



**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800**

Please Respond to:
Bob Rhea
Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Florida Division of Forestry
715 West 15th Street
Panama City, FL 32401
(850)872-7393

Dear:

This is a special invitation for you to attend a **FIREWISE Communities Workshop**, to be conducted in Panama City Beach on **Monday 14th April, 2008**, at the Gulf Coast Community College Student Union East Room 244. This workshop is part of an initiative led by the National Fire Protection Association and sponsored by the Florida Division of Forestry, Panama City Beach Fire and Rescue and Bay County Fire Services to achieve fire safe planning and development in the wildland/urban interface, the fringe area of our communities, where homes are frequently damaged or destroyed by wildland fire.

As our Florida public continues to build homes in areas that have traditionally been forests or wildlands, disastrous wildfires occur more and more frequently. We will likely continue to experience damaging wildfires in the interface until people begin to work together to solve basic community planning issues at the local level.

This **FIREWISE Communities Workshop** is an event which brings together concerned citizens and professionals involved in planning, developing, building, sustaining and protecting communities in the wildland/urban interface. This workshop is a learning experience assisted with cutting-edge technology to analyze wildfire hazards in real-world situations.

We believe that this workshop may have significant impact on wildland fire protection in Northwest Florida.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop promptly starting at 9:00 AM (CST). The workshop will conclude at approximately 2:30 p.m. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please complete the registration form and **FAX back to 850-872-4879, Attn: Terri Newcomb, not later than Monday February 4th, 2008.** You may also mail your registration to: Division of Forestry, Attn: Terri, 715 West 15th Street, Panama City, FL 32401.

We value your participation in this **FIREWISE Communities Workshop** and look forward to seeing you on Thursday February 7th. If you have questions, please contact, Bob Rhea, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, at 850-872-7393 (Rhear@doacs.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
\$93 Billion for Florida's Economy