

Communities at Risk Report

National Association of State Foresters

[FY2013]



The National Association of State Foresters continually surveys all states to determine progress in identifying communities at risk and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

This report helps provide a national snapshot of wildland fire risk, preparedness and capacity. The FY 2013 data were collected through the U.S. Forest Service's National Fire Plan Operations & Reporting System, and reflects data accomplishments through September 30, 2013.

Photography by NASF Foundation photo fellow Joel Prince

Background

State Foresters have made advances in the methods and information used to identify and assess communities at risk (CAR), which has led to the identification of 72,681 communities at risk. The number of CARs covered by a CWPP (17,060) shows an increase of 2,285 since last year's report, an increase of 15%.

Reduced Risk

A community is at reduced risk from wildland fire if it has satisfied at least one of the following requirements:

1. Recognized as a Firewise community or equivalent,
2. Enacted a mitigation/fire prevention ordinance, or
3. High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP are reduced or appropriate fuel levels on such lands are maintained in accordance with plan schedule.

Number of Communities at Risk (CAR)	72,681
Number of CAR covered by a CWPP or equivalent	17,060
Percent of CAR covered by a CWPP	23%
Number of CAR at reduced risk	4,418
Percent of CAR at reduced risk	6%

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

State Foresters collaborate with local communities and others to prepare CWPPs. The table below shows how many of those communities in need are now covered by a CWPP, as well as how many CAR are at reduced risk.

Year	Region	Communities		
		Total CAR	Covered by a CWPP	At Reduced Risk
2013				
	West	7,606	6,108	1,184
	South	59,603	9,653	2,128
	Northeast	5,472	1,299	1106
	TOTAL	72, 681	17,060	4,418

National Increases in Capacity

Many at risk communities reported increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by:

1. The increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews, or
2. Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained, or
3. Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department.

Total firefighters trained State Fire Assistance (SFA): 55,522; Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): 27,865,	61,204
Funding provided for upgraded or new fire suppression equipment (SFA: 6.8 million, VFA: \$9.1 million)	\$15.9 million in funding for communities
Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department	171
Total Number of communities assisted by SFA and VFA	12,041
Total Communities at Risk	72,681
Percent of Communities with increased capacity	17%

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