



Community Wildfire Protection Planning Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - 2004

Housing growth in the forested areas of Minnesota continues at an alarming rate. Many of the residents of these new communities are unaware of the fire risks, increasing the need to improve fire protection through improved planning and education.

The dense jack pine stands characteristic of the Lake States have burned furiously in the past with devastating results, killing hundreds of people and destroying homes. Steps taken by residents can make a significant difference in the outcomes.

Using funding from the National Fire Plan, the Minnesota DNR is undertaking an initiative to assist communities in the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). These plans address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, fuel reduction, community preparedness, and structure protection.



The FIREWISE Minnesota project objective is to base local wildfire protection planning on the needs of the people involved to assure plan implementation will continue indefinitely.

A statewide campaign encourages community participation. New CWPPs will assure:

- **Collaboration:** A CWPP will be collaboratively developed by local fire departments, local government representatives, and DNR Forestry representatives in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP will identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and recommend treatment methods to protect at-risk communities.
- **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP will recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures.

Innovations in planning and community protection developed in Minnesota will be shared with other partners to improve similar programs, and analyses to determine improvements from fire loss and reduced fire suppression costs will be shared nationally to support similar program development. Improvements to ecosystems for trees, plants, and wildlife resulting from plan implementation will also be highlighted, to gain public support for CWPP implementation.

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