FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 28, 2014

BCFR PARTNERS TO EDUCATE ON NATIONAL WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Brevard County Fire Rescue, Volusia County Fire Services, Florida Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife fire staff at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are partnering in a grass-roots effort to spread awareness about wildfire prevention.

It’s important for home and business owners to be educated about how to be “Firewise” and how they can play an active role in reducing wildfire threat. While efforts will be ongoing throughout the year, the National Fire Protection Association is launching its inaugural National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 3. Because we currently are in wildfire seasons, it’s the perfect time to remind our communities what they can do to help minimize wildfire risk.

Residents of Windover Farms in unincorporated Brevard County, south of Titusville, live in homes that wind around a 500-acre bird sanctuary. The community is situated in a natural setting, intermixed with pines and wildlands, and it has a 5-acre park. It’s certainly one of many areas in Brevard County where residents need to be aware of wildfire risk and be ready to react.

Brevard County U.S. Fish and Wildlife fire staff will be distributing free information packets on mailboxes in Windover on May 3, and will be available to meet residents and answer questions at the community park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Simultaneously, staff will be distributing information to residents adjacent to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge and Lake George State Forest in Volusia County.
Pamphlets will educate residents about how to maintain a “Firewise” home – including tips about how landscaping and home construction materials can minimize risk – the importance of having a disaster plan, and how prescribed burning reduces wildfire risk and helps the animal and plant life thrive.

Media interested in doing a story about wildfire preparedness or coming out to the grass-roots campaign on May 3 should contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Public Information Officer Candice Stevenson at 321-288-7215 or Candice_stevenson@fws.gov or Brevard County Fire Rescue Public Affairs and Information Manager Lee Nessel at 321-636-6223 or lee.nessel@brevardcounty.us.

More information about National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day and general fire safety information can be found online at: http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day