

The Woods Resort Firewise Website



Education: Projects

WV Firewise in the Classroom Projects

Overview:

Students at Hedgesville High School working cooperatively with EPCF and WVDOF have completed Level 1 Risk Assessments of five communities in West Virginia and have rated over 2,000 homes. As of September, 2010 students have taken four field trips to The Woods Resort to assess homes in Section 1, 2, 3 and Walden Woods and have completed over 600 Level 2 Wildfire Hazard Assessments.



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WV Firewise Projects:

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Level 1 Community Wildfire Risk Assessments:

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Background on establishing Firewise in the Classroom in West Virginia:

Establishing and adapting the Minnesota DNR Firewise in the Classroom model to West Virginia

The EPCF has worked closely with the Roger Ozburn and the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) along with the Woods Homeowners Association (WHOA), Hedgesville, WV in helping WHOA to become the first Firewise Community in Berkeley County and the second in the state of West Virginia. Because of the limited number of staff in the WVDOF, the WVDOF and the Eagle Promise Charitable Fund worked together to establish and replicate for the state of West Virginia a model that has been successfully established in Minnesota by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and their Firewise in the Classroom initiative. Tom Eiber, retired from the MNDNR, worked closely with the WVDOF and the EPCF to establish this same program for the State of West Virginia. The MNDNR Firewise Communities program helps communities assess and reduce the risk of wildfire to homes. The Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education (MAGE) has developed a standards-based, hands-on Firewise Communities project that integrates GIS and GPS technologies into the classrooms of local schools. This program utilizes a combination of students in local schools coupled with the technologies of GIS and GPS, which aids homeowners and communities as they become National Firewise Communities.