

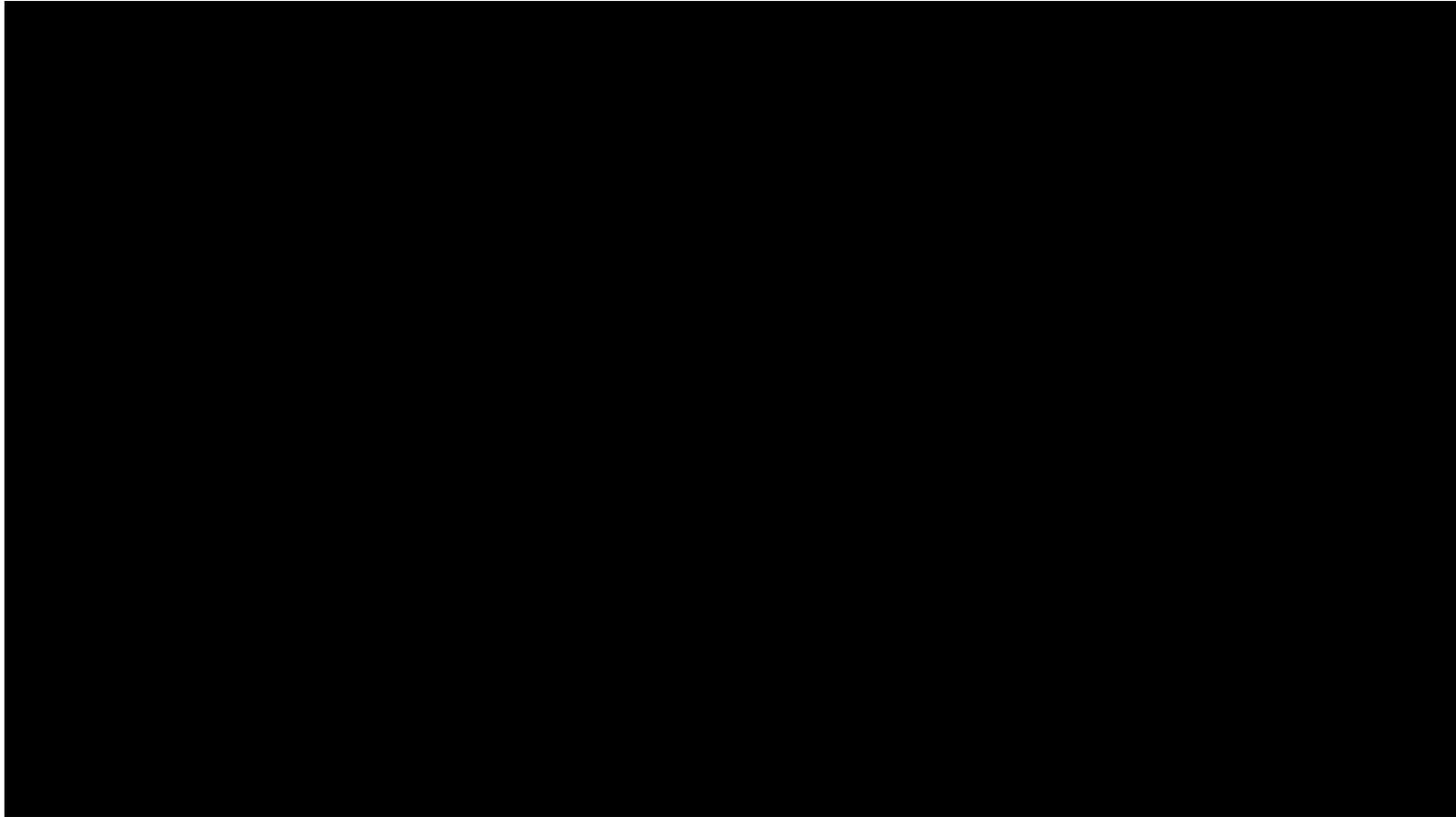


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

February 7, 2025

RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE





RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE






Kenai, AK


Yellow Knife, NWT


Donnie Creek, BC


Fort McMurray, Alberta


Lytton, BC


Okanogan Co., WA


Bolt Creek, WA


Ham Lake, MN


Halifax, NS


Old Orchard Beach, ME


Santa Rosa, CA


Paradise, CA


Ventura, CA


Superior, CO


Gatlinburg, TN


Colorado Springs, CO


Las Conchas, NM


Long Island, NY


Beachwood, NJ

Bastrop, TX

Indian Lake, FL


Myrtle Beach, SC


Maui, HI




Kenai, AK


Yellow Knife, NWT


Donnie Creek, BC


Fort McMurray, Alberta


Lytton, BC


Okanogan Co., WA


Bolt Creek, WA


Ham Lake, MN


Halifax, NS


Old Orchard Beach, ME


Santa Rosa, CA


Paradise, CA


Long Island, NY


Beachwood, NJ


Ventura, CA


Superior, CO


Gatlinburg, TN


Colorado Springs, CO


Las Conchas, NM


Myrtle Beach, SC


Bastrop, TX


Indian Lake, FL


Maui, HI – August 2023, 6,271ac (2537 h) 2,200(+) structures destroyed, 102 fatalities, over 1,000 evacuees




