



The Section Firewarden's Guide to Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

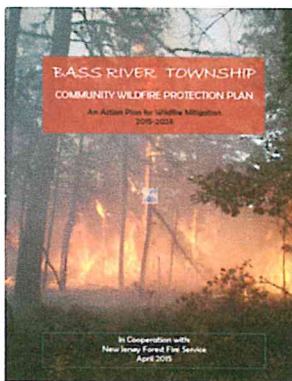


Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are a mechanism for Municipalities to address their wildfire risk in a comprehensive manner. These plans promote collaboration and local action, and can work in partnership with Firewise and Ready-Set-Go activities. Together, CWPP, Ready-Set-Go and Firewise efforts can strengthen the success and outcomes of each. CWPPs are developed collaboratively with the municipal government, local fire departments and the State Forest Fire Service and US Forest Service or other federal agencies (depending on the location of the community for example, if a municipality is adjacent to federally owned property they should include that agency in the planning process). These plans allow the communities to identify and define their wildfire urban interface (WUI) boundary and develop a communications and emergency management strategy to address wildfires issues such as: reducing risk, fire response, zoning regulations, building codes, development standards, fuel treatment and restoration, ecological considerations, monitoring and evaluation. Once these needs are identified and defined, a list of priority actions are listed for implementation.

Why is completing a CWPP important to a Section Firewarden?

CWPP's are a plan to reduce wildfire fire risk first to the firefighter and then residents. It is designed to identify problem areas, pin point needs and recommend actions to reduce risk and increase firefighter safety. In addition, all completed CWPP's come with a \$5,000 grant to implement the Municipalities highest priority action. A Section Firewarden's highest priority need can be identified and fixed during the CWPP process.



What are the advantages of a CWPP to the Section Firewarden?

It brings the Section Firewarden and the Municipalities closer and helps build a productive relationship. The plan captures all the important players that may be involved in a wildfire within the Municipality and lists their contact information including cell phones for: Mayor, Business Administrator, OEM Coordinator, Fire Chief, Police Department, DPW Supervisor and Often the Construction Code Official. The CWPP captures the Rx Burning activities and where additional Rx burn areas might be located. The plan identifies limitations to putting out wildfires to certain areas in a Municipality because of: lack of water, access, bridge limits etc. The plan identifies areas of the Municipality where structures may be more flammable due to construction and/or access or forest/structure location issues.

Having all that information together in a room with the decision-makers makes it much easier to determine the priorities and therefore the action(s) needed to fix that priority need. After that process, Municipalities are eligible for a \$5,000 grant to fix that priority need.

What's my job in the CWPP process?

1. The Section Firewarden is responsible for identifying the Municipality most "at

risk” for wildfire in their section and proposing they address their issues straight on by going through the CWPP planning process. Section Firewardens are the only place this evaluation of risk should take place. No one knows the section and each town’s limitations and needs better.

2. The Section Firewarden coordinates a meeting with the at-risk Municipality and the CWPP Planner. Those Attending along with the Section Firewarden should include:
 - a. Mayor and/or Business Administrator
 - b. OEM Coordinator
 - c. Local Fire Chief(s)
 - d. DPW Director
 - e. Large Public landowner in Municipality, NJF&W, NJ Parks, USFWS, County Parks
 - f. CWPP Planner
 - g. Division Firewarden
3. The Section Firewarden contributes to the CWPP planning process in helping to identify needs, limitations, Rx burn areas, suggesting means of spreading awareness and education of wildfire risk to the residents.
4. The CWPP Planner and Division Firewarden will help to guide the Municipality through the process and be responsible for the development of the plan and capturing the comments made at the meetings. Usually 2 meetings are sufficient followed by revisions to the plan based on phone conversations and e-mail contacts.
5. The plan content is agreed to and 3 originals of the plan are approved by the Municipal Government and signed by the Mayor, State or Division Firewarden and the Local Fire Chief. Each of the respective signers (Municipality, NJFFS and Fire Company get original signed copies of the CWPP.
6. A priority action determined during the CWPP planning process is proposed and 50% of the cost of that priority action is funded up to \$5,000.