



Fire Adapted Communities

**WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND TOOLS,
THE RESULTS WILL BE COMMUNITIES ADAPTED TO FIRE.**

Developing a fire adapted community is a process...

It involves-

- ✓ People
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Programs
- ✓ Personal responsibility
- ✓ Perpetual maintenance

It's up to you to be a guide to bring the community to a new level of wildfire resiliency.



Elements of a Fire Adapted Community...

Our public
needs to be
educated in
risk
management.



Residents need to understand the role of fire in their community.

Elements of a fire adapted community

Community members need to comprehend the limitations of local fire resources.



- * Fire authorities cannot save all the structures.



- ✓ Community actions lessen the impact of wildfire.

Elements of a Fire Adapted Community

We will encourage community members to prepare their home and community for a wildfire.

- ❖ Mitigation efforts should encompass all elements of the community.
- ❖ Evacuation Plans should be encouraged and developed.
- ❖ Communities can adopt codes and ordinances for new construction and retrofits that are fire resistant.





Elements of a Fire Adapted Community

Individual and collaborative efforts are to include all possible partners. All potential agreements should be considered.



What does a Fire Adapted Community Look Like ?



Agreements



**Community
Wildfire
Protection
Plans**



Prevention & Education





- **Five requirements to become recognized:**
 - Start a Firewise Board
 - Complete a wildfire risk assessment and action plan
 - Spend \$2 per capita on Firewise
 - Hold a Firewise event once per year
 - Fill out an application at www.firewise.org and send to: Florida Forest Service local county unit or Contact Doc Bloodworth, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist located at the Suwannee Forestry Center in Lake City or contact Terri Jenkins@ Okefenokee NWR



- **Benefits**

- Fire Adapted Communities
- Tools and resources are scalable – from individual homeowner to an entire community
- Framework for action
- Community-building and collaboration
- Publicity
- Grant eligibility

- **Challenges**

- Community size
- On-going process and continuous maintenance
- Florida's diverse ecosystems
- Spreading the word



- RSG! assists fire departments - teaches individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas and the wildland-urban interface (WUI) – how to best prepare themselves and their properties against wildland fire threats. The program’s tenets help residents be **Ready** with preparedness understanding, be **Set** with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to **Go** early when necessary. The RSG! Program works in complementary and collaborative fashion with existing wildland fire public education efforts, like Firewise, and amplifies their messages to **individuals**.



Agreements



**Community
Wildfire
Protection
Plans**

- CWPP's generally work with entire counties – Collaborative process with county, city, state and federal parties – County Administrator, Planning units, fire chief, local ordinances, EMS, FFS, Federal units.
- Agreements – (usually Mutual Aid Agreements) Example: where federal personnel and equipment are made available for local disasters and fire incidents



Prevention & Education

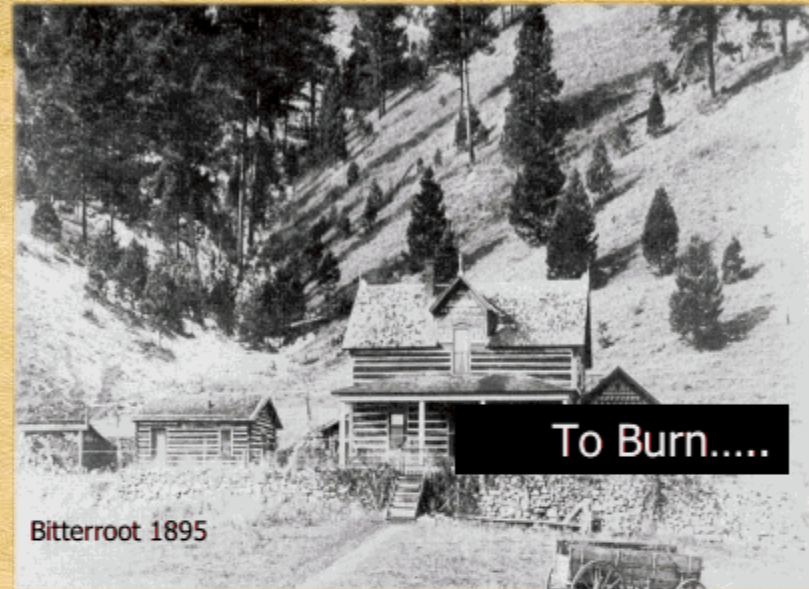
Prevent wildfires

Fire Prevention Education Teams

Good Fires Bad Fires

Fire Resilient Landscapes – Longleaf Pine!

There are a multitude of options and tools to lessen the impact of wildfires on communities. The scalability and tools that will work for you should be decided by you and your community.



For more information
please go to
www.fireadapted.org

