. "If any animals touch the flagging they have to leave the triangle of habitat." "Oh No! A forest fire has removed some of the Cover!" Take some of Cover's flagging and the triangle gets smaller. Usually some of the kids will have to leave the triangle by now. They will crowd and giggle trying not to touch the flagging. "But wait… the fire has created some new Cover and more Food." Lengthen their flagging. "There's room now for more animals!" Animals can come back into the triangle. You can use everything from a fire to cleaning the water to replanting trees or any activity that can affect the animals Food, Water and Cover.

Outdoor Clown Skit

Tools needed: Cardboard trees, small campfire, fire extinguisher, one main clown, group of clown tourists, Smokey (costume), announcer

Announcer: Well, Snuffy (or whatever your clown's name is) looks like you're going to do some camping.
Snuffy: (nods vigorously)
Announcer: I see you've got a small campfire to cook supper on.

Snuffy: (nods vigorously)
Announcer: I'm glad to see that you're being careful with your fire. My friend Smokey Bear always wants us to be careful with fire.
Snuffy: (nods vigorously)
Announcer: Uh-oh. Looks like you've got some tourists for company there Snuffy.
(Clown tourists come in and mill around Snuffy and his campfire. They stomp around push Snuffy around and generally get out of control. While doing all this a clown lights one of the cardboard trees on fire, unbeknownst to Snuffy. Finally, they troop off, leaving Snuffy.)
Announcer: Wow Snuffy, it kinda got crowded there for a minute didn't it?
Snuffy: (nods vigorously)
Announcer: Look out Snuffy! You've got a forest fire!
Snuffy: (runs around in a circle)
Announcer: You've got some help there Snuffy.
(Smokey steps out from behind the cardboard scenery, not the scenery that's on fire, by the way, and hands Snuffy a fire extinguisher and points at the fire)
Announcer: Go for it Snuffy!
(Snuffy blasts the fire with the fire extinguisher and Smokey applauds.)
Announcer: Thanks for the help Smokey (Smokey nods and touches his hat brim)
Announcer: Remember, Only you (Smokey and Snuffy point at the audience) can prevent Forest Fires!

Careful Home Planning and Construction Can Save Your Home from Wildfire

It's the perfect place for a new home – a secluded, thickly shaded neighborhood carved out of the woods. But is it wildfire safe? Before hammering the first nail check with fire prevention experts for safety tips.

Florida's plants and animals have evolved with wildfires. If your home is in a rural or natural area recognize and adapt to Florida's fire prone ecosystem, just as its natives have done for centuries.

Designing and building a new home is exciting and requires many decisions. One important decision involves wildfire defense. Designing and building with a goal to reduce the fuel that feeds a wildfire and secondly, to reduce a home's wildfire exposure can save it from wildfire.

Here are some common sense tips for new buildings or remodeling:

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible. For roof construction use Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal, or terra-cotta tiles.
- Stucco or masonry walls are much better than vinyl which can soften and melt.
- Windows are a key entry point for fire – some homes hit by wildfire actually burn from the inside out due to burning material entering the house through windows. Consider both window size and materials; double pane glass and tempered glass are better – plastic skylights can melt.
- Use non-flammable screen shutters to cover windows or skylights.
- Prevent sparks from entering your home – cover exterior vents or other openings with a wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch and box in eaves.

A wide driveway, at least 12 feet in width with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, will provide easy access for fire engines. Keep it maintained and clearly marked. Include ample turnaround space near the house.
This also can serve as a fuel break. It's best to have two different escape routes.

More than 1.4 million people have moved to Florida since 1990, making it the fourth most populated state. By 2020, 3 million to 8 million more residents are expected to move in.

Consider wildfire threat when locating a new home. For instance, setting your home at least 30 feet away from thick vegetation provides a minimum defense from the heat of a wildfire. In a neighborhood, combing open grassy areas can increase the size of a fuel break. Also, locating available water sources in rural areas can help firefighters obtain additional water, if needed.

An average of over 100,000 acres burn each year in Florida due to wildfire. In 1998's destructive fire season, over 300 homes were burned, yet thousands were saved due to either heroic efforts of firefighters, or wildfire safe home location and design.

It's not easy to remember wildfire defense when building or remolding, but early planning or construction can save your home if a wildfire attacks your house.
Pick up a checklist at your Florida Division of Forestry office or fire department near you. It's a lot easier to build a new structure right the first time, rather than a second time after returning to the ashes of your first home.

Fire Free Zone – Landscaping Survival Tactics Homeowners Can Easily Do Florida's residents clearly live in a fire prone area. In fact, much of the vegetation is termed "fire type" or "fire dependent." Fire is a natural part of Florida's ecosystem; many plant species depend on fire for regeneration.

Tragically, the recent firestorms proved the point. Wildfires claimed 337 homes and 33 businesses as over 498,000 acres burned somewhere in every county of the state.

What can homeowners do to protect themselves and their property?

Create fire free zone – fire fighters welcome "it" around homes. When a wildfire hits a subdivision or country home, it's too late to create it. Early preventive measures have proven to significantly help your homes' survival.

Remember when you camped. Being close to the campfire was hot, but it became cooler as you moved further away. The same principle applies with fire free zone..

Here's how to keep your home "cool" during a fire's blast –

- Keep trees and shrubs pruned 6 to 15 feet from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead or overhanging branches.
- Establish a large lawn area and mow your lawn regularly.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Be sure the irrigation system is well maintained.

Maintain an open "park-like" setting around your home. That creates a fire free zone. Use the ideas listed above, along with these landscape tips:

Zone 1 – 0 to 30 feet. Maintain an well-irrigated area at least 30 feet on all the sides of the home providing space for fire suppression equipment. Plantings should be limited to carefully spaced fire resistant species.

Zone 2 – Progressing past 30 feet. Use low growing fire resistant plants with the irrigation system extending into this section. Space shade trees at least 15 feet apart .

Zone 3 – Further out. Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation low.

Zone 4 – Furthest out. This zone applies to any natural area from your home. Thin selectively, and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Junipers, palms, eucalyptus, and pines are extremely combustible and should be thinned, pruned or removed Work with your local nursery, or contact a local forest fire fighting agency to learn more about available fire resistant plants.

