



Community Planning to Reduce Wildfire Risks



Kimiko Barrett, Ph.D.
Research & Policy Analyst

House Interim Committee on Natural Resources
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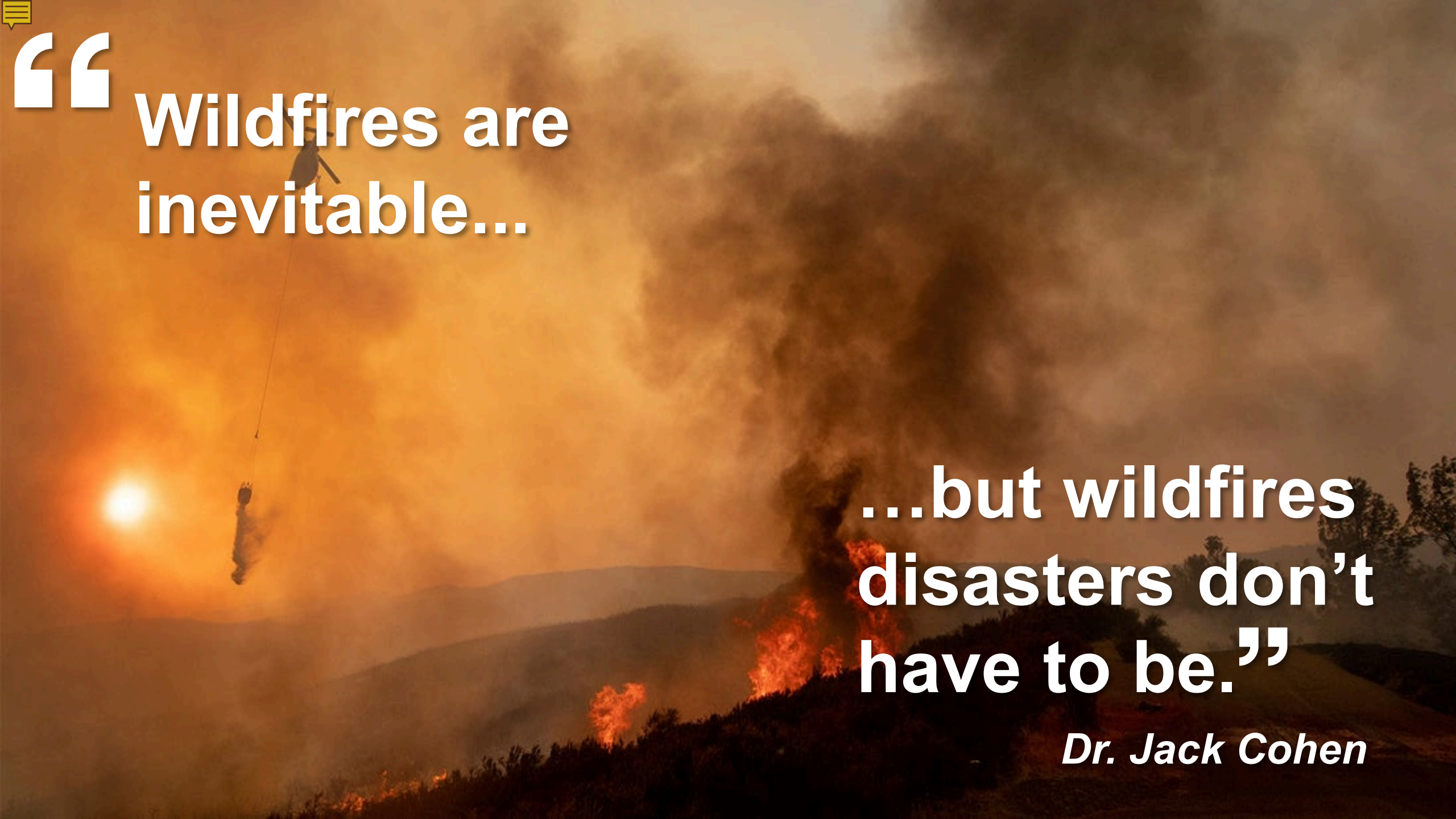


“

**Wildfires are
inevitable...**

**...but wildfires
disasters don't
have to be.”**

Dr. Jack Cohen





We know how to build homes and communities...



**Jack Cohen
Montana, 2003**



...to survive a wildfire.

Jack Cohen
Montana, 2003



Fire Adapted Communities

Human populations and communities are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to and recover from wildfire



SCIENCE

Resilient Landscapes

Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, are resilient to fire, insect and disease disturbances



Safe, Effective, Wildfire Response

All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective and risk-based management decisions

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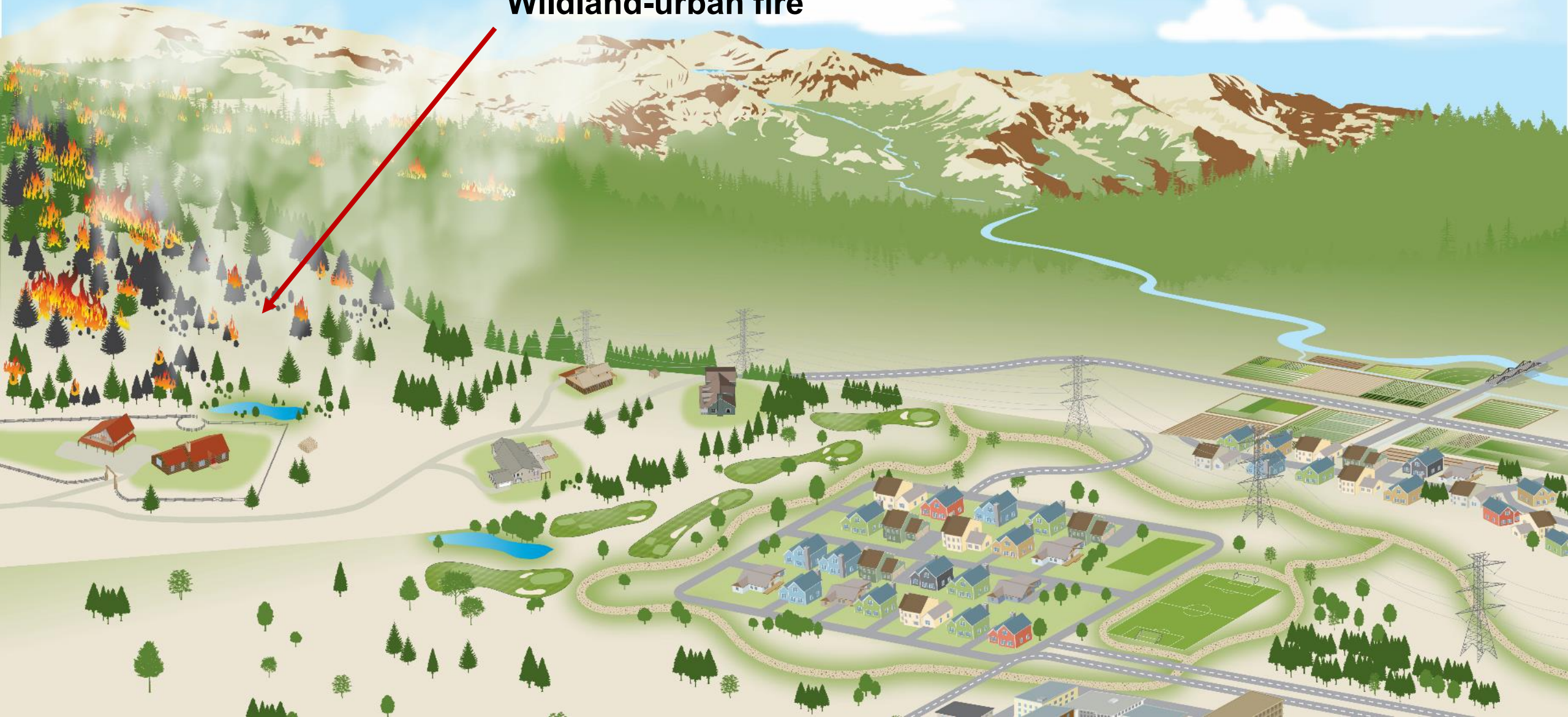


