

National Fire Plan

Living on the Edge in Florida– A CD ROM 2003



The Florida Division of Forestry has developed an educational CD-ROM to help citizens understand fire protection in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). Funded by the National Fire Plan, the interactive training tool entitled *Living on the Edge in Florida*, uses video clips, downloadable pdf files, virtual reality graphics, interactive exercises, internet links and a companion website to create an enjoyable, “user-friendly” way to learn about wildland fire and fire protection in interface areas.



Training begins with a self-contained tutorial on wildland fire and proceeds to an introduction to the Firewise Communities program and video clips featuring nationally recognized experts like Dr. Martha Monroe (University of Florida) on Firewise landscaping and Dr. Jack Cohen

(USFS) on why homes burn. Internet links allow users immediate access to a wealth of related WUI information and testimonials from typical “community stakeholders.” Professional groups will even be able to learn about wildland/urban interface fire while earning continuing education units (CEU’s).

The Florida Division of Forestry and its partners will use *Living on the Edge in Florida*: (1) to expand the state’s success with Firewise Communities workshops (23 one-day workshops and over 1,100 participants to date), (2) to provide a training tool for individual use in professional offices (landscape architects, planners, developers, etc.), and (3) to train future leaders in high school and community college classes. The Division of Forestry was recently awarded a grant by Florida Ag in the Classroom, Inc. that will allow the agency to introduce *Living on the Edge in Florida* into Florida high schools sooner than anticipated.

State Forester Mike Long summed it all up, “We are very excited about the opportunities we have with *Living on the Edge in Florida*, it is a fun, interactive training tool using cutting-edge technology. The potential to impact the way homeowners and communities plan for wildland fire protection is unlimited.”

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