Community Planning for Increasing Wildfire Risks

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June 13, 2022
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Community Adaptation

We Will Rebuild
Independent Nonpartisan Research
Roadmap

How does a home burn down?

What can a community do?

What needs to happen?
How does a home burn down?
How do I keep my home from burning down?
Wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire
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Embers (firebrands)
Green vegetation
Reduce the flammability of the home
Roadmap

How does a home burn down?

What can a community do?

What needs to happen?
Wildfire resistant construction & vegetation management

Example: Austin, TX
Vegetation Management

FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING
A "how to" guide for protecting your home

- LANDSCAPING DEFENSIBLE SPACE
- NON-COMBUSTIBLE LANDSCAPE ZONE
- TYPES OF GROUND COVER
- STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS
- LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
- PROPERTY SELF ASSESSMENT

Landscaping guidelines
Example: Vail, CO
Ordinances

Home Hardening
Example: Portola Valley, CA
Public-Private Partnerships

Home/Property Inspections

Example: Boulder County, CO & Missoula County, MT
Roadmap

How does a home burn down?

What can a community do?

What needs to happen?
Invest in Communities
Investment Opportunities

- Subsidies for homeowners
- Defensible space programs
- Outreach and education
- Community development plan updates
- Staff capacity
- Vulnerable populations
Upfront investment saves long-term costs

$1 = $4
Wildfire-Resistant Homes

Paradise, CA (2019)
We need to plan for inevitable wildfires.

Invest in people and communities.

We can’t afford to wait.