



WILDFIRES – HOW TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT HOUSING

SESSION 1: Wildfires & Housing 101

Thursday, September 30, 2021 | 3:00-5:00 PM Virtual

The magnitude, destruction and ferocity of wildfires is increasing, fueled by the drought and climate change. With frequency, neighborhoods and entire communities are threatened by fire in California. We can't control wildfires, but we can take actions to preserve and protect housing. What can planners do and how can we work collaboratively with public safety, emergency management professionals, and our communities?

Our purpose in this series, "Wildfires – How to Preserve & Protect Housing" is to educate planners with current science, best practices, tools and technology and current information. Workshop #1 starts with four experts who will provide the grounding information for the series.



AGENDA

- 1. Overview & Introductions** – Welcome, introductions and overview of this session and the four upcoming workshops
- 2. Speakers** – Four speakers to ground us in fire trends, fire science, preparation tools, and new organizations for collaborative planning & preparation
 - Kimiko Barrett, Headwaters Economics -- *Setting the stage for why we have to think differently about fires & housing*
 - Daniel Gorham, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) -- *Discuss how fires work, ignitability, and impacts on homes*
 - Todd Lando, Central Marin Fire Department -- *Myths and facts of defensible space*
 - Mark Brown, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority -- *Discuss creation of MWPA, structure and funding & program initiatives.*
- 3. Q&A / Discussion** – Time for questions and discussions with speakers and among staff
- 4. Conclusion** – Review Resource Guides and highlight October 14th Workshop

RESOURCE GUIDES

Resource Guide #1 – "Wildfires – Research, Science & Key organizations"

- Document with links to key research plus key national, state and community-based organizations regarding wildfires.

Resource Guide #2 – Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA)

- Overview of MWPA including history, structure, governance, funding and programs. A model for collaborative wildfire prevention planning and programs for other communities.





SPEAKER BIOS



KIMIKO BARRETT

Headwaters Economics
Lead Wildfire Research and Policy Analyst

Focus -- Setting the stage for why we have to think differently about fires & housing

BIO -- Kimiko Barrett is the lead wildfire research and policy analyst at [Headwaters Economics](#), a non-partisan independent research organization based in Bozeman, Montana. She is also the Program Director for [Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire \(CPAW\)](#), working with communities across the country to better plan, mitigate, and adapt to wildfires. Born and raised in Bozeman, Montana, Kimi now lives in nearby Livingston and has a deep appreciation for the outdoors and the connections people have with the land. As a researcher, she enjoys engaging with people on complex issues such as community resilience, adaptation, and vulnerability. After obtaining undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Japanese, Kimi completed a Master's in Geography from Montana State University and a Ph.D. in Forestry from University of Montana.



DANIEL GORHAM

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS)
Research Engineer

Focus -- Discuss how fires work, ignitability, and impacts on homes

BIO -- Dan brings to IBHS a wealth of science and engineering experience in the wildfire peril. Most recently, Dan was the Research Project Manager for the Fire Protection Research Foundation in Quincy, Massachusetts. He has also spent time with the National Fire Protection Association and was a Guest Researcher at the U.S. Forest Service Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. Dan holds both a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland College Park. His background in fire and life safety include experience as a firefighter/EMT in the state of Maryland.



TODD LANDO

Central Marin Fire Department
Wildfire & Hazard Mitigation Specialist & NFPA Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

Focus -- Myths and facts of defensible space

BIO -- Todd Lando is a Battalion Chief and Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Specialist for Central Marin Fire Department with 31 years in the fire service. Todd is an NFPA Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and has worked as a fire inspector, an urban forester specializing in community wildfire protection, and served as Executive Director of Fire Safe San Mateo County and Fire Safe Marin - the nation's first and second fire safe councils. He studied Forestry and Wildfire Management at the University of Montana and earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Urban Planning from Sonoma State University.



MARK BROWN

**Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority
Executive Officer**

Focus -- Discuss creation of MWPA, structure and funding & program initiatives.

BIO -- Mark started his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1986 in Sonoma County. He was hired by the Marin County Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic in 1991 and retired as the Deputy Fire Chief. After serving for nearly 30 years with the Marin County Fire Department, Mark retired in order to assume the position as Executive Officer for the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.

Mark served on a CAL FIRE Incident Management Team for 15 years as a Type I Operations Section Chief and was qualified as a Type II Incident Commander. Chief Brown was a founding member of the North Bay Incident Management Team, a Type III All-Hazards IMT in the San Francisco Bay Area and was the Program Manager and one of the Incident Commanders. His deployments include floods, earthquakes, public health emergencies, hurricanes, oil spills, mud slides, civil unrest, wildland fires and planned events. Mark has a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Studies – Organizational Leadership.

THE WORKSHOP SERIES

“Wildfires – How to Preserve & Protect Housing”

The ABAG Work Group series “Wildfires – How to Preserve & Protect Housing” will have experts present current information and best practices in addition to sharing background materials, case studies, reference sites and other key documents. These sessions will help local agencies gain a better understanding of the evolution and behavior of wildfires, defensible space, home hardening, evacuations (new laws, practical approaches, and new models), and responsive land use planning in the (WUI) Wildfire/Urban Interface. With each session, Resource Guides will be provided to help planners learn more.

This Work Group is for local planning and housing staff interested in learning about how the emerging regular reality of wildfires can be included in agencies planning efforts.

The world of wildfires planning is no longer just the responsibility of fire fighters and emergency managers – a more holistic, integrated, and realistic approach is required – which includes planners.

WORK GROUP MEETINGS
WILDFIRES – PRESERVATION & PROTECTION OF HOMES

Wildfires & Housing 101	Defensible Space & Home Hardening + CAL FIRE Update	Evacuations: Laws, Practices & Technology	Land Use Planning in the WUI + ADUS
Overview of fire evolution, fire science, intro to home hardening & defensible space, plus introduction of Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.	Deep dive into defensible space & home hardening with updates from CAL FIRE plus practical resident guidance.	Exploration of new evacuation laws, OPR update on upcoming Technical Advisory, and tips on practical implementation of new technology.	Outline planning & risk mitigation initiatives for wildfires. Explore how to add ADUs and housing in the WUI.