

## Wildland Urban Interface Education/Hazard Reduction Program

### The Challenge

Maine continues to see rapid growth in home construction, increasing pressures in many Wildland Urban Interface areas. Developers are building homes without considering the potential for wildfires. Many of these developers are unaware of how to lower the risk.

### The Solution

The Maine Forest Service's Wildland Urban Interface/Prevention Committee was created to develop a model/template program for communities to assess fire risks and plan mitigation strategies. This committee has responsibility for many other initiatives in the area of hazard.

### Resulting Benefits

- Peaks Island Hazard Assessment/Mitigation Strategies Program.
- Hazard Fuels Reduction Programs in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy in the Waterboro Barrens and Downeast Maine.
- Cooperative effort with Acadia National Park's Wildland Hazard Assessment Methodology Program and implementation for statewide consistency.
- Distribution of 35,000 Firewise brochures with issuance of open burning permits.
- Production and airing of radio and television public service announcements
- Addition of S-215, Fires in the Wildland Urban Interface at Maine State Wildfire Training Academy
- Installation of more than 24 remote fire-weather stations



Maine fire crews reducing fire hazard near new homes

### Sharing Success

- Media campaign and distribution of educational materials have resulted in greater awareness within critical interface areas.
- Cooperative efforts between State and Federal organizations have resulted in 186 acres of hazard fuel reductions within critical WUI areas.
- Remote weather stations have provided the Maine Forest Service and other fire organizations with more accurate fire weather data.
- Cooperative effort with Acadia National Park has improved the overall risk assessment/mitigation program, providing consistency throughout the state

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USDA Forest Service  
**Northeastern Area**  
 State and Private Forestry

#### For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director  
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
 Newtown Square, PA 19073  
 Phone: 610-557-4103  
 E-mail: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Billy Terry, Assistant Director,  
 Cooperative Fire Program  
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
 Newtown Square, PA 19073  
 Phone: 610-557-4145  
 E-mail: bterry@fs.fed.us