Another added protection tip is to create "fuel breaks" like driveways, gravel walkways and lawns.

Regular maintenance increases the effectiveness of fire free zone. Help yourself survive – use these tips to help firefighters improve their chance of defending your space.

No matter where you live in Florida, you are at risk. We saw that as thousand's of homeowners went through a dramatic emotional event as they left and returned to their neighborhoods.

For further information contact your local fire fighting agencies and get the tips on FIRE FREE ZONES for you and your homes survival.

Prescribed Fire Next Door – What's the Answer?

1. Fire in Florida:

Fire is a natural part of Florida's environment – it has been for centuries, just as it is today. Society has a choice – live with it and manage it under its terms, or face the consequences.

The issue is aggravated when homes are built in rural forested and brush filled areas – where combustible homes meet combustible vegetation – the frequent situation in Florida.

Fear and terror can develop quickly when wildfires strike. Evacuations may be ordered and homes may burn. But, it's not hopeless.

2. Prescribed Fire; Taking Control:
Prescribed fire, where humans can take control, is a logical means to reduce the fuel that feeds a wildfire. Fuel in the form of wire grass, pine needles and underbrush, used to be regularly devoured by lightning-ignited fires. Fires wouldn't burn with great intensity because they had burned the year before according to fire ecologists.

Prescribed fire emulates this historic fire pattern.

In simple terms, here's how a prescribed fire is conducted:

- An area is identified.
- Trained personnel build fire lines or utilize an existing barrier.
- Firefighters gather at the site.
- The weather is checked.
- Citizens are alerted.
- If all requirements are met, a burn is conducted.

3. Balance:
The challenge is balance – with the need for controlled fire, and the concerns of society due to smoke, liabilities, and aesthetics.

4. Compromise:
Prescribed fire does produce smoke and ash and the area may look unsightly for a month or two. Local residents can expect to experience these inconveniences for only a day or two about once every two to three years. But the protection afforded by these prescribed burned areas is invaluable when a raging wildfire threatens.

5. Cheap Insurance:
Considering the alternatives in a fire prone environment, prescribed burning on a regular rotation provides an inexpensive insurance policy that local residents should not turn down.

ADD UP THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WILDFIRE AND PRESCRIBED FIRE

Average Prescribed Fire Program	***1998 Florida Wildfire Season***
1 million acres burned each year	498,000 acres burned
$5 million cost each year	$133 million estimated suppression cost

No homes destroyed	Over 150 homes destroyed
No evacuations	Thousands evacuated
No damage	Estimated $393 Million Damage
Prescribed Fires are managed controlled fires, which can help stop wildfires by burning fuel under cooler conditions	Wildfires are out of control events that feed on flammable fuels often during extreme fire danger periods

FEMA Fire Prevention Team
July 12, 1998
#1 Fire PSA

Even as weary firefighters continue to struggle to contain the wildfires that have ravaged the state, homeowners, builders and planners begin to look ahead to the rest of this fire season and indeed, on

to next year. No amount of regret can replace the homes and belongings that were lost, all we can do is prepare for the next cycle of fire.

Fire is no brash intruder to Florida, nor should it be considered so. Fire has been part of the Florida ecosystem since long before being settled by Native Americans or the Europeans that followed. The plants and animals have adapted to fire and indeed every native plant in Florida uses fire as part of its life cycle. Those plants that do not use fire are not native, but were brought from elsewhere.

Living in Florida means dealing with fire. Not keeping it from ever burning, but rather recognizing fire as a part of the ecosystem, just like rain, sun and every part of the environment. In our series of press releases, we'll discuss fire, it's importance and the art of living with fire.

FEMA Fire Prevention Team
July 13, 1998
#2 Defensible space PSA

When native plants burn, the fire assists them by germinating their seeds, exposing soil, opening cones, removing cover and returning nutrients to the soil. Animals flee fires and return to a habitat rejuvenated with new sources of food. People have not fared as well. Many times people have lost

their homes to wildfire. Can we adapt?

Protecting lives and homes is our primary concern but generally, our homes are simply not fireproof. To protect our homes we need to create ‘defensible space.’

Defensible space is an area around a structure that is cleared of flammable objects. A carefully landscaped, uncluttered yard creates a protective ring around your home that fire has a hard time crossing. It also enables firefighters to lay hoselines around your house, reduces the intensity of radiating heat and reduces the chance of flame contact to your home.

Defensible space has several components.

Fuel break: an area devoid of burnable material. Wider fuel breaks are needed around buildings located in areas of dense forest.

Fire resistant plants: Fire resistant plants have little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation; open, loose branching habit; high moisture content in leaves; drought tolerance; slow growth requiring less pruning; nonresinous woody material and should be kept at least 10 feet away from the house.

Landscaping and Trimming: removing all dead and dying vegetation and removing branches of trees to a height of 15 feet to prevent fire from climbing. Placing shrubs at least 15 feet apart is also recommended.

Following these simple suggestions will increase your home’s chances for survival should wildfire occur.

FEMA Fire Prevention Team
July 13, 1998
#3 The Roof PSA

It’s often said, “the best defense is a good offense.” We need to think about defending our homes from wildfire. Before a wildfire starts near your home, check for weaknesses in your fire defense.

One of the easiest places for wildfire to attack your home is the roof. Cedar shakes and shingles are especially vulnerable to fire when flaming embers land on them. A spark or ember can land, your roof cans combust and your entire home can be burning in a matter of minutes.

Before this happens there are things you can do to protect your home.

_ Fire retardant chemicals should be used to treat highly combustible materials such as cedar shakes and shingles, wood siding and exterior wood paneling.

_ Cleaning roof surfaces and gutters will keep flammable material, such as leaves or needles, from building up and giving fire a place to start.

_ Removing limbs that hang over your roof and especially near your chimney will also help.

_ Placing a spark arrester on your chimney will help keep sparks off your roof.

5) Cleaning your chimney at least once a year will keep creosote from building up and creating a fire hazard.

THE RANGER SAYS ¼ ¼ ..

(Editors note) As firefighters continue to struggle to mop up and monitor the wildfires that have ravaged the state of Florida, homeowners, builders and planners begin the recovery process. Looking ahead is not easy. No amount of regret can replace the homes and other personal property lost in the fires. The only course of action is to plan for the next cycle of fire.

