

# FLN Networker No. 296: March 25, 2020

---

*The FLN Networker is a publication of the Fire Learning Network—a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, agencies of the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy—intended to foster communication within the network and among its friends. Submit comments, information to share, and subscription requests to Liz Rank.*

For more about the FLN, visit [www.conservationgateway.org/fln](http://www.conservationgateway.org/fln).

## News from the Field

**California:** The **Cultural Fire Management Council** has been awarded **funding from the CAL FIRE California Climate Investments program**. “The project will **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** by reducing the likelihood of wildfire starts along Hwy 169, an area rated as ‘high’ and ‘very high’ fire hazard severity zone.... The project will **protect habitable structures, critical infrastructure** and the **Yurok Tribe’s carbon sequestration projects** by providing 20 miles of shaded fuel break along prominent roadways.” The project will provide 100 feet of defensible space around homes and infrastructure and treat 300 acres with prescribed fire. For more about the program, see the [CAL FIRE news release](#).

**California:** Another good [article](#) about **indigenous fire use**, **TREX** and network members in northern California is out today: “**Good Fire on the Klamath**,” in *Earth Island Journal*.

**North Carolina:** **Southern Blue Ridge FLN** partners joined with REI to host **REI’s first Women in Fire seminar** late last month. Twenty-four participants joined 18 fire practitioners from **The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina State Parks** and **Clemson University** to learn from their many years of wildland fire experience. Partners discussed their **rewarding careers in wildland fire**, how they got into fire, what participants could do to begin a career in fire, and why diversity is important in shaping the future of fire management. Inspired by REI’s [Women in Fire video](#), which was **filmed at WTREX**, guests left the event excited about the many options they can pursue, the experiences that await them, and the supportive network that exists both locally and nationally. For more, contact **Margit Bucher** ([mbucher@tnc.org](mailto:mbucher@tnc.org)).

**Virginia:** Last month the **Central Appalachians FLN** hosted “Burning Big! A Workshop on **Large Burn Implementation** in the Central Appalachians.” For a taste of this well-received workshop, check out the [Notes from the Field](#). Much of the **interactive workshop** consisted of demonstrations and discussions, but slides from some of the more formal sessions are posted on the [Conservation Gateway](#). For more, contact **Sam Lindblom** ([slindblom@tnc.org](mailto:slindblom@tnc.org)).

**TREX:** In a recent FAC Net blog post, **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** ([lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu](mailto:lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu)) argued that “we should **focus on the heroes of prescribed fire** rather than the barriers—that we should work to understand the personal philosophies and attitudes of our most effective prescribed fire leaders, rather than continue to dwell on the things that aren’t working.” She does just that in the [blog post](#) “Learning the Rules of the Game: Understanding **Jeremy Bailey** and the **Origins of TREX**.”

## Resources: COVID-19 / Preparedness Day / Assets / Radio Cloning

**COVID-19:** If you are starting to think about how **COVID-19 will intersect** with community response to wildfires, see the [FAC Net blog post](#) “Adjusting to Our Changing Realities.” There aren’t any answers yet, but network staff is requesting that readers provide **suggestions for topics** in the comments section.

Meanwhile, our partner from **FEMA Region 10, Brett Holt**, shared some **Centers for Disease Control** resources that might come in handy: The CDC [What’s New](#) page has (unsurprisingly) links to the **most recent updates and recommendations** about the virus. An **FAQ** page is available in **three languages**—[English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Chinese](#).

See also the [NWCG page](#) “**Infectious Disease Guidance for Wildland Fire Incidents**,” and the operations alert from the **BLM** (attached) that has practical **social distancing tips** for firefighters.

**Preparedness Day:** Activities for the **National Fire Protection Association’s** annual **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day** can still go on in a time of social distancing—the trick is to **maintain physical distance** while working with (or for) your community. **Rebecca Samulski** ([FireAdaptedCO@gmail.com](mailto:FireAdaptedCO@gmail.com)) collected some **ideas for projects** that can safely be accomplished while being sensitive to the need to slow the spread of coronavirus, and shared them in the most recent newsletter from **Fire Adapted Colorado**. They’re gathered in the attached “Strategies for Resilience” document as well.

**Assets:** This also seems like a good time to once again share a [set of handouts](#) about **asset based community development** that come from **Jana Carp** and her work with network members in California. While these focus on wildfire and on “communities” as we typically define them, the framing—which starts with an inventory of **existing internal strengths**—seems adaptable to a community even as small as a household that suddenly finds itself facing novel challenges.

