Q. What is Fire Adapted Communities?

A. Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a collaborative approach to reducing wildfire risks throughout an entire community. FAC helps connect all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with organizations and programs that provide comprehensive resources for their specific wildfire mitigation needs. The combination of these efforts strengthens a community’s resiliency for the next wildfire.

Q. What do you mean by “fire adapted?”

A. Fire is a natural part of our environment. As we choose to live in areas where wildfires occur, we must adapt the way we design, build and live within these areas to protect communities from the risks of wildfire.

Q. Why is Fire Adapted Communities necessary?

A. The most effective way to reduce wildfire impact is through a collaborative approach with all community members and leaders. Fire Adapted Communities brings together comprehensive resources under a single umbrella to connect people with the national programs and organizations that can help them meet their specific needs. By joining together through FAC, organizations are better positioned to share information, resources and contacts to extend the reach of their programs – and ultimately reduce more risks.

Q. How does FAC differ from Firewise [OR OTHER] and other wildfire mitigation efforts?

A. Fire Adapted Communities is a central source for wildfire mitigation efforts. It helps connect people with the national programs and organizations that can address their specific needs. While Firewise focuses specifically on helping residents take action to prepare their homes and neighborhoods for wildfire, Fire Adapted Communities connects to other organizations and programs to address all aspects of community-wide preparedness – from residents to business leaders to planners and developers.

Q. What organizations and programs are involved in FAC?

A. Fire Adapted Communities is powered by a coalition of the nation’s leaders in wildfire education, planning and protection, including: USDA Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of State Foresters, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fire Administration and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Q. What does a Fire Adapted Communities approach involve?

b. A Fire Adapted Communities approach involves a coordinated effort among all members of a community to be educated about wildfire behavior and mitigation; to consider wildfire risks in community wildfire planning and development; to develop individual and community-based plans for wildfire response and evacuation; and to take action to reduce wildfire risks throughout the community before a wildfire occurs.

Q. For whom is Fire Adapted Communities designed?

A. FAC is designed for everyone who lives, works and plays in areas that may be impacted by wildfire. FAC works to connect:

* Community officials with *education* and resources to *plan* for wildfires.
* Residents and business owners with programs to develop individual *plans* for wildfire preparation, evacuation and rebuilding and information on how to take *action* to protecthomes and businesses from wildfire effects.
* Planners and developerswith tools to *plan* more fire adapted cities and neighborhoods.
* Emergency responderswith *education* programs for community residents on how to develop wildfire emergency *plans* and take *action* to protect buildings and property within the community from wildfire.
* Insurance companieswith *education* on wildfire preparedness benefits for homeowners.
* Land managers and public utilitieswith information on best ways to take *action* to protectpublic lands and utilities from wildfire and *educate* residents on the role fire plays in our environment.