



## Communities at Risk Report FY2009

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### **Background**

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) continually surveys all states to determine progress in identifying communities at risk and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).<sup>1</sup> This report helps provide a national snapshot of wildland fire risk, preparedness and capacity. The FY2009 data was collected through the U.S. Forest Service's National Fire Plan Operations & Reporting System (NFPORS), and reflects data accomplishments through September 30, 2009.

Survey results indicate a significant number of communities at risk (CAR) that have been identified by State Foresters as being at reduced risk. The number of communities reported at reduced risk in 2009 is 10,293. State Foresters have made advances in the methods and information used to identify and assess CAR, which has led to an increase in the number of CAR, currently at 69,930. The number of CARs covered by a CWPP (5,567) shows an increase of 938 since last year's report.

### **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)	69,930
Number of CAR covered by a CWPP or equivalent	5,567
Percent of CAR covered by a CWPP	8%
Number of CAR at reduced risk	10,293
Percent of CAR at reduced risk	14.7%

### **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
2009	West	6,506	3,920	1,576
	South	57,394	1,128	8,505
	Northeast	6,030	519	212
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,930</b>	<b>5,567</b>	<b>10,293</b>

<sup>1</sup> NASF does not maintain or publish a list of individual communities at risk.

Year	Region	Communities		
		Total CAR	Covered by a CWPP	At Reduced Risk
2008				
	West	6,312	3,455	1,138
	South	54,300	730	8,307
	Northeast	4,234	444	1,118
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,846</b>	<b>4,629</b>	<b>10,563</b>

### 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.

<b>Total firefighters trained</b> State Fire Assistance (SFA): 42,199; Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): 24,126, DOI Ready Reserve: 7,666	<b>73,991</b>
<b>Funding provided for upgraded or new fire suppression equipment</b> (SFA: \$7.7 million, VFA: \$10.5 million)	<b>\$18.2 million</b> in funding for communities
<b>Formation of a new volunteer fire department or expansion of an existing department</b>	<b>512</b>
<b>Total Number of communities assisted</b> (SFA: 3,199, VFA: 10,637)	<b>13,836</b>
<b>Total Communities at Risk</b>	<b>69,930</b>
<b>Percent of Communities with increased capacity</b>	<b>20%</b>