**Radio Cloning:** The Bureau of Land Management has a collection short [training videos](#) on cloning the most common radios. The **28 videos** cover a **range of possible pairs**.

## Blogs: Moving Online / Working Different

**Moving Online:** A [blog post](#) sub-titled “A short manifesto about the future of online interaction” points out that we are at a **fork in the road** as we move many face-to-face meetings online. Since things are already shaken up, we have **choices in defining the new normal**. “People hate meetings but they don’t hate conversations.” The author suggests sending a memo or video if you just need to tell people something; otherwise, really have **conversations**.

**Working Different:** The **Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center** [blog post](#) “Thinking Outside the Stratosphere” says “goodbye, normal” and ponders how wildland fire can meet the **challenges of a fire season with coronavirus**. The post closes with a link to contagious **outbreak-related reports** in the LLC’s Incident Review Database.

## Articles & Reports: Risk Management / Words & Actions

**Risk Management:** **Forest Service Risk Management Assistance** teams traveled to incidents in 2017-2018 to support agency administrators by offering **enhanced risk analytical approaches** to **improve decision-making** on wildland fires. Last year a team from Colorado State University conducted an **assessment of the effort**. Their [report](#), “Findings from a Third-Party Assessment of the U.S. Forest Service’s Risk Management Assistance Teams,” is now available.

**Words & Actions:** Authors of the [article](#) “Do Actions Speak Louder Than Words? Comparing the Effect of **Risk Aversion** on **Objective and Self-Reported Mitigation Measures**” analyzed data collected in part by the **West Region Wildfire Council** and **Wildfire Adapted Partnership** in southwestern Colorado. The results “provide **some confidence in the use of self-reported behaviors** in examinations of risk preferences and risky behaviors, even if the self-reports overstate objective behavioral measures.”

## In the News: Wildfire & Pandemic

**Wildfire & Pandemic:** For a historical perspective, check out the *Duluth News Tribune* [article](#) “In **1918, Duluth Faced Pandemic, Fire and World War I**” (with the subhead, “A look at the Spanish Flu hitting Duluth in 1918 through the lens of social distancing in 2020”). For a look ahead a little, see the *New York Times* [article](#) “How the **Coronavirus Crisis May Hinder Efforts to Fight Wildfires**.”

## For Fun: Coloring

**Coloring:** Need a little break? Sharpen your crayons and [download](#) the **coloring sheet** of **Sasha Berleman**, courtesy of **The Smokey Generation**.

## Job: Lead Scientist / Project Manager

**Lead Scientist:** The **Nature Conservancy** is seeking a **California Land Program Lead Scientist** responsible for developing a scientific framework to inform and advance strategies to supporting **resilient forest ecosystems in California**, with a focus in the Sierra Nevada For details see the Conservancy's careers page ([job ID 48607](#)); applications are due by **April 1**. (As always, current employees should apply through [PeopleSoft](#).)

**Project Manager:** The **Watershed Research and Training Center** is seeking a **Tribal Forest and Fire Project Manager**, in either an employee or contractor capacity. For details see the Watershed Center's [careers page](#); applications are due by **April 3**.

## Webinars

**April 21**  
**new listing**

### **Woodland and Tallgrass Prairie Restoration Case Studies**

9:00 Pacific / 10:00 Mountain / 11:00 Central / noon Eastern

Mike Leahy will be the presenter on this webinar from the Natural Areas Association. (See also the [schedule](#) of all of their 2020 webinars.)

Register: [https://www.naturalareas.org/docs/Leahy\\_and\\_Reid\\_Abstract.pdf](https://www.naturalareas.org/docs/Leahy_and_Reid_Abstract.pdf)

## Network Workshops & Field Tours

**May 19-21**

### **Southern Blue Ridge FLN / Dillard, GA**

Save the date for this regional FLN workshop hosted by the Balsam-Nantahala landscape.

## Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES)

All spring TRES have been cancelled or postponed to support public health efforts related to the coronavirus. However, portions of the WTRES will be offered as a virtual workshop.

**Sept. 28-Oct. 9**

### **Klamath River TRES / Northern CA**

Planning is underway—save the date.

**Oct. 19-Nov. 2**

**new listing**

### **Flagstaff TRES / Flagstaff, AZ**

Save the date—see the [flyer](#) for details.

