

NEWS RELEASE



CONTACT: CAL FIRE Duty PIO
(916) 651-3473 (FIRE)
Calfire.dutypio@fire.ca.gov

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CAL FIRE AND THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PLANNING CENTER RECEIVE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (APA) AWARD

Sacramento – CAL FIRE and the Community Wildfire Planning Center were honored earlier this month with the American Planning Association’s (APA) 2025 National Planning Award for Resiliency & Sustainability in recognition of their groundbreaking “[Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California](#)” training program. This [national award](#) is a competitive, juried process and is the highest level of recognition bestowed by APA that recognizes exemplary planning topics and activities. Each year, the National Planning Awards honor planning efforts and initiatives working to make safer, stronger, and more resilient communities for all.

Launched in 2023, the Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California trainings are free, full-day, in-person sessions designed for land use planners, fire marshals, fire chiefs, fire mitigation specialists, building officials, and other professionals from both government agencies and the private sector. These trainings are open to individuals involved in planning, policy, and development review or approval processes across California.

“Receiving this award from the American Planning Association’s is a tremendous honor and a powerful affirmation of the strength of collaboration and the dedication of our team in shaping a safer, more resilient California,” said Chief Daniel Berlant, California State Fire Marshal. “This recognition highlights the impact of the Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California training program and the critical role of partnerships, particularly between CAL FIRE and the Community Wildfire Planning Center, in advancing wildfire-resilient planning practices across the state. Together, we are empowering safer communities across California.”

To date, nearly 700 attendees participated in one of 24 trainings held across the State. Trainings have helped attendees:

- Increase understanding of the most up-to-date state requirements for planning in fire hazard areas
- Expand knowledge of wildfire vulnerabilities in the built environment
- Share information on best practices and resources
- Interact with peers to exchange perspectives on fire mitigation and planning

More trainings are scheduled for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. Trainings are sponsored by the American Planning Association California Chapter. Trainings are funded by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program.