Fire is no brash intruder to Florida, nor should it be considered so. Fire has been part of the State's ecosystem since long before being settled by Native Americans or the Europeans that followed. The plants and animals have adapted to fire and indeed every native plant in Florida uses fire as part of its cycle of life. Those plants which do not use fire are not native, but were brought from elsewhere.

Living in Florida means dealing with fire. Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem…like rain, sun and every integral part of the environment. A series of information pieces in "The Ranger Says…" will discuss fire, its importance and the art of living with fire.

Item I

THE RANGER SAYS….

FIRE SAFE HOMES HAVE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

When native plants burn, the fire assists them by germinating their seeds, exposing soil, opening cones, removing cover and returning nutrients to the soil. Animals flee fires and return to a habitat rejuvenated with new sources of food. People have not fared as well. Many times people have lost their homes to wildfire. Can we adapt?

Protecting lives and homes is our primary concern but generally, our homes are simply not fireproof! To protect homes we must create 'defensible space;' an area around a structure cleared of flammable objects. A carefully landscaped, uncluttered yard creates a protective ring around your home that fire has a hard time crossing. It also enables firefighters to lay hoselines around your house, reduces the intensity of radiating heat and reduces the chance of flame contact to the dwelling.

Following these simple procedures will increase your home's chances for survival should wildfire occur. Components of creating defensible space:

Fuel break: an area devoid of burnable material. Wider fuel breaks are needed around buildings located in areas of dense vegetation and forests.

Fire resistant plants: resistant to burning; have little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation; open, loose branching pattern; high moisture content in leaves; drought tolerance; slow growth requiring less pruning; nonresinous woody material and should be kept at least 10 feet away from the house and outbuildings.

Landscaping and trimming: remove all dead and dying vegetation and removing branches of trees to a height of 15 feet to prevent fire from climbing. Placing shrubs at least 15 feet apart is also recommended.

Item II

THE RANGER SAYS….

START AT THE TOP

It is often said, "the best defense is a good offense." We need to *think* about defending our homes from wildfire. Identify all the weaknesses in your home's fire defense before a wildfire starts near you.

One of the easiest places for wildfire to attack your home is the roof. A spark or ember landing on a

roof can start combustion. Your entire home could be burning in a matter of minutes.

Things you can do to fire safe your home from the top down:

_ Fire retardant chemicals should be used to treat highly combustible materials such as wood siding and exterior wood paneling, especially on wooden porches or decks.

_ Cleaning roof surfaces and gutters will keep flammable materials like leaves or needles from building up and giving fire a place to start.

_ Removing limbs that hang over your roof and especially near your chimney will also help.

_ Placing a spark arrester on your chimney will help keep sparks off the roof.

_ Be aware that vinyl soffits can melt and allow sparks to enter your attic.

Item III
THE RANGER SAYS….
FIRE PREVENTION STARTS WITH THE WEATHER!

One of the main ways we judge fire danger is by a scientific method called the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (K-BDI). It is a scale that goes from 0, which means no drought at all to 800, which means, "**desert."** The scale is based on using observations of the following: Maximum Daily Temperature (how hot is it today?), Daily Precipitation (Did it rain? How much?), Historical Precipitation (Did it rain last year? How much?) and Annual Precipitation (How much rain have we got so far this year?). These factors add up to the K-BDI score. The lower the score the safer the fire danger and the higher

the score the greater the fire danger. In 1998, at the time the wildfires began the K-BDI score was well above 700.

Firefighters use the K-BDI score to plan for wildfires. As the K-BDI score gets higher and higher, fires start much easier, become large faster, move faster and are more difficult to put out. Firefighters and Fire Managers must plan ahead for these fires. It takes more engines, more air support, more hand crews and more tractors to attack and beat fires down.

When you see the K-BDI begin to climb, prepare yourself for a hot summer. Be aware that fire restrictions may be put in place for everyone's protection. Re-check fire safety situation around your house and be extra careful with fire. Every big fire starts as a small one, somewhere.

Item IV
THE RANGER SAYS….
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE TO EVACUATE?

As we have seen in the fire season of '98 evacuation is the something we may have to do to save our families lives. There is no tree, no forest and no house that is worth losing your life for. Some preparation can ensure your evacuation goes smoothly and safely.
STAY CALM!

1) Pre Plan. Before an evacuation have a signal and meeting location known by all family members

so everyone is accounted for before evacuating.

2) Where? Find out where you are going to when you evacuate, and how to get there. Be aware of emergency equipment and personnel.

3) Close up. Close all doors and windows but leave doors unlocked so embers cannot enter, but firefighters can. Cover all exterior vents if you have time. Embers can drift through these vents and ignite your home.

4) Close heavy drapes and blinds. Remove from windows light or lace type curtains and move furniture away from windows

5) Put all flammable lawn furniture in the house or garage. Close garage door and disconnect electric door openers.

6) Turn off the gas or propane. Leave electricity on for lights and water pumps.

7) Put your ladders and connected hoses outside so firefighters can use them.

8) If you have to leave a vehicle, boat, or RV have them parked away from structures. Vehicles should be facing direction of departure and have the keys in the ignition.

9) Make sure all vehicle windows are closed!

10) Clear flammable material away from perimeter of home and structures.

11) Locate and mark hazardous materials, septic tanks, water sources, etc.

12) Keep your driveway or access roads clear for fire equipment.

13) Leave a note or spray paint on the gravel or driveway where you went and phone number.

14) Leave the porch light on. This can be a prearranged signal to firefighters that you have evacuated or to make them aware of your home's location.

Item V
THE RANGER SAYS….
KIDS CAN HELP TOO!

There are many ways kids can help be prepared for wildfire. Most of the things we've discussed in this series are jobs for grown ups but, kids are important helpers in fire prevention. Here are a few ways kids can help.

- Kids can help by keeping their toys, bikes and belongings out of the driveway so firefighters and their equipment can come through.

_ Kids can help by remembering their assigned meeting place and by coming promptly upon hearing the signal.

_ Kids can help by never playing with matches, lighters or any fire. If kids find matches, lighters or fire they can immediately tell a grownup that they know.

