



West Virginia Firewise in the Classroom

Transparency 1

Wildfire

Transparency 2



Definition of Wildfire:

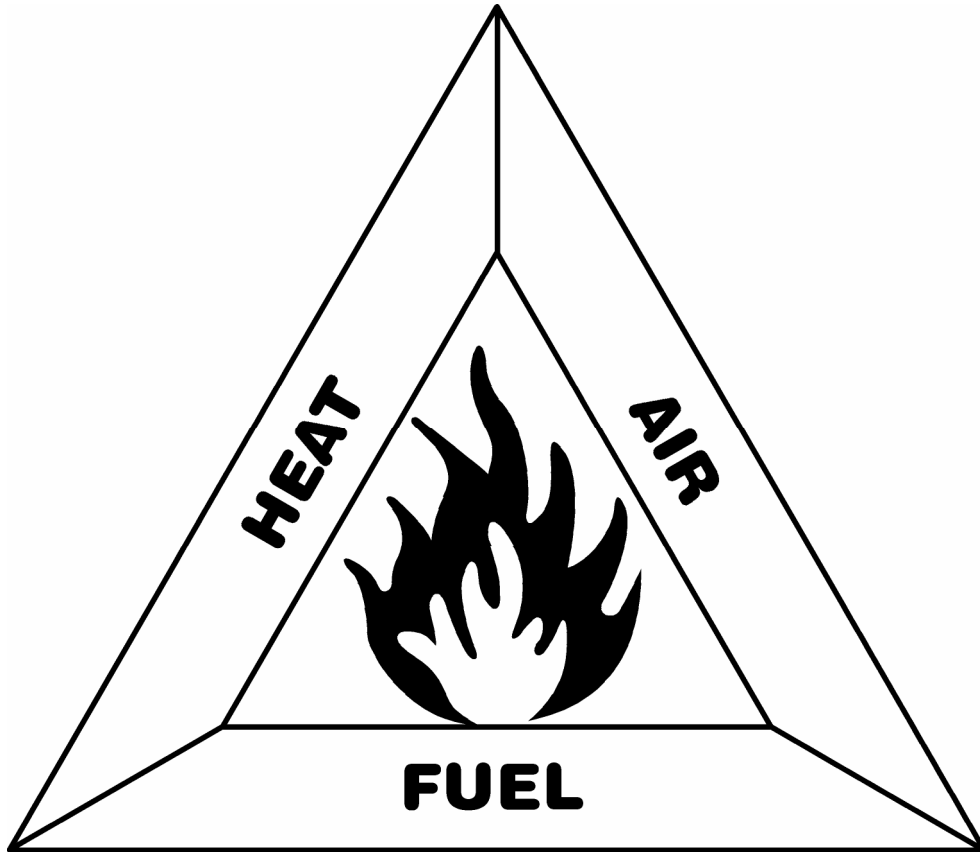
An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, at times involving structures.

