



Fire Adapted Communities Talking Points

April 15, 2013

Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a comprehensive vision whereby proactive work had been undertaken to mitigate fire risk so that should a wildfire impact a community it sustains minimal damage to identified values at risk.

1. A successful Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Program, implemented nationwide, has the potential to save lives, homes and communities, and millions of dollars in suppression costs annually.
2. Stakeholders in Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) include residents in WUI-communities, local governments, as well as state and federal government.
3. Because fire risk is shared by all exposed, Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) stresses that all stakeholders share the responsibility for mitigating fire risk.
4. Elements of Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) include:
 - a. Development of CWPP's which helps the larger community in identifying risk and ways to mitigate fire risk.
 - b. Promotion of vegetation management and ignition resistant homes on private lands through programs such as Firewise.
 - c. Increasing local responder understanding of the complexities of preparing for and dealing with wildfire through programs such as Ready, Set Go.
 - d. Fuels treatments on public lands in and around communities to reduce hazardous fuels and create fuels buffers.
 - e. Codes and ordinances to foster development in the WUI that minimizes fire risk.
 - f. Continuous monitoring and adaptation of mitigation strategies to ensure FAC actions are effective.
5. Achieving Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) can be encouraged from the Federal government level through support for programs to engage the public in mitigation efforts, incentives to States and local governments, through accelerated research into construction materials and assembly methods used in fabrication of the exterior envelope of structures to assure an ignition resistant, or hardened home, and research into near-home landscaping (appropriate vegetation and maintenance) to reduce the risk of wildfire flames and embers reaching structures.

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National Association of State Foresters

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National Association of State Foresters

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