Kenai, AK


Yellow Knife, NWT


Donnie Creek, BC


Fort McMurray, Alberta


Lytton, BC


Okanogan Co., WA


Bolt Creek, WA


Ham Lake, MN


Halifax, NS


Old Orchard Beach, ME


Santa Rosa, CA 
**Paradise, CA – Nov. 2018, 154,000ac (62,300 h),
18,804 structures destroyed, 86 fatalities,**


Long Island, NY


Beachwood, NJ


Ventura, CA


Superior, CO 
Knox, TN


Colorado Springs, CO


Las Conchas, NM


Myrtle Beach, SC


Bastrop, TX


Indian Lake, FL


Maui, HI




Kenai, AK


Yellow Knife, NWT


Donnie Creek, BC


Lytton, BC



Ft. McMurray, Alberta, Canada – May 2016, 1.5 million acres (607,000 h), 88,000 evacuees, 2,400 homes destroyed


Okanogan Co., WA


Bolt Creek, WA


Ham Lake, MN


Halifax, NS


Old Orchard Beach, ME


Santa Rosa, CA


Paradise, CA


Long Island, NY


Beachwood, NJ


Ventura, CA


Superior, CO


Gatlinburg, TN


Colorado Springs, CO


Las Conchas, NM


Myrtle Beach, SC


Bastrop, TX


Indian Lake, FL


Maui, HI



Kenai, AK



Yellow Knife, NWT



Donnie Creek, BC



Fort McMurray, Alberta



Lytton, BC



Okanogan Co., WA



Bolt Creek, WA



Ham Lake, MN



Halifax, NS

Old Orchard Beach, ME



Long Island, NY



Beachwood, NJ



Paradise, CA



Santa Rosa, CA



Ventura, CA



**Superior, CO – December 2021, 6,026ac
(2,438h), 100 homes destroyed, 2 fatalities.**



Las Conchas, NM

Bastrop, TX



Indian Lake, FL



Myrtle Beach, SC



Maui, HI




Kenai, AK


Yellow Knife, NWT


Donnie Creek, BC


Fort McMurray, Alberta


Lytton, BC


Okanogan Co., WA


Bolt Creek, WA


Ham Lake, MN


Halifax, NS


Old Orchard Beach, ME


Long Island, NY


Beachwood, NJ


Santa Rosa, CA


Paradise, CA


Ventura, CA


Superior, CO


Colorado Springs, CO


Las Conchas, NM

Bastrop, TX

**Gatlinburg, TN – Nov. 2016, 17,000ac (6900 h),
2,400 homes destroyed, 1000+ evacuees, 14
fatalities.**

Indian Lake, FL


Maui, HI




Kenai, AK


Yellow Knife, NWT


Donnie Creek, BC


Fort McMurray, Alberta


Lytton, BC


Okanogan Co., WA


Bolt Creek, WA


Ham Lake, MN



Halifax, NS - June 2023, 2,345ac
(950 hectre[h]), 17,000
evacuated, 151 homes destroyed.


