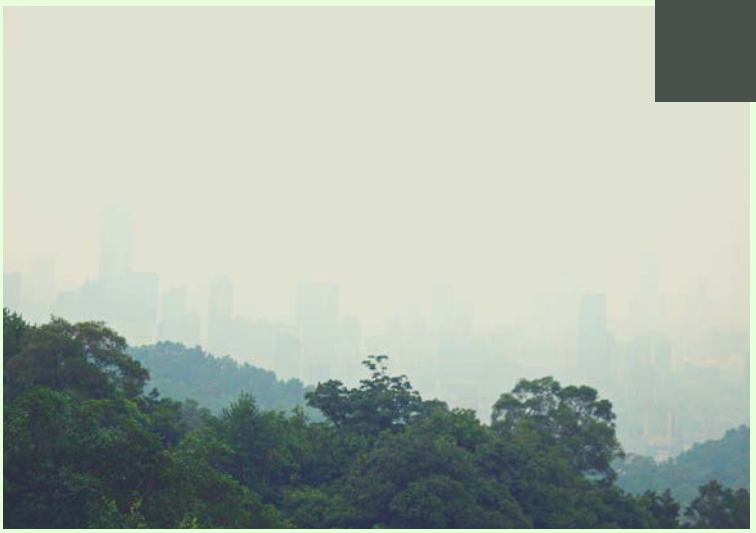
IMPROVE FIRE OUTCOMES IN YOUR COMMUNITY:
Meaningful projects you can complete in as little as 10 minutes

Even small actions can have a big impact on fire outcomes for your home, family and community. Whether you have 10 minutes or 10 hours to dedicate to wildfire preparedness, use that time increase your safety, strengthen community resilience and improve fire outcomes. Not sure where to start? Review this list of project ideas!

10-60 MINUTES



Prepare your family, home and land:

· Put up a reflective address sign, or if you already have one, make sure it is visible from the street.

· Replace your indoor air filter or create a DIY box fan filter. Visit www.fire.airnow.gov to see the air quality monitors near you.

· Sign up for local emergency alerts. Make sure each member of your family is signed up. If you are planning a vacation in a wildfire-prone area sign up for local emergency alerts in your destination.

· Make an appointment with a local wildfire group for a site visit to talk about what you can do to better prepare your home and property.

Prioritize connections and relationships:

· Call 2-4 neighbors and ask about their evacuation plans. If there are elderly residents, folks without transportation or people with other mobility challenges in your community, prioritize calls and connections with them.

Protect your assets:

· Conduct an insurance check-up to ensure your coverage is up to date and sufficient. Create a video walk through of your home or an inventory list of belongings and upload it to cloud storage.

· Backup your important documents and photos to cloud storage.

· Secure renter's insurance if you do not already have coverage and need it.

1-2 HOURS

Plan, assess, refresh and purchase:

· Walk around your home and complete a wildfire checklist. Pay special attention to the zone 0-5 feet from your structure.

· Make or refresh your family members' go-bags. Or, if your go-bags are ready, make a go-bag to give to a neighbor.

· If you live in an area where Public Safety Power Shutoffs are likely, consider how you will cope without power. Purchase a portable power bank to charge your cell phone and medical equipment. If you have a generator, ensure that it is functioning properly.

· Create or practice your family emergency plan. Know two ways out of your neighborhood, and other locations where you and your family members spend time. Remember, you may have to evacuate from a location other than your home.

Engage, donate or volunteer:

· Call a local organization that promotes community well-being, mutual-aid, or social and environmental justice and learn more about how they are working to improve community resilience. Ask them if wildfire issues are part of their work, and if not, ask if they would be interested in including fire preparedness work in their conversations.

· If your family and home are well-prepared, consider volunteering to support preparedness and risk reduction of community facilities such as senior centers, assisted living facilities or day care centers. Make connections with the folks that operate such facilities in your community and find out if they need volunteers or support.

2-4 HOURS

Get sweaty, handy, or both!

· Where allowable, burn yard debris to reduce the available fuel on your property. Follow local pile burning and air quality rules.

· Replace vents and screening with ⅛ inch non-combustible mesh to prevent ember intrusion.

· Limb low hanging branches or encroaching vegetation that would make your driveway or access road dangerous for a fire engine.

· Clean your gutters!

Share your vision:

· Attend a local government meeting (City Council, Planning Commision or other local government gathering). Provide public comments that outline your thoughts or questions about wildfire.

· Host a block party for your neighbors and share information about local fire resources. Talk about the relationship to fire you and your community would like to foster.

· Submit a “Letter to the Editor” about your vision for fire in your community.

Organize:

· Create a neighborhood communication group, or forum, like those on NextDoor or Facebook, focused on wildfire preparedness. Invite your neighbors and begin sharing useful information and updates there to establish the space as a valuable source of information and connection.

· If you work outside the home, talk with your colleagues and/or boss about fire preparedness, how your workplace is taking action and what more you could do. Consider sharing fire preparedness information at a future staff meeting or special workshop.

· Conduct a community asset mapping process to organize collective assets and contributions.

8-10 HOURS

Deepen your knowledge:

· Learn about and support Indigenous fire management where you live.

· Call your local university extension office or land management agency. Ask about fire-dependent species and recent prescribed fires. Take a hike through areas where fire has been restored, and notice the plants and animals you see.

Get smoke-ready:

· If you are a business owner, complete the "Business Resiliency Workbook for Smoke Preparedness."

· Learn how to create healthy indoor air. Call your local public health department or health care provider to learn about plans for clean air shelters in your area in case of smoke.

Dedicate the day to the first five feet:

· Complete the actions recommended by your site assessment: move your firewood pile, replace bark mulch with rock or pavers, clean out materials from underneath your deck and make sure your gutters are free of debris.

· Replace any damaged seals around garage doors, pet doors, skylights or windows. Replace damaged roof tiles or bird-stops. While you are on the roof, remove leaves, needles or debris.

· Make a plan to replace your roof if it is not ignition-resistant. Call roofing companies for quotes. Make a replacement and savings plan.

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

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