



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

Communities at Risk Report FY2007

Published November 2007

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) continually surveys all states to determine progress in identifying communities-at-risk and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The FY2007 data was collected through the U.S. Forest Service's National Fire Plan Operations & Reporting System (NFPORS), and reflects data accomplishments through September 30, 2007.

Survey results indicate that the number of communities covered by a CWPP has increased from 3264 to 4762, a 46 percent increase from 2006 (a single CWPP may cover multiple communities). An enhanced capability for community risk assessment has identified more communities at risk, so while progress is being made there is still much to accomplish. This report also demonstrates the number of communities that increased capacity (12,080) and the number of communities that have reduced risk (3,814).

Reduced Risk

A community is at reduced risk from wildland fire if it has satisfied at least one of the following requirements:

1. Recognized as a Firewise community or equivalent, or
2. Enacted a mitigation/fire prevention ordinance, or
3. High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP are reduced or appropriate fuel levels on such lands are maintained in accordance with plan schedule.

Number of Communities at Risk (CAR)	51,612
Number of CAR covered by a CWPP or equivalent	4,762
Percent of CAR covered by a	9.2%
Number of CAR at reduced risk CWPP	3,814
Percent of CAR at reduced risk	7.3%

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

State Foresters collaborate with local communities and others to prepare CWPPs. The table below shows how many of those communities in need now have a CWPP in place.

Year	Region	Communities	
		Need CWPP	Have CWPP
2007	West	6,169	3,145
	South	40,984	1,160
	Northeast	4,459	457
	Total	51,612	4,762

Year	Region	Communities	
		Need CWPP	Have CWPP
2006	West	7,034	2,415
	South	34,007	431
	Northeast	3,123	418
	Total	44,164	3,264
2005	West	7,701	2,000
	South	19,560	298
	Northeast	1,487	395
	Total	28,748	2,693

Increased Capacity

Many at risk communities reported increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by:

1. The increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews, or
2. Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained, or
3. Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department.

Total firefighters trained (SFA: 35,685, VFA: 28,397)	64,082
Total communities assisted (SFA: 743, VFA: 1,111)	1,854
Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained, communities assisted (SFA: 2,602, VFA: 8,993)	11,595
Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department	53 (VFA)
Total # of communities assisted	13,502
Number of other communities at reduced risk (non- CAR)	1,422
Total # of CAR assisted with increased capacity	12,080
Percent of CAR with increased suppression capacity	23.4%

* *Forty-nine states responded for 2007*