

## SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT PORTAL

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### APPLICATIONS

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# Introducing **SouthWRAP**: Wildfire Risk Assessment Website Now Available For Public Use

**A**t a Commissioners meeting on October 28 in Montgomery, the Protection Division introduced a new website that will help homeowners and communities across the state determine wildfire risk, as well as take measures to minimize or mitigate potential wildfire hazards. The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, nicknamed “SouthWRAP,” allows users in Alabama and 12 other Southern states to identify wildfire threats based on landscape characteristics, historical fire occurrence, weather conditions, and terrain. It also routes users to resources that can help them implement wildfire prevention practices.

Accessible at [www.SouthernWildfireRisk.com](http://www.SouthernWildfireRisk.com), the tools are free to use. Professional users such as community planners and land developers, wildland fire managers and emergency services organizations, as well as civic leaders and local governments can use SouthWRAP to generate a report packaging all the wildfire risk data for their specific communities. Such a tool can be useful in defining mitigation options, allocating resources, and prioritizing programs that will better protect communities.

SouthWRAP is a web portal that grants public access to risk assessment data that previously hasn’t been readily available, particularly in a user-friendly format.

“We’re excited about this new wildfire prevention tool. It can and should be a ‘pivot point’ for Southerners as they learn what their risks are and how to mitigate them,” Alabama State Forester Greg Pate commented. “It is a tool that neighbor can pass on to neighbor – making our state and the South a safer place to live.”

“My colleagues and I were excited to hear about the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal,” said Alabama Forestry Commission Chairman Salem Saloom. “This website will enable homeowners, civic leaders, community planners, elected officials and others to identify the risk wildfire poses to their communities. This tool empowers Southerners to be able to better protect their homes and property.”

According to Protection Division Director John Goff, “We are hopeful that all of our AFC associates across the state will utilize SouthWRAP in their counties. With its report generating capabilities, the ‘Professional Viewer’ is a great tool to aid wildland fire professionals in the development of CWPPs (Community Wildfire Protection Plans).”

# What is SouthWRAP?

The South Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or SouthWRAP, is a web tool that enables civic leaders, community planners, elected officials and others to identify the risk wildfire poses to their communities.

Developed by the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF), this tool empowers anyone in the Southeastern United States to be able to better protect their homes and communities.



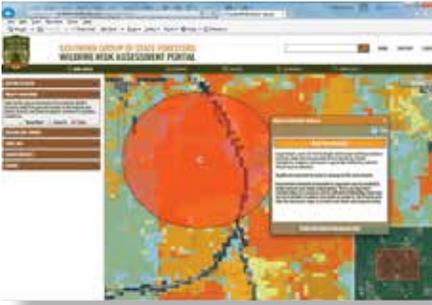
[www.southernwildfirerisk.com](http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com)

## Why SouthWRAP is a Powerful Tool

- It provides a mechanism for homeowners, local community planners, and decision-makers at all levels to work together to reduce the wildfire risk threatening Alabama communities.
- The vision is for SouthWRAP to become a collaboration center where information, data, and ideas can be exchanged between government entities at all levels (i.e. federal, state, county, and city).
- SouthWRAP will become the primary mechanism for providing risk information and create awareness about wildfire issues across the state and the South.
- SouthWRAP is also the starting point for decision-making . . . once a community knows the risk, it can then better protect its residences from wildfire with programs such as *Firewise* or other mitigation programs.
- Information from SouthWRAP can be used by communities to create prevention strategies, define mitigation options, allocate resources, and prioritize programs.

*SouthWRAP provides easy-to-use, consistent, high-quality wildfire risk information that's accessible to anyone at any time.*

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# Protecting Alabama from wildfire takes action on everyone's part.

## Public Viewer

The featured tool in this application is called "Level of Concern." It allows users to identify the fire intensity potential around their home or any other point of interest on the map, and provides a link to additional resources for users wanting to know how to reduce their risk.



## Professional Viewer

Designed to support the community wildfire protection planning needs of government officials, hazard-mitigation planners, and wildland fire professionals. This application contains advanced functionality and additional map themes as compared to the Public Viewer. The key features of this application include the capability to define a project area, generate a detailed risk summary report, and export and download wildfire risk GIS data.

Highly Accessible to the Public and Key Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes the risk assessment information accessible to virtually anyone with an internet connection and is not restricted to just a few power users with expensive GIS software and a robust computer</li> <li>• Increases awareness, communication, and visualization of the risk assessment information to a significantly larger customer base</li> <li>• Centralizes the deployment, administration, and storage of the risk assessment applications and data, which eliminates the need for local software installation and data management</li> <li>• Presents a seamless statewide picture of wildfire risk instead of the data being partitioned by county</li> </ul>
User-Friendly, High-Performance Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides fast, intuitive, and easy-to-use applications that allow most users to learn the applications within minutes instead of weeks</li> <li>• Provides users with online self-training content</li> <li>• Removes the need for most users to learn complex GIS software</li> <li>• Allows non-GIS users to perform complex GIS functions quickly and easily (i.e. detailed risk summary report)</li> </ul>
Adoptable and Adaptable Development Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates the capability to deploy risk assessment information to the web</li> <li>• Serves as a prototype for other states or regions to adopt and implement</li> <li>• Reduces investment for others</li> <li>• Establishes a baseline application that can be easily enhanced in the future</li> </ul>

## The power of the "Professional Viewer"

SouthWRAP is able to generate a report summarizing wildfire risk for a region. User-friendly mapping applications display information such as fire potential, landscape features, and even places where people live in the wildland. Armed with this information, communities can better plan for, prepare for, and protect against wildfire.

Communities interested in getting started may register (at no charge) in the professional viewer. From there, easy-to-use "getting started" menus will guide you through the portal and toward better protection for your community.



Wildland Arson Hotline (800) 222-2927