



Residents would know how to:

- Prepare their homes and properties to survive when wildfire is threatening. They would have prepared and practiced a family emergency plan.
- Appropriately dress to contend with smoke, embers and flames.
- Prepare a to-go bag and would have done so before a fire event.
- Safely and effectively evacuate.
- Communicate with family members during an emergency.
- Efficiently evacuate pets and large animals.
- Receive timely updates on the status of the fire.
- Identify fire hazards and understand local fire behavior.
- Survive if trapped within their homes by wildfire.

For more information concerning how to become a Fire Adapted Community, go to:

www.LivingWithFire.info

You can also contact your local University of Nevada Cooperative Extension office and ask for the free publication “Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness.”

References

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Living With Fire

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You Know It's a Fire Adapted Community When...

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A Fire Adapted Community is a community that can survive a wildfire with little or no assistance from firefighters. This is possible because of appropriate building construction, proper vegetation management, thoughtful community planning and a prepared fire service and citizenry. Given Nevada's history of intense wildland-urban interface fires, becoming a Fire Adapted Community should be a goal for many residents.

How do you know if your community is a Fire Adapted Community? It would have many of the following characteristics...

In a Fire Adapted Community...

Houses would have:

- Fire-rated roof coverings, such as asphalt composition shingles, metal and tile.
- Roof openings that are plugged, such as the open ends of barrel tiles.
- Chimneys with approved spark arrestors.
- Enclosed (boxed-in) eaves.
- Attic, eave and foundation vent openings covered with 1/16- to 1/8-inch wire mesh or, ember- and flame-resistant vents.
- Dual-pane or multi-pane windows.
- Noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding, such as stucco, fiber cement board and brick.
- Noncombustible address signs that are readily visible from the street.
- Decks constructed of noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials. The sides of decks would be enclosed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials and properly vented.*
- Roofs, rain gutters, porches and decks (including top surface, between deck boards and underneath) free of pine needles and other combustible debris.
- Exterior surfaces, such as roofs, siding and windows, maintained in good condition. Any gaps, such as those commonly occurring between siding and trim, would be caulked.
- Noncombustible fences or wood fences located at least 5 feet from the house.

Residential landscapes would have:

- A noncombustible area within 5 feet of the house consisting of materials such as gravel, rock or concrete and vegetation such as lawn and herbaceous flowers that have high moisture content during fire season.*
- A well-maintained area for a distance of at least 30 feet from the house that consists primarily of materials that are noncombustible (gravel, concrete and rock), or that have low combustibility and/or low fuel volume (lawn, herbaceous flowers and low-growing deciduous shrubs). Wood and bark mulches would not be used in a widespread manner in this area. No dead vegetation or ladder fuels would be present.*
- Highly combustible ornamental plants, such as Chinese juniper and Scotch broom, located at least 30 feet from the house.
- Highly combustible wildland plants, such as cheatgrass, big sagebrush, bitterbrush, pinyon pine, Utah juniper and manzanita, located at least 30 feet of the house. If individual specimens are retained, they would be well-maintained and isolated from other vegetative fuels. Individual forest trees such as Jeffrey pine and white fir, could be present if widely separated from other trees and if ladder fuels were removed.

- Wildland vegetation located farther than 30 feet from the house thinned, absent of ladder fuels and free of dead vegetation.*
- Firewood stacks located at least 30 feet from the house.

The community would have:

- A park, playground, golf course or similar area that serves as a safe area during a wildfire.
- Noncombustible, reflective street signs with characters at least 4 inches high.
- At least two ways in and out for vehicles.
- Turnarounds suitable for large fire equipment.
- Streets at least 20 feet wide.
- Well-maintained vacant lots free of dried grass and weeds.
- Bridges and culverts that can support the weight of firefighting vehicles.
- A fuelbreak along the perimeter of the community that abuts adjacent residential landscapes.
- An accessible and reliable water system.
- Open space areas free of dead vegetation, absent of ladder fuels and properly thinned.*

**Homes located in the Lake Tahoe Basin may have additional considerations. Contact your local fire district or the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for more information.*