



# COMMUNITIES AT RISK REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2015

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) surveys all states to determine progress in identifying U.S. communities at risk and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

This report helps provide a national snapshot of wildland fire risk, preparedness and capacity. The data were collected through the USDA Forest Service's National Fire Plan Operations & Reporting System, and reflects accomplishments through September 30, 2015.

For more information about the data in this report contact Dan Smith, NASF Wildland Fire Director: [desmith@blm.gov](mailto:desmith@blm.gov) | (208) 867-0908

*Photograph by NASF Foundation photography fellow Josh Birnbaum.*



## Reducing Risk to America's Communities

A community is at reduced risk of wildfire 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 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or equivalent are reduced or appropriate fuel levels on such lands are maintained in accordance with a plan.

### Fiscal Year 2015 Data

Number of Communities at Risk (CAR)	76,217
Number of CAR covered by a CWPP or equivalent	15,380
Percent of total CAR covered by a CWPP	20.2%
Number of CAR at reduced risk	4,210
Percent of total CAR at reduced risk	5.5%
Percent of CAR covered by CWPP at reduced risk	27.4%

Year	NASF REGION	COMMUNITIES		
		TOTAL CAR	CAR COVERED BY CWPPs	CAR at Reduced Risk
2015	WEST	7,761	6,677	1,781
	SOUTH	59,887	7,085	1,586
	NE	8,569	1,618	843
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76,217</b>	<b>15,380</b>	<b>4,210</b>

### Fiscal Year 2014 Data

Number of Communities at Risk (CAR)	75,250
Number of CAR covered by a CWPP or equivalent	13,131
Percent of total CAR covered by a CWPP	17.4%
Number of CAR at reduced risk	4,665
Percent of total CAR at reduced risk	6.2%
Percent of CAR covered by CWPP at reduced risk	35.5%

Year	NASF Region	Communities		
		TOTAL CAR	CAR COVERED BY CWPPs	CAR at Reduced Risk
2014	WEST	7,580	5,155	1,674
	SOUTH	58,952	6,629	2,231
	NE	8,718	1,347	760
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75,250</b>	<b>13,131</b>	<b>4,665</b>

### Increased Suppression Capacity with SFA and VFA Funding

Percentage of at risk communities who report 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 fire department or expansion of an existing department involved in wildland fire fighting.

#### Increased Capacity 2015

Total firefighters trained (SFA: 127,186, VFA: 22,272)	149,458
Funding provided for upgraded or new fire suppression equipment (SFA: \$5,959,837 , VFA: \$8,130,633)	\$14,090,470 in funding for communities
Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department	20
Total Number of Communities assisted with increased capacity (SFA: 3,877, VFA:9,318)	13,195
Total Communities at Risk	76,217
Percent of Communities at Risk with increased capacity	17.3%

#### Increased Capacity 2014

Total firefighters trained (SFA: 85,965, VFA: 16,371)	102,336
Funding provided for upgraded or new fire suppression equipment (SFA: \$5,912,156, VFA: \$6,119,234)	\$12,031,390 in funding for communities
Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department	182
Total Number of Communities assisted with increased capacity (SFA: 880, VFA: 11,017)	11,897
Total Communities at Risk	75,250
Percent of Communities at Risk with increased capacity	15.8%



Photograph shows Florida's J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.