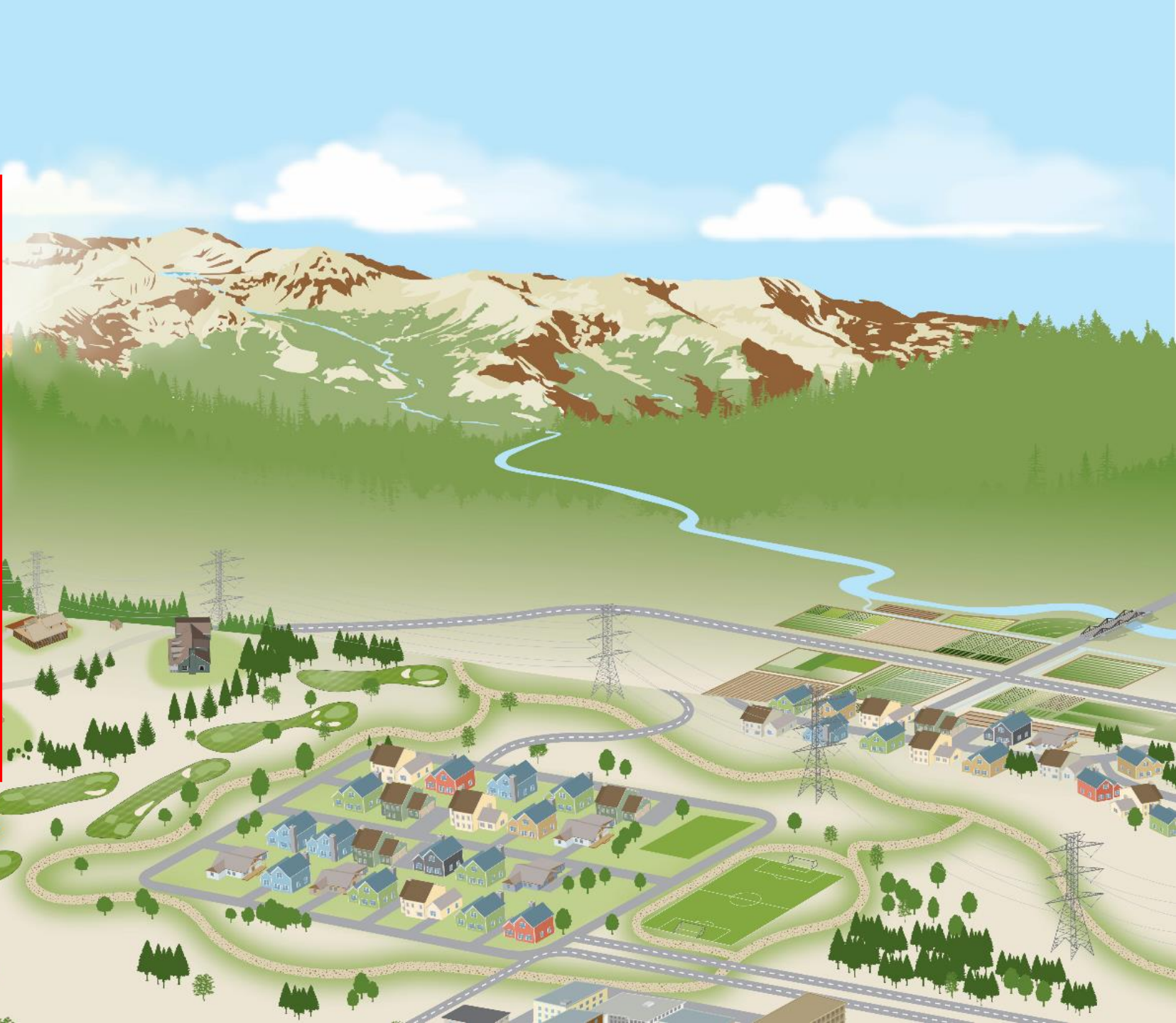
Safe, Effective, Wildfire Response

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Wildland-urban fire



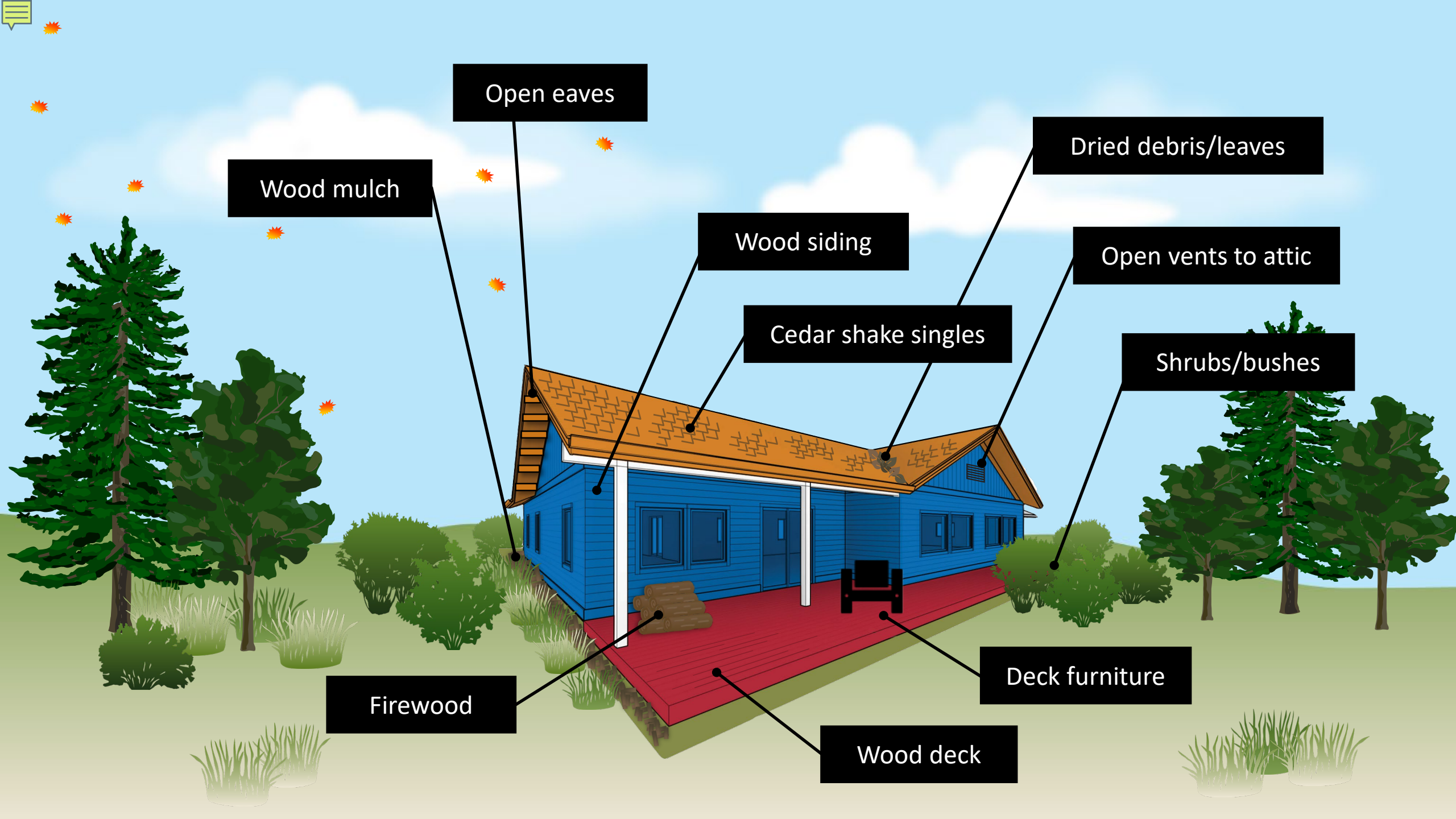






**Embers
(firebrands)**





Open eaves

Wood mulch

Wood siding

Dried debris/leaves

Cedar shake singles

Open vents to attic

Shrubs/bushes

Firewood

Deck furniture

Wood deck



Green
vegetation



Reducing home ignition vulnerabilities is crucial



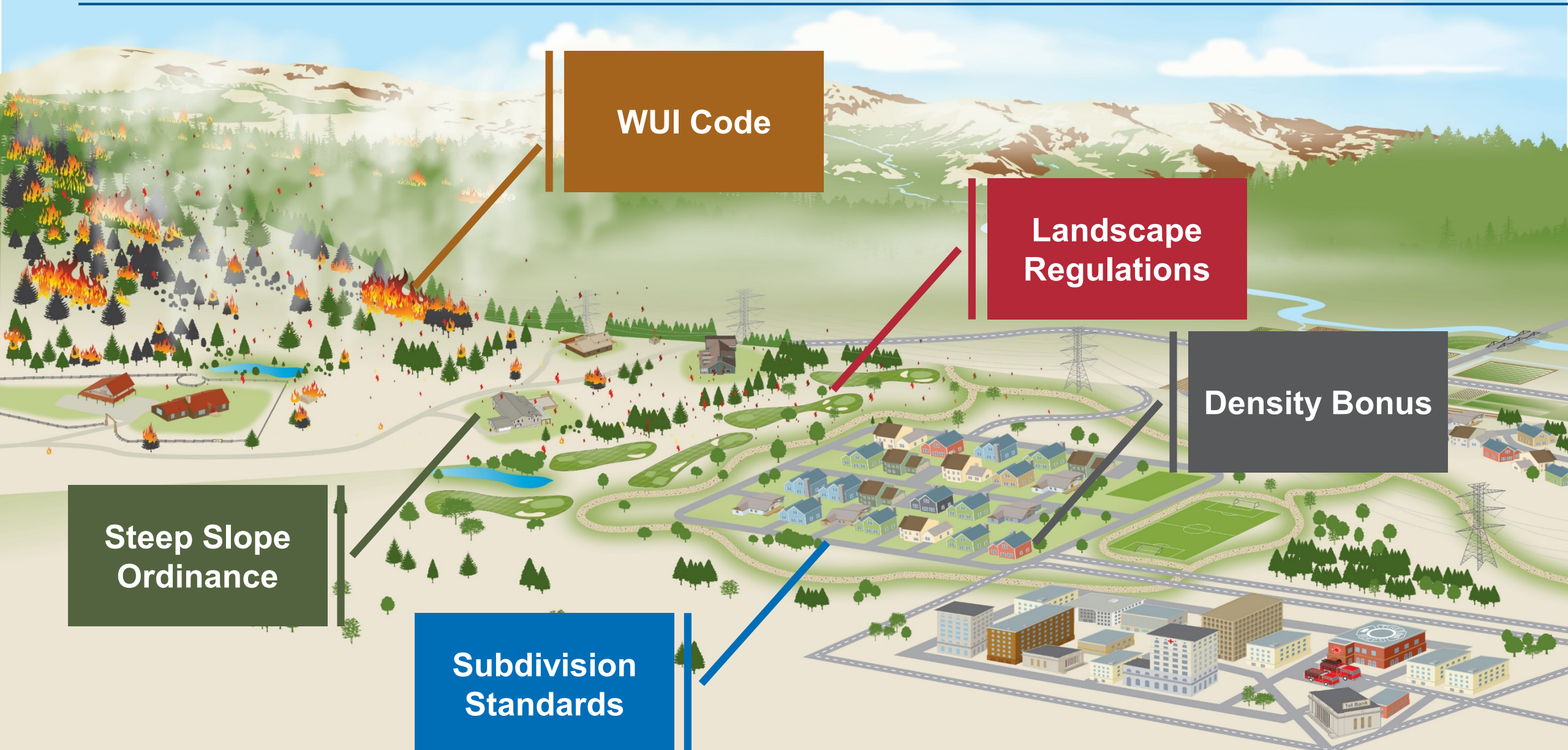


Embers

~2 miles

Sleepy Hollow Fire (2015), Wenatchee WA

Planning for Fire-Adapted Communities