_ Kids can help by staying calm during an emergency and listening to the instructions given to them by their parents. A family needs to work together as a team in a fire emergency.

_ Kids can help by telling their friends about fire prevention and sharing their knowledge about what to do in a fire emergency.

Item VI
THE RANGER SAYS….
FIRESAFE LANDSCAPING BRINGS ZONE OF SAFETY!

An uncluttered yard, landscaped with fire resistant trees and shrubs is a zone of safety around your home. Remember, there are no *fireproof* plants, and in Florida, *green plants and trees can burn!* Here are a few recommended trees and shrubs that are rather fire-resistant and are attractive additions to your yard.

_ Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*): is a small tree or shrub found over central and western

Florida. It flowers in late summer or winter in small clusters of yellow, long petaled flowers.

- Holly (*Ilex opaca*): grows on hammocks and other rich damp soils over northern and upper middle Florida. It has a striking dark green color, especially lovely when well laden with the conspicuous red berries.
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*): grows from Maine to Oklahoma including the western part of Florida. It is a small tree usually only 20 to 30 feet tall. It produces white flowers in early spring and the fruit is edible.
- Oak (*Quercus spp*.): There are many oaks that grow in Florida, Overcup Oak, Post Oak, Bluejack Oak and Turkey Oak, to name a few. In sizes from medium to large, the oak is an excellent addition to a landscape
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*): a large, frequently used forest tree. It occurs in Florida as far south as Tampa Bay and Cape Canaveral. It has a simple, star-shaped leaf that is very aromatic. In the fall the coloring is brilliant.
- Walnut (*Juglans nigra*): This valuable forest tree is native to western Florida. The heartwood is of superior quality and value. It is highly prized for a great variety of uses, including furniture, cabinet work, gun stocks and even airplane propellers.

These are just a few of the many fire resistant trees of Florida. Check with your local Forester and your local professional landscaper for more suggestions. *The trees used as examples are found in "Forest Trees of Florida" published by the Florida Division of Forestry, updated in 1997.*

Item VII
THE RANGER SAYS¼.
SMOKEY BEAR WAS RIGHT (AND HE STILL IS!!)

It seems to be popular nowadays for people to lean back in their chair and tell us that "Smokey Bear Was Wrong." Being somewhat contrary in nature, I ask, "How was he wrong?" People very pointedly tell me that "not all fires are bad," "prescribed fire is a useful tool," and the ever-popular, "some fires should be allowed to burn." "Smokey's heavy handed policy of complete and total exclusion of fire from forests is bad for the land."
Having been raised to be polite I do not slap my knee and hoot with laughter until the tears stream

down my face nor do I slap my forehead and allow the steam to shoot from my ears. I simply ask them to describe for me the meeting in Washington DC in which a shovel-wielding bear dictates suppression policy for the management of American forests. Guess what! They can't! Then I ask them to describe the Smokey Bear poster, commercial or other source in which Smokey says, "All fire is bad." Guess what! They still can't! Then I ask them to tell me when and where Smokey said, "Do not use prescribed fire." or "Do not allow any fires to burn." Guess what! They still can't! Do you know why they can't? It's because Smokey Bear has NEVER said any of those things. NEVER. I know because I looked. If the folks accusing Smokey of these things looked, they would also know. Smokey Bear is a very public image that people associate with wildfire and rightly so. He fills a very specific role in protecting our forests. His job is to teach children not to play with matches, or lighters, or fire in any form. His job is to tell visitors to the forest to be careful with fire, matches, lighters, smoking things like cigarettes and fire in any form. That is what Smokey does. He doesn't set policy, he doesn't train firefighters, he doesn't pass judgement on what fires should burn and what fire shouldn't, he doesn't issue blanket condemnations on prescribed fire.
I would not tell people that these fires should not be fought. Those folks who tragically lost their homes in the siege of '98 would not say this either. Neither would Smokey. He would ask you and your children to please be careful with fire.
Is that wrong?

Five Night TV Series: Recommended Script

PROPOSAL: Develop a five night series for television that will focus on living in the Wildland Urban Interface. Target audience is adults. The series would air Monday through Friday evenings. The first four nights have two-minute segments and Friday's segment is a three-minute review of the series. Times and scripts can be adjusted to fit public service time available.

SERIES TOPICS:
Monday: Fire Safe Homes Have Defensible Space.
Tuesday: Start at the Top
Wednesday: Fire Safe Landscaping Brings Zone of Safety

Thursday: Evacuations…..What should I do?
Friday: Summary of segments1-4, stressing the importance of maintaining your Zone of Safety.

SERIES IDEAS/RECOMMENDATIONS:
Airing the five-segment series in Florida prior to a statewide, weekend clean-up could be very effective. The public is given instructions to guide them through creating a zone of safety around their home; most which can be completed in a weekend. Using "The Ranger Says" news release and public service announcement series during the same week would reinforce the message and reach a larger audience.

During the five night series, a Florida home located in the wildland/urban interface with no fire-free zone, would be used as a model. Actual work on the property would demonstrate how simply a homeowner can make a transformation on their own property. By the end of the 4th segment, this worse case scenario becomes an example of a model home in the wildland/urban interface. Topic 1) How to create a zone of safety (defensible space) around the house. Topic 2) Concentrate on the roof. Topic 3) Fire safe landscaping and recommendations for using fire resistant vegetation. Topic 4) Preparing the family and their home for evacuation. Topic 5) Review of highlights covered during the week. It ends with a major pitch for the upcoming weekend clean up..

Recruit help and donations then recognize people or businesses who provide materials and volunteer time to change the model home into one is defensible during a wildfire situation. Establish a corporate partnership to help with funding. Estimated cost for this project would be $7,000 for filming, producing, and buying television time. There may be little or no cost to an agency when a corporate sponsor is involved. Often, television stations will give public service time to the project, especially in a small market.

