

Appendix I

Glossary of Terms

Glossary terms were identified through two sources: 1) Firewise.org Glossary and 2) Florida Department of Community Affairs's *Wildfire Mitigation in Florida: Land use planning strategies and best development practices*. Definitions pulled from the Firewise resource are noted in *italics*.

Canopy – *The stratum containing the crowns of the tallest vegetation present (living or dead), usually above 20 feet.*

Combustible – *Any material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will ignite and burn.*

Crown Fire – *A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire.*

Debris Burning Fire – *In fire suppression, a fire spreading from any fire originally ignited to clear land or burn rubbish, garbage, crop stubble, or meadows (excluding incendiary fires).*

Defensible Space – *An area, typically a width of 30 feet or more, between an improved property and a potential wildfire where the combustibles have been removed or modified.*

Duff – *The layer of decomposing organic materials lying below the litter layer of freshly fallen twigs, needles and leaves and immediately above the mineral soil.*

Escape Route – *Route away from dangerous areas on a fire; should be preplanned.*

Evacuation – *The temporary movement of people and their possessions from locations threatened by wildfire.*

Exposure – *(1) Property that may be endangered by a fire burning in another structure or by a wildfire. (2) Direction in which a slope faces, usually with respect to cardinal directions. (3) The general surroundings of a site with special reference to its openness to winds.*

Fire Behavior – *The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.*

Fire Department – *Any regularly organized fire department, fire protection district or fire company regularly charged with the responsibility of providing fire protection to the jurisdiction.*

Fire Hazard – *A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control.*

Fire History – *The chronological record of the occurrence of fire in an ecosystem or at a specific site. The fire history of an area may inform planners and residents about the level of wildfire hazard in that area.*

Fire Prevention – *Activities, including education, engineering, enforcement and administration, that are directed at reducing the number of wildfires, the costs of suppression, and fire-caused damage to resources and property.*

Fire-Proofing – *Removing or treating fuel with fire retardant to reduce the danger of fires igniting or spreading (e.g., fire-proofing roadsides, campsites, structural timber). Protection is relative, not absolute.*

Fire Protection – *The actions taken to limit the adverse environmental, social, political and economical effects of fire.*

Fire Resistant Roofing – *The classification of roofing assemblies A, B, or C as defined in the Standard for Safety 790, Tests for Fire Resistance of Roof Covering Materials 1997 edition.*

Fire Resistant Tree – *A species with compact, resin-free, thick corky bark and less flammable foliage that has a relatively lower probability of being killed or scarred by a fire than a fire sensitive tree.*

Fire Retardant – *Any substance except plain water that by chemical or physical action reduces flammability of fuels or slows their rate of combustion.*

Fire Triangle – *Instructional aid in which the sides of a triangle are used to represent the three factors (oxygen, heat, and fuel) necessary for combustion and flame production; removal of any of the three factors causes flame production to cease.*

Firebrands – *Any source of heat, natural or human made, capable of igniting wildland fuels. Flaming or glowing fuel particles that can be carried naturally by wind, convection currents, or by gravity into unburned fuels. Examples include leaves, pine cones, glowing charcoal, and sparks.*

Firefighter – *A person who is trained and proficient in the components of structural or wildland fire.*

Firewise Construction – *The use of materials and systems in the design and construction of a building or structure to safeguard against the spread of fire within a building or structure and the spread of fire to or from buildings or structures to the wildland-urban interface area.*

Firewise Landscaping – *Vegetative management that removes flammable fuels from around a structure to reduce exposure to radiant*

heat. The flammable fuels may be replaced with green lawn, gardens, certain individually spaced green, ornamental shrubs, individually spaced and pruned trees, decorative stone or other non-flammable or flame-resistant materials.

Flammability – *The relative ease with which fuels ignite and burn regardless of the quantity of the fuels.*

Fuel(s) – *All combustible material within the wildland-urban interface or intermix, including vegetation and structures.*

Fuel Condition – *Relative flammability of fuel as determined by fuel type and environmental conditions.*

Fuel Loading – *The volume of fuel in a given area generally expressed in tons per acre.*

Fuel Management/Fuel Reduction – *Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and to reduce potential damage in case of a wildfire. Fuel reduction methods include prescribed fire, mechanical treatments (mowing, chopping), herbicides, biomass removal (thinning or harvesting of trees, harvesting of pine straw), and grazing. Fuel management techniques may sometimes be combined for greater effect.*

Fuel Modification – *Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition or the resistance to fire control.*

Ground Fuels – *All combustible materials such as grass, duff, loose surface litter, tree or shrub roots, rotting wood, leaves, peat or sawdust that typically support combustion.*

Hazard – *The degree of flammability of the fuels once a fire starts. This includes the fuel (type, arrangement, volume, and condition), topography and weather.*

Hazardous Areas – *Those wildland areas where the combination of vegetation, topography, weather, and the threat of fire to life and property create difficult and dangerous problems.*