**Oct. 25-Nov. 6**

### **Southern Blue Ridge TRES / Pickens, SC**

Save the date for the next SBR TRES. Organizers are planning both small- and large-scale burns on private, local, state and federal lands, some using aerial ignition. Application materials will be available in May.

Website: <https://apfire.wixsite.com/sbtrtresh>

## Conferences, Workshops, Training, Etc.

**April 6-8**  
**canceled**

### **After the Flames / Tahoe, CA**

Registration refunds are being processed.

- April 15-16 rescheduled** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Grand Junction, CO**  
See below.
- April 20-23 changed to virtual** **3<sup>rd</sup> International Smoke Symposium / Online**  
Presentations will be recorded and available for up to a year.  
Information: <https://www.iawfonline.org/event/3rd-international-smoke-symposium/>
- May 2** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day / Everytown, USA**  
See the attached “Strategies for Resilience” for project suggestions, and please monitor [www.wildfireprepd.org](http://www.wildfireprepd.org) for any changes related to COVID-19.
- June 2-3** **Glades, Quail and Prescribed Fire / Ash Flat, AR**  
Information: <https://oakfirescience.com/events/glades-quail-and-prescribed-fire-workshop-in-arkansas/>
- June 4** **North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council / Jasper, GA**  
Sign up for updates about this workshop at <http://www.garxfire.com/events.htm>.
- September 22-24** **Great Plains Fire Summit / North Platte, NE**  
Information will be posted on [nefirecouncil.org](http://nefirecouncil.org), or send an email to [nefirecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:nefirecouncil@gmail.com) to be added to the conference email list.
- Sept. 30-Oct.1 new dates** **Colorado Wildland Fire Conference / Grand Junction, CO**  
Fire Adapted Colorado has rescheduled (from April) this conference focused on “Discover Your Role: Reducing Wildland Fire Risk.”  
Information: <https://www.wildfire-colorado.com/>
- November new dates coming** **WUI 2020 / Reno, NV**  
The spring conference hosted by IAFC has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Details will be available soon at: <https://www.iafc.org/events/wui/>

- - - - -

## Send News, Links & Comments

**Emily Hohman** – [emily.hohman@tnc.org](mailto:emily.hohman@tnc.org) – Emily is in the office.

**Heather Montanye** – [hmontanye@tnc.org](mailto:hmontanye@tnc.org) – Heather is in the office.

**Jeremy Bailey** – [jeremy\\_bailey@tnc.org](mailto:jeremy_bailey@tnc.org) – Jeremy is in the office.

**Marek Smith** – [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org) – Marek is in the office.

**Mary Huffman** – [mhuffman@tnc.org](mailto:mhuffman@tnc.org) – Mary is in the office.

**Wendy Fulks** – [wfulks@tnc.org](mailto:wfulks@tnc.org) – Wendy is out March 20-25, April 3-6.

**Liz Rank** (editor) – [lrnk@tnc.org](mailto:lrnk@tnc.org) – Liz is out March 26, April 9.

## Full Links

News from the Field—CA—CFMC: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/10815/cal-fire-awards-grants-fire-prev-2020.pdf>

News from the Field—NC: <https://www.rei.com/blog/women-in-fire>

News from the Field—VA:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/USFLNPublications/Pages/Notes-CApps-Burning-Big-2020.aspx>

News from the Field—TREX: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/learning-the-rules-of-the-game-jeremy-bailey-and-trex/>

News from the Field—Wildfire training: <https://vimeo.com/397314431>

Resources—COVID-19—What's New: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>

CDC FAQs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

NWCG guidance: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/emergency-medical-committee/infectious-disease-guidance>

Resources—Assets:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/ABCD.aspx>

Resources—Radio cloning: <https://vimeopro.com/user37284086/radio-cloning-training-videos/page/1>

Blogs—Moving online: <https://seths.blog/2020/03/the-conversation/>

Blogs—Working different: <https://wildfirelessons.wordpress.com/2020/03/19/thinking-outside-the-stratosphere/>

Articles & Reports—Risk management: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/9m76hurw49oiez3/RMAT%20Report%202.3.20.pdf?dl=0>

Articles & Reports—Words & actions: [https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs\\_journals/2020/rmrs\\_2020\\_champ\\_p001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2020/rmrs_2020_champ_p001.pdf)

In the News—Wildfire & pandemic—1918: <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/community/history/5009517-In-1918-Duluth-faced-pandemic-fire-and-World-War-I>

2020: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/climate/coronavirus-firefighters-wildfires.html>

For Fun—Coloring: <http://thesmokeygeneration.com/download-coloring-sheet-sasha/>

FLN Webinars—Information about upcoming FLN webinars and recordings of previous ones is at:

<http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/webinars.aspx>

TREX—The latest application information for upcoming TREX is always listed at:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/HabitatProtectionandRestoration/Training/TrainingExchanges/Pages/Upcoming-Training-Exchanges.aspx>

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together: Collaborative Engagement, Collective Action and Co-ownership of Fire*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## Fire & Aviation Directorate

# Operations Alert



No. 2020-001

Date: March 24, 2020

**Subject: Social Distance and Hygiene Tips for Firefighters**

Review and utilize the Center for Disease Control's "How to Protect Yourself" guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>.

### Personal Hygiene

- Wash hands frequently, especially when preparing food, before and after meals, and after using restroom. Wash hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze. Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Do not share water bottles, community food containers, PPE, flight helmets, or other personal items such as tobacco products, snacks, towels, etc.
- If you feel sick or have any flu like symptoms or have been exposed to others exhibiting symptoms, do not come to work and seek medical attention. If you reside in crew quarters and you feel sick, minimize contact with other residents.
- Regularly launder bedding, towels and clothes.
- Avoid close contact whenever possible.
- Have a plan where to go and seek help to maintain physical and mental health.

### Training/Meetings/Group Activities

- Avoid group physical training (PT) and consider PT at home. Stagger PT times and disinfect showers between uses. Exercise outdoors: run, hike, or bike with separation.
- Hold open air crew meetings, briefings, training, and After Action Reviews with enough room to maintain appropriate social distancing. Limit training attendance to small groups.
- Implement measures such as flexible worksites (e.g., telecommuting) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) if possible.
- Consider alternative methods to present and attend training (online, VTC, conference call, etc.)

### Facilities/Equipment

- Disinfect surfaces with all-purpose cleaner, commercial disinfecting wipes or disinfecting solution of diluted home bleach (4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water or 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water).
- Provide disinfecting wipes for exercise equipment. Wipe down before and after use.
- Disinfect office equipment and mobile phones regularly.
- Institute a cleaning period each day to disinfect surfaces in work and dormitory facilities.
- Put hand sanitizer dispensers in prominent places around workplace.
- Don't use other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.
- Consider implementing or increasing the use of commercial cleaning services.

### Fire Response

- Consider using an increased number of vehicles during crew transports whenever possible to allow more separation within each vehicle. Plan for these extra vehicles when arriving at an incident and working on the fireline.
- Carry disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, and soap and water in fire vehicles and use these items frequently.
- Many crews carry extra Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as flight suits, flight helmets, fire resistant clothing, gloves, etc. Minimize use of these PPE items by multiple personnel and disinfect between uses.
- Disinfect mobile and handheld radios after use.
- To disinfect fire equipment including fire apparatus and aircraft, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. See CDC's recommendations [for household cleaning and disinfection](#).
- Order additional cache items (e.g. MREs, PPE) to have more stock on hand.
- Request to stay out of fire camps and Incident Command Posts (ICPs) when feasible. Limit close interaction with other incident personnel.

**Contact your Fire Management Officer and Unit Safety Officer for more information.**



Photos courtesy of Boulder Wildfire Partners, part of an open source home hardening and defensible space [photo and video library](#), supported by a Fire Adapted Colorado Opportunity Award

# Strategies for Resilience: Make the Most of National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day While Practicing Social Distancing

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS THAT FOLLOW BEST PHYSICAL DISTANCING PRACTICES

### ● Dispersed Good Deeds

Plan outdoor projects for a neighbor or family member who may not be able to do them on their own. Many projects can be done while maintaining a safe distance. Keep simple simple, like raking, cleaning gutters, pruning around an address sign, mowing fine fuels (grass and weeds), or moving firewood off a porch. This will limit the interaction needed with the resident while still making the project a success. Don't gather the whole neighborhood to help. Instead, have volunteers adopt different neighbors, or assign tasks and schedule them so they don't overlap.

