



NEWS Release

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Firewise Receives Recognition for Excellence in Community Assistance *National Fire Plan recognizes Firewise Communities efforts*

QUINCY, Mass. – The National Fire Plan has awarded the Firewise Communities Team special recognition for its efforts to motivate communities to protect their people and property from the risks of wildland fire. The team was nominated under the category of *Excellence in Community Assistance*, and was elevated to receive a special award.

The first-ever National Fire Plan awards recognized the team's Firewise Communities workshops, Firewise Communities/USA Recognition program, and technical assistance and community outreach efforts. Winners were recognized by Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton, on behalf of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Bill Webb of the Congressional Fire Services Institute in Washington, DC submitted the nomination. In his nomination, Mr. Webb stated, "The National Fire Plan (NFP) says we all have a common goal: To live more wisely with fire. In my view, any program or group of people who can help articulate that goal, who can bring new stakeholders and methods for cooperation (and action) to the matter of severe wildland/urban interface fire in America, is worthy of recognition. Accordingly, I nominate the National Firewise Team...for their consistently outstanding work in community assistance."

The nomination also stated that the results of the Firewise Communities program have been both far-reaching and sustaining. The team's efforts have reached into new communities across the nation, successfully expanding the number of Americans who are more aware and better prepared for wildfire. The Firewise Communities team is introducing a wide variety of Americans to the idea of living Firewise and helping local communities to take action.

Firewise is a national initiative designed to reach beyond the fire service and involve homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the dangers of wildland fire. Firewise programs include the Firewise Workshop Series, Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program, and support for fire organizations and community groups. The Firewise Communities program is part of the Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team of the National Wildfire Coordination Group, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, the National Association of State Foresters, the US Fire Administration, and the National Fire Protection Association. For more information, visit www.firewise.org.