What is a fire adapted community?

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group defines a fire adapted community as "a human community consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire." More fully, a fire adapted community is a knowledgeable, engaged community where actions of residents and agencies in relation to infrastructure, buildings, landscaping and the surrounding ecosystem lessen the need for extensive protection actions and enable the community to safely accept fire as part of the surrounding landscape. Because every community is unique, the steps and strategies they take to improve their wildfire resilience will vary from place to place.

Who is FAC for?

Because all stakeholders share wildfire risk, a fire adapted community strategy stresses that **everyone** shares responsibility. This includes residents, businesses, policy-makers, land managers and emergency responders, as well as local, state, tribal and federal governments.

What is the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network?

The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net) is a **national network** of people **building sustainable wildfire resilience capacity in fire-prone communities**. It is a **partnership** among our members (most of whom are wildfire practitioners), The Nature Conservancy, the Watershed Research and Training Center and the USDA Forest Service.

What is FAC Net working toward?

FAC Net's **mission** is to connect and support people and communities who are striving to live more safely with wildfire. Fire adaptation is an alternative to the costly, dangerous and insufficient fire-suppression model.

We have the following objectives:

- Demonstrate fire adaptation in a variety of contexts representative of the diverse communities facing wildfire risk in the US;
- Innovate and experiment with new practices to enhance fire adaptation before, during and after wildfires;
- Share and spread knowledge and practice among our members; and
- Spark and support the fire adaptation efforts of other practitioners.

By modeling a viable alternative to the current fire management paradigm, FAC Net members are leading the change toward fire resilience in the United States.

Why is there no fire adapted communities recognition program?

Fire adapted communities is all about community wildfire resilience. By definition, resilience is a continuous process that includes regular assessment and adaptation, and there is no end-point. An important element of community resilience is social connectedness.

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Is "fire adapted communities" just a new name for Firewise?

No. The Firewise USA recognition program is one of many strategies a community can use to address its fire risk, and it primarily targets residents. Community fire adaptation includes additional actors (fire departments, business owners, land managers, etc.) and strategies (such as evacuation planning, developing and updating community wildfire protection plans, adopting wildland-urban interface codes and ordinances, controlled burning and planning for post-fire recovery). "Fire adapted communities" is not a program; rather, it is a holistic and adaptive approach to help communities live safely with wildfires.

How can my community be recognized for our fire adaptation work?

There is no formal fire adapted communities recognition program. The communities shown on various maps on our website represent people and places working on fire adaptation that want to connect with others doing the same. Our map (bit.ly/FACNetConnect) simply depicts the network of engaged people and places and does not indicate a "level" of activity, or provide information about conditions in those locations. Anyone, anywhere could be taking fire adaptation actions.

What do you mean by "learning network"?

FAC Net is an example of a "generative social-impact network," which is defined as "a set of people who voluntarily organize themselves for collective action to solve a large, complex social problem" (Plastrik et al. 2014). In our case, members have organized themselves to advance wildfire resilience.

Why is a learning network a good way to address wildfire issues?

Unlike coalitions or alliances, generative networks tackle problems that require a good deal of time and adaptive management to address. The members develop powerful, enduring relationships, and members (vs. staff) do most of the group's work. The long-term, cooperative and nimble nature of this generative network makes it ideal for addressing the dynamic problem of community resiliency to wildfire.

How can I join the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network?

We welcome individuals and organizations actively working on fire adaptation to join FAC Net as **affiliate members**. If you are interested in joining, please read about membership (bit.ly/FACNetMembers) and if you feel it is a good fit, apply by creating a profile (http://bit.ly/FACNetJoin). When you become a member, you commit to advancing the practice of fire adaptation, and to learning with other community wildfire resilience practitioners. Joining FAC Net as an affiliate member allows you to:

- Connect with others working on fire resilience;

- Access resources and tools;

- Communicate with national leaders, decision-makers and program staff; and

- Learn through webinars, peers-to-peer sharing and FAC Net staff support.

Contact: info@fireadaptednetwork.org **Website:** FireAdaptedNetwork.org