

Evacuation: Residents should prepare for evacuation long before a wildfire occurs.

As good examples of Fire Adapted Communities, actions implemented will include engagement programs such as Florida Firewise Communities and IAFC Ready Set Go (RSG).

Designating specific WUI CPZs allows concentration of effort toward those neighborhoods which need emphasis on hazard mitigation and wildfire protection. Community Firewise presentations should be scheduled in selected communities. Bradford County Fire Rescue will take lead for community designation and event scheduling. The Florida Forest Service will assist in all presentations.

Firewise Communities

The Lakewood Community in Starke off West State Road 100, in the central portion of the county, has been a recognized Firewise Community USA since 2003. Lakewood is a small neighborhood in central Bradford County Florida, located within the corporate limits of the City of Starke. The community has a population of 51 within 24 households. There are 174.73 acres of land that make up Lakewood. Approximately 100 of those acres are planted in pines. The property has a 500+ acre lake to its west and several large tracts of industrial timberlands totaling more than 1000 acres to the north, south and east. Since inception in 2003, the community has been loyal and robust in its annual cleanup activities. Lakewood Community has been partners with the City of Starke and hydrants have been installed according to code. Lake Community has also worked with DOT and developed and alternate egress in case of emergencies.

Projects that reduce the ignitability of community facilities and private structures decrease community wildfire vulnerability and provide Firewise models that can assist in community awareness. Grant funding, such as the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, can be sought to address defensible space for wildfires, hazardous fuel reduction, and application of ignition-resistant construction for public and private buildings in **wildfire hazard areas**, called Community Protection Zones (CPZs).

Other project examples could include public-private partnerships supplying Firewise landscaping materials while volunteer programs could assist in making Firewise improvements to structure ignition zones. This step is the logical progression of the Firewise effort for WUI CPZs identified above.

The Florida Forest Service will support all Firewise activities, such as cleanup/workdays. Resources available include the FFS Region 2 Firewise Equipment Trailer, wood chipper, and the Regional Mitigation Team.

Firewise Program and Landscaping Actions

Action	Lead Agency	Timeframe	Potential Funding
Continue Lakewood Firewise activities and annual recognition renewals	Lakewood Residents and FFS	On-Going	In-Kind services and volunteer time
Lakewood recognized by NFPA for 15 continuous years as a Firewise Community	Resident Leader	2018	Done
Foster creation of 2 more Firewise Communities in the county See Community Outreach above.	County Fire Coordinator and FFS	2019-2021	FFS