Publicity for the series can be done through news releases, PSA's Florida DOF webpage and local TV channels. The public would be encouraged to get additional Wildland /Urban Interface information by accessing the Florida DOF webpage, displayed during each program segment. Explore a local cable channel such as Christian or home and garden network as an alternative to approaching a major network

SCRIPTING THE SEGMENTS:
THE PITCH: Use a catchy lead, "LIKE A MOTH TO THE FLAME" fire is naturally attracted to homes crowded with vegetation and other flammable materials. But you can quell this steamy romance before it combusts by simply restricting contact. Create a "Defensible Space" around your home by clearing away debris, brush and wood. This separation not only discourages the spread of wildfire, it also provides a zone of safety for firefighters. Have a personal theme with the word YOU in it. Some ideas would be, "Fire Protection Starts with YOU", "YOU can make a difference", "It could happen to YOU", "A zone of safety starts with YOU."

Monday: Fire Safe Homes Have Defensible Space: Show a family creating a zone of safety around their home by mowing the lawn, pruning and thinning trees and shrubs within a 30 foot area of the house and away from outbuildings such as garages, sheds, barns, etc. The family is removing dead

and dying vegetation, bagging it into bags and putting it in the back of the truck for transporting to the dump.

Script: Protecting lives and homes is our primary concern but generally, our homes are simply not fireproof! To protect homes we must create “defensible space,” an area around a structure cleared of flammable objects. A carefully landscaped, uncluttered yard becomes a protective ring around your home that fire has a hard time crossing.
Following these simple procedures will increase your home’s chances for survival should wildfire occur.

Fuel break: an area devoid of burnable material. Wider fuel breaks are needed around buildings located in areas of dense vegetation and forests. Recommend at least 30 feet.
Landscaping and trimming: remove all dead and dying vegetation and removing branches of trees to a height of 15 feet to prevent fire from climbing. Placing shrubs at least 15 feet apart is also recommended.

Tuesday: Start at the Top**.** Ideas here are to show a company treating a combustible material such as wood siding, deck or roof. Show adults up on the roof cleaning the surface and gutters where needles or leaves have accumulated. Removing branches that hang over the roof and chimney, placing a screen over the chimney to keep sparks off the roof.

Script: It is often said, “the best defense is a good offense.” We need to think about defending our homes from wildfire. Identify all the weaknesses in your home’s fire defense before a wildfire starts near you. One of the easiest places for wildfire to attack your home is the roof. A spark or ember landing on a roof can start combustion. Your entire home could be burning in a matter of minutes.

Prevention measures you can do to fire safe your home from the top down:

- Fire retardant chemicals should be used to treat highly combustible materials such as wood siding and exterior wood paneling, especially on wooden porches or decks.
- Cleaning roof surfaces and gutters will keep flammable materials like leaves or needles from building up and giving fire a place to start.
- Removing limbs that hang over your roof and especially near your chimney will also help.
- Placing a spark arrester on your chimney will help keep sparks off the roof.

Wednesday: Firesafe Landscaping Brings Zone of Safety: Show a nursery or landscaping professional advising the adults on what kind of plants are fire resistant and as well as attractive in the yard. Explain the proper planting of the vegetation, spacing vegetation at least 10 feet away from the home, use of slow growing plants with high moisture content. Remind homeowners that nothing is guaranteed; GREEN burns in Florida!
Script: An uncluttered yard, landscaped with fire resistant trees and shrubs is a zone of safety around your home. Remember there are no fireproof plants, and in Florida, green plants and trees can burn! Here are a few recommended trees and shrubs which are somewhat fire-resistant, yet attractive in your yard. (Cut to a landscaping professional talking about the types of plants and trees they would suggest.)

Thursday: Evacuations...What should I do? Start this segment by stressing the importance of preplanning for family evacuation. Show a family inside a house talking about their evacuation plan. For example: define a meeting location outside the house that is known by all family members; choose a designated person to call 911 and where they call will be made from and decide what to do if the primary exit from the home is cut off. Following the family as they prepare to evacuate the home by shutting off the gas or propane, putting ladders and connected hoses outside so firefighters can use them; closing drapes and blinds and keeping the driveway and access roads clear for fire equipment.

Script: As we have seen in the fire season of 1998 evacuation is something we may have to do to save our families lives. There is no tree, no forest and no house that is worth as much as a life. Being prepared can ensure your evacuation goes smoothly and safely. STAY CALM!

- Pre Plan. Before an evacuation have a signal and meeting location known by all family members so everyone is accounted for before evacuating. Designate one person to call 911 and from where the phone call will be made, such as the neighbor's, car or cellular phone.
- Close all doors and windows but leave doors unlocked so embers cannot enter, but firefighters can.
- Close heavy drapes and blinds. Remove from windows light or lace type curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- Turn off gas or propane. Leave electricity on for lights and water pumps.
- Put your ladders and connected hose outside so firefighters can use them.
- Clear flammables away from perimeter of homes and structures.
- Keep your driveway or access roads clear for fire equipment.

Friday Review: This segment reviews the key points of the series and promotes the upcoming weekend clean up. A key component of the entire series is to stress the importance of MAINTAINING a zone of safety.
Script: This week we have shown you how to protect your family and home from wildfire. Living in Florida means dealing with fire so it is not a question of IF, but WHEN. Preparation, Planning and Maintaining are the keys to maintaining a ZONE of SAFETY. As part of the ……public education campaign, February ….. is designated as "Fire Free Clean-up Weekend". The clean-up events are part of a Florida program to encourage the public to create defensible space around homes and reduce the risk of wildfire.

GETTING IT TOGETHER:

1. Designate a clean-up weekend.
2. Sponsoring agency finds sponsors, partners and a television station to air the messages.
3. Script is approved
4. A family and model home is cleared for filming
5. Filming is done and publicity is in high gear
6. Program is aired

Editors note: ***I have been involved with a program similar to this in a city in central Oregon. Bend, OR has a population of 35,000. It is located in the fastest growing county in the State. The program outlined here enjoys continued success in Bend. The Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative has been using it for the past 8 years. Cathy OBrien (541) 383-4736***

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW AND REPRINTED PRODUCTS

New Product Bookmark
Purpose: to be used as a stuffer in utility bills and distributed to neighborhood libraries
Target Audience: adult homeowners in areas most effected by the 1998 fires
Message: Be Fire Safe in the Interface
LOGO: Use an illustration similar to attached sample of “Wildfire Strikes Home” or “Wildfire: Don’t Let It Get Too Close To Home.”