Santa Rosa, CA


Paradise, CA


Ventura, CA


Superior, CO


Colorado Springs, CO


Las Conchas, NM

Bastrop, TX


Gatlinburg, TN

Indian Lake, FL



Old Orchard Beach, ME

Long Island, NY

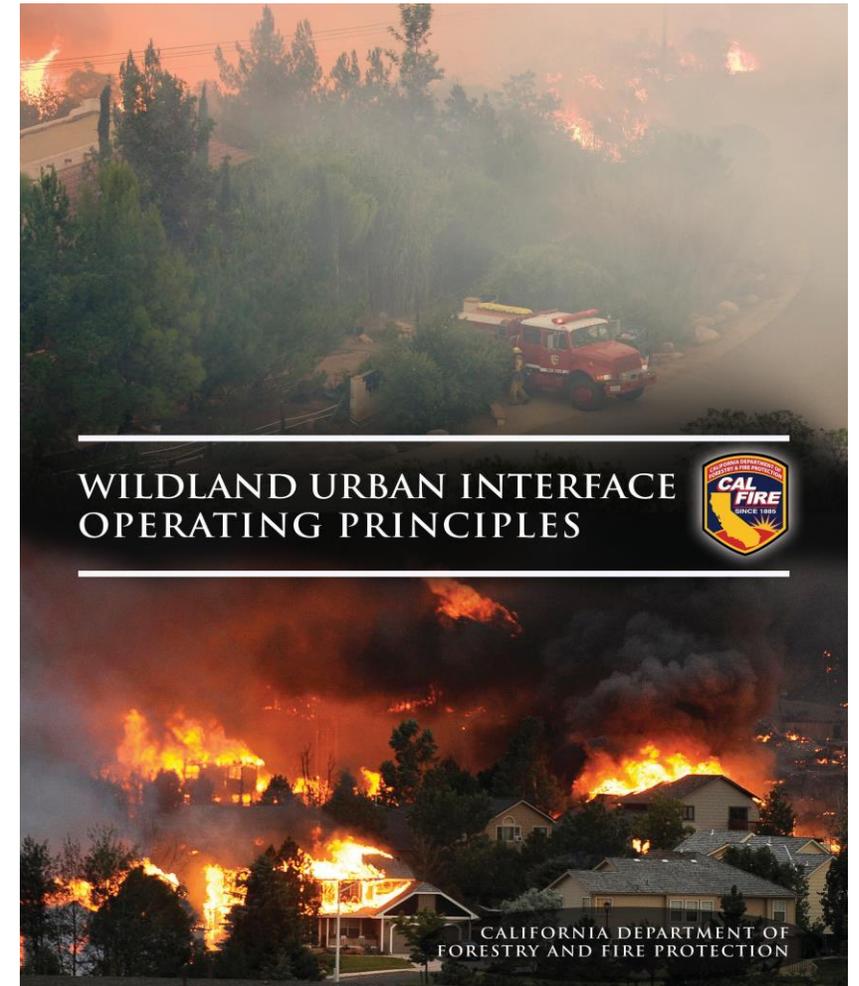
Beachwood, NV

Myrtle Beach, SC


Maui, HI

RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

- Training based on CAL FIRE's WUI operating principles
- Course Modules
 - Leadership
 - Pre-Incident Activities
 - Triage
 - Objectives, Strategy and Tactics
 - Coop Agencies
 - Planning



RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

Designed by “all risk” fire fighters for structural fire fighters

- Successfully Beta tested in
 - Austin, Texas
 - Lewiston, Maine
 - Colorado Springs, Colorado
 - San Antonio, Texas
 - Missoula, Montana
 - Round Rock, Texas
 - Scottsdale, Arizona
 - Kamloops British Columbia



RTI COURSE OBJECTIVES

To provide all-hazard firefighters with comprehensive information regarding Urban Interface response, command, along with strategies and tactics which will allow for firefighters to operate more safely in their community's fire environment.



