



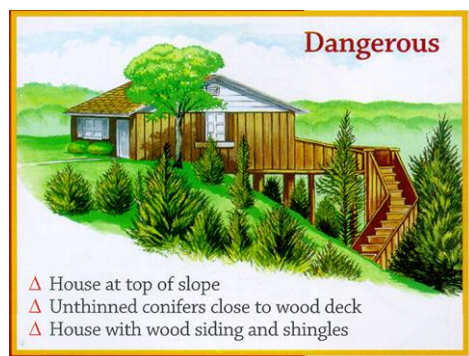
# National Fire Plan

## Managing the Impact of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment

### Missouri- Reducing Fire Risk and Damage in the Wildland/Urban Interface Around Large Reservoirs

#### ■ The Challenge

Land ownership patterns in Missouri are changing as large ownerships are broken up into subdivisions and small farms and woodlots. This is especially evident around Missouri's recreational lakes. Retirement homes and summer cabins are being built in the forest without thought to using fire resistant building materials, fire protection, and creating a defensible space around the home. Compounding the problem is that most wildfires in these areas are caused by arson.



#### ■ The Solution

Research shows that Missourians obtain most of their conservation information through newspapers. The nearly 350 daily and weekly papers in Missouri have a circulation of more than 3.3 million. A newspaper insert titled "Living with Wildfire" was created and included in newspapers in the target area. A brochure "Protecting Your Home from Wildfire" was produced for distribution at county fairs and special events.

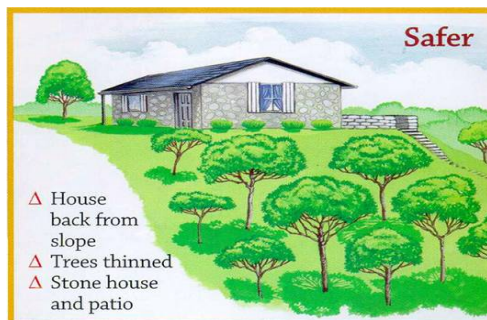
In partnership with the Missouri State Fire Marshall Office, the MO Department of Conservation, developed the Operation Forest Arson (OFA) program. This program enables citizens to report suspected arsonists via a toll free number.

Public education tools developed for the OFA program included:

- Operation Forest Arson (OFA) brochure
- OFA bumper sticker
- OFA refrigerator magnet
- OFA telephone sticker
- *Missouri Conservation* article, January 2002

#### ■ Resulting Benefits

- Reduced fire occurrence.
- Increased public awareness of Fire Safe home construction and landscaping.
- Fewer arson fires.
- Fewer structures damaged or destroyed by wildfires.



#### ■ Sharing Success

Copies of the "Living with Wildfire" insert and concept have been provided to 19 other states within the northeast and Midwest.

"Protecting Your Home from Wildfire" brochure has been provided to member states within the Big Rivers Forest Fire Compact.

For more information contact:

**George Brooks**, Asst. Director  
 USDA Forest Service  
 Newtown Square, PA 19073  
 (610)557-4145 (4154-FAX)  
[gbrooks@fs.fed.us](mailto:gbrooks@fs.fed.us)