

Where the SouthWRAP Summary Report/ WUI Risk Index rating indicates a potential impact of wildfire on people and their homes, the construction techniques for new developments and residential structures should be in conformance with: The Florida Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 17 Wildland Urban Interface, and The NFPA codes 1141, 1142, 1143 and 1144, 1906,1977 which are adopted by reference in the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

These standards provide a methodology for assessing wildland fire ignition hazards around existing structures, residential developments, subdivisions and improved property or planned property improvements that will be located in a wildland urban interface area. Also provided are minimum requirements for new construction and fuel modification to reduce the potential of structure ignition from wildland fires.

Existing structures can be retrofitted to meet these Standards through the implementation of either Firewise principles and the adoption of appropriate language in the building codes. Permits for structure improvement or repair should require adherence to these principles and the above standards.

Developers wishing to obtain a permit to build in a WUI CPZ should be required to create a Wildland Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan that addresses fuel modification within the structure ignition zone. Issues to be addressed: landscaping for defensible space, ignition-resistant construction, hazardous fuel reduction, water supply, access roads, fire protection and plan maintenance.

Vacant properties and land preserves should be maintained in accordance with acceptable fire prevention practices. Disincentives to the maintenance of such properties should be replaced with an incentive system to facilitate the removal of dense, hazardous vegetation.

County owned property and critical infrastructure should have active, on-going mitigation action plans to help reduce the liability for damage caused by wildfires coming off county owned properties. Inclusive would be WUI buffers of 1.5 miles around significant infrastructure as well as actual places where people live, utility corridors and major evacuation routes.

The Local Mitigation Strategy Plan Description

The LMS is at the heart of community hazard planning and is considered to be the minimum level of strategic hazard planning in most communities. The Bradford County LMS Committee/Work Group was established to make the population, neighborhoods, businesses, institutions and critical facilities of the community more resilient to the impacts of future disasters.

The Local Mitigation Strategy, the Bradford County Comprehensive Plan and LDRs should address issues connected to wildland fire activity, prevention, mitigation and suppression.

“Wildfire Mitigation Strategies fall into three major categories:

1. Fuel reduction activities in the Wildland-Urban Interface
2. Activities to educate homeowners about wildfires and the need for vegetation management programs such as prescribed fire.