



ABOUT NASF

The mission of the National Association of State Foresters is to represent state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to promote healthy and sustainable trees and forests.

ABOUT USFS

The U.S. Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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www.stateforesters.org

www.fs.fed.us

dnr.wi.gov

www.fireactionplans.org



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Protecting Great Lakes Forests from Harm: Fire Prevention with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



With support from the USDA Forest Service's State Fire Assistance program, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is achieving goals outlined in the state's Forest Action Plan.

Launched by five state and provincial agencies in the great lakes region, an ember awareness campaign focuses on educating the public about fire prevention.

TV advertisements, restaurant placemats, flyers, display banners, newspaper ads, and a three minute video were created to be distributed during peak fire season this year.

On-the-ground partners include the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact.

Think your fire is out? Think your cabin is safe? The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is encouraging landowners and homeowners to 'check again!' Every few years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact, identifies a common fire problem and creates a multi-year fire prevention campaign. The latest campaign has addressed ember awareness.

The state was faced with a problem that debris burning fires were caused by individuals who had obtained a proper permit, but the responsible party failed to extinguish their fire before leaving. Overnight, embers rekindled, escaped and caused a wildfire on the following day.

As a result, this project's initial outreach efforts encouraged the public to double-check for hot coals left behind from not only from debris piles but also campfires and ashes dumped from woodstoves or fireplaces. Key messages included embers left behind can remain hot for days, even weeks and the importance of making certain a fire is out by using plenty of water, stirring and repeating until cold.

"The relationships that we have built among our partners within the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact have allowed us to maximize our fire prevention efforts. The ember awareness campaign has been a great success for us here in Wisconsin," said Paul DeLong, State Forester.

In FY2015, the effort will focus more on the protection from embers in the event a wildfire occurs and target seasonal homeowners located in fire prone areas. The goal is to encourage the public to take necessary steps to improve their cabin's chances of survival, without firefighter intervention.

The campaign is an interagency effort and has been adopted among five great lakes agencies in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ontario and Manitoba. The agencies have shared in the production costs on many of the educational materials, resulting in a more efficient use of resources. The 2016-2017 fire prevention effort will focus on fire weather awareness.