

Fire Fighters, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, National Volunteer Fire Council, Insurance Institute for Property Loss Reduction, et al.).

Goal—Preparedness

- Agreements (mutual-aid, reciprocal, offset, etc.) are developed and promoted to provide for pre-fire mitigation activities as well as appropriate suppression operations.
- Structural and wildland fire agency roles in the wildland/urban interface are clarified for both day-to-day mutual aid and large-fire scenarios.
- Federal agencies properly train and equip personnel to ensure firefighter safety during wildland/urban interface operations.
- Cooperative partnerships are established with Tribes and State and local agencies for emergency preparedness and operations in the wildland/urban interface.

Actions

Federal agencies will:

- Inform agency administrators of mutual-aid and FEMA disaster-assistance programs.
- Complete a review of existing protection agreements for wildland/urban interface areas and renegotiate as needed to ensure that Federal responsibility is consistent with policy and that State and local responsibility is apportioned appropriately.
- Acknowledge their role in the wildland/urban interface, consistent with policy, and incorporate the appropriate role into agreements, operating plans, land management plans, and agency fire plans.
- Charge the National Wildfire Coordinating Group with:
 - Developing operational curricula, in cooperation with the National Fire Academy, for protection in the wildland/urban interface;
 - Identifying specialized skills and training that are needed by both wildland and structural fire agencies;
 - Implementing training through interagency systems and joint training activities; and
 - Working with the National Fire Academy to augment and enhance fire training not available at the State and local levels.
- Incorporate into the Wildland Fire Qualification System the skills and training requirements necessary to operate safely and efficiently in the wildland/urban interface.
- Increase emphasis on cost-share grant funding through the Forest Service State and Private Cooperative Fire

Program and strengthen that program's emphasis on wildland/urban interface issues, including training and equipping of State and local agencies. Assess and revise, as needed, other mechanisms to ensure funding is directed to agencies with wildland/urban interface responsibilities. Emphasize funding and grants to the United States Fire Administration for similar purposes.

- Support research and development activities through the National Fire Protection Association for effective management of the wildland/urban interface.

Goal—Education

Identify and initiate programs to communicate the role of fire in natural systems, with special focus on risk in wildland/urban interface areas.

Actions

Federal agencies will:

- Continue to cooperate with wildland/urban interface property owners through education and awareness messages about the role of fire in natural ecosystems and inherent risks in wildland/urban interface areas.
- Develop programs, curricula, and distribution systems, in cooperation with structural protection agencies, for wildland/urban interface educational material.
- Promote Federally funded education efforts via a consortium of the United States Fire Administration and the insurance industry.
- Work with the United States Fire Administration to update and distribute to the fire service their primer on the insurance industry.
- Involve the Congressional Fire Services Institute in distributing information regarding wildland/urban interface issues and actions.

Goals—Stakeholder Input, Consensus, and Action Process

- Future policy/program requirements for public fire protection within the wildland/urban interface are identified through a partnership among Federal, Tribal, State, local, and private entities.
- Infrastructure protection is based on characteristics of structural and wildland fuels within the wildland setting.
- Responsibility is focused on individual property owners and State and local governments to reduce losses within the wildland urban interface.

Actions

- Federal agencies will:
 - Form a partnership with the Western Governors—Association (WGA) to

conduct a consensus-building and action process that involves the western governors as a catalyst and other appropriate States, as well as local and private stakeholders, in establishing recommendations and an action plan to achieve a uniform, integrated approach to fire protection in the wildland/urban interface.

- Recharter the current interagency wildland/urban interface project among the Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Fire Administration to focus on issues surfaced through this policy review.
- The objective of the partnership with the WGA is to:
 - Identify and involve all stakeholders within the wildland/urban interface.
 - Define appropriate State and local roles.
 - Clarify and synthesize issues; build consensus.
 - Develop implementing actions and monitoring processes.
- The issues/areas to be addressed by the WGA include but are not limited to:
 - The need for coordinated leadership among Federal, Tribal, State, and local entities concerning the wildland/urban interface.
 - Development of a consistent wildland/urban interface hazard and risk assessment model that, as a minimum, includes common terminology, rating criteria, and a classification system.
 - Model zoning and building code standards within identified fire hazard areas.
 - The need for State, local, insurance-industry, and Federal data to analyze and manage the wildland/urban interface, which includes:
 - All fires in the wildland/urban interface.
 - The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) as an information collection point for fire incidents in the wildland/urban interface.
 - Establishment of incentives to individuals and local governments to mitigate hazards.
 - Recommendations relating to the role and membership of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Consider all entities involved with wildland/urban interface issues, including professional organizations such as the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, National Volunteer Fire Council, Insurance Institute for Property Loss Reduction, et al.
 - Involvement with the insurance industry through the Insurance Institute