Frequently Asked Questions
March 2016

What is a fire adapted community (FAC)?
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.

Is "fire adapted communities" just a new name for Firewise?
No. The Firewise Communities USA Recognition program (www.firewise.org) is just one of many strategies or tools a community can use to increase its level of fire adaptation. Additional strategies for preparing for wildfire include evacuation planning (such as Ready, Set Go!, http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/), developing and updating Community Wildfire Protection Plans and removing flammable vegetation from natural areas.

How can my community be recognized for our fire adaptation work?
The map on our website (www.fireadaptednetwork.org/connect) includes communities that are interested in fire adaptation and want to connect to other people and places working on these issues. There is no formal fire adapted communities recognition program.

What's the best way to learn more about fire adapted communities?
On the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network website, www.fireadaptednetwork.org, you can become an Affiliate Member of the Network, sign up for our monthly newsletter, subscribe to our twice-weekly blog feed, access Network resources and peruse our member directory to learn more about participating individuals and groups.

How can a learning network make a difference in wildfire outcomes?
The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network 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). Unlike coalitions or alliances, generative networks are tackling problems that require a good deal of time and adaptive management to address. 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?
Anyone interested in the practices of fire adapted communities can become an Affiliate Member by creating a profile at http://fireadaptednetwork.org/about/network-members/.

The more committed and deeper level of engagement, Core Membership, is by invitation only. Core Members determine areas of emphasis and actively contribute to the Network's mission by convening sub-networks, participating in Communities of Practice, developing resources and working to help their communities become more fire adapted.

If you are interested in learning more about the Network, please email us at info@fireadaptednetwork.org.