

Promoting Community Wildfire Resilience: Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network



The Nature Conservancy and The Watershed Research and Training Center are partnering with the USDA Forest Service and five Department of the Interior agencies to help address our nation's wildfire challenges.

“Fire adapted communities” is **one of three overarching goals** of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy. In 2013 we launched a learning network to significantly **accelerate the spread and adoption of concepts and actions** that will **help communities help themselves** become better adapted to fire.

We help society live safely with wildfire.

This is the essence of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.

Working on the ground and across a diverse set of wildland-urban interface communities has validated our approach. It is yielding important insights into what it takes to increase wildfire resiliency.

What have we learned about helping communities prepare for, survive and bounce back from wildfire?

- ▶ Communities must **take action before, during and after** wildfires.
- ▶ Local leaders, land managers, fire departments, insurance companies and other business owners, and homeowners **all have roles to play** in making their communities more resilient to wildfire.
- ▶ Funding to support **a local coordinator is essential** to success.
- ▶ Every community is different. There is **no single recipe** for adapting to fire.
- ▶ When communities are **connected**—both internally with local partners, and to other communities—they are **more resilient**.
- ▶ Effective fire adapted community messaging promotes “living more safely with fire.” We **acknowledge the critical role that fire plays** in keeping the landscapes that communities love and rely on healthy.

Why a learning network?

- ▶ Network members connect to share stories, lessons and techniques related to community wildfire resilience. This helps **spread innovations and avoid pitfalls**.
- ▶ Being part of a national network gives communities an opportunity to **effect change at higher levels**—and being part of a high-profile national effort helps Network members **increase their credibility locally**, contributing to their success.
- ▶ The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is **modeled after** the **successful Fire Learning Network**.
- ▶ Learning networks are a **proven means to help solve** society's most stubborn problems.



The Network operates at scales from local to national. Learning from local, state and regional community work is teaching us how these efforts can be better supported at the national level.



Everyone has a role in helping communities live more safely with fire. The Network helps people connect more effectively.



**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES**
LEARNING NETWORK

Learn more at FACNetwork.org

To get involved, contact:
Wendy Fulks (wfulks@tnc.org) or
Michelle Medley-Daniel
michelle@thewatershedcenter.com