



KNOW YOUR RISK

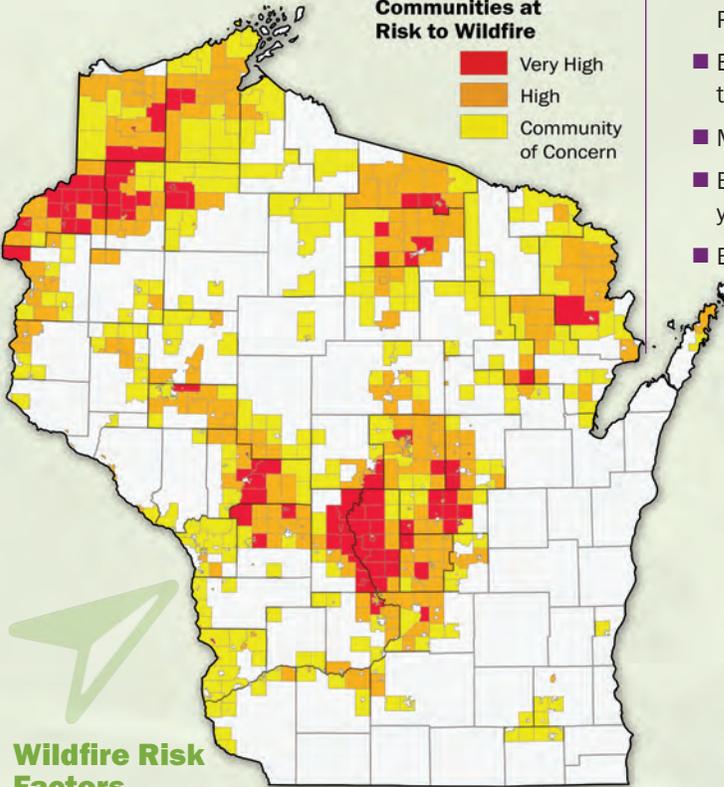
Nearly half of Wisconsin's towns, cities and villages are described as being at high or very high risk to destructive wildfires, which can impact entire communities by affecting tourism, the tax base, timber revenue, homes and infrastructure.

RISK *Where you live affects your level of risk*

Wildfire Risk Map

Communities at Risk to Wildfire

- Very High
- High
- Community of Concern



Wildfire Risk Factors

- Historic Fire Occurrence
- Vegetation Type
- Housing Density
- Soil Moisture

SOLUTIONS

The good news is that although wildfires may be inevitable, you and your community can plan for wildfire. It is possible to live, work and play safely in fire prone areas. By understanding the steps we can take ahead of time to plan for wildfire, we can reduce the impact of wildfires when they do occur.

- Know the fire risk where you own property
- If you live in a high risk area, take part in the creation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Encourage your property owners association to become a recognized Firewise Community
- Make your home more Firewise
- Be aware of fire weather conditions so that you don't accidentally start a wildfire
- Be prepared to evacuate your home with little advanced notice if a wildfire does occur



Becoming a Firewise Community demonstrates a commitment to wildfire risk reduction



Surviving wildfire by adapting to it

Taking steps to live, work and recreate responsibly in places at risk to wildfire is necessary to protect lives, property and the beauty of our natural surroundings. We can adapt to living in Wisconsin's fire prone areas by preventing, preparing and planning for wildfires.

- Preventing wildfires** - understanding why and when wildfires occur and taking proactive measures to prevent human-caused wildfire disasters
- Preparing for wildfires** - before a wildfire occurs, learning what actions can be taken by homeowners, to help homes survive
- Planning for wildfires** - working together to develop a plan and take actions on the community level to reduce the impacts of a destructive wildfire

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Planning for WILDFIRES

Wildfires are inevitable and they can threaten homes, property, communities and even lives.



As people who live, work and play in Wisconsin, we all have an important role in preventing, preparing and planning for wildfire.



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Planning for WILDFIRES

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

Doing your part to protect your community

A Fire Adapted Community acknowledges and takes responsibility for its wildfire risk and implements appropriate actions at all levels. The more actions a community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes. Proper wildfire preparedness enables communities to safely accept fire as part of the natural order of things where they live.



We all have a role to play...

- Town/village/city
- Property owners association
- Homeowners

to reduce the threat of wildfire.



Planning for wildfires is a community effort

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FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES SUPPORT:



Planning at the CITY, TOWN AND VILLAGE LEVEL

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are plans collaboratively created and implemented in high risk communities by a core team that includes members from local government, fire departments, county, state and federal land management agencies and other community stakeholders. The community takes ownership of their wildfire risk and develops solutions to implement on the local level.



- Helps community prioritize wildfire risk reduction projects
- Results in priority consideration for grant funding
- Develops good working relationships between fire departments, emergency managers, public land managers, local officials and the community at large
- Provides access to resources such as public educational materials and expertise
- Prepares communities to better handle emergencies
- Promotes good stewardship of local resources



Planning at the NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL

Firewise Communities USA

Firewise Communities USA is a national recognition program which provides a framework for America's fire prone neighborhoods to work together with local fire and land managers to develop and implement a wildfire action plan. The plan provides recommendations for homeowners and property managers to create defensible space and reduce the wildfire threat to their homes and neighborhood. Firewise Communities make an ongoing commitment to complete a Firewise project each year.



- Creates defensible space which prevents fires from advancing and endangering buildings and lives
- Results in faster fire suppression, which keeps fires smaller
- Concentrates efforts on fighting wildfires rather than devoting often limited resources to protecting buildings
- Strengthens relationships between local firefighters and property owners
- Offers peace of mind, knowing that your neighborhood is doing what it can to protect itself



Planning at the HOMEOWNER LEVEL

Ready, Set, Go!

Ready, Set, Go! engages local fire departments to deliver the fire adapted communities message using Firewise, wildfire situational awareness and safe evacuation planning. Firefighters encourage homeowners to get **READY** by preparing for the fire threat ahead of time; get **SET** by being aware of the situation when a fire starts; and **GO** by leaving early when asked to do so.



Understanding how to support firefighters during wildfires



- Gives the public a better understanding of how they can support firefighters during a wildfire emergency
- Demonstrates how to make homes more likely to survive wildfires
- Provides a template to create a Wildfire Action Plan for your household
- Outlines steps to quickly evacuate if necessary

BENEFITS