SUGGESTED TEXT FOR BACK OF 7” X 2” BOOKMARK:

Illustration as noted above under	Create and maintain a fire safe zone around your home....

"LOGO" FRONT	Remove flammable vegetation for a minimum of 30 feet Prune lower limbs and those hanging over roof and chimney Clear gutters and roof of leaves and needles Landscape with fire resistant plants Store firewood and flammable products 30-100 feet from your house Use fire resistant building materials for roofs, porches and soffets For information contact.................. www.fl-dof.com BACK

Reprint: Fire Safe in the Interface Door hanger
New Product Door hanger: 5 ½" X 8 ½"
Purpose: to be used when prescribed fires will be ignited in wildland/urban interface neighborhood
Target Audience: Adult homeowners in wooded areas
Message: Personal contact with public to advise them of planned prescribed fire

WE STOPPED BY¼ ¼ .. **Date ____** **Time_____** (ILLUSTRATION) see attached sample Agency Logo Cooperator's Logo Front	**Dear Neighbor:** **We are planning a prescribed fire in a nearby area. We will try to minimize any temporary inconvenience to you.** **Our goal is to use fire under controlled conditions for its beneficial effects. Some of these are:** **Reducing the risk of loss to home, recreation areas and wood products from wildfire** **Removing hazardous flammable material** **Controlling tree diseases** **Assuring new growth of Florida's fire dependant plants and trees** **Enhancing wildlife habitat** **PLANNED BURN DATE:** **_____** **For more information contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry –3125 Connor Blvd- Tallahassee FL 32399-1650 or visit our website: www.fl-dof.com** **Back**

Product Reprint, Revision or Replacement

Door hanger: 5 ½" X 8 ½"

Purpose: "Good Fire vs Bad Fire" text and illustrations explain the difference between unwanted wildfire and the benefits of prescribed burning.

Target Audience: Adult homeowners in wooded areas and neighborhoods

Message: Wild fire is destructive while prescribed fire is beneficial.

Recommendation: that a more direct and personal approach to prescribed fire be used such as in the attached sample of a door hanger addressed to, "Dear Neighbor."

If the choice is to reprint the "Good Fire vs Bad Fire" door hanger, the recommended changes are:

_ Changing the message to something like, "Don't be responsible for, (or prevent) unwanted, destructive wildfires" would be more user friendly than Good Fire vs Bad Fire. Concern is that wildfire is often a natural occurrence and is not always bad. People may be confused when fires are allowed to burn out or progress without aggressive attack.

_ Remove the hurricane logo

_ Add the Division of Forestry website address: www.fl-dof.com

_ Removing timely information like the name of public officials to increase the life of the product.

_ Update the statistical information if needed

Reprint: Mobile Home Fire Safety

Brochure

Purpose: Product is a tool used to assist mobile home owners identify and rectify hazardous conditions in and around their home. The only mention of being fire safe in the urban/wildland interface is: “Don’t allow forest vegetation to grow within 30 feet of house.” Another bullet point is on skirting the mobile home and removing debris and vegetation from beneath the home, which is somewhat, related.

Target Audience: Adult mobile homeowners

Message: Geared to specific situation (mobile homes) rather than prescribed fire or wildland/urban interface situations.

Recommendation: The Division of Forestry should provide a message across the top of the illustration: “Is your neighborhood a fire safe zone.?” Also need contact numbers and addresses and/or website address(s).

Perhaps one of the other sponsoring agencies for this brochure should take the lead on reprinting and distribution.

Reprint: Woodland Homes Fire Safety

Brochure

Purpose: Product contains a large amount of information on how to be a good neighbor with fire in a woodland setting and the way to create a fire safe zone around a woodland home.

Target audience: Adults who have homes in forested areas

Before reprinting:

_ Check statistical information which may have changed since the 1998 fires
_ Provide a physical address or website for assistance or information
_ The reference to “sin” may be offensive to some individuals. Consider using a different term such as “problem” or “challenge”
_ Division of Forestry may consider having one of the cooperative agencies take the lead on reprinting this brochure.

Note: After reviewing the woodland and mobile home brochures on fire safety, it became apparent that an additional publication would be warranted in this series. It would target individuals who are building, remodeling or planning to construct a home in a woodland area. They could be directed to build with fire resistant materials, purchase adequate insurance, make sure a water hydrant is in close proximity to their home site, prune and remove trees and plants to create a fire safe zone, and landscape with fire resistant vegetation. The issues of trash removal -vs- burning barrels and burning laws could also be covered in the brochure. A cooperator or private business, such as a contractor or landscaper, may be willing to sponsor the production of the brochure.

Reprint: Know the Law Before You Strike That Match in a Non-rural County

Brochure: Bilingual, Spanish and English

Target Audience: Adults in non-rural or urban counties who may have a reason to do outdoor burning
Purpose: To inform people in Florida about the State and county burning laws and regulations.
Message: Many people are not aware of Florida's outdoor burning regulations and forest protection laws. The brochure cites the laws and regulations and gives instructions on safe methods the proper implements
Required to conduct burning.

Recommendations:

- Add website: www.fl-dof.com
- Change from light green to a more readable color for the elderly or color deficient individuals.
- Change from a list of Division of Forestry offices to: Call your local DOF office. (one reference) Use the space freed up to spread out other information.

Reprint: Know the Law Before You Strike That Match in a Rural County Brochure
Purpose: To make people aware of Florida's outdoor burning regulations, the proper way to burn, and when and where burning is permitted.
Target Audience: Adults who have reason to conduct a burn in rural areas of Florida
Message: Cites Florida's burning laws and regulations and instructs rural residents/property owners on ways to safely burn and the implements to use.

Recommendation: Reprint after making the following changes:

Change from a list of Division of Forestry offices to: Contact your local DOF office, and use the space freed up to spread out other information.

Add the Division of Forestry website address: www.fl-dof.com

Product Reprint, Revise or Replace
Brochure: "Prescribed Fire in the Wildland/Urban Interface"

Purpose: Descriptive narrative of WUI and Rx Fire

Target Audience: Adults who may be affected by or, who have interest in wildland-interface fire

Message: Florida has a fire dependent and a unique weather system.

The prevention of destructive wildfire can save lives, property and natural resources.

Prescribed fire helps reduce fuel buildup, thus reducing the incidence of destructive wildfire.

