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)
READY, SET, GO!

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 [www.FireAdapted.org](http://www.FireAdapted.org)
READY, SET, GO!

Local Partnership Building in Boise, ID

Captain Jerry McAdams
Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator
Boise Fire Department
Boise, Idaho
Building Local Partnerships

- 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!”
Building Local Partnerships

- Identify the Need
  - Fire Danger
  - Loss Potential
  - Public Awareness
  - Community Indifference/Apathy
  - Be Proactive and Get Out Ahead of It!
Building Local Partnerships

- Identify Stakeholders – Think Outside the Box!
  - Homeowners
  - Internal Partners
  - Funding Sources
  - Educational Institutions
  - Volunteer Organizations
  - Conservation Organizations
  - Fed, State & Local Agencies
Building Local Partnerships

• 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!”
Building Local 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!
Building Local Partnerships

- 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
Building Local Partnerships

• Create Opportunities for New Partnerships
  – Wildfire Mitigation Forum
  – Newsletters, websites, Facebook, Twitter, etc....
Local Partnership Building in Barnegat, NJ

John Cowie
Barnegat, NJ, Volunteer Fire Company # 1
NJ Forest Fire Service District Fire Warden
Building Local Partnerships

- Identify Stakeholders
  - On Fires
  - Local Emergency Management
  - Community Leaders
  - Anyone Involved with or Effected by Wildfire
Building Local Partnerships

- 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.)
Building Local Partnerships

- Identify Community Dynamics
  - Is there one Continuous Community?
  - Are There Many Communities within your Jurisdiction? (ex: Barnegat, NJ)
Building Local Partnerships

• 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
Local Partnership Building at the “Regional” Level

Nick Goulette
Executive Director, Watershed Research & Training Center
Building Local Partnerships

- 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
Building Local Partnerships

- 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
Building Local Partnerships

- Why invest in multi-scalar learning?
- A common suite of strategies
- A diverse range of community contexts
- A wide range of policies and programs in support
Building Local Partnerships

- 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
Building Local Partnerships

- 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
Questions
RSG Programmatic Contact

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

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

- Lucian Deaton, RSG Program Manager
  International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) at LDeaton@iafc.org / 703.273.0911
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