### ● Virtual Coffee Meet-up or Happy Hour

Set-up a virtual meeting platform, like Zoom or GoToMeetings, and schedule one or two special guests who can present expert perspectives on wildfire-related topics. Invite neighbors, friends or the whole community. Create a relaxed atmosphere by making some time for virtual introductions and by having your beverage of choice in hand. Some ideas to get you started:

- A nursery owner or landscape architect may talk about fire-resistant landscaping.
- A wildland firefighter or manager might address the seasonal outlook and local plans or capabilities.
- An insurance agent or representative can provide industry updates and give direction around completing a home inventory.
- Mitigation contractors can showcase their equipment capabilities, specialties and projects.
- A noxious weeds specialist or extension agent can give insights on combating weeds, especially those that contribute significantly to fire danger.
- Residents can share their own wildfire risk reduction projects or stories.

(As you consider who to invite, keep in mind that local fire and rescue and emergency management staff are dealing with the management of COVID-19. This is probably not the best time to ask them for a presentation.)

“While we are all doing what can to flatten the coronavirus impact curve to help protect our healthcare response capabilities, let's find ways to keep up community interest in wildfire risk reduction. Take advantage of extra time at home to add wildfire mitigation and household evacuation readiness to spring cleaning tasks.”

### ● Fire-Resistant Landscaping Contest or Challenge

Encourage residents to add fire-resistant features to their landscaping, cut back last year's dead growth, or even put their creativity to work on a fire-resistant landscaping project. Have them post pictures in a designated place. Consider making a contest out of it.

## ● Community Chipping Day

You can still plan neighborhood chipping days or other slash disposal sites. Just make sure to schedule and arrange payment to minimize or eliminate person-to-person contact. For instance, residents can load slash along the curb (check out Wildfire Adapted Partnership's [chipper pointers](#)) and a hired contractor or community chipping program can be scheduled to come and chip and haul the slash. Payment can be made through a homeowner association or you can use an online payment system like Venmo to share the expense. Or, one household in a neighborhood could take responsibility for arranging and organizing the chipping service while others share the cost or labor.

## ● Mow In

Encourage the whole neighborhood to mow their grass and other fine fuels. Have residents take before and after pictures and videos, and share them in a designated spot. Make sure people mow around their home, garage and other outbuildings, and along their driveways and road frontage. Invite the road department (or homeowner association maintenance) to come out in advance and do what they can do along roadsides. Encourage sharing and participation using all appropriate fine fuel reducing means in the neighborhood. For some this may include laying stone around foundations to keep the weeds from coming up. For others, this may include early season prescribed burning or letting the goats or other livestock do the mowing. What tools will you use?

## INDIVIDUAL/HOUSEHOLD PROJECTS

What can someone do in a single day to help them stay safer from wildfire?

- Check and clear around address and street signs.
- Locate two alternate routes out of your neighborhood and drive them with the family.
- Move wood piles at least 30 feet from your home or other buildings. (This includes project wood under the porch and any stored propane or gas cans near the home.)
- Fully enclose the space under decks and patio, or use 1/8" mesh to screen it in.
- Rake and remove pine needles and leaves from at least 3 to 5 feet around your home and other buildings. Cut the grass and weeds in same area.
- Sweep pine needles and leaves from porches and rake from under decks, play structures, etc.
- Clear any needles and leaves out of gutters.
- Remove lower limbs from any trees near your home. You want to keep a fire on the forest floor. Removing lower limbs will take away the "ladder" from the surface to the crown of the tree.
- Create a family communication plan.
- Update your [evacuation kit](#) or go bag.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications. Find out the local emergency alert information and share it with your family, friends and neighbors.
- Set up a neighborhood text tree that lets you [send an email via text](#). This allows for rapid and detailed sharing of emergency information in your neighborhood.

## SHARE YOUR WORK!

The National Fire Protection Association's annual **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day** takes place May 2, 2020. Learn more at [WildfirePrepDay.org](#).

We hope you find the resources helpful and worth sharing. If you make use of them in your community, please let us know!

Post your photos and videos on Facebook and Twitter (#WildfirePrepDay). Mention the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (@fireadaptednet) and NFPA Firewise USA® (@Firewise) as well as your own programs.

Post projects online on NFPA's Wildfire Community Preparedness Day [map](#) to share with the entire country.



This handout has been adapted from the [NFPA toolkit](#) and the Fire Adapted Colorado newsletter.

For more about FACO, find them on Facebook at [@Fireadaptedco](#) or subscribe to the FACO blog (<https://fireadaptedco.org/blog/>).

This publication is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about PERFECT, contact Marek Smith at [marek\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:marek_smith@tnc.org).

*An equal opportunity provider*