Recommendations: This brochure is geared to well educated, sophisticated adults who are familiar with uncommon terms and references such as, "societal values," "combustible vegetation," and "decimates." It is written somewhat above the norm of a targeted general public, which is at an 8th grade reader level. Much of this brochure's information can be found in other products, fact sheets, door hangers and publications and misc. brochures. After spending time with people in rural communities in Florida, it is the consensus of the Fire Prevention Team that a general audience would find a simple, direct message on prescribed fire in the wildland/urban interface more beneficial. However, if this product is used as a support piece to take-along after a video or other presentation, then its message can be comfortably assimilated by an adult audience.

Appendix G: MARKETING RECOMMENDATIONS

Our Recommendations are based on a three to five year plan to be implemented by DOF:

1) Hire a professional marketing firm.

2) Clearly define your goals and objectives for Prescribed Fire, and Fire Prevention, citing education, cooperation and communication as key principles.
3) Have the marketing firm identify the audience based on the loactions of the hazard areas. List specific target groups such as elderly-retired, tourists, new comers, absentee owners . Remember that each of these individuals can be reached with information in some manner. For example, all must have utilities, some are affiliated with churches, civic organizations or other special interest groups. They drive on roads, read signs, sleep somewhere and purchase meals.

The marketing firm will ask the program coordinator key questions to help define the demographics of the target audience, guide through the processes of identification of priorities, design your products and campaigns, save valuable time, money and technical headaches..

MARKETING THEME: FIRE FREE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

- WHO: Division Forestry- Cooperative Agencies (state, federal, community), the public…civic clubs and organizations, law enforcement and emergency management agencies, etc.

- WHAT: Commitment to work collectively toward creating fire free communities through a combined program using fire prevention and prescribed fire. Promote awareness and education in an encompassing professional format.

- WHEN: Start now while the fires of 1998 are fresh in people's minds. Build toward a program for the future that contains prioritized, long-term goals.

- WHERE: Concentrate on woodland neighborhoods in the wildland/urban interface in areas with large fire history and growing populations.

- WHY: Create fire safe communities and maintain healthy woodland/prairie ecosystems. Key…prevent loss of lives, property and natural resources to unwanted destructive wildfire. See Florida Statutes 590.026(6b).

- HOW:
  - ❑ Clearly identify the target audience
  - ❑ Tools and techniques are geared to target audience
  - ❑ Time line is realistic for completion of tasks and projects
  - ❑ Workforce is in place to champion and complete priority projects
  - ❑ Budget is realistic and firmly committed three to five years in advance
  - ❑ Politicians, community leaders and agency heads have ownership and a role of stewardship in fire prevention and prescribed fire projects and promotions.
  - ❑ People are recognized for their "individual" efforts and successes are celebrated.
  - ❑ A communications plan is in place that provides for recording progress, monitoring results and maintaining a network of information sharing.

PARTS AND PIECES TICKLER LIST

This is by no means an all encompassing list ¼. It is meant to stimulate discussion and creative thinking. See Wildfire Prevention Strategies, NFES 1572, March 1998.

MEDIA:

- ❑ Radio,
- ❑ Television
- ❑ Newspaper
- ❑ Billboards
- ❑ Newsletters
- ❑ Trade and Business Publications and More
- ❑ Media field trips
- ❑ Talk Shows
- ❑ Purchase advertising space and ask for Public Service space
- ❑ Offer news releases, photos and video clips
- ❑ Offer a series similar to "The Ranger Says" to all types of media sources

MEDIUMS AND PRODUCTS,

- ❑ Brochures
- ❑ Promotional give-a-ways
- ❑ Posters
- ❑ Fact sheets
- ❑ Check-off and interactive lists
- ❑ Utility bill insets and other mailers
- ❑ Door hangers
- ❑ Visuals- displays, charts, tables, graphs,
- ❑ Pre-formatted presentations
- ❑ Teaching aids and journals (similar to "Fire in Florida's Ecosystem")
- ❑ Picture stories, comic books, coloring books
- ❑ Aggressive DOF road side sign program. Use current CFFP signing
- ❑ Use state fleet vehicles to display prevention logo or message

TECHNICAL EXCHANGES AND ASSISTANCE

- ❑ Severity Mapping
- ❑ Field demonstrations with other agencies/departments
- ❑ Cross training, especially before, during and after prescribed burns
- ❑ Web site, advertising web site location and do timely updates of the site
- ❑ Expert personnel detail exchanges
- ❑ GIS and GPS fire hazard inventory and mapping

CONTACTS

- ❑ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mitigation Team
- ❑ Florida Department of Emergency Management (FEDM) Mitigation Team

- ❑ Department of Defense
- ❑ American Red Cross
- ❑ Volunteer and Municipal Fire Departments
- ❑ Insurance Companies
- ❑ Land developers
- ❑ Nature, habitat and wildlife clubs or associations
- ❑ Contractors
- ❑ Landscapers
- ❑ Building supply, lumber yards, hardware stores
- ❑ Utility companies
- ❑ Railroads
- ❑ Cooperating Agencies
- ❑ Schools and Universities
- ❑ Organizations and Civic Groups
- ❑ Rural Cooperatives
- ❑ Departments of tourism
- ❑ Merchants and retailers

Appendix H: FIRE PREVENTION TASKS
Revised 7/29/98

UNIT Florida Division of Forestry PLANNING PERIOD July 1998 DATE SUBMITTED 29 July 1998

PREPARED BY National Fire Prevention Team APPROVED BY TEAM DATE APPROVED 29 July 1998

Status Code: A=Accomplished P=Proposed O=Ongoing

TASKS

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (Short Term Goals)	STATUS	NOTES	TEAM MEMBER	DUE DATE	DONE
Series "The Ranger Says" articles in the newspaper and audio on the radio. Series on how to protect your home in the wildland urban interface.	A	Waiting on approval from Dept. of Ag. Deputy of Consumer Affairs.	Jimmy/Merle	7/19	7/22
Ad Council PSA's sent out to the hardest-hit DOF districts with instructions to Prevention Specialists on distribution.	A	Instructions ask Prevention Specialists to use PSA #4.	Merle	7/20	7/20
WUI and Smokey Bear materials sent to the following DOF districts: Flagler, Orlando & Jackonville	A		Team		7/16-17
Purchase Wildfire Strikes Home and Smokey Bear material for all 15 DOF districts and bureau.	A	order faxed to Cache	Teresa		7/16
Purchase Smokey Bear lapel pins for 15 districts/bureau	A	order faxed to Valley Casting	Teresa		7/16
Contact media and individuals who can provide team with testimonials, photos, footage of homes that were saved due to defensible space, RX burning, etc.	P/O	Team pursuing leads. "History repeats itself"	Team		

