

Media Release

Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition Releases Interactive Map for Homeowners

ELLENSBURG WA (Sept. 23, 2019) - Starting this week, homeowners in Kittitas County can access information about their land and explore their wildfire preparedness through an on-line interactive website called the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities map. This map includes information about past fires, forest health, and how to create and maintain defensible space. The site provides a personal fire plan and an opportunity to request a free consultation with trained staff from the Kittitas County Conservation District or the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Fall is a great time for homeowners to revisit or create their own plan for maintaining vegetation within the defensible space around their homes. Taking action now will ease the spring workload and leave you more prepared as next fire season approaches. Early fall evenings offer an opportunity to gather your family and discuss what happens if there is a wildfire and how you will stay safe during evacuation. These are critical preparation actions that improve safety for homes and families and help first responders who will suppress future fires in and around our communities.

Visit the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Map (<https://kittitasfireadapted.mapseed.org>) to get started now on your personal fire plan and learn about becoming more fire adapted in your neighborhood. This interactive site has users answer questions about their home and property, and users are able to upload photos of their own preparedness actions to help encourage others in the community.

The Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities map is the result of local, state and national discussion to provide education and connect landowners with resources to better protect their homes and create and maintain defensible space in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is where development meets natural vegetation. Areas adjacent to the WUI are in the “Ember Zone”, an area where the wind driven embers from a wildland fire as far as a mile away can threaten property and lives. Homeowners in these areas can greatly reduce the risk of their house catching fire by implementing defensible space. These actions completed by individuals, neighborhoods and communities help to build and sustain a fire adapted community.

This map was developed by the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) as part of the **Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition** (KFACC). KFACC is a local group of partners with a mission to increase community resiliency to wildfire by providing education, planning, and technical assistance for implementing activities with the people that live, work, and recreate in Kittitas County. The Kittitas County Conservation District utilized funding from a Washington Department of Natural Resources grant to create the map. The map was developed and reviewed by KFACC members including KCCD, DNR, county fire districts and

departments, the cities of Roslyn and Cle Elum, Kittitas County, US Forest Service, Suncadia, Washington Farm Forestry Association and The Nature Conservancy.

Don't let the first time you educate yourself on wildfire be in the aftermath, join us and be a part of the conversation today!

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