



1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy MA 02169

October 17, 2007

The Honorable Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Barbour:

On behalf of the National Firewise Communities/USA program, I would like to bring to your attention some outstanding wildfire preparation efforts by residents in the state of Mississippi.

The state of Mississippi currently has one recognized Firewise Communities/USA site located in Snow Lake Shores. This community serves as a national model for communities wishing to reduce their vulnerability to wildfires.

Working together as a community, with cooperative assistance from the Mississippi Forestry Commission, residents developed local plans for recognizing wildland/urban interface fire hazards, made their homes and landscapes Firewise, delivered fire education to residents, and incorporated Firewise planning into existing and developing areas of the community.

Wildfires are a natural part of the environment. The vision of this program is that, through community awareness and involvement, wildfires can occur in areas of residential development without disastrous loss. That vision is realized through this community in Laurie.

Firewise Communities/USA is a national program administered by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program, with support from state forestry organizations. Firewise Communities/USA recognizes communities for taking action to protect lives and resources from the risk of wildfire in the wildland/urban interface. The program is of special interest to small communities and neighborhood associations that are willing to mitigate against wildfire by adopting and implementing programs tailored to their needs. To date, 279 communities across the country have received Firewise Communities/USA recognition.

I congratulate the state of Mississippi for working to implement Firewise principles. For your background, information on the Firewise program is enclosed, as well as a list of recognized Firewise Communities/USA sites. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to visit www.firewise.org and/or contact me at (617) 984-7483.

Sincerely,

James C. Smalley
Program Manager
Firewise Communities

Enclosures

CC: Leslie Blackwell