



Protect What Matters (Part 2 of 2)

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Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the importance of developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is specific to his or her community's critical infrastructure and other risks

NNeighborhood

Residents and the neighborhoods they live in are linked by their wildfire risk. If one home is inadequately prepared, the risk level to the entire neighborhood increases. Everyone's safety is impacted, including firefighters and emergency responders. Work with your neighbors and the local fire department to make your neighborhood more fire-adapted.

Business and Infrastructure

Wildfires have far-reaching impacts and can damage highways, utilities, bridges, reservoirs and watersheds, agribusiness, ranching, timber operations, and community buildings. The economic and social impacts from damages include job loss, destroyed natural resources, burdensome rebuilding costs, and limited transportation options.

Parks and Public Lands

Forests, parks, open spaces and public lands provide important recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, tourist attractions, water supply and timber resources for our communities. Fires that begin in these natural areas can spread to neighborhoods. Fire-Adapted Community (FAC) actions ensure the health and safety of these natural areas and lessen the impact of fire on nearby communities.

Get Involved With Your Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Protecting business and infrastructure assets is essential to creating FACs. One of the best ways you can do this is by getting involved in the local CWPP. A CWPP is a collaborative plan created by the fire department, state and local forestry staff, land managers, community leaders, and the public. The planning process maps at-risk values, including community business and infrastructure vulnerable to wildfire. The plan requires actions to reduce risk, such as prescribed burning, fuel reduction, or other measures that adapt a community to fire. You can participate in other opportunities to address business and infrastructure through wildfire management plans, emergency management and response plans, and land use planning and regulations.

You can address wildfire issues in parks and public lands by including them in local CWPPs. The planning process maps at-risk values, including parks, watersheds, and other important land features. The plan requires recommendations to reduce risk, such as prescribed burning, cutting and removing brush and small trees, or other fuel mitigation measures. The public can also provide support to land management objectives by understanding the important ecological role that fire plays in maintaining forests and grasslands. You can participate in other opportunities to address wildfire issues on parks and public lands through open space management and natural resource conservation plans, forest management plans, land use planning and regulations, and working with state and local parks and recreation departments.

For further information about Wildland Urban Interface — Fire-Adapted Communities, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/