

Carl Garrison  
State Forester



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
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To: Property Owners Associations of Virginia  
Re: Firewise Communities

The Virginia Department of Forestry would like to inform all Home Owners Associations of Virginia about the educational wildfire prevention programs and Money for Wildfire Mitigation Grants that are being offered to woodland communities. Although you may not associate Virginia with wildfires, you may be surprised to learn that an average of 1200 wildfires and approximately 10-12,000 acres burn annually in Virginia alone!

As more people are moving from urban cities into the beautiful woodlands of Virginia, residents of these woodland communities need to be aware of the risk that wildfire plays in their environment.

From wildfire mitigation grant money to educational training sessions, there are many ways that the Department of Forestry can help reduce the potential risk of a wildfire. By working with woodland communities to reduce the risk of wildfires, properties and homes will be saved.

If you live within a wooded subdivision consisting of ten homes or more and are located off a state road, please take the time to find out about your **Woodland Community Wildfire Risk Assessment**, and how together, we can develop a **Community Wildfire Prevention Plan**.

The following websites have an enormous amount of helpful tips and suggestions, as well as additional details on the Money for Wildfire Mitigation Grants.

[www.vdof.org](http://www.vdof.org)

[www.firewisevirginia.gov](http://www.firewisevirginia.gov)

[www.firewiseusa.com](http://www.firewiseusa.com)

Don't hesitate to contact me for community specific assistance and information on wildfire prevention programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gena Williams".

Gena Williams

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

540-635-7733 or

540-459-3151 – Woodstock Office

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**Mission: We Protect and Develop Healthy, Sustainable Forest Resources for Virginians.**