



Firewise NEWS

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USDA Forest Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
US Fish & Wildlife Service
National Park Service

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

International Association of
Fire Chiefs

National Emergency
Management Association

National Fire
Protection Association

U.S. Fire Administration

State Forestry Organizations

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2008 FIREWISE LEADERSHIP AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Awards promote local, regional, state efforts to reduce wildfire risk

QUINCY, Mass. – The National Firewise Communities Program is calling for nominations for its third annual awards program to recognize outstanding efforts to promote a cooperative approach to reducing the loss of lives, property, and resources in the wildland/urban interface.

The Firewise Leadership Awards are open to individuals and organizations conducting wildland fire mitigation activities in residential developments in the wildland/urban interface. Eligible Firewise efforts may include, but are not limited to:

- Innovations in engineering
- Program communications, advertising, exhibits, and/or other informational programs
- Success in involving communities
- Collaboration across agency jurisdictions
- Special partnerships

The Firewise Leadership Awards provide recognition to the drivers of the Firewise movement – whether they are individuals, groups, or departments – and encourage other innovative initiatives that promote the Firewise mission.

Winners of the 2007 Firewise Leadership Awards were announced throughout November and December in their local communities. Winners were selected based on their impact at the local or statewide level.

For example, Tony and Patricia Siciliano were recognized for their extensive efforts spanning three counties in providing risk assessment training, assisting with community wildfire protection plans, organizing a Firewise educational event and mitigation project, and leading the communities' efforts to earn Firewise Communities/USA designation – a national community recognition program.

“Pat and I are honored to be recognized,” said Tony Siciliano. “We believe very

In addition to member agencies and organizations, the National WUI Fire Program functions in cooperation with other NWCG Working Teams, the National Fire Plan, and related programs.

strongly in the Firewise program and we hope that those we talked to will continue making their homes and surrounding areas safe.”

Beyond recognition, the Firewise Leadership Awards program will help program administrators capture success stories and share best practices across the country, between all types of interests – public, private, and tribal.

The Firewise Leadership Awards are open to a maximum of the following every year:

- **Two Regional Level Awards** – Impact in more than one state
- **Three State Level Awards** – State level impact, with relevance in a majority of the state, measured by land or population
- **Three Local Level Awards** – City/municipal, county, or regional impact within a single state

The 2008 Firewise Leadership Awards winners will be announced in November at the bi-annual National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Education Conference, "Backyards and Beyond," in Tampa, Florida.

All entries must be submitted by June 30, 2008. Visit www.firewise.org/awards for entry guidelines and forms. E-mail questions to firewiseawards@nfpa.org.

The national Firewise Communities program is an interagency program designed to encourage local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. The Firewise Communities program is sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Emergency Management Association, the US Fire Administration, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Fire Protection Association, and state forestry organizations. For more information, visit www.firewise.org.

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