WUI Code

Landscape Regulations

Density Bonus

Steep Slope Ordinance

Subdivision Standards

Three Examples

State of California | Pop: ~40 Million

Building Code

City of Austin | Pop: ~1 Million

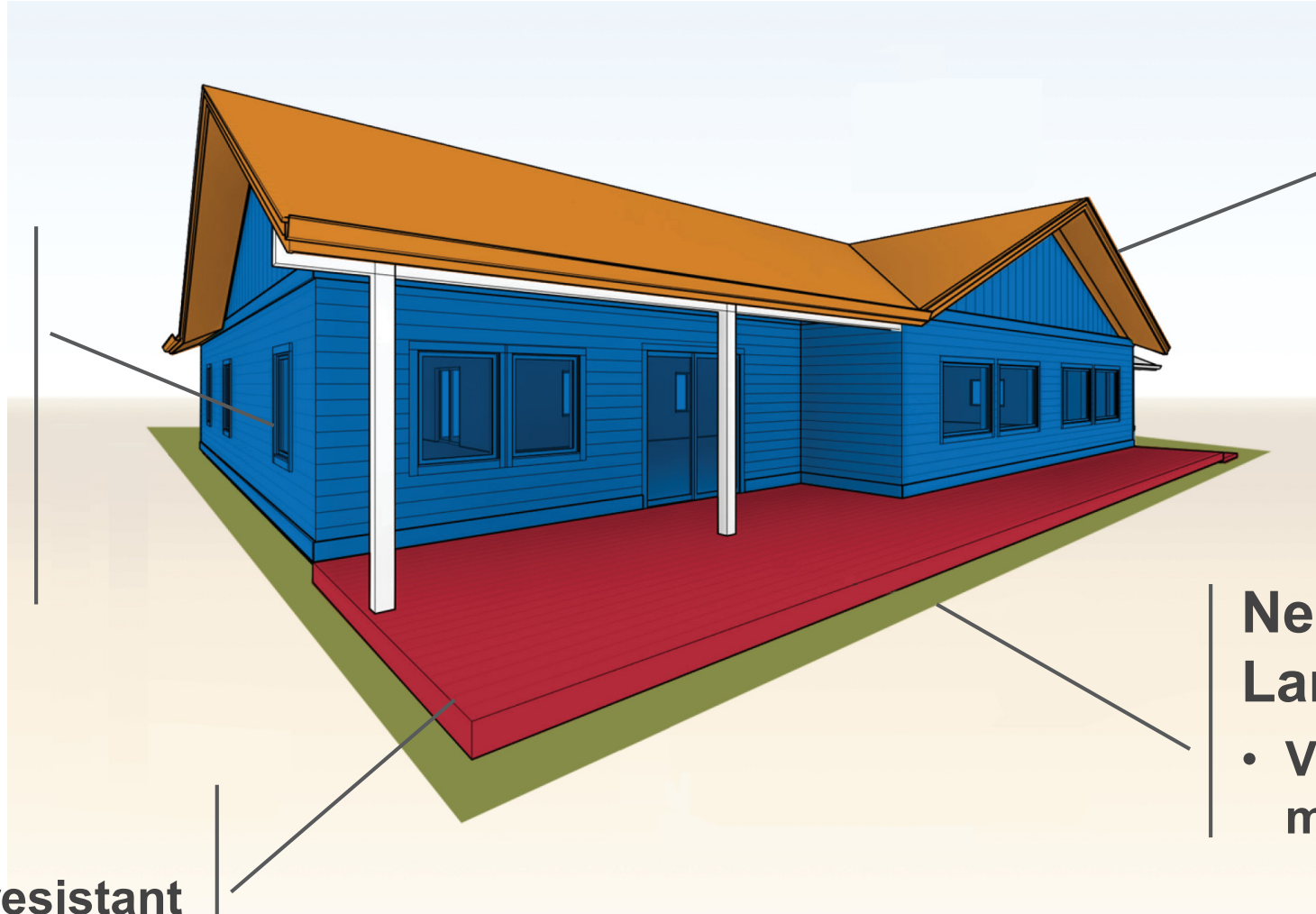
WUI Code

Missoula County | Pop: ~116,000

Homeowner-Insurance Mitigation Program

- Building Code (Chapter 7A)
- Adopted in 2008
- Applicable to fire hazard severity zones





Exterior Walls

- Ignition-resistant
- Multi-pane windows
- Non-combustible doors

Roof

- Class A, B or C
- Mesh screened vents
- Gutter covers

Decks

- Ignition-resistant surface material

Near-Home Landscaping

- Vegetation management

Wildfire Resistant Construction



Paradise, CA (2019)



- **Fastest growing city in the country**
- **61% of homes located in high-risk areas**
- **Legacy of racial segregation has placed some populations at higher risk**



- Prescribed burns
- Strategic open space



- **Prescribed burns**
- **Strategic open space**
- **2020 City adoption of a WUI Code**



- Ignition resistant construction materials

- ✓ Eaves
- ✓ Siding
- ✓ Roofs
- ✓ Exterior doors

- Tempered windows

- Attic vents must be 1/8" or smaller

- Defensible space

- Includes accessory buildings



- **Adopt county-wide hazard mapping via Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**
- **Focus on parcel-level risk**
- **Homeowner-insurance mitigation program**



Best Practices

- **Focus on the home**
- **Pass and enforce regulations**
- **Adopt mapping to determine risk**
- **Build trust and work closely with local partners**
- **Requires a multipronged approach**
- **This is a solvable problem**



Contact



Kimiko Barrett, Ph.D.
Research & Policy Analyst

P: 406.224.1837

E: kimi@headwaterseconomics.org

Website: <https://headwaterseconomics.org>