



**SOUTHERN  
Fire Exchange**  
A JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortium



# FIRE LINES

A Joint Newsletter of the Southern Fire Exchange and the Southeastern Section of the Association for Fire Ecology

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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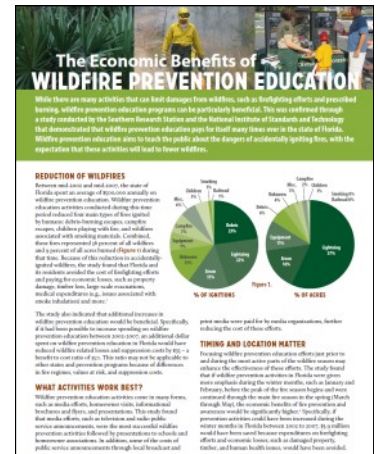
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## New Fact Sheet: The Economic Benefits of Wildfire Prevention Education

At a time when many agencies and organizations are faced with budget challenges, understanding more about the effectiveness of activities that limit damages from wildfire is critical. Recent research conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station and the National Institute of Standards and Technology shows that wildfire prevention education programs can be a beneficial and cost-effective way to reduce wildfire damage. These studies focused on wildfire prevention education programs conducted in Florida from 2002 to 2007. While care should be given in applying the results of this study elsewhere, including across the U.S. or abroad, they do provide interesting insights for all fire professionals to consider.

The study demonstrated that wildfire prevention education programs in Florida led to a reduction in fires accidentally-ignited by humans, which in turn prevented associated economic losses and costs. The study also found that certain wildfire prevention education activities were more effective than others, including media efforts and presentations to schools and homeowner associations. Delivering educational messages to audiences in wildland-urban interface areas and timing the educational activities to occur just before and during the wildfire season are also important considerations. In 2010, results from this research were published in three scientific journals and the U.S. Forest Service, InterfaceSouth recently developed a 2-page fact sheet that summarizes this work. [Click here](#) to view the fact sheet.



## News from the Southeast Section of AFE: First Ever National Wildland Fire Certification Program



The **Association for Fire Ecology (AFE)** recently announced a new certification program to recognize and honor the country's wildland fire professionals. The AFE Education Committee developed this program to "formally identify fire careers as vital professions, help set standards

for the preparation of future fire professionals, and document the education, experience, and training qualifications of members of the fire ecology and management profession." Six certifications are available, reflecting various levels of experience and education: Wildland Fire Technician, Wildland Fire Professional, Wildland Fire Manager, Senior Wildland Fire Manager, Wildland Fire Ecologist, and Senior Wildland Fire Ecologist.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the certification program, the qualifications for each certificate, and how to apply. Applications are due **April 30** each year. A committee of fire experts from both the management and academic communities will review applications and notify applicants in June. All applicants must be or become AFE members.

## Online Fire Science Resources: Part Two

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) provides multiple ways for fire and resource managers to find and use the best available fire science information. **Fire Science Briefs** are published monthly to summarize recently completed JFSP research projects. Each Brief is four pages long and highlights key findings, management implications, and sources of additional information. In addition, JFSP produces **Fire Science Digests** which are longer documents that summarize several related projects. Currently, you can access over 120 Briefs and 8 Digests on the JFSP website. You can also use the **Findings Database** to search 1,100 key science findings from JFSP projects. The database is searchable using nine attributes, such as subject, region, or ecosystem type. Finally, consider joining the JFSP mailing list to receive their newsletter **FLASH**, which is delivered by email every two months to announce the latest developments in fire science research.

Another excellent online resource is the **Southern Fire Portal**. This website is hosted by the Fire Research and Management Exchange System (**FRAMES**) and provides fire-related materials and information relevant to the 13 southern states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The portal contains valuable information and links to publications, datasets, databases, decision-support tools, models, glossaries, events, interactive CD-ROMs, videos, and state-of-the-knowledge literature syntheses (prior to 2007). All information is reviewed for accuracy and relevancy by experts in the field. Funded by JFSP and the NBII Southern Appalachian Information Node, the Portal aims to improve fire science organization and accessibility by integrating and expanding three information sources: FRAMES, the Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science, and the Tall Timbers Research Station E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database and Thesaurus.

See *Fire Lines Volume 1, Issue 1 for Part One*, which describes the *Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science and the Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database*.

## Join the Discussion

We invite you to become a member of the SFE Discussion Forum. This is a place for the southern fire community to interact, share ideas, ask questions, and discuss fire-related interests. You can create a new thread for the topic you would like to discuss, or you can view and respond to posted threads. You can also search the forum threads by keyword, date, author, member ratings, and number of views. Signing up is easy! Just follow this link and **Register** to create your account. We hope to see you there soon!

## Save the Date! May 11, 2011

### SFE Workshop on Fire Behavior in Mowed Fuels

The SFE, University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Conserved Forest Ecosystems Outreach and Research Cooperative (CFEOR) are partnering to conduct a workshop on fuels treatments for natural resource fire managers and scientists. Workshop participants will learn, on site, about recent research conducted at the Osceola National Forest that explored the wildfire risk reduction effectiveness and the ecological consequences of mechanically masticating understory shrubs and small trees in pine flatwoods. The workshop will be free and open to the public. Visit the **CFEOR** website for registration information.

## New SFE Fact Sheet Available

*Situational Awareness: Nighttime Smoke and Fog on Prescribed Burns*, by Anthony Matthews (U.S. Forest Service) & Vince Carver (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), is a tool for fire managers to use in designing and conducting an effective smoke management strategy on prescribed burns. **Click here** to view this fact sheet, available on the **SFE Resource Center**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the **SFE Calendar** to learn more about these and other upcoming workshops, trainings, field trips, demonstrations, and other opportunities for knowledge exchange and education. You can search the calendar by region or month.

### 2011 Wildland Urban Interface Conference

March 27-31, 2011  
Reno, Nevada

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildland Fire Safety Summit

April 5-8, 2011  
Missoula, Montana

### Prescribed Fire Techniques for Wildlife

April 18-21, 2011  
Jacksonville, Florida  
*Registration Deadline: March 28*

### Fuel Management Workshop, SFE and UF

May 11, 2011  
Olustee, Florida

### National Workshop on Climate and Forests

May 16-18, 2011  
Flagstaff, Arizona

### 4<sup>th</sup> Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference

May 17-19, 2011  
Springfield, Missouri

### Southern Area Advanced Fire and Aviation Academy

June 6-17, 2011  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
*Nomination Deadline: March 18*

### Exploring the Mega-fire Reality Conference

November 14-17, 2011  
Tallahassee, Florida  
*Abstract Deadline: May 6*

To add an event to our calendar, please send the event information to [sfe@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:sfe@ifas.ufl.edu).