

## Students use GIS to assess the risk of wildfire in their community

Students at St. Francis H.S. are using a new Internet based GIS tool called JavaMaps (JMAPS). Developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, JMAPS allows students to access air photos and assign homes a risk rating 1 (very low) to 5 (extreme risk). Students have rated over 1000 homes in Sherburne County in Minnesota. Then using GIS modeling tools weights were added to the student-collected data to generate a Density Surface Model. The model easily allows the accurate visualization of concentrations of homes at high risk of wildfire. The images to the right show "High Risk" areas. Fire chiefs use these maps to identify problem areas in their fire district. For more information about the project: [St. Francis 2009](#)

