



Southern Fire Risk Assessment System – SFRAS

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: October 12, 2009

This document provides responses to frequently asked questions about Sanborn's SFRAS application delivered as part of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project.

What is SFRAS?

Developed on ArcGIS v9, the Wildland Fire Risk Assessment System (WFRAS) is Sanborn's software framework for developing custom wildfire risk assessment and analysis software tools. SFRAS is the latest implementation of WFRAS delivered as part of the SWRA project. It reflects a custom version of WFRAS tailored for the needs of the SWRA project participants.

SFRAS encapsulates the Sanborn Wildland Fire Risk Assessment models and project Published Results. These models were customized and enhanced for use in the SWRA project.

What is the SWRA?

SWRA is the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project. SWRA was completed on November 30th, 2006. Refer to the project web site at <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com> for more information about the project. SFRAS is a key deliverable in the Technology Transfer component of the SWRA project.

How is SFRAS licensed?

SFRAS is licensed for use by SWRA project government participants at no cost. Licensing is included as a component of the Transfer Technology task in the original SWRA project. Participants will be required to obtain a valid license file from Sanborn to operate the software past the 15 evaluation period (see the instructions on the SFRAS Download Web page).

Third parties can also obtain a license for SFRAS from Sanborn for a licensing fee. Contact Sanborn at SFRAS-support@sanborn.com for more information.

A 15 day evaluation version is available for download from the SFRAS web site.

What is the latest version of SFRAS and how often will updates be released?

As part of the SWRA Maintenance Program, SFRAS has been upgraded to be compatible with ArcGIS 9.3 and Windows Vista. This version, SFRAS 9.3 replaces the previous version, SFRAS 9.2.3, that was released in May 2009. SFRAS 9.3 is still compatible with ArcGIS 9.2 SP4+ and Windows XP or 2000.

SFRAS 9.3 is distributed with complete documentation and help via the SFRAS download web site (<http://gis.sanborn.com/SFRAS>).

Will SFRAS be supported and maintained?

A formal support and maintenance agreement is in place to support continued development of the SFRAS product. This maintenance contract covers email, phone, individual project support, and training. SFRAS support is available for all current registered users of the software. New releases are available at no cost to SWRA participants as part of the SWRA maintenance program. Contact Tom Spencer at tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu if you require more information about the SWRA Maintenance Program.

Where can I download SFRAS?

You can download an evaluation version of SFRAS from Sanborn's GIS portal located at <http://gis.sanborn.com/sfras>. The evaluation version will operate for 15 days. You will need to request a license file for your computer from Sanborn for the software to operate beyond 15 days. An easy to use Update License tool is included with SFRAS to help users quickly update from evaluation to permanent licenses once they receive a valid license file. This process is documented in the SFRAS User Guide.

If you have already received a license for SFRAS, you do not need to request another. Simply reapply your license with the Update License tool after you install new SFRAS software.

What are the different Data Support Components for SFRAS?

Custom Data Support Components allow different users to use SFRAS with Published Results data that has been partitioned for different geographic areas. At this time, there are three versions of SFRAS Data Support Components available:

1. District – Original partitioning format for the SWRA Published Results that uses administrative fire Districts per state. These Districts have been defined by the State agencies.
2. County – SWRA Published Results data partitioned by state by county and delivered to each state's Fire Chief in January 2009
3. Federal – SWRA Published Results data partitioned by federal ownership areas with a five mile buffer. These partitions are not limited by state boundaries and are intended for our Federal agency users.

All three varieties can be installed on the same machine, with one installation of the base WFRAS application. There is a preference in SFRAS that allows you to toggle which data set you wish to use.

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What fixes or enhancements are included in this version of SFRAS v9.3?

A final list of all bug fixes and enhancements have been defined for SFRAS development as part of the SWRA final deliverable. In addition, all reasonable bug fixes will be addressed as they are reported in the future. Sanborn is committed to supporting SFRAS in the future through standard support and maintenance contracts. The list of enhancements for v9.3 includes:

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<i>SFRAS Tool</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Fire Behavior Output	New	A tool that allows users to create separate Fire Behavior outputs, like rate of spread and flame length, for each of the four weather percentile categories (low, moderate, high, and extreme).
Maps	Enhancement	Fire Behavior Outputs have been added to the Maps options.
Reports	Enhancement	Fire Behavior Outputs have been added to the AOI Reports tool.
Open Data Frame	Enhancement	Fire Behavior Outputs are automatically loaded into the data frame for AOIs and Published Results (if they exist).
Documentation	Updated	Help and supporting documents have been updated
Help	Updated	Complete on-line application software help module.

How do I get support on SFRAS?

If you have any questions about either the SFRAS application or data use the SFRAS help desk via email at sfras-support@sanborn.com

Will SFRAS run on Windows Vista?

YES, as of the SFRAS 9.3 release, SFRAS is now compatible with Windows 2000, XP, and Vista.

Will SFRAS run on ArcGIS 9.3?

YES, SFRAS is supported on both ArcGIS 9.2 (SP 4+) and ArcGIS 9.3 (SP1).

What version of ArcGIS do I need to run SFRAS?

SFRAS is supported on both ArcGIS 9.2 (SP 4 or higher) and ArcGIS 9.3 (SP1). Spatial Analyst is also required to operate the analysis and modeling functionality within SFRAS.

What data do I need to run SFRAS?

You will need the SWRA Published Results data. This data has been provided tiled by district or county on a statewide basis and by federal agency ownership. Data can be obtained from the state and federal SWRA representatives. Data is loaded into the application using the Tools-Import Published Results Data tool. For more information, please refer to the SFRAS User Guide.

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Whom do I contact to get more information about SWRA or SFRAS?

For more information about the SWRA, please contact Tom Spencer at the Texas Forest Service at tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu. For more information about SFRAS, contact SFRAS Support at Sanborn at SFRAS-support@sanborn.com

How do I get enhancements or custom tools developed for SFRAS?

Sanborn is committed to SFRAS as the platform for continued development of the SWRA wildfire risk assessment model and related tools. It is expected that some users may want the software customized to meet specific needs and use custom data. Some of this customization has already occurred to accommodate Emergency Contact Information for the South (USFS). Sanborn can accommodate software enhancements on a time and materials basis or under a maintenance contract. If you have requirements that need to be addressed please contact Kate Sabourin at ksabourin@sanborn.com to discuss.

Many thanks to the Southern Group of State Foresters, the Texas Forest Service, the SWRA Steering Committee, and the State representatives for the SWRA project for their continued commitment to the SWRA project and the SFRAS software. Without this commitment, SFRAS would not be possible.