

COOLFONT MOUNTAINSIDE ASSOCIATION

FIREWISE PLAN

Developed in cooperation with
Firewise Communities/USA
and the
West Virginia Division of Forestry
Firewise West Virginia Program

November 13, 2004

Last Updated
April 14, 2007



Coolfont Mountainside Association Firewise Plan

Background

This Coolfont Mountainside Association (CMA) Firewise Plan was developed based on findings and recommendations resulting from the assessment of our community conducted in November 2003 by M. Rodger Ozburn, Wildland Fire Specialist with the West Virginia Division of Forestry; Herb Peddicord, Service Forester, Morgan County; Jim Guerrin, Service Forester, Berkeley & Jefferson Counties and Joe Kreger, Service Forester, Hampshire County. Their findings are published in the *Community Wildfire Hazard Assessment Report for the Coolfont Mountainside Association March 30, 2004* that was briefed to the CMA Board of Directors and subsequently to CMA members at the Annual CMA Meeting on July 17, 2004. The Coolfont Mountainside Association Board of Directors accepted this report, directed the establishment of a Firewise Board and continued Firewise implementation within CMA. The report and a link to the <http://www.firewise.org> web-site have been posted on our CMA member web-site at <http://newsite.coolfontmountainside.org>. This plan includes inputs from Coolfont Mountainside Association homeowners, along with those of state and local Firewise officials. CMA was recognized as the first Firewise Community in West Virginia in January 2005 and held a ceremony on April 16, 2005 with the West Virginia State Forester and other Firewise principals. CMA again gained national Firewise recognition for 2005 and 2006.

The central theme of our Firewise Plan is the **Survivable Space** concept developed by the Firewise program. Wildfire safety must be addressed based on the home's ability to *survive* a wildfire event, not simply on its defense capability by suppression resources. This concept is necessary due to the low number of permanently occupied homes in the community. The objective is to educate our membership, evaluate existing conditions and implement a **Survivable Space** around as many of the 100+ homes as possible within the Coolfont Mountainside Association community. The measure of success will be improvement of the Hazard Ratings for our CMA homes and other structures. In the future, the plan will incorporate wildland/urban interface issues as they relate to our principle neighbor, Coolfont Resort Incorporated. Additional action items include a meeting of the CMA Firewise Board chaired by Richard Kaufman, continued development of this Coolfont Mountainside Association Firewise Plan and conducting an annual Firewise Day with volunteer projects in April 2007 to achieve our required \$2.00 per resident investment by volunteerism. CMA will apply for renewal of Firewise Communities/USA recognition status prior to May 31, 2007.

Focus Areas:

Survivable Space

- a. Educate -- The intent of this plan is to educate as many homeowners as possible on the survivable space concept. We intend to utilize existing Firewise videos and develop a **Survivable Space** power point presentation with the assistance of local Firewise personnel and post this on our CMA member web-site. The presentation will also incorporate other Firewise concepts such as structural standards, vegetation management, access, safety, water supply, etc. We intend to contact homeowners personally and invite them to attend our educational Firewise meetings. We intend to hold these meetings throughout 2007.
- b. Evaluate -- Each homeowner will be offered the opportunity to receive a follow-up **Survivable Space** assessment of his/her property by a local Firewise official.
- c. Implement -- Those homeowners who have received a **Survivable Space** assessment and want to implement the assessment findings will have the opportunity to work together with other homeowners on volunteer projects that will help protect their home and community.

Hazard Rating Improvement:

Firewise Volunteer Project goals aimed at Hazard Rating improvement include:

- Reduction of all "High" Hazard Ratings in CMA to "Moderate"
- Increasing the number of "Low" Hazard Rating homes
- Improving Emergency Vehicle Access throughout CMA
- Maximizing mitigation efforts to reduce Hazard Ratings

Emergency Exit out of Coolfont Mountainside Association

Herbert Quick Drive is normally the sole entry into CMA however, in an emergency, existing chains across Bluebird Lane in the D-Section and the access road off of lower Salmon Way in the T-Section will be removed to provide emergency egress. – Action Complete

CMA Street Signage

In conjunction with Morgan County's effort to assign new unique street names and house numbers based on distance from intersections throughout the county, CMA will install new street signs with four inch high reflective letters and encourage homeowners to install similar signs with their new street address.

The "New Coolfont"

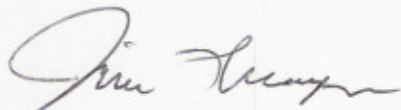
CMA will work with Carl M. Freeman Companies, developers of the new Coolfont resort contiguous to CMA, to instill Firewise principles in their development and operations planning.

Fire Plan

The Coolfont Mountainside Association Firewise Board developed a fire plan in 2004 that incorporates the Morgan County recommendations for fire preplans. This plan was developed in coordination with the Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Department, plus county, state and federal fire officials. Included in this plan are such items as public and firefighter safety, signage, risk reduction and evacuation procedures. This plan was updated in November 2005, November 2006 and April 2007.

Annual Firewise Day

An annual Coolfont Mountainside Association Firewise Day is scheduled for April 14th 2007. We will focus on assessing homes in CMA using the West Virginia Division of Forestry checklist. This day will also provide the opportunity to update the Coolfont Mountainside Association Firewise plan, provide new Firewise educational information, provide the opportunity to work on community projects, and communicate Coolfont Mountainside Association Firewise Community status.



Jim Thompson
CMA President



Richard Kaufman
CMA Firewise Board Chair