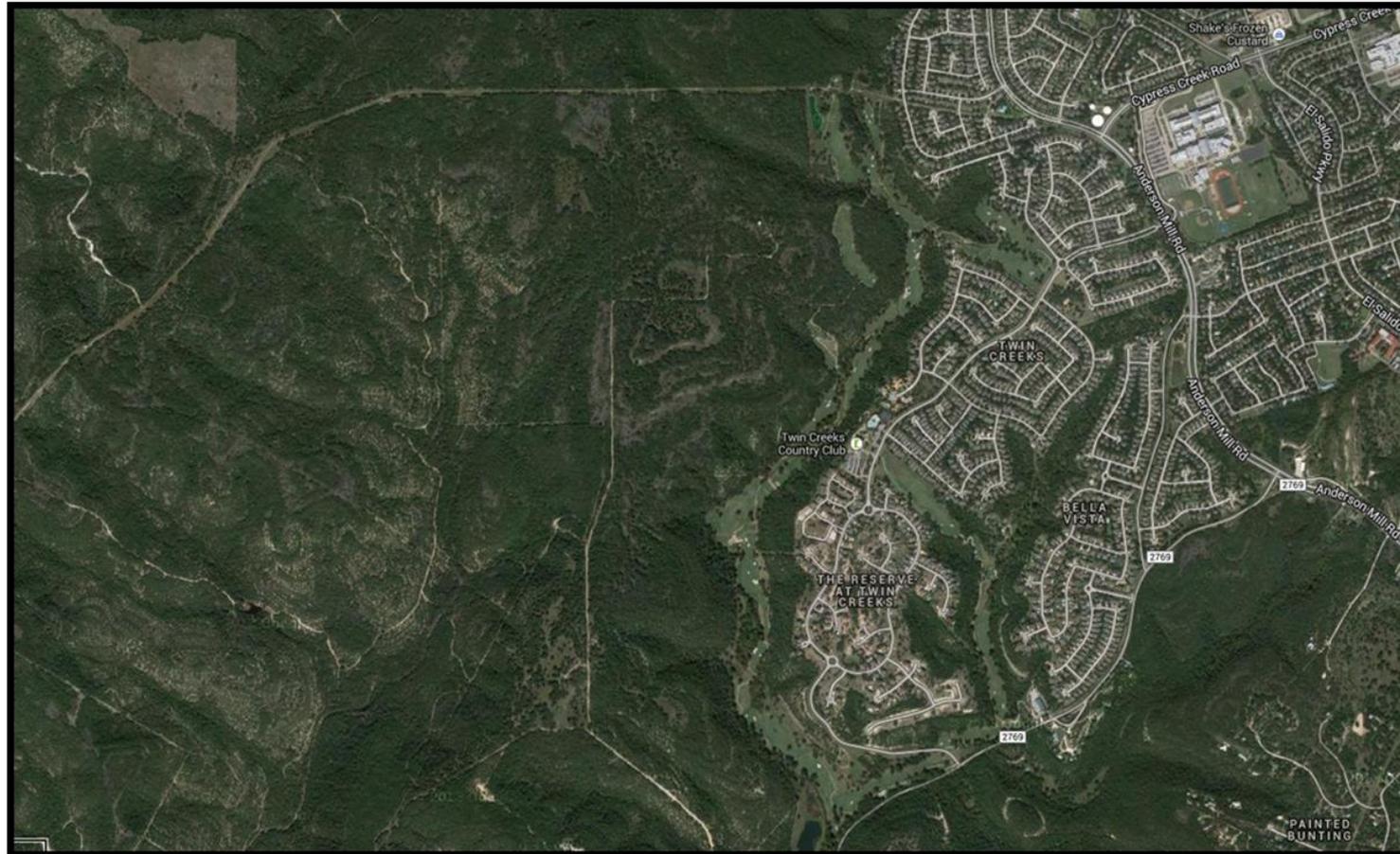
RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

Within North America 1/3 of the homes are adjacent to some type of urban interface area.

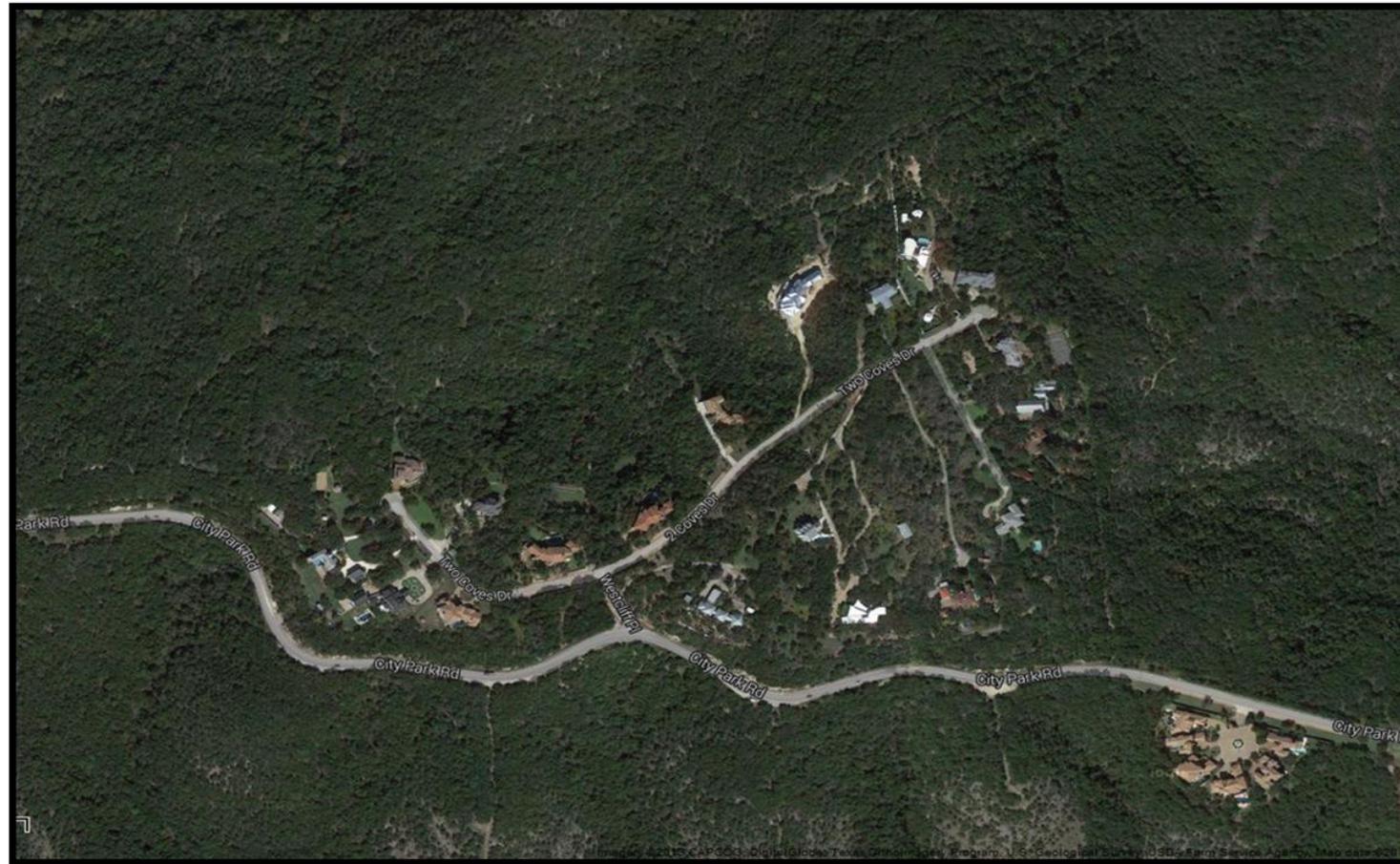
- What is the growth in your response areas and communities?



URBAN INTERFACE



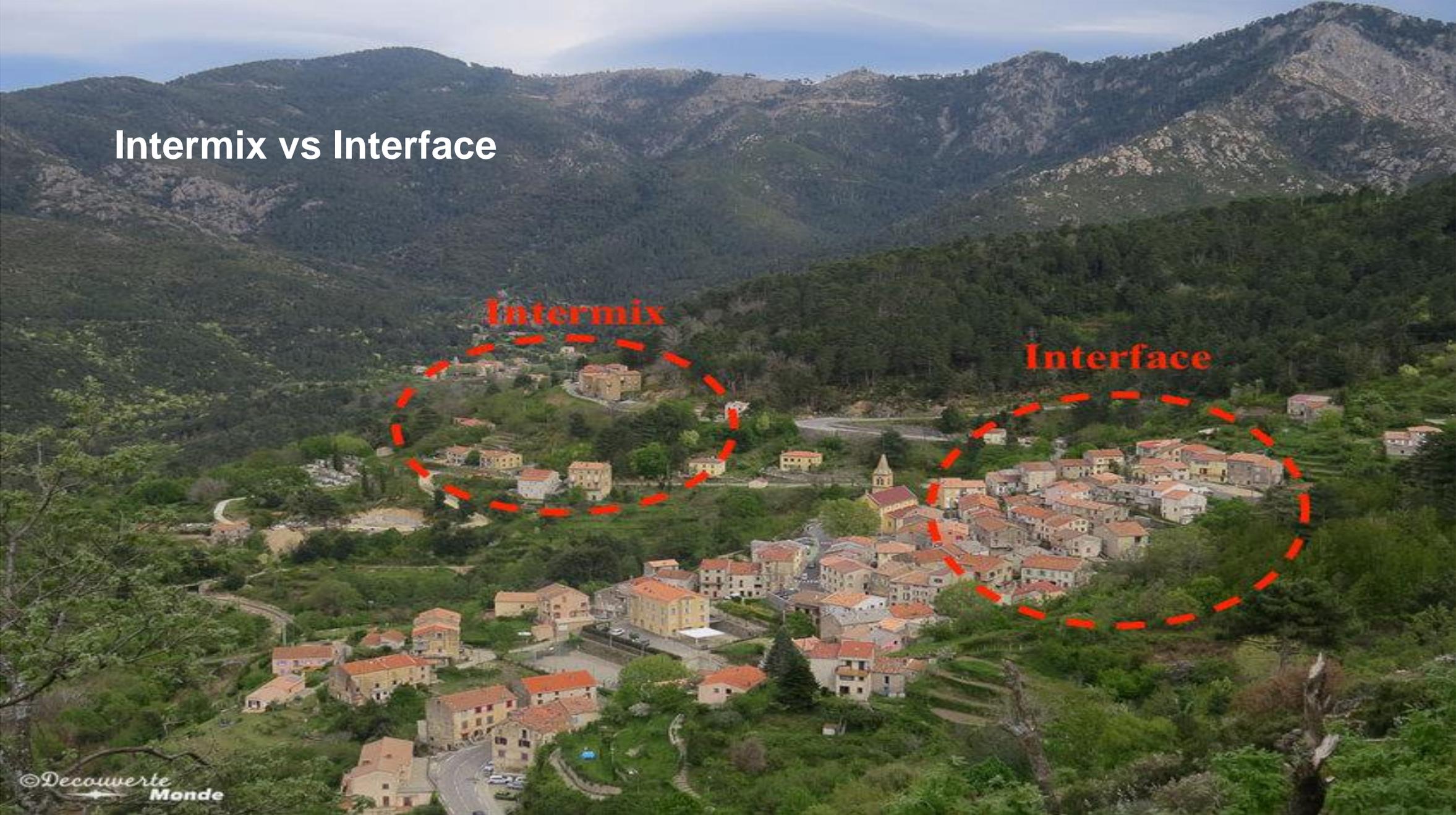
URBAN INTERMIX



Intermix vs Interface

Intermix

Interface



THE BOTTOM LINE

Interface

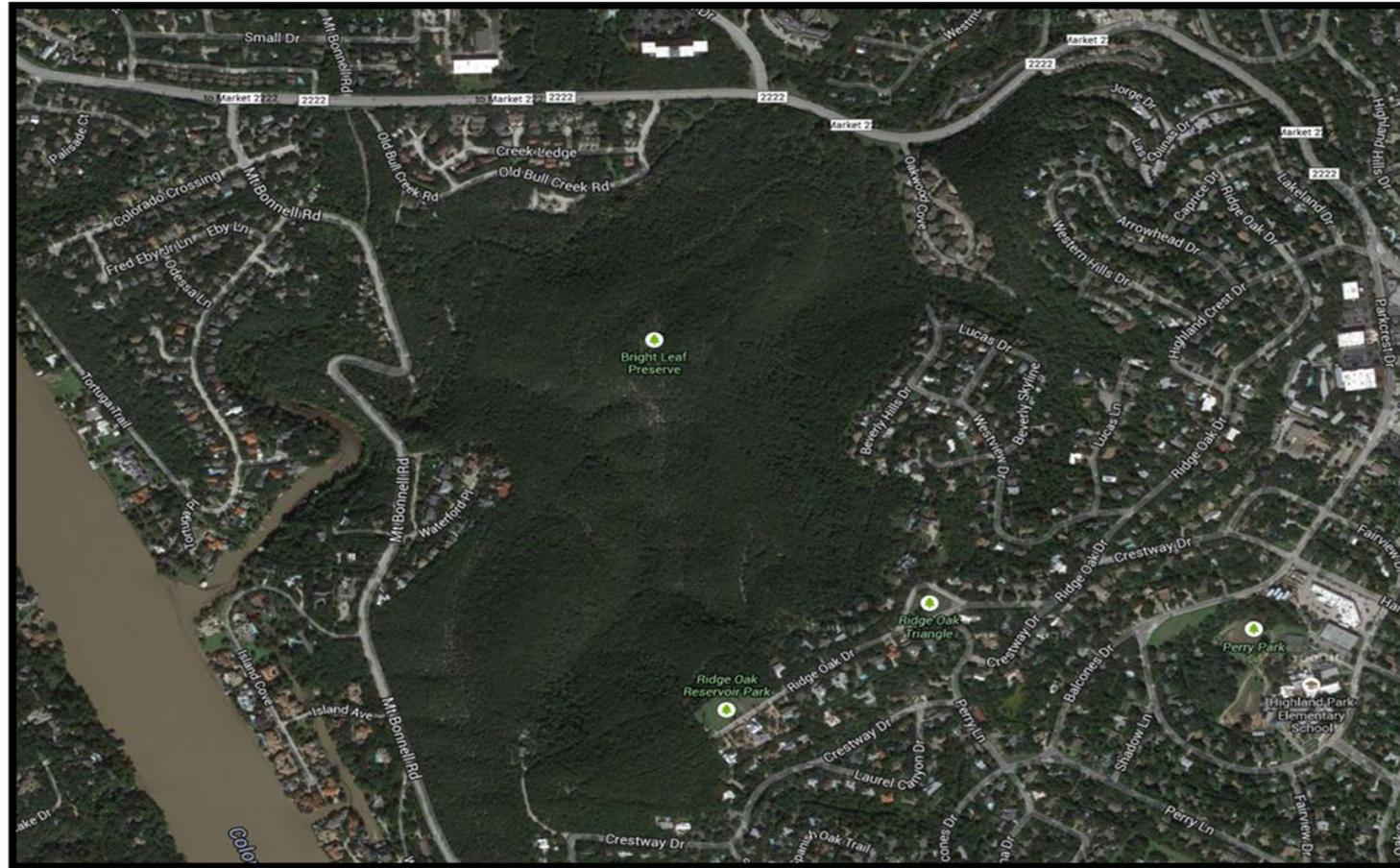
- Trees amongst the houses

Intermix

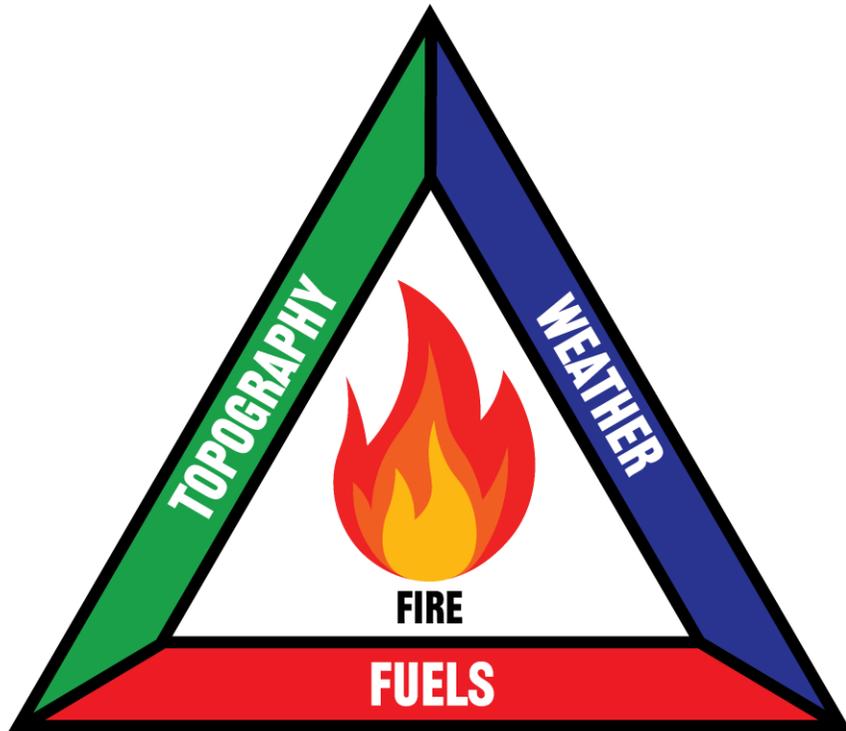
- Houses amongst the trees



OCCLUDED INTERFACE



THE FIRE ENVIRONMENT



Fire fighting outside the box



Marshall Fire, Boulder County, Colorado

December 30, 2021-January 1, 2022

2 fatalities

1000+ homes destroyed and 7 commercial properties

6000+ acres

35,000+ evacuees



Where is this?

Eastern US, Western US, Canada?



New Jersey, Pine Barren Fire

May 2007

12,000+ acres

50 homes destroyed



RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

Who's responding to the Interface?



Colorado Springs Local 5



In 2020, Assistant Millbury Fire Chief Brian Gasco runs to save a hose from moving flames during a brush fire in Sutton, Massachusetts. *Telegram And Gazette/Rick Cinclair File Photo*



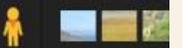
RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE



Who's Responding?



Google



Gatlinburg, TN. Dec 2016



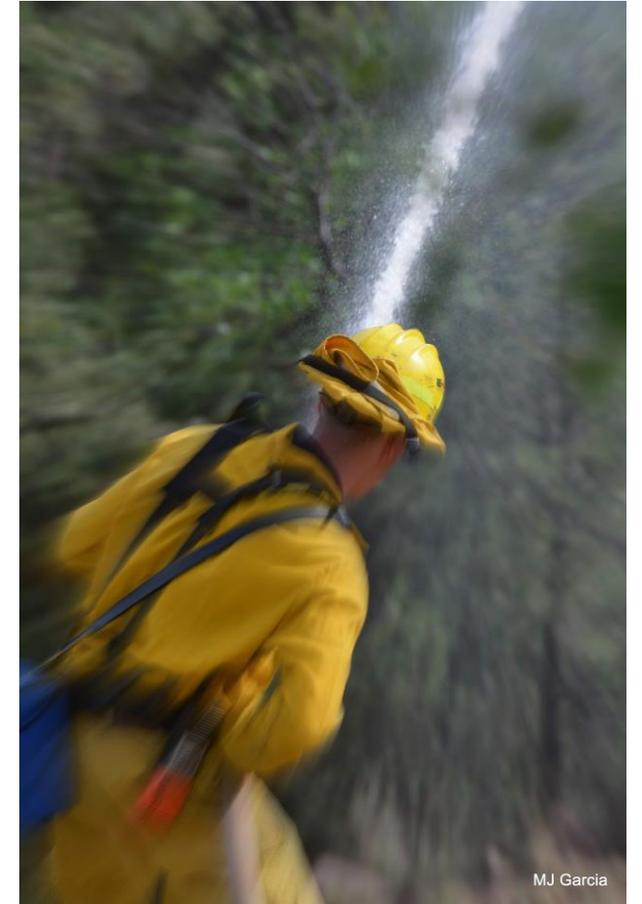
RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

- NFPA Needs Assessment Survey Facts
- 80% of U.S. fire agencies reported that this is a role of theirs
- On average 2/3rds of FD's **DO NOT** provide “formal” Interface training for all their members
 - Over 70% in agencies serving under 10,000 people
- 50% of fire agencies serving communities under 250,000 said they could not handle an incident involving 2 to 5 structures with only their local resources



RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

Training that's Relevant



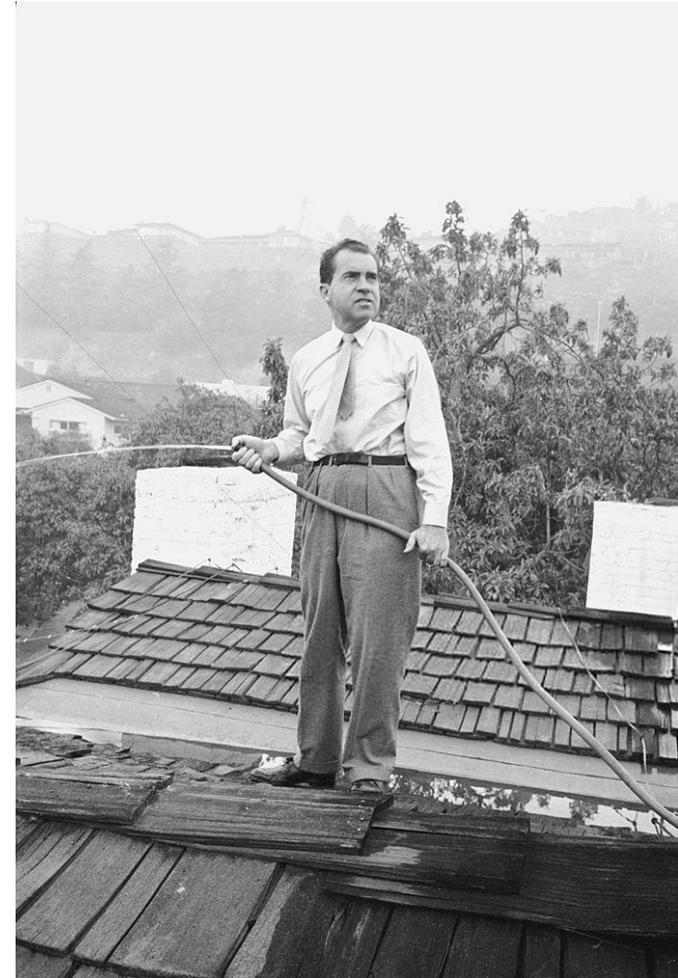


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE: STRUCTURE TRIAGE

FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The BEST form of structure defense is to suppress the fire prior to structure ignition.



STRUCTURE TRIAGE DECISION PROCESS

S – Survival

F – Fire Environment

A – Access

C – Construction / Clearance

T – Time

S – Stay or Go



S – SURVIVAL

- Firefighter safety
- Prep and Go structure defense actions
- Temporary Refuge Area



F – FIRE ENVIRONMENT



F – FIRE ENVIRONMENT - FUEL



F – FIRE ENVIRONMENT: WEATHER - WIND

- Most Variable and Hardest to Predict
- Significantly Affects Fire Behavior
- Potentially Impacts Fire Fighter Safety



F – FIRE ENVIRONMENT: WEATHER - TEMPERATURE



- Warms Fuels
- Dry Fuels
- Effects Other Environmental Factors
- Physically Affects Fire Fighters



A - ACCESS