Source: Firewise Glossary

Transparency 3

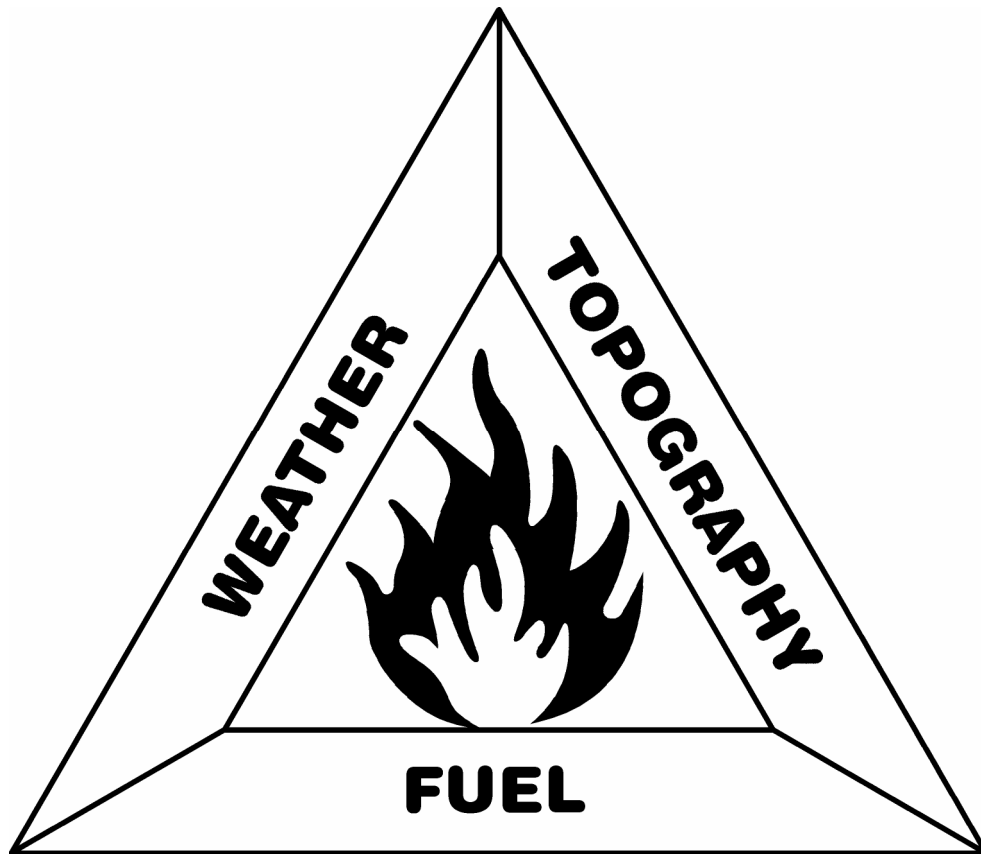


Fire Triangle



Transparency 5

Fire Behavior Triangle



Transparency 6

What Is Firewise?



Firewise is a national and West Virginia program whose goals are to educate homeowners and developers about:

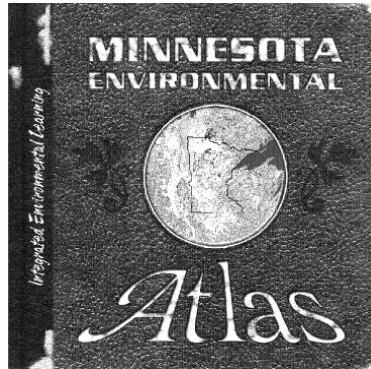
1. The risk of wildland/urban interface fire.

Wildland/Urban Interface: Any area where development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetation.

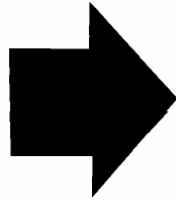
Source: Minnesota DNR

2. Steps they can take to make homes safer and more likely to survive a wildland/urban interface fire.

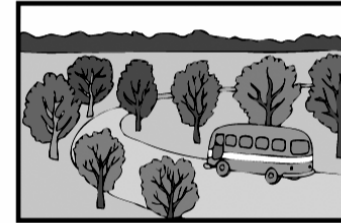
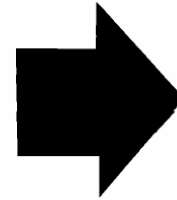
Transparency 7



Level 1 assessment:
GIS analysis with
AtlasGDS

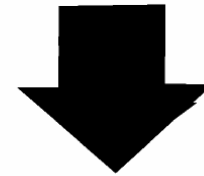


Identify wildfire
“Hot Spot” neighborhoods

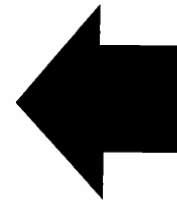


Level 2 assessment:
Field trip to “Hot Spot”
neighborhood

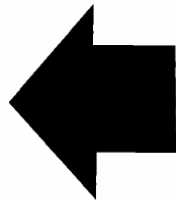
Collect field data



Analyze field data
and create community
report



Present community
report



Community, fire department
and DNR develop Firewise
community plan

Transparency 8

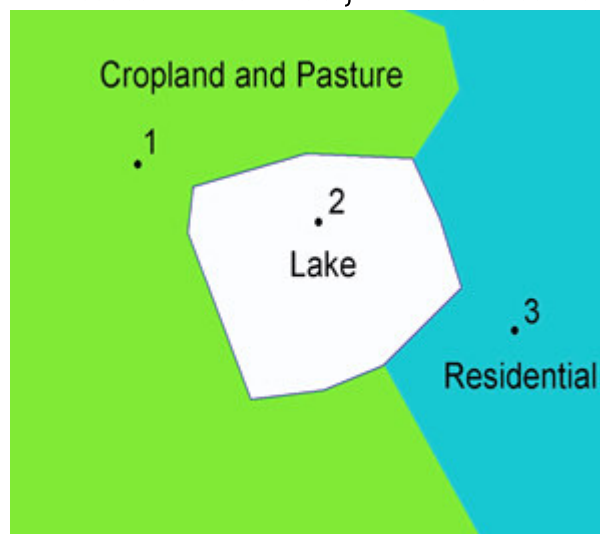
What Is AtlasGDS?

