

# Bringing People to the Table: Highlights of Local Partnership Building for Wildland Fire Preparedness

**2013 Webinar Series** 

Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 11:00 am EST



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# **Building Local Partnerships in a**"Fire Adapted Community"

Lucian Deaton – RSG! Program Manager International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)



#### Agenda

**Local Partnership Building & FAC** 

Highlights from Department, County & Regional Perspectives

**Panel Discussion & Questions** 



## **READY, SET, GO!**

**Speakers** 

Captain Jerry McAdams Boise Fire Department

John Cowie, Barnegat Vol. Fire Co. #1/ NJ Forest Fire Service District Fire Warden

> Nick Goulette, Exec Dir., Watershed Research & Training Center

#### National Level Response

- RSG Role in National Policy
  - National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management
     Strategy Report, April 2011
    - Restoring and Maintaining Resilient Landscapes
    - Creating Fire Adapted Communities
    - Responding to Wildfires



#### National Level Response

Creating Communities Adapted to the Fire Threat



- Collaborative efforts at the community level
- Learn more at <u>www.FireAdapted.org</u>





#### **Local Partnership Building in Boise, ID**

Captain Jerry McAdams
Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator
Boise Fire Department
Boise, Idaho

- Identify the Need
- Identify Stakeholders
- Meet with Stakeholders
- Identify Funding Sources
- Put a Game-Plan Together
- Create Opportunities for New Partnerships

"Have a passion for what you do; peoples lives and property are at stake!"





Identify the Need

- Fire Danger
- Loss Potential
- Public Awareness
- Community Indifference/Apathy
- Be Proactive and Get Out Ahead of It!





- Identify Stakeholders Think Outside the Box!
  - Homeowners
  - Internal Partners







- Funding Sources
- Educational Institutions
- Volunteer Organizations
- Conservation Organizations
- Fed, State & Local Agencies



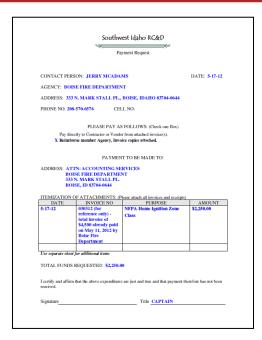
- Meet with Stakeholders
  - Identify Common Issues and Interests
    - Collaboration and cost-sharing
  - Build on Others Good and Bad Ideas
    - Don't spin your wheels
    - Don't reinvent the wheel
    - Work smarter, not harder
    - What worked, what didn't



"You cannot overstate the importance of building strong, cooperative partnerships!"



- Identify Funding Sources
  - Grants
    - FEMA
    - State BHS
    - Public Utilities
    - State Forestry
    - County Emergency Management
    - Private Corporations and Foundations
    - Resource Conservation & Development Councils
  - Your Agency
  - Volunteer Labor
  - Think Outside the Box!





- Put a Game-Plan Together
  - Prioritize Projects
    - Greatest impact
    - High hazardous areas
    - Agency owned properties
    - Projects with cost-sharing potential
    - Within organizational/coalition capacity
  - Build Community Support
  - Look at Long-Term Sustainability
  - Set Realistic Goals and Expectations





- Create Opportunities for New Partnerships
  - Wildfire Mitigation Forum



- Newsletters, websites, Facebook, Twitter, etc....





### **READY, SET, GO!**

# Local Partnership Building in Barnegat, NJ

**John Cowie** 

**Barnegat, NJ, Volunteer Fire Company # 1 NJ Forest Fire Service District Fire Warden** 

- Identify Stakeholders
  - On Fires
  - Local EmergencyManagement
  - Community Leaders
  - Anyone Involved with or Effected by Wildfire





- Building Relationships
  - Community Programs: HOAs, Church Groups, etc.
  - Work with Other Emergency Service Groups on Community Programs
  - Establish a Line of Communication with State and Federal Agencies Involved (TFS, NJFFS, etc.)

Identify Community Dynamics

Is there one Continuous Community?

Are There Many
 Communities within
 your Jurisdiction? (ex: Barnegat, NJ)





- Develop Open Communication
  - Start a Monthly, Quarterly, or Bi-Annual meeting
  - Ex: Barnegat, NJ, Quarterly Fire Risk Meeting
  - Strengthening Working Relationships
  - Keeping Stakeholders from Becoming Complacent





### **READY, SET, GO!**

Local Partnership Building at the "Regional" Level

Nick Goulette
Executive Director, Watershed
Research & Training Center

- Local leaders have been advancing and practicing "Fire Adapted Communities" strategies for many years
- The "FAC" concept helps to frame the approach and bring together tools and resources that support this local work
- Sharing learning around challenges, innovations and best practices is a key strategy in accelerating adoption of FAC strategies



- A "Learning Network" for accelerating the growth of Fire Adapted Communities
  - A pilot project supported by the US Forest Service
  - Adapt lessons from the long-standing Fire Learning Network (a partnership between the Forest Service, US DOI agencies and The Nature Conservancy)
  - Facilitate multi-scalar learning to accelerate the development of fire adapted communities

- Why invest in multiscalar learning?
- A common suite of strategies
- A diverse range of community contexts
- A wide range of policies and programs in support





- The FAC Learning Network approach
- Model best-practices
  - "pilot communities"
- Support learning across communities of place and practice
  - Facilitate learning among pilot communities
  - Facilitate learning across all at-risk communities
    - "hub" organizations integrate FAC concepts and learning into mitigation-focused state and regional events (WUI conferences, workshops, etc.)
- Synthesize trends in practice
  - Emphasize relevance to fed programs and policy



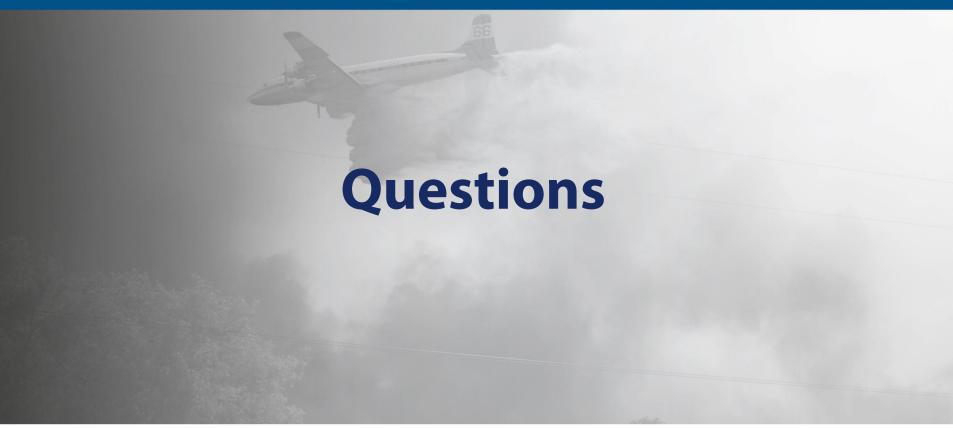
- The FAC Learning Network pilot project
  - June 2013-14
  - 8 pilot communities and sub-regional hubs
    - Local work plans typically focused on formalizing coordination, CWPP revisions, and implementing prioritized actions
    - Hubs will work on integrating FAC concepts and learning with state and regional events
  - Project leads will facilitate and synthesize learning, integrate with FAC Coalition work and, provide information and resources at fireadapted.org



### **Panel Discussion**



## READY, SET, GO! READY, SET, GO!



#### **RSG Programmatic Contact**

We Challenge you to ask your Neighboring Fire Department to Join the Ready, Set, Go! Program

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

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