Topic: Fire Adapted Communities

Background: Communities in the wildland urban interface are at increased risk from wildfire. Suppression resources alone cannot fully address the challenge. Communities must take pre-fire action to mitigate risk by adapting to wildfire.

The fire adapted community: Communities that adapt to wildfire understand the risk and take individual and collective action to prepare for wildfire through active risk reduction actions on the larger community scale including the landscapes that surround them. An adapted community is more likely to successfully survive the impact of wildfire.

Elements of a fire adapted community:

- The public understands:
  - the role of fire on the surrounding landscape
  - fire authorities may not save all homes
  - community mitigation actions reduce the impacts of wildfire
- The community takes actions to:
  - create a collaborative group to develop a CWPP
  - develop and maintain a mitigation education program including prevention
  - support and enhance local fire protection capacity (RSG!)
  - prepare structures for wildfire via Firewise, Living With Fire or similar principles
  - build with fire resistant materials and site structures in low risk landscapes
  - develop evacuation plans
  - create safety zones in the community and fuel buffers at its edge
  - use codes and ordinances if applicable
  - work with public and private landowners to treat hazardous fuels
  - maintain cooperative agreements with partners
  - increase and maintain risk reduction efforts over time

A fire adapted community leads to:

- Reduced risk to public and firefighter safety, property, critical assets, the economy, and resources
- Reduced reliance on suppression

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