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# Firewise NEWS



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## 2008 FIREWISE LEADERSHIP AWARDS HONOR EFFORTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

**QUINCY, Mass.** – Throughout the country, the National Firewise Communities Program is recognizing outstanding individuals and organizations for their leadership in promoting a cooperative approach to reducing the loss of lives, property, and resources in the wildland/urban interface.

The recipients will be awarded this evening at the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program’s 2008 Fire Education Conference *Backyards and Beyond* in Tampa, Fla.

“This year’s winners run the gamut,” said Chief Will May, chair of the NWCG’s Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Working Team. “From state officials to small non-profits, all of our winners possess the passion to help spread the message of the Firewise mission.”

Winners were selected based on their impact at the local, state-wide, or regional level.

Regional level winners include:

- **InterfaceSouth**, US Forest Service, Southern Research Station – Gainesville, Fla.
- **Kirk Rowdabaugh**, Arizona State Forestry Division – Phoenix, Ariz.

State level winners include:

- **John Edwards and Don Wells**, Wildcat Community Inc. – Jasper, Ga.
- **Patrick Mahoney**, Florida Division of Forestry – Bradenton Fla.
- **Texas Firewise and Urban Wildland Interface Team**, Texas Forest Service – Fredericksburg, Texas

Local level winners include:

- **Colorado Springs Wildland Risk Section**, Colorado Springs Fire Department – Colorado Springs, Colo.
- **Cook County Firewise Committee** – Grand Marais, Minn.
- **Three Rivers RC&D Wildland Fire Education Prevention** – Pocatello, Idaho

NWCG Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team

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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

*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.*

“Leadership Award winners serve as a perfect example of how a little initiative can go a long way,” Chief May said. “Firewise exists today with the help of this individual and group collaboration.”

In addition to recognizing the winners, the Firewise Leadership Awards program helps program administrators capture success stories and share best practices across the country, among all types of interests – public, private, and tribal. This year, 20 individuals and organizations from across the country were nominated for their outstanding efforts.

Communities and residents interested in learning more about the Firewise Communities program may visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.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](http://www.firewise.org).*

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