A desktop Geographic Information System that can manipulate, analyze and display spatial data.

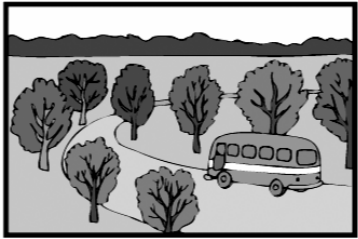
Raster Data: Cell Grids

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3
1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3
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1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3

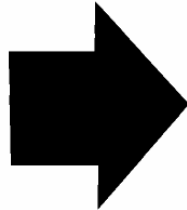
Vector Data: Points, Lines and Areas



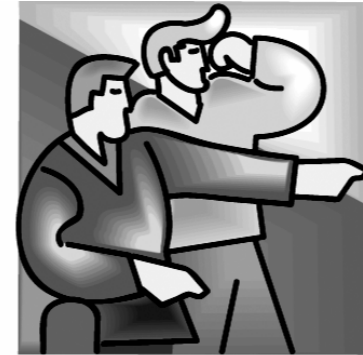
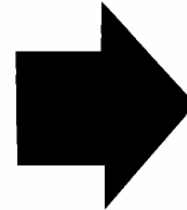
The Firewise Communities: Reducing the Risk of Wildfire
Transparency 9



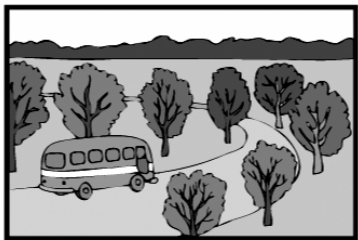
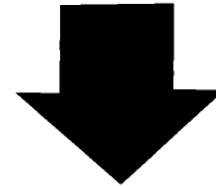
Travel to "Hot Spot" neighborhood



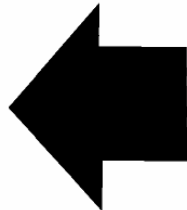
Conduct sample assessment together



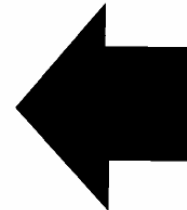
Receive field area assignments



Return to school to input and analyze field data with AtlasGDS



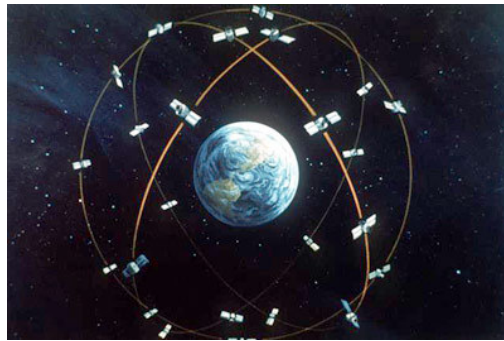
Meet back at bus



Greet homeowners, collect GPS readings, conduct assessments, calculate ratings, leave doorhangers and literature

What is GPS?

GPS stands for Global Positioning System, a network of earth-orbiting satellites established by the U.S. Department of Defense.



WHAT IS A GPS RECEIVER?

A device that picks up radio signals from the GPS satellite system. If a GPS receiver can receive signals from 3 or more satellites it can calculate its location. Location is communicated as latitude and longitude or UTM coordinates, and is usually accurate within 20 to 40 feet.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A GPS RECEIVER?

Find out where you are, find your way to a location, find out what direction and how fast you're traveling, create a route, create maps (with more sophisticated models).

WHO USES GPS RECEIVERS?

The military, boaters, pilots, hikers, hunters ... YOU!

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO USE GPS RECEIVERS IN THE FIREWISE PROJECT?

To collect data about the exact locations of homes that you assess.

Transparency 11

Firewise Home Rating Classification System

You will be classifying each home as:

- 1 – No Risk:** In a development with no or few trees around it.
- 2 – Low Risk:** In a development with trees, but home is at least 30 feet from tree canopy edge. (30 feet is about the width of a house.)
- 3 – Moderate Risk:** Home is within 30 feet of the tree canopy edge.
- 4 – High Risk:** The outline of the home is obscured on at least one side by the tree canopy.
- 5 – Extreme Risk:** The outline of the home is obscured on the south or west side or on more than one side by the tree canopy.

