



# RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## RESEARCH FOR THE NFPA MISSION

### PROJECT SUMMARY

## Preparing for Disaster: Workshop on Advancing WUI Resilience

3 March 2020

**Background:** Current Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) building codes and community design guidelines do not provide a method of assessing site-specific wildfire risk (beyond a single structure) and informed disaster resilience measures. Losses from the 2018 Camp Fire in California alone reached over 80 human lives, \$7 billion dollars, and almost 19,000 structures. Similar devastation occurs yearly and in other parts of the world - e.g. Portugal, Greece, Chile, Australia. Communities affected by wildfire disaster typically lack proper preparation, which exacerbates the recovery process. This issue must be given higher attention now as the increasing trend of large wildfires is expected to continue, and become more widespread, under a changing climate.

A workshop hosted on March 3-4, 2020 by the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and organized by Amanda Kimball (FPRF), Michele Steinberg (NFPA), Michael Gollner (UC Berkeley), Maria Theodori (Reax Engineering), and Ibrahim Almufti (Arup) sought to identify actions to resolve gaps in research and the market and outline the steps to execute sustainable solutions.

The workshop consisted of short, themed talks followed by panel discussions, breakout discussions, and report-back presentations from breakout groups. Topics included:

- Case Studies of Previous WUI Fire Disasters
- The State of the WUI problem and Projections for the Future
- Land Use Planning and Community Wildland Fire Protection Plans
- Technology for Planning and Risk Assessment for Communities
- Outreach and Community Action
- Notification and Evacuation
- Long-Term Trends and Market Challenges

The attendance at the workshop was diverse by design and included land use planners, scientists and researchers, policy makers, technology developers, engineers, utilities, and educators.

**Objectives:** 1) Identify immediate and realistic actions to resolve research and market gaps between wildfire risk and WUI disaster resilience; and  
2) Outline the steps required to execute development of holistic, accessible and sustainable solutions.

**Schedule:** The full workshop proceedings will be available this summer (2020).

## About us:

### **About the Fire Protection Research Foundation**

The [Fire Protection Research Foundation](#) plans, manages, and communicates research on a broad range of fire safety issues in collaboration with scientists and laboratories around the world. The Foundation is an affiliate of NFPA.



### **About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. [All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free.](#) NFPA's [membership](#) totals more than 65,000 individuals around the world.