Hazard Reduction – *Any treatment of living and dead fuels that reduces the threat of ignition and spread of fire.*

Herbicide – *Any chemical substance used to kill or slow the growth of unwanted plants.*

Human-caused Fire – *Any fire caused directly or indirectly by person(s).*

Human-caused Risk – *The probability of a fire ignition as a result of human activities.*

Ignition Probability – *Chance that a firebrand will cause an ignition when it lands on receptive fuels.*

Initial Attack – *The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire to protect lives and property, and prevent further extension of the fire.*

Ladder Fuels – *Fuels that provide vertical continuity allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease.*

Mechanical Treatment(s) – *Ways to reduce hazardous fuels for the purpose of wildfire prevention.*

Mitigation – *Action that moderates the severity of a fire hazard or risk.*

Noncombustible – *A material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will not aid combustion or add appreciable heat to an ambient fire.*

Overstory – *That portion of the trees in a forest which forms the upper or uppermost layer.*

Peak Fire Season – *That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to create damages at an unacceptable level.*

Preparedness – *(1) Condition or degree of being ready to cope with a potential fire situation. (2) Mental readiness to recognize changes in fire danger and act promptly when action is appropriate.*

Prescribed Burning – *Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions, which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area, and to produce the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.*

Prescribed Fire – *A fire burning within prescription. This fire may result from either planned or unplanned ignitions.*

Property Protection – *To protect structures from damage by fire, whether the fire is inside the structure, or is threatening the structure from an exterior source. The municipal firefighter is trained and equipped for this mission and not usually trained and equipped to suppress wildland fires. Wildland fire protection agencies are not normally trained or charged with the responsibility to provide structural fire protection but will act within their training and capabilities to safely prevent a wildland fire from igniting structures.*

Protection Area – *That area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for attacking an uncontrolled fire and for directing the suppression action. Such responsibility may develop through law, contract, or personal interest of the fire protection agent. Several agencies or entities may have some basic responsibilities without being known as the fire organization having direct protection responsibility.*

Response – Movement of an individual fire fighting resource from its assigned standby location to another location or to an incident in reaction to dispatch orders or to a reported alarm.

Retardant – A substance or chemical agent which reduces the flammability of combustibles.

Risk – The chance of a fire starting from any cause.

Rural Fire District (RFD) – An organization established to provide fire protection to a designated geographic area outside or areas under municipal fire protection. Usually has some taxing authority and officials may be appointed or elected.

Rural Fire Protection – Fire protection and firefighting problems that are outside of areas under municipal fire prevention and building regulations and that are usually remote from public water supplies.

Slash – Debris left after logging, pruning, thinning, or brush cutting. Slash includes logs, chips, bark, branches, stumps, and broken trees or brush that may be fuel for a wildfire.

Slope – The variation of terrain from the horizontal; the number of feet rise or fall per 100 feet measured horizontally, expressed as a percentage.

Smoke – (1) The visible products of combustion rising above a fire. (2) Term used when reporting a fire or probable fire in its initial stages.

Structure Fire – Fire originating in and burning any part or all of any building, shelter, or other structure.

Structural Fire Protection – The protection of a structure from interior and exterior fire ignition sources. This fire protection service is normally provided by municipal fire departments, with trained and equipped personnel. After life safety, the agency's priority is to keep the fire from leaving the structure of origin and to protect the structure from an advancing wildland fire. (The equipment and training required to conduct structural fire protection is not normally provided to the wildland firefighter.) Various taxing authorities fund this service.

Suppression – The most aggressive fire protection strategy, it leads to the total extinguishment of a fire.

Surface Fire – A fire that burns leaf litter, fallen branches and other surface fuels on the forest floor, as opposed to ground fire and crown fire.

Surface Fuel – Fuels lying on or near the surface of the ground, consisting of leaf and needle litter, dead branch material, downed logs, bark, tree cones, and low stature living plants.

Tree Crown – The primary and secondary branches growing out from the main stem, together with twigs and foliage.

Uncontrolled Fire – Any fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or natural resources, and (a) is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or (b) is burning with such intensity that it could not be readily extinguished with ordinary, commonly available tools.

Understory – Low-growing vegetation (herbaceous, brush or reproduction) growing under a stand of trees. Also, that portion of trees in a forest stand below the overstory.

Urban Interface – Any area where wildland fuels threaten to ignite combustible homes and structures.

Volunteer Fire Department – A fire department of which some or all members are unpaid.

Water Supply – A source of water for firefighting activities.

Wildfire – An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, at times involving structures.

Wildland – An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

Wildland Fire Protection – The protection of natural resources and watersheds from damage by wildland fires. State and Federal forestry or land management agencies normally provide wildland fire protection with trained and equipped personnel. (The equipment and training required to conduct wildland fire protection is not normally provided to the structural fire protection firefighter.) Various taxing authorities and fees fund this service.

Wildland-Urban Interface – The zone where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland fuels and other natural features.

Wildland-Urban Interface – Any area where wildland fuels threaten to ignite combustible homes and structures.