Team travels to Palm Coast for photos, gather info. on wildland urban interface success stories and identify opportunities.	A	Jimmye, Teresa, DC and Jim Brenner, DOF	Team		7/17-18
Tasks (What is going to be done)		**Notes**	**Who**	**Due Date**	**Done**
Develop a "Neighborhood Watch" type network	O	modeled after R3 program	Teresa		
Web.site articles on how to protect your home from wildlfire in the wildland urban interface.	A	Florida DOF webmaster	DC		7/24
Establish state-wide phone # to obtain packet of Wildland Urban Interface information. Callers would punch in the first three letters of their county and that would determine what information would be most useful to them.	P	Recommendation: 1-800-Firesafe	DOF		
Contact local utilities/insurance companies. re: fire prevention message insert into billing statements.	P	Bookmark size would fit into the statements .	Merle		
Develop program format for 5 night series on WUI interface issues. Target audience is adults.	A	Cathy will send reference material from home.	Cathy	7/27	
Develop a inventory mailing list of homeowner associations based on a program used in R-3.	P	Teresa to contact R-3 zone where she worked in 96.	Teresa		
Contact Richard Petty associates regarding poster for the Daytona 500 race to be held in October. Race was postponed due to fire. Track used for staging area. Theme for poster would be "Stay on track with fire prevention" Contact race officials to explore distributing Pepsi cups, checkered bandannas and a Smokey appearance.	P/O	Merle pursuing leads on contacting Richard Petty and Associates.	Merle		
Explore Cooperator Newsletters where WUI articles could be published. Establish cooperative ties if needed.	P	Fire Chiefs, Rural Fire Dept., County Extension, Insurance	Teresa		

		Company's, Homeowner Association..			
Road trip to Oscar Schierer and Myakka River State Parks. Meet with Prescribed Fire Land Managers.	A	Highlights recorded and included in report	Cathy, Pete & Jim Brenner		7/24-25
Conference call with District Prevention Specialist's . Explain National Prev. Team and request input.	A	Highlights recorded and included in report.	Team	7/23/98	
Compile 20 copies of Fire Safe Community Awareness Program. Distribute to each DOF District official.	P	Local slides.	Teresa		
Partnership with grocery store chain(s) for distribution of WUI message on brown/plastic grocery bags..	P	Publix, Food Lion, Windlinx.	Cathy		7/27
Kids PSA radio contest	A	DOF put on webpage.	DC		7/24
Activities from Children's Fire Safety Activity Book.	P	Graphics from CD ROM linked to DOF webpage.	DOF		
Landscaping/home column for newspaper.	A		Dave/Merle		7/22
Contact Florida State University on interactive CD that is being developed with Pat Durland.	P	Waiting for phone call.	Pete		
Contact Bob Valen on interactive CD he has developed.	P		Pete		
WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE **Long Term Goals**					
Palm Coast 85/Palm Coast 89/Palm Coast 98 comparison developed into storyboard for 15-30 second PSA's.	A	TV/radio	Jimmye		7/24/98
Develop logo and slogan for statewide campaign with community implementation. Model after "Fire Free-Get in the Zone"	P	Hire marketing firm. Products & program tie to logo/slogan	DOF		
continued Defensible space and/or RX fire newspaper ad. Research sponsorships possibilities.	P	"part of the whole"	Team		

Develop and expand on prevention clown program. Buy materials, train personnel and write scripts.	P	Scripts completed.	Jimmye		
Hire a coordinator, staff and marketing firm to support a statewide program such as "Fire Free-Get in the Zone". Statewide campaign with local implementation.	P	tie in with Fire Prevention week in October or before fire season.	Team (outline) Florida (sponsor)		
Conduct P-301 workshops when software becomes available.	P	build KBDI triggers into the plan.	Pete		
Billboards with Wildland Urban Interface message.	A		Teresa		7/25
Present information and instruction on products, materials, resources that team develops.	P	Introduce at November, 98 Fire Prevention Conf.	Matt		
PRESCRIBED FIRE **Short Term Goals**					
Provide DOF districts and fire complexes with materials on RX burning benefits.	A	Distributed material to Flagler, Jacksonville and Orlando	Teresa/Cathy		
Update/Reprint of Good Fire.. Bad Fire Doorhanger,	A	will be used prior to RX burning where wildland urban interface homes are present.	Merle		7/25
Update/Reprint RX Fire in the Wildland Urban Interface brochure.	A	Could be used for variety of audiences. Ready to print.	Merle		7/25
Update/reprint Burn Barrel flyer.	A	guide on how to debris burn safely. Ready to print.	Merle		7/25
Update/reprint Fire Safe in the Interface.	A	tips on building defensible space around your home. Ready to print.	Merle		7/25
Update/reprint Mobile Home Firesafety	A	Used in areas where mobile homes are present. Ready to print.	Merle		7/25/

Update/reprint Woodland Homes Fire Safety.	A	Used in areas where homes are located in a fire prone area. Ready to print.	Merle		7/25
Sponsor a “Why we Burn?” day for media/cooperators and home owners.	A		Cathy		7/26
Work with Jim Brenner on PowerPoint Presentation “Why we burn”	P	Audience is schools, rural fire districts, city fire depts. homeowners associations, service groups.	Pete		
Hire staff to expand and implement School curriculum titled “Fire in Florida’s Ecosystems” for Grades 4-8. Develop student workbook, hold workshops, train the trainer.	P	work with Jim Brenner to expand, work on outline and develop budget. .	DC		
Funding of Personnel under Hawkin’s bill who would assess, notify and implement RX burning in Wildland Urban Interface.	P		DC		

Appendix I
Prevention Team Member Listing

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