



What is a Fire Adapted Community?

A Fire Adapted Community takes responsibility for its wildfire risk. Actions address resident safety, homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forests, parks, open spaces, and other community assets. The more actions a community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes.

How does a community become fire adapted?

Becoming a fire adapted community is a process and includes the following characteristics:

- It is in or near a fire adapted ecosystem.
- It has adequate local fire suppression capacity to meet most community protection needs.
- Its structures and landscaping are designed, constructed, retrofitted and maintained in a manner that is ignition resistant.
- It has local codes [building, planning, zoning, and fire prevention codes] that require ignition-resistant home design and building materials.
- Fuels on land near and inside the community are treated and maintained for safety.
- It has and uses a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP).
- It has built other safety features such as buffers between fuels and the community; safe designated evacuation routes; and safe zones in the community when evacuation is not advisable.

Important concepts to address in your community:

- Fuel Treatments on public and private lands
- Exterior Fuel Buffers
- Internal Safety Zones in case evacuation is not possible
- Codes & Ordinances
- Fire Department Training
- Cooperative Fire Agreements
- Prevention Education



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is this different from existing programs?

A. It takes more than one program to reduce wildfire risk, and can include the Firewise Communities/USA Program, Ready, Set, Go!, and Community Wildfire Protection Plans under one collaborative umbrella. The combination of these efforts strengthens a community's resiliency to the next wildfire.

Q. Isn't it the firefighters' responsibility to protect my home and community?

A. No, there's no guarantee that firefighters will be able to protect your home during a wildfire. It's your responsibility to prepare your home and private property for wildfire. *Being fire adapted means your home or community can survive without additional protection.*

Q. Who implements Fire Adapted Communities tools?

A. You and your community. Fire adapted communities tools are designed to help residents, businesses and local government work together to prepare for wildfire. Everyone has a role in implementing the tools, including:

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

Q. How does my community know it is fire adapted? Is there a checklist?

A. Becoming a fire adapted community occurs over time. A minimum set of actions should include: implementing a CWPP, ensuring neighborhoods have become recognized Firewise Communities, and ongoing participation in Ready, Set, Go! Program. Other complementary tools and programs are available to reduce wildfire risk.

Adapted from: <http://www.fireadapted.org/resources/key-topics-and-faqs>