



WILDFIRE RISK TO COMMUNITIES

Equitable Risk Reduction

Wildfire Impacts are Unequal

The impacts of wildfire are too often borne disproportionately by historically marginalized communities and are compounded by because of systemic inequities. Research shows that census tracts which are majority Black, Native American or Latinx are approximately 50% more vulnerable to wildland fire. * Families in poverty, those over 65 years of age, people with access and functional needs, and those without transportation are more likely to experience negative impacts of wildland fire. People who lack access to resources, experience cultural and institutional barriers, have limited mobility, or have compromised physical health are more vulnerable to wildfire and other disasters. For example, wildfires may disproportionately affect those living in poverty because of factors such as inadequate housing, social exclusion, and a diminished ability to mitigate or relocate.

Resources are Available

There are numerous resources available to help whole communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire and other disasters. This guide presents several focused on more equitable and inclusive strategies. These resources are intended to help communities and organizations expand their work to include all those impacted by wildfire. Note that not all resources will be appropriate for all and many more resources exist than can be listed here.

Checklists, Guidebooks, and Toolkits

Disaster Planning for People Experiencing Homelessness - Edgington, Sarah for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc., 2009. Practical guidance for emergency managers, local officials, homeless service providers and other community-based organizations seeking to better plan for disasters. The 51-page document is focused on the specific needs of the unsheltered and unhoused community.

Emergency Managers Toolkit: Meeting the Needs of Latino Communities - National Council of La Raza, 2011. A free, downloadable toolkit designed in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health, U.S Department of Health and Human Services for emergency managers. The guide covers Latino community engagement in emergency planning, communications and outreach, and serving Latinos during and after emergencies.

Ensuring Language Access and Effective Communication During Response and Recovery - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, undated. This two-page checklist provides considerations for emergency managers during disaster response with respect to language access. The checklist includes key action steps and effective practices for working with interpreters.

Establishing and Maintaining Inclusive Emergency Management with Immigrant and Refugee Populations - Welcoming America and the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Disaster Management, 2021. This free, eight-page checklist provides guidance for ensuring immigrants and refugees are included in emergency management.

Guide to Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning - Urban Sustainability Directors Network, 2017. This 68-page guide includes a primer on social inequities, an equitable framework for climate-preparedness planning, and planning solutions (including those focused on wildfire and air quality). While focused on climate planning, much of the guidance could be applied to wildfire-related planning as well.

* Davies, I.P., R.D. Haugo, J.C. Robertson, P.S. Levine. (2018). The unequal vulnerability of communities of color to wildfire. PLoS ONE. 13(11): e0205825. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0205825>

Checklists, Guidebooks, and Toolkits (cont.)

Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives -

Climate and Traditional Knowledges Working Group, 2014. Provisional guidelines for those working to understand Traditional Knowledges in the context of climate change. Provides information for tribes, agencies, and community organizations in a way designed to foster dialogue.

Wildfire Adaptation Toolkit - Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network,

2019. These free toolkits are designed to help wildfire practitioners support fire adaptation in their community. Each toolkit includes a three-part video series, presentation template, and sample meeting agenda. Videos are in Spanish, with subtitles in English.

Wildfire Management Toolkit: Latino Considerations - Hispanic Access Foundation, 2018.

This 12-page toolkit provides resources and tools for communities seeking to foster wildfire resilience. Land-use planning, public health, and response and recovery are all covered.

Tipsheets

Evacuation Transportation Planning Tips for People with Access and Functional Needs

-Nusera, Inc., as part of the California Emergency Management Agency's Evacuation/Transportation of People with Access and Functional Needs Planning Project. 2010. This short tip sheet is designed to support those with access and functional needs and includes planning considerations for those without transportation.

Tips and Tools for Reaching Limited English Proficient Communities in Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery - Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, Civil

Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 2016. Focused on legal requirements for language access during disasters, this guidance provides tips and tools for incorporating language access into preparedness, response, and recovery.

Equity Foundations Training - Urban Sustainability Directors Network, 2015. This free, self-paced

curriculum including video, worksheets, and facilitator's guides is designed to help government staff ground their work in an equity-based approach.

Training Courses and Materials

Show Me for Emergencies (Apple) and (Google) - Massachusetts Office of Preparedness and

Emergency Management, 2012. This app is designed for use by public safety personnel and provides picture-based tools to communicate during a disaster and at any emergency shelter.

Web-based Tools and Mobile Apps

Unequal Impacts of Wildfire - Headwaters Economics, 2021. This tool provides free socioeconomic

information about populations more likely to experience adverse social, health, or economic outcomes due to their race, age, gender, poverty status, or other factors. Reports use data from the Census' American Community Survey (ACS) and are available at multiple scales, from neighborhoods to states.

Disability and Health Emergency Preparedness - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This website provides resources curated by states to help people with disabilities and their caregivers prepare for emergencies.

Websites

Equitable Development and Environmental Justice - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Provides an overview of equitable development and land-use, as well as planning issues, workshop materials, and resources.

Ready.Gov/Plan - Federal Emergency Management Agency. This comprehensive website includes

planning information from individuals with disabilities, families, college students and seniors.

Outdoor Workers and Wildfire - UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety. This

website provides educational materials and training resources for employers and employees who may be exposed to smoke during fire events.

This document was created by the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network on behalf of the Wildfire Risk to Communities website. FAC Net is a community of wildfire practitioners across the nation that is supported by the United States Forest Service, Departments of the Interior, The Nature Conservancy and the Watershed Research and Training Center. Visit fireadaptednetwork.org to subscribe to our weekly blog and get stories of community wildfire resilience straight to your inbox.