



## Adapting to Wildfire



### Here are our 5 takeaways:

**1. Marin has excellent coordinated and redundant alert and warning systems. If you sign up for Alert Marin and Nixle, you will be part of this system.**

*"The Office of Emergency Management continues to improve the integration with Nixle, Alert Marin, and Wireless Emergency Alerts (otherwise known as Amber Alerts.) There are also outdoor sirens with backup systems if the power goes out and NOAA weather radios."*

*-Mark Brown*

**2. California State and Marin County have invested a lot to build an arsenal of resources that is ready to respond rapidly to wildfire. This includes the coordination of resources across counties and even states to get the job done.**

*"We have access to a lot of firefighting resources under the mutual aid system. And that's a big benefit here for us. Oftentimes we can get very quickly on the fires with a lot of resources...We also have the State's Air Force available to us, the largest firefighting Air Force anywhere in the world".*

*-Chief Weber*

**3. We have an idea of WHEN major wildfires will occur. Catastrophic wildfires occur during Red Flag events with strong winds and low humidity.**

*"When you hear the Red Flag Warning issued for the strong northeast winds, it's really time to take notice and get yourself prepared long before a fire starts."*

*-Todd Lando*

The tragedy in Lahaina brought home the looming threat that wildfire poses to all of us who live in fire prone areas such as Marin.

You can't help wondering...

Could it happen here?

Will I be warned?

What is the county doing to protect us?

What should I do?

Fire Safe Marin produced a Wildfire Watch Special on August 21st exploring lessons from Maui and brought together local experts to answer these questions. Executive Officer of Fire Safe Marin Rich Shortall facilitated a conversation with Marin Fire Chief Jason Weber, Fire Battalion Chief Todd Lando, and Executive Officer of MWPA Mark Brown.

**4. To survive an evacuation, you must plan and prepare in advance so that you can receive alerts and leave quickly. All 3 participants agreed that you are safer evacuating in your car than on foot or bike.**

*"We've been working very hard to harden our evacuation routes, meaning removing vegetation along those routes, so that when residents evacuate, they can know that they could stay in their cars and survive, even if there's fire conditions on the roadway."*

*-Mark Brown*

**5. Design and material affect how buildings burn. Older buildings in Lahaina were unusually vulnerable to ignition and flame/heat spread. The "miracle house" that did not burn in Lahaina and other examples, show that home hardening really does work to prevent ignition from embers.**

*"California and Marin have the benefit of having adopted some of the strictest wildfire building standards anywhere in the world more than a decade ago. The reality is we started transitioning away from fire-vulnerable roofs more than 30 years ago. So we do have a building standard that's better than what you might see in other places."*

*-Todd Lando*

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