

INTRODUCTION TO FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES AND THE FAC LEARNING NETWORK

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Outline

- Being a fire adapted community
- Emergence of the FAC concept
- FAC emergence in practice
- Elements of a FAC approach
- Partnership roles
- A FAC Learning Network
- The bottom line
- Resources to support your FAC work
- Questions

Being 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



Emergence of the FAC concept

- Research on community resilience and adaptive capacity
- Grounded in best practices for all-hazards management
- Quadrennial Fire Review
- The FAC Coalition
- National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy

FAC emergence in practice

- Leaders and communities have been taking steps to become adapted to wildland fire for many years
- Supported through local innovations, state and national initiatives
- FAC represents an evolution in approach
 - ▣ both how we support local efforts (through higher-level coordination), and
 - ▣ how communities approach living with wildland fire
- Adapting and innovating f.a.c. programs – prevention, Firewise, RSG, “WUI”, CWPPs, local, state, regional, and national initiatives
 - ▣ A rich field of practice!

A FAC strategy includes...



Everyone has a role

Healthy Forests/ Land Management

Landscapes are managed to reduce the threat of wildland fire spreading into a community. Foresters, land managers, and private landowners understand fire risks and implement land management practices in parks, forests, watersheds, and natural areas.

Home Preparedness

Residents work together to reduce ignition risks, talk to their local fire department about the Ready, Set, Go! program, and become recognized by the Firewise Communities/USA program. Developers and builders design homes using fire-resistant materials and proper landscaping.

Government Participation and Planning

Local government officials are engaged in wildfire issues, provide leadership, participate in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, adopt and enforce fire-resistant building codes or ordinances, support community preparedness efforts, and provide resources.

Collaborative Partnerships

Community members and organizations identify wildfire risks and shared responsibilities as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Partners use grant funds to reduce risk, and teach wildfire safety in schools and other venues.

Fire Department Planning

Fire departments and other first responders are well-prepared for wildland fire scenarios through training, community risk assessments, and participation in the Ready, Set, Go! program and local Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Business Resilience

Businesses have a pre- and post-disaster redevelopment plan to ensure swift recovery. They have also discussed wildfire coverage with their insurance companies, and have worked to reduce wildfire risk.

What does a fire adapted community look like?

Fire is a natural part of our environment. As we choose to live in areas where wildfires occur, we must adapt the way we design, build and live within these areas to prepare our communities for wildfire. A fire adapted community understands its risks and takes actions

that minimize harm to residents, homes, businesses, parks, and other community assets. These collective actions empower all community members to be safer in their environment. To learn more about making your community fire adapted, visit www.fireadapted.org.



A FAC Learning Network

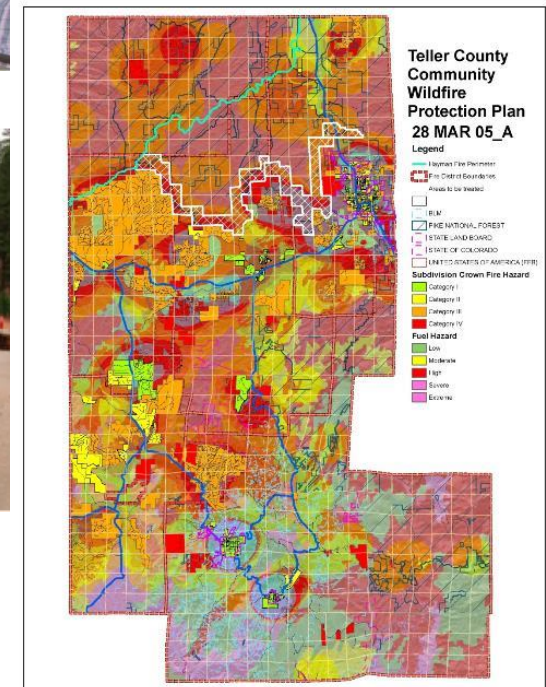
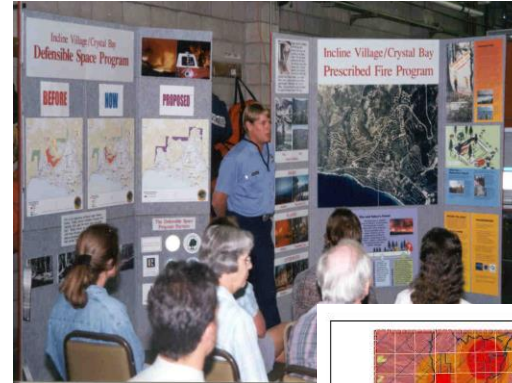
- FAC represents an evolving language, toolkit and of set of practices
- A diverse community of practice
 - ▣ Fire departments and districts, fire marshals, office's of emergency service and related departments, county planners, state and federal fire personnel and land managers (foresters and range managers), business and economic development interests, real estate developers, resource conservation and soil and water conservation districts, Resource Conservation & Development Councils, landowners, interested citizens, utility managers, civic groups, insurance providers, etc.
- In-person and interactive communications are the preferred and most effective way to make and move knowledge, best practices and innovations

The first eight pilot communities



Diffusing best practices: networking among FACs

- Regional workshop convening
- Promoting the FAC approach across venues and networks
- Organizing across communities



Early learning from pilot communities

- CWPP revision – formal evaluation and integrating FAC concepts
- Integrating with mgt. for resilient landscapes
- Interfacing with and supporting incident management
- The emerging role of utilities
- What about recovery?
- How do we support/sustain the coordinating role?
- Evaluation and recognition? – How do we know we are progressing as FACs?

The Bottom Line:

Essential elements of a FAC

- A standing local coalition
 - ▣ Coalitions, councils, coordinating groups, collaboratives, cooperatives, committees or? – as long as it starts with “C”
 - ▣ Varying levels of formality
 - ▣ Varying leadership and participation structure
 - ▣ Varying definitions of “local”
- Coordinated planning
 - ▣ CWPP, annual fire management planning, etc.
- Coordinated and prioritized action



Formal and general support for FAC development

- FEMA/FMA training
- FAC Coalition partners and resources – fire adapted.org and individual organizational resources
- ICC and the RC&D Councils
- RCDs
- State Forestry and Departments of Natural Resources
- Cohesive Strategy committees and forestsandrangelands.gov

Thanks for your time

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