

# FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

## 2016 Arizona Wildland-Urban Interface & Firewise Summit

Mark Brehl

Assistant Fire Management Officer  
Arizona State Forestry Division





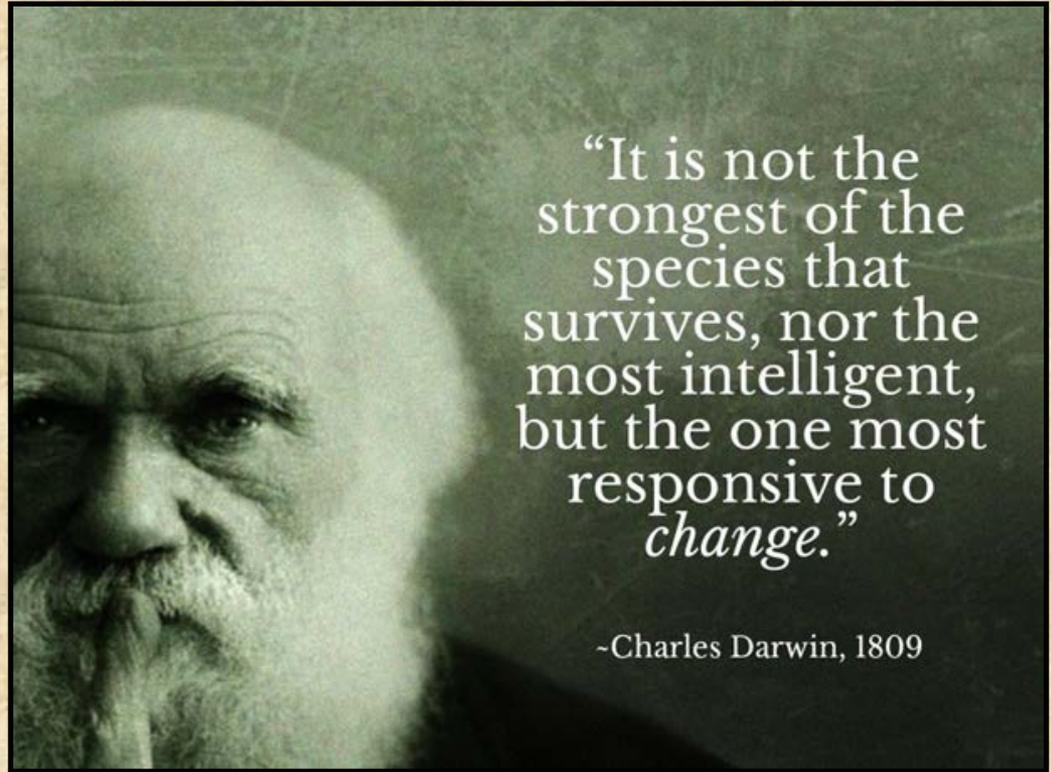
**Fire Adapted.**

**Its not a choice,  
it's a necessity.**

**It's an evolution.**

**It's a process and  
a long-term goal.**

**It's recognition of the need to  
re-evaluate our relationship with fire.**



# FAC – Shifting Paradigms

Dominant Paradigm	New Paradigm
“War on fire”	“Work with the flow” of natural processes
Wildfire is destructive	Wildfire is a necessary natural process
Control wildfire on the landscape	Learn to live with fire on fire-adapted landscapes
Prevent and suppress fires	Create fire-resilient human and natural communities
The problem is that wildfires are escaping our control.	The problem is that always suppressing natural wildfire is creating an unsustainable buildup of fuels which results in dangerous “unnatural fire.”
The solution is to apply existing procedures and technologies more strongly to bring fires under control.	The solution is to develop a more holistic approach to fire management where local communities, adjacent property owners, and governments work together to co-manage fire risk.

# Definition: Fire Adapted Community

'fī(-ə)r \ ə-'dapt, a-\ kə-'myü-nə-tē

Fire adapted communities are groups of professionals, citizens, and agency staff working together to:

- Take collaborative action to protect their community before, during and after wildfires;
- Assess their community's situation regularly and adjust their actions accordingly. Adapting to the role of fire in the landscape requires cultural change and is a long-term undertaking, and it is different for every community; Involve multiple scales of collaboration and partnership;
- Become part of a growing, global movement aimed at helping communities become more resilient to (able to bounce back from) disasters of any type.

# **Definition: Fire Adapted Community**

**'fī(-ə)r \ ə-'dapt, a-\ kə-'myü-nə-tē**

**Simply Put:**

**A Fire Adapted Community is one which accepts the risk of wildfire and works towards being more resilient when a wildfire occurs.**

# Who makes a Fire Adapted Community?



# Ingredients of a Fire Adapted Community



# Ingredients of a Fire Adapted Community

## Community Engagement



# Ingredients of a Fire Adapted Community

## Stakeholder Collaboration



# Ingredients of a Fire Adapted Community

## Shared Responsibility

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR ROLE?**  
Learn what you can do to help your community become fire adapted.

**Visit [FireAdapted.org](http://FireAdapted.org)** 



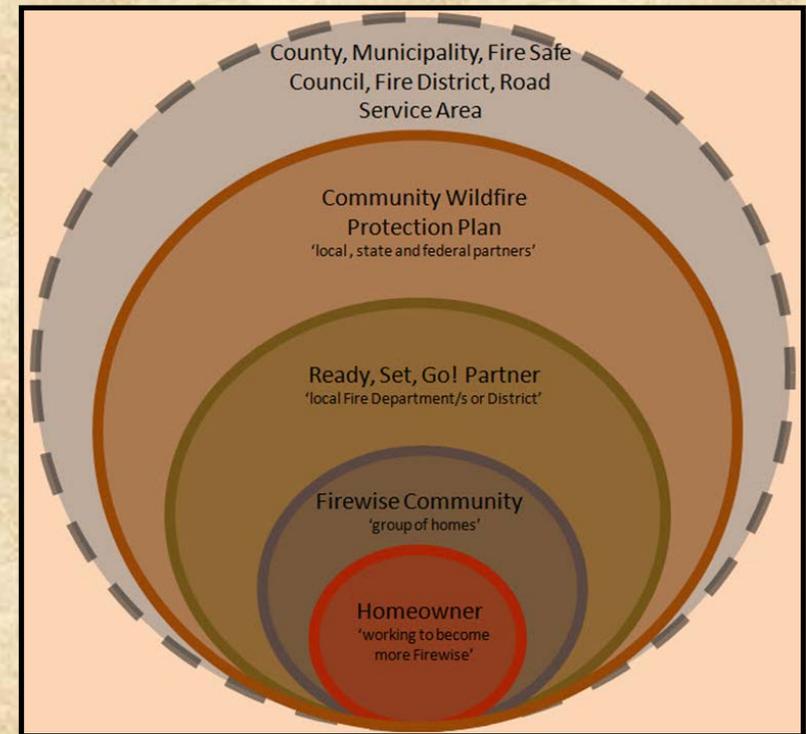
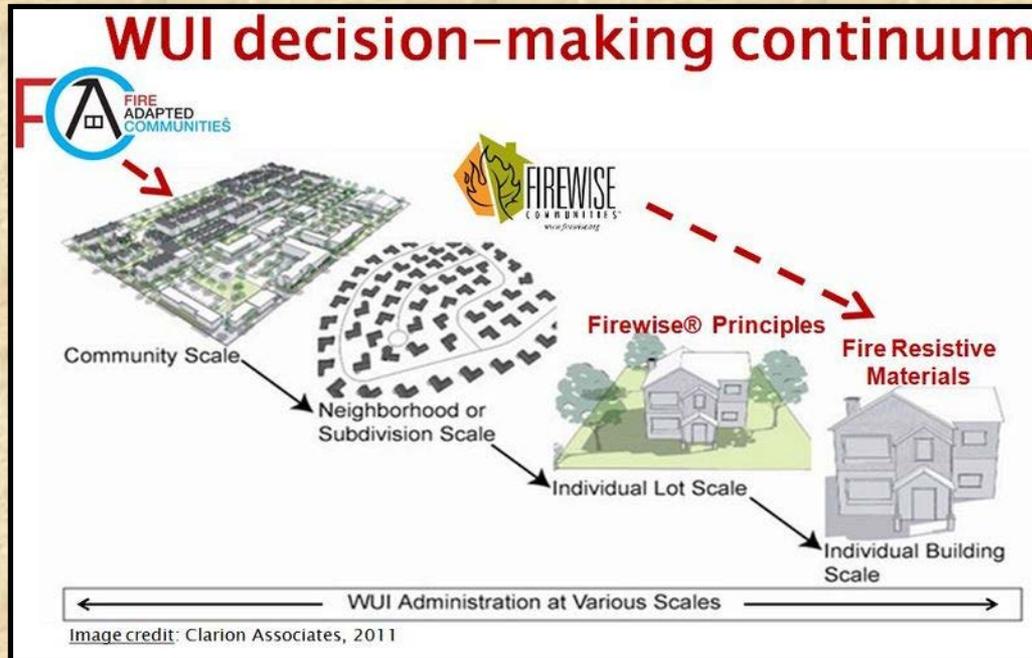
- CIVIC LEADERS**
  - Require defensible space around structures
    - Don't allow development in high risk areas
  - Follow safety codes to regulate building materials & locations
- DEVELOPERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS**
  - Don't build in high risk areas
    - Make sure developments have adequate defensible space
  - Use non-combustible building materials
- FIRST RESPONDERS**
  - Use the Ready, Set, Go! program
    - Educate your jurisdiction about fire adapted communities
  - Create a fire plan with other emergency responders
- LAND MANAGERS**
  - Treat hazardous fuels to reduce risk from wildfire
    - Identify & assess wildfire risk on the land you manage
  - Work collaboratively to reduce risk on the land you manage
- HOMEOWNERS**
  - Become a Firewise Community
    - Create 100 feet of defensible space
    - Keep roof & gutters clean

Nearly 70,000 communities are at risk from wildfires and billions are spent each year to fight them. Reduce your risk by creating and implementing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

 |  

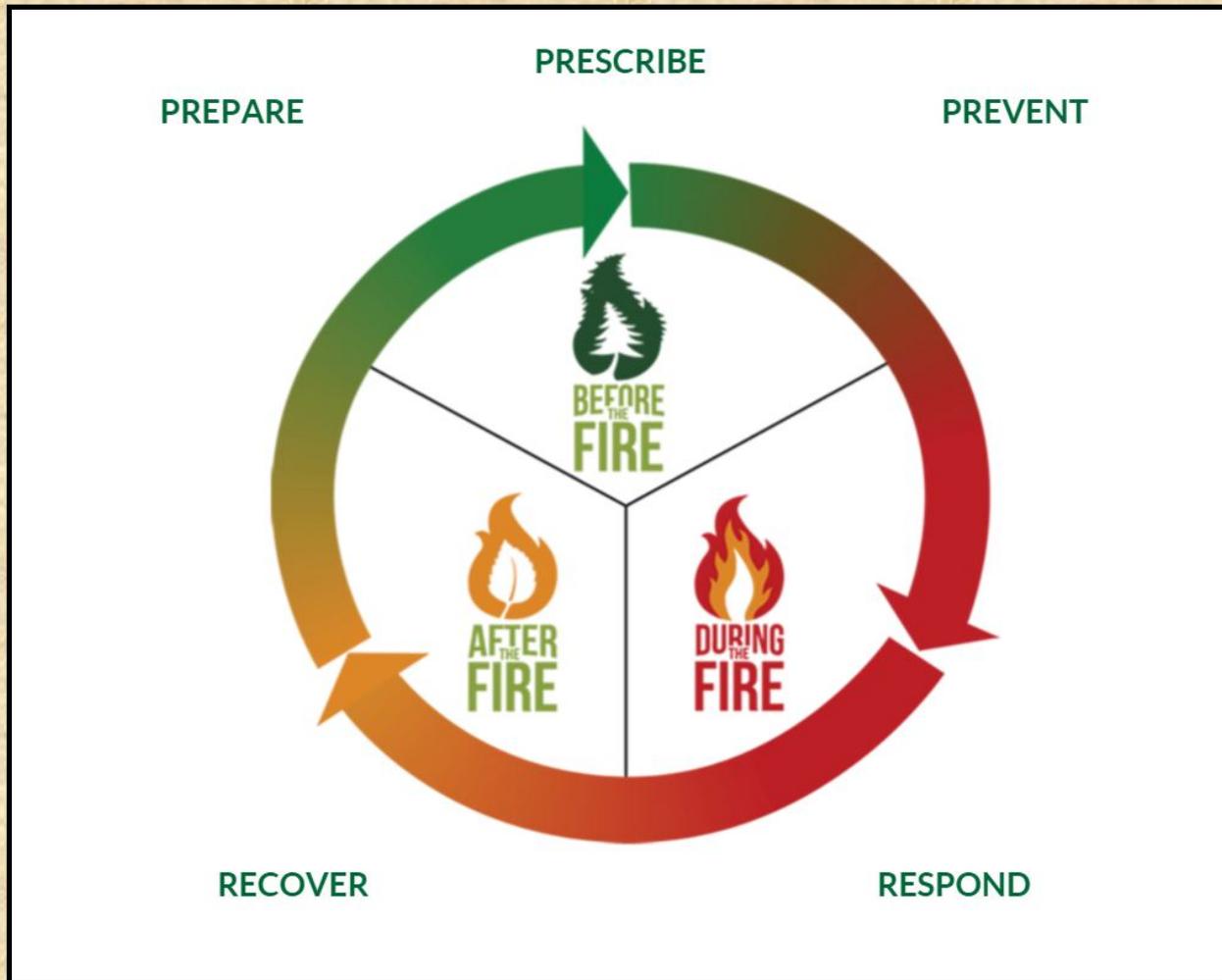
# Ingredients of a Fire Adapted Community

## Strategies that work at different scales



# Ingredients of a Fire Adapted Community

## Continual Adaptation



# Strategies and Approaches

## Prevention



# Strategies and Approaches

## Fuel Management



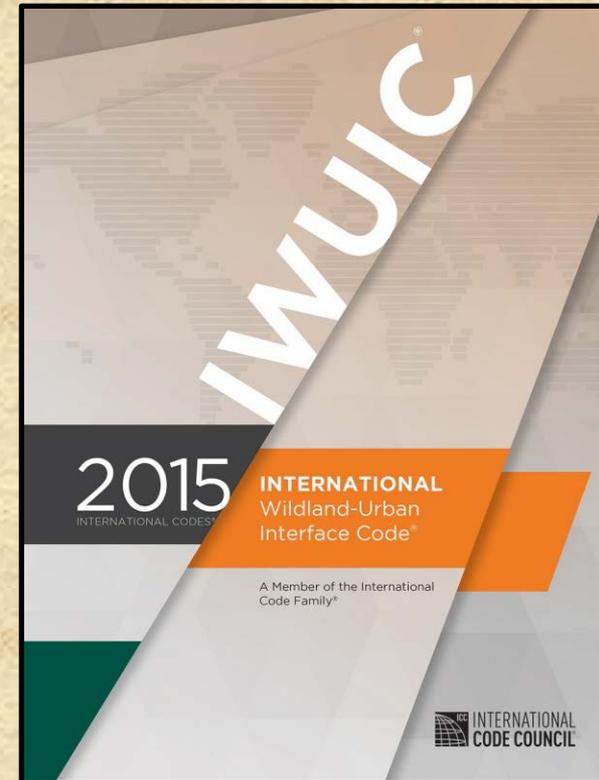
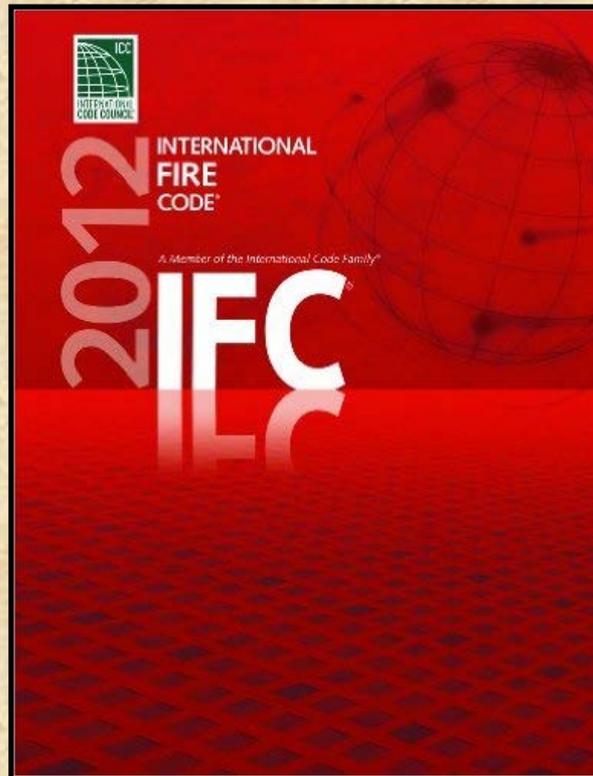
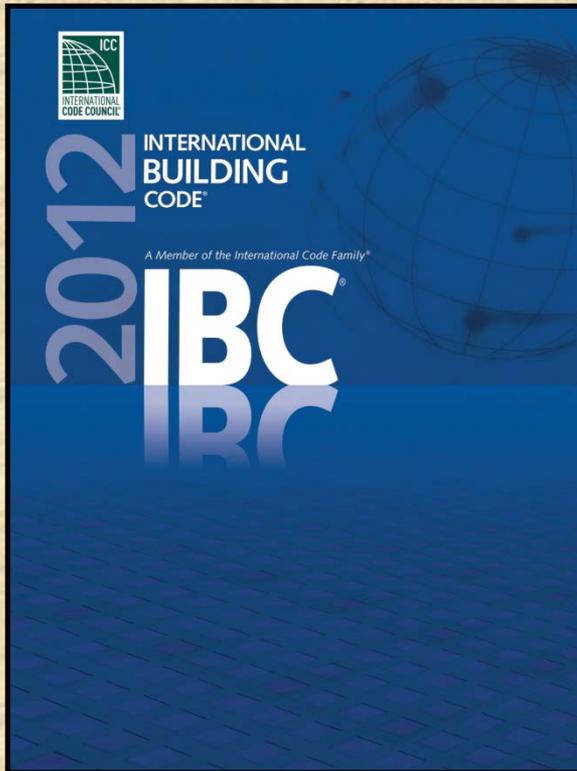
# Strategies and Approaches

## Community Wildfire Protection Planning



# Strategies and Approaches

## Codes and Ordinances



# Strategies and Approaches

## Existing Programs



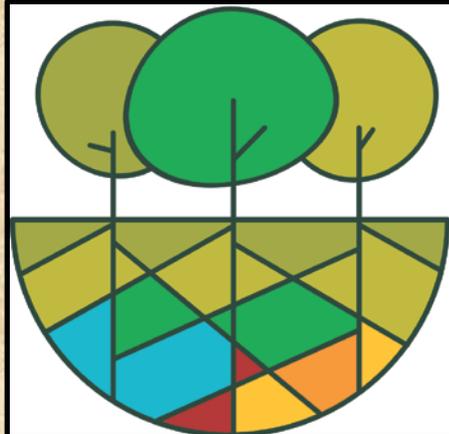
# Outcomes

- **Infrastructure prepared for wildfire**
- **Natural areas prepared for wildfire**
- **Fire increasingly able to play its natural role**
- **Reduced severity and post fire impacts**
- **Healthy Economies and Ecosystems**
- **Safe and effective wildland fire response**
- **Stronger social networks**

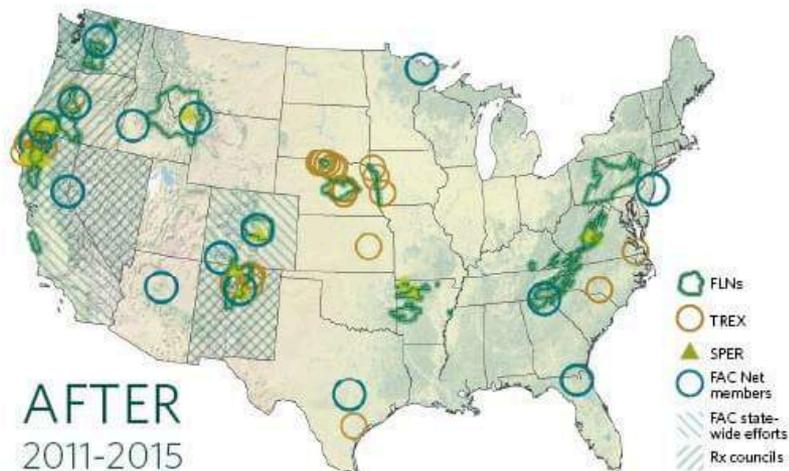
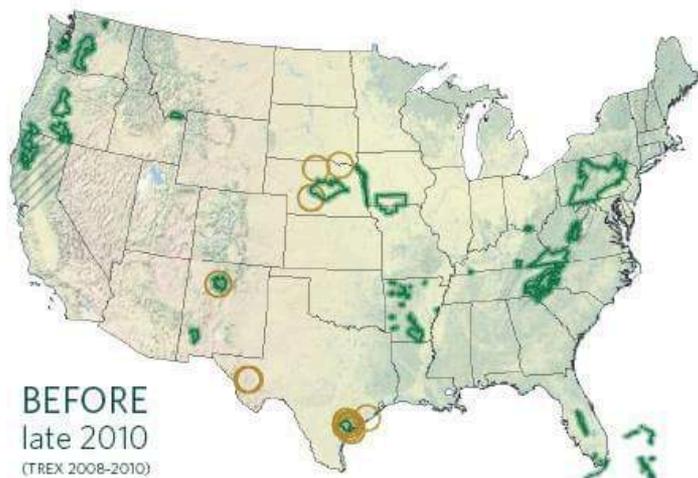


**Individuals and organizations across the U.S.  
that have committed to implementing,  
assessing and sharing the work that they are  
doing to increase their communities' resilience  
to wildfire.**

**[www.fireadaptednetwork.org](http://www.fireadaptednetwork.org)**



# FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK



Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration  
Cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior

# Thank You!

Learn more about fire adapted community concepts  
[www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org)

Connect with people and communities working to  
become fire adapted [www.fireadaptednetwork.org](http://www.fireadaptednetwork.org)

Learn about Firewise [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

Enroll in Ready, Set Go! [www.wildlandfirersg.org](http://www.wildlandfirersg.org)

Learn more about programs in AZ [www.azsf.az.gov](http://www.azsf.az.gov)