



# Coffee Break Training-Community Risk Reduction

## What Does It Mean to be Fire-Adapted?

No. CR-2014-5 April 16, 2014

**Learning Objective:** The student will be able to identify roles and actions to take before a wildfire threatens.

**M**ore and more people are making their homes in woodland settings, in or near forests or rural areas, or in remote mountain sites. Homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment but face very real dangers of wildfire. Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. Homeowners can reduce the risk by preparing before a wildfire threatens.

A Fire-Adapted Community (FAC) accepts fire as part of the natural landscape. The community understands its fire risk and takes action **before** a wildfire to minimize harm to residents, homes, businesses, parks, utilities and other community assets. These collective actions empower all residents to be safer in their environment. To help prepare your community, consider **your personal role** in making it fire-adapted.

- Meet with your family to decide what to do and where to go if a wildfire threatens your area.
- Build homes with fire-resistant materials.
- Prepare an emergency planning kit and safety plan.
- Encourage your local fire department to participate in the Ready, Set, Go! Program.
- Work with neighbors to get recognized through the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program.
- Locate your community's resident safety zone.
- Encourage the development and implementation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Identify shared responsibilities with other community members, and explore local tools and solutions.
- Promote the adoption of building codes and local regulations that address structural and site vulnerabilities to wildfire.
- Landscape gardens using native plants.
- Talk to your insurance agent about your wildfire coverage and how to reduce risk.
- Meet with your local forester to better understand your region's unique fire risks.
- Support land management practices in parks, forests and natural areas that reduce wildfire spread to your community.

### Who Implements Fire-Adapted Community Tools?

FAC tools are designed to help residents, businesses and local governments work together to prepare for wildfire. Everyone has a role in implementing the tools, including but not limited to:

- Home and property owners.
- Local and state governmental organizations.
- Firefighters.
- Local businesses.
- Planners.
- Developers.
- Insurance agents.
- Landscape architects.
- Emergency management personnel.
- Land managers.
- Civic and community leaders.

A great resource for learning more about preparing for and protecting from wildfire is the FACs' website at [www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org). Its information addresses how residents, fire departments, community planners, land managers and others can take a role in reducing wildfire risk.

For additional Wildland Urban Interface information, visit this link from the U.S. Fire Administration: [www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention\\_education/strategies/wildland](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/strategies/wildland).



View reference materials for Fire-Adapted Communities at [www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org).

**For archived downloads, go to:**

[www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/)