WILDFIRE

Wildland fires are fires caused by nature or humans that result in the uncontrolled destruction of forests, brush, field crops, grasslands, and property.

CAUSES

- Nature: lightning
- Human: arson, recreational fires that get out of control, cigarettes, fireworks

IMPACTS

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS:
- Damage to homes and business
- Injury and loss of life
- Closure of recreation opportunities
- Environmental Damage (the destruction of timber, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, stormwater retention)

LONG-TERM EFFECTS:
- Reduced access to affected recreation areas
- Smaller timber harvests
- Destruction of cultural, economic, and community infrastructure resources

Reducing Risk

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
- Contact local officials to understand your risk
- Avoid building in areas at risk of wildfire
- Build with fire-resistant construction techniques
- Retrofit at-risk structures with non-flammable materials
- Create defensible space around structures and infrastructure
- Participate in your local Firewise Communities Program where applicable

WHAT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO:
- Map and assess vulnerability to wildfire
- Regulate development in the wildland-urban interface through land use zoning and building codes
- Require or encourage fire-resistant construction techniques
- Implement a fuels management program
- Participate in the Fire Adapted Communities program

Definitions:

Wildland-urban interface (WUI): the zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. This WUI zone poses tremendous risks to life, property, and infrastructure in associated communities and is one of the most dangerous and complicated situations firefighters face.

Additional Resources:

Ready.gov
https://www.ready.gov/wildfires

Firewise
http://www.firewise.org/

Fire Adapted Communities
http://www.fireadapted.org/

Contact your State Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) coordinator for more information on wildfire risk reduction.

https://www.fema.gov/