



FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

What is a fire adapted community (FAC)?

A fire adapted community is a community that understands its risk and takes action before, during, and after a fire so that it is more resilient to wildfire impacts. Fire adapted community members are informed and prepared, collaboratively planning and taking action to better live with wildland fire.

In Montana, creating fire adapted communities involves accepting that our state is no stranger to wildfire. Montanans live in a diverse array of fire adapted ecosystems, but we can still learn from each other on how to best take action to reduce wildfire risk and the need for extraordinary intervention by fire services.

Who should be part of a fire adapted community?

Because all stakeholders in a community are impacted by wildfire, **everyone in a community shares responsibility for becoming more fire adapted.** This includes residents, businesses, policy-makers, land managers, and emergency responders, as well as local, state, tribal, and federal governments.

What actions can a community take to become more adapted to wildfire?

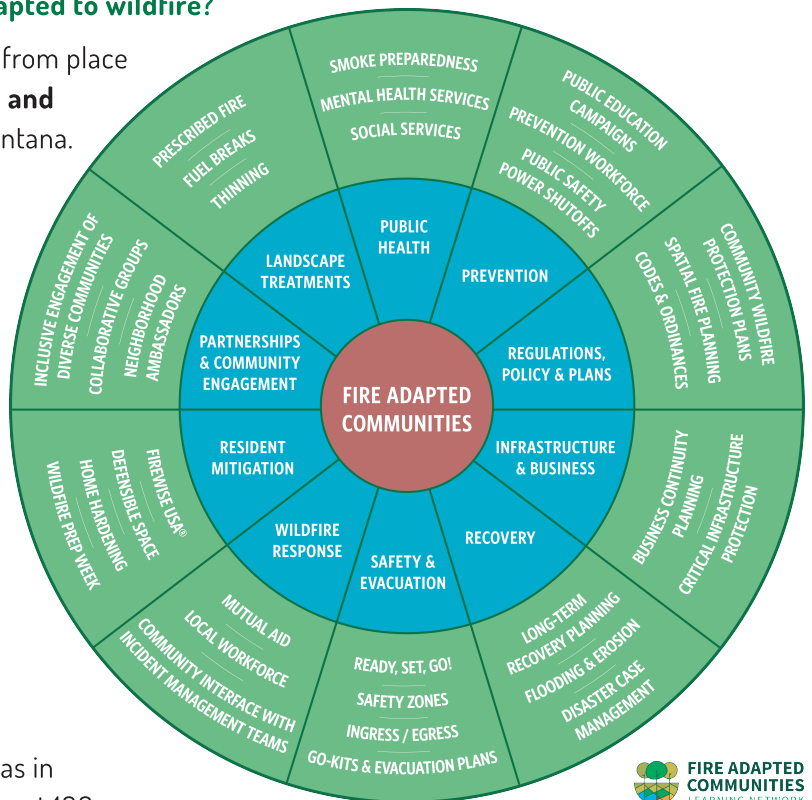
Actions to improve a community's resilience to wildfire vary from place to place, and therefore will involve a **variety of approaches and pathways** for the many communities across the state of Montana. Overall, the goal is to decrease the impact of wildfire to the community in a way that includes **the whole community and best suits the local context.**

When will we be done with creating fire adapted communities?

A community is never done with wildfire adaptation work; therefore, there is no defined end point for communities striving to live more safely with wildfire. A truly resilient community continually assesses and adapts to changing social, political, and ecological conditions.

Why do we need to create fire adapted communities?

Fire is a natural and necessary element for most natural areas in Montana. Although fire has largely been suppressed for the past 100 years, we now know that **this is not always possible or desirable in these landscapes that have evolved with fire.** Instead, we need to find ways to restore fire while also ensuring that our homes and communities are capable of withstanding its impacts.



What is the Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network (FAMLN)?

We are a group of individuals who are committed to creating a more Fire Adapted Montana. To achieve this goal, **we connect regularly to learn from and support each other** as we work to foster fire adapted communities across the state.

Network members share knowledge about community and homeowner preparedness, lessons learned, education and outreach material, and financial opportunities related to increasing wildfire resilience. In doing so, we are able to collaboratively develop new ideas and share successful strategies, which ultimately allows FAMLN members to get more done together than they would be able to do alone. Our work is also aided and amplified by our connection to the national Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. To learn more about the national network, visit fireadaptednetwork.org.

Who is in the network?

Coordinated by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the network is driven by the interests and needs of the members. These members are all working on fire adaptation and **want to connect with and learn from others who are doing the same**. They represent a diverse array of entities who are working towards wildfire resiliency, including representatives from local fire adapted working groups, non-governmental organizations, as well as local, state, tribal, and federal agencies. Membership in FAMLN is not contingent on a “level” of activity, or conditions in a given location. Instead, we work to connect with **anyone, anywhere who is actively working to create a more fire adapted Montana**.

What does FAMLN do?

FAMLN connects and supports people and communities in Montana who are striving to live more safely with wildfire.

Our members:

- Understand their local communities and implement a diverse array of fire adaptation techniques that best suite the local context and wildfire risk;
- Innovate and experiment with new practices to enhance fire adaptation before, during, and after wildfires; and
- Share and spread knowledge and practices within the network and their communities.

Why is a learning network a good tool to address wildfire issues?

Addressing the large, complex problem of community resilience to wildfire is a challenge that is too big for any one organization or agency to handle alone. So instead, **we're doing it together**, using a network approach. The network is a space for members, who are doing the adaptation work on the ground, to connect, share good ideas, and learn from each other's successes and failures. The long-term, cooperative, and nimble nature of this network make it ideal for increasing our capacity, knowledge, and ability to tackle our wildfire issues and take action.

HOW CAN I JOIN FAMLN?

We welcome individuals and organizations actively working on community fire adaptation. Members commit to sharing and learning with other network members to advance fire adaptation best practices in Montana. To learn more, please visit fireadaptedmontana.org.

