



Know Your Role (Part 2 of 2)

No. CR-2014-13 June 11, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the role that community members have in mitigating the potential damage that a wildfire can cause.

Civic and Community Leaders

Local officials and decision-makers shape future development and help ensure quality of living. With more than 72,000 communities at risk of wildfire, it's important to keep your community safe and resilient by becoming fire-adapted.

- Support public education and wildland fire preparedness programs, such as Ready, Set, Go! and Firewise.
- Ensure that residential and commercial developers understand the community's wildfire risks.
- Include a wildfire risk map in the comprehensive plan, and implement regulations for high-risk areas that require defensible space measures, fire-resistant building materials, and firefighter access.
- Work with land managers, fire departments, state forestry agencies and the public on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
- Dedicate material and financial resources to community mitigation efforts.
- Support volunteer organizations that are involved in wildfire mitigation efforts.



Castle Rock Fire, Ketchum, Idaho, in 2007 — briefing for citizens, Incident Management Teams and firefighters. (Firepix: http://www.nifc.gov/wildlandPhotos/wildlandPhotos_main.html)

Forest and Land Managers

Land management and wildfires are closely related. Ranching, farming, timber and logging operations, species management, and development can impact wildfire risk. As a public or private land manager, you can help create Fire-Adapted Communities (FACs).

- Do a risk assessment, fire management plan or forest action plan to address wildfire risk on the land you manage, and share that information with local suppression authorities and in the local CWPP.
- Talk to other land managers in the community to gain mutual understanding of land uses and management goals and strategies.
- Know the economic factors of your community's land uses and how wildfire damages will affect the market.
- Understand local and state protocols for prescribed fire.
- Inform fire departments about when fires can be left to burn for the natural cycle.
- Understand existing comprehensive planning, zoning ordinances, urban/suburban parks, and recreational land planning and urban forest initiatives.
- Determine expectations of out-of-state land managers and their understanding of local risks and resources.

Wildfire is everyone's responsibility. An FAC means that homeowners, firefighters, land managers and civic leaders have done their part to prepare for the next wildfire.

For additional information, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/strategies/wildland.

In addition, an applied research project submitted as part of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program on Effective Emergency Notification to the Residents, dated 2008, can be found at www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo42136.pdf.

For archived downloads, go to:

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