



Coffee Break Training-Community Risk Reduction

Your Role in Fire-Adapted Communities

No. CR-2014-7 April 30, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will be able to identify how the fire service, local officials and the public can work together to establish a Fire-Adapted Community (FAC).

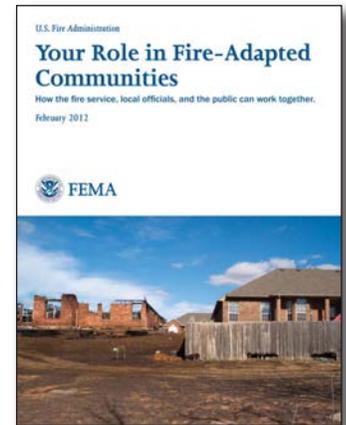
Homes near natural areas in the Wildland Urban Interface are beautiful places to live. These pristine environments add to the quality of life of residents and are valued by community leaders seeking to develop new areas of opportunity and local tax revenue, but these areas are not without risk. Fires are part of the natural ecology, and living adjacent to the wilderness means living with a constant threat of fires. Fire, by nature, is an unpredictable and often uncontrollable force. With proper communitywide preparation, human populations and infrastructure can withstand the devastating effects of a wildland fire, reducing loss of life and property. The goal depends on strong, collaborative partnerships between agencies and the public at the state, federal and local levels, with each accepting responsibility for their part.

The U.S. Fire Administration's publication, "Your Role in Fire-Adapted Communities," defines the FAC's concept and scope. The publication further defines the roles that groups can adopt to improve their safety and provide guidance for future actions. By becoming familiar with their role, identifying responsibilities, and implementing actions, communities will become better prepared to reduce their wildfire risk.

The FAC concept goes beyond defensible space techniques and preparedness. It incorporates components of how a community can coexist with wildland fire and, hopefully, reduce large fire threats and expensive fire suppression response. As the concept continues to evolve, the local fire service, local officials and decision-makers, and the public can take steps to better understand the role they play and responsibilities they should address.

- **Local Fire Service** — engage and educate residents about properly preparing for threats and building situational awareness. Firefighters can deliver the preparedness message to residents in an effective manner to best prepare them against wildland fire.
- **Local Officials and Decision-Makers** — elected council members, city managers and appointed municipal officials should all work to shape development in their communities and ensure an ideal quality of living. They promote the balance between the benefits of the environment in which they live and the risk posed by living there.
- **The Public** — should fully understand and prepare for the risk of wildland fire. Homes that are not properly prepared and maintained create a risk for the residents and the emergency services.

For more specific information on your role and responsibility in FACs, download the "Your Role in Fire-Adapted Communities" publication at www.usfa.fema.gov.



For archived downloads, go to:

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