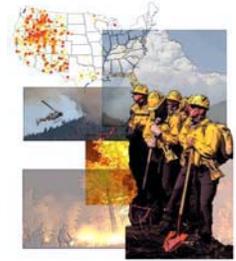


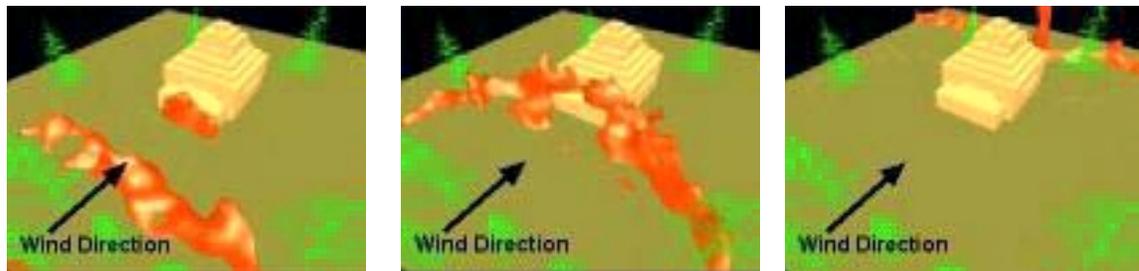
National Fire Plan

Alternative Prescriptions for Firewise Residential Landscapes



California - A growing number of people are moving to the wildland-urban interface. The landscapes they create and care for influence local fuel loads and the risk of loss from fire. Fuel management treatments usually address the physical processes that govern fire spread and home ignition without considering the residents' expectations for landscapes that provide beauty, privacy, views, shelter, and wildlife habitat.

Under the National Fire Plan, scientists are working to develop firewise landscape alternatives that more closely match residents' preferences and are thus more likely to be adopted by homeowners. Efforts have focused on gathering detailed information on structures and vegetation of 102 residential properties in Calif., compiling cost information for landscape treatments, and evaluating effects of various landscape designs on building energy use. A web-based program enabling homeowners to view and compare alternatives is in its early development stages.



Researchers at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Building Fire Research Laboratory are developing a simulation that will show how landscaping alternatives affect the spread of fire on residential sites. These three frames illustrate a wind-blown, ground-fire (in red) spreading past a building.

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov