



Association of Bay Area Governments



Technical Assistance  
for Local Planning

**HOUSING**

*Wildfire*

**Workgroup  
focus**

*Housing*

# WILDFIRES & HOUSING

## PRESERVATION & PROTECTION OF HOMES

Lessons learned from the Fall 2021 Workshops and  
how to integrate actions into your Housing Element



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Association of Bay Area Governments | March 2022



## WILDFIRE & HOUSING SERIES

# Workshops & Resource Guides

| Workshop Topic       | Wildfires & Housing 101<br>(September 2021)  | Defensible Space & Home Hardening<br>(October 2021)  | Evacuations: Laws, Practices, & Technology<br>(November 2021)   | Land Use Planning in the WUI<br>(December 2021)  |
|----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Workshop Description | <i>Overview of fire science behind how homes ignite with an introduction of Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.</i>                                       | <i>Deep dive into defensible space &amp; home hardening with updates from CAL FIRE plus practical resident guidance.</i>   | <i>Exploration of new evacuation laws (SB 99, AB 747), OPR updates, and approaches to modeling.</i>                 | <i>Outline planning &amp; risk mitigation initiatives for wildfires. Explore how to add ADUs and housing in the WUI.</i>   |
| Resource Guides      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wildfires - Research, Science &amp; Key Organizations</li> <li>2. Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Resident Resources: Home Hardening and Defensible Space</li> <li>4. Fire Safe Marin's Public Education and Programs</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. New Evacuation Laws, Key Considerations and Planning Resources</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Coming Soon 2022 - State Resources</li> <li>7. Wildfire Programs &amp; Policies for Housing Element Updates</li> </ol> |

All workshop recordings, presentations, and resources guides are available on the ABAG Technical Assistance Portal: [abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/wildfires-how-preserve-protect-housing](https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/wildfires-how-preserve-protect-housing)

# Common Housing Challenges in the WUI and Sample Housing Element Policy Responses



More  
information in  
Resource Guide  
#7

## CHALLENGE #1

Reduce the ignition of homes in wildfire events.

Implement expanded state laws and tap new state programs and resources.

## CHALLENGE #2

Make homes with minimal setbacks more resilient to wildfires.

Track research and consider develop a “Wildfire Reach Code” for narrow setbacks.

## CHALLENGE #3

Improve evacuation times in an emergency.

Conduct an evacuation assessment; and define your challenge.

## CHALLENGE #4

Individual PLUS community action together for wildfire adaptation.

Explore if neighborhood or multi-jurisdictional networks are needed.

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE & HOME HARDENING

Develop/Update a home hardening and defensible space program to preserve existing housing.

## NEW BUILDING CODES / STANDARDS

Implement expanded State laws that increase wildfire standards for housing.

Develop a “Wildfire Reach Code” to inform action in areas with reduced structure separation distances

Consider future action for narrow setbacks informed by forthcoming structure-to-structure ignition prevention research

## PLANNING / MAPPING / LAND USE

Adopt CAL FIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone Update

Use local knowledge to develop a wildfire zone overlay

## EVACUATION PLANNING

Perform an evacuation assessment – comply with SB 99 and AB 747

Develop/Update a pre-evacuation strategy and program for WUI residents

## PUBLIC EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT / COMMUNITY BUILDING

Engage and educate residents on policy changes and upcoming program opportunities

With neighboring cities, explore creation of multi-agency organization to advance wildfire prevention efforts



# NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Skim Resource Guide #7
- ✓ Explore the Technical Assistance Portal
- ✓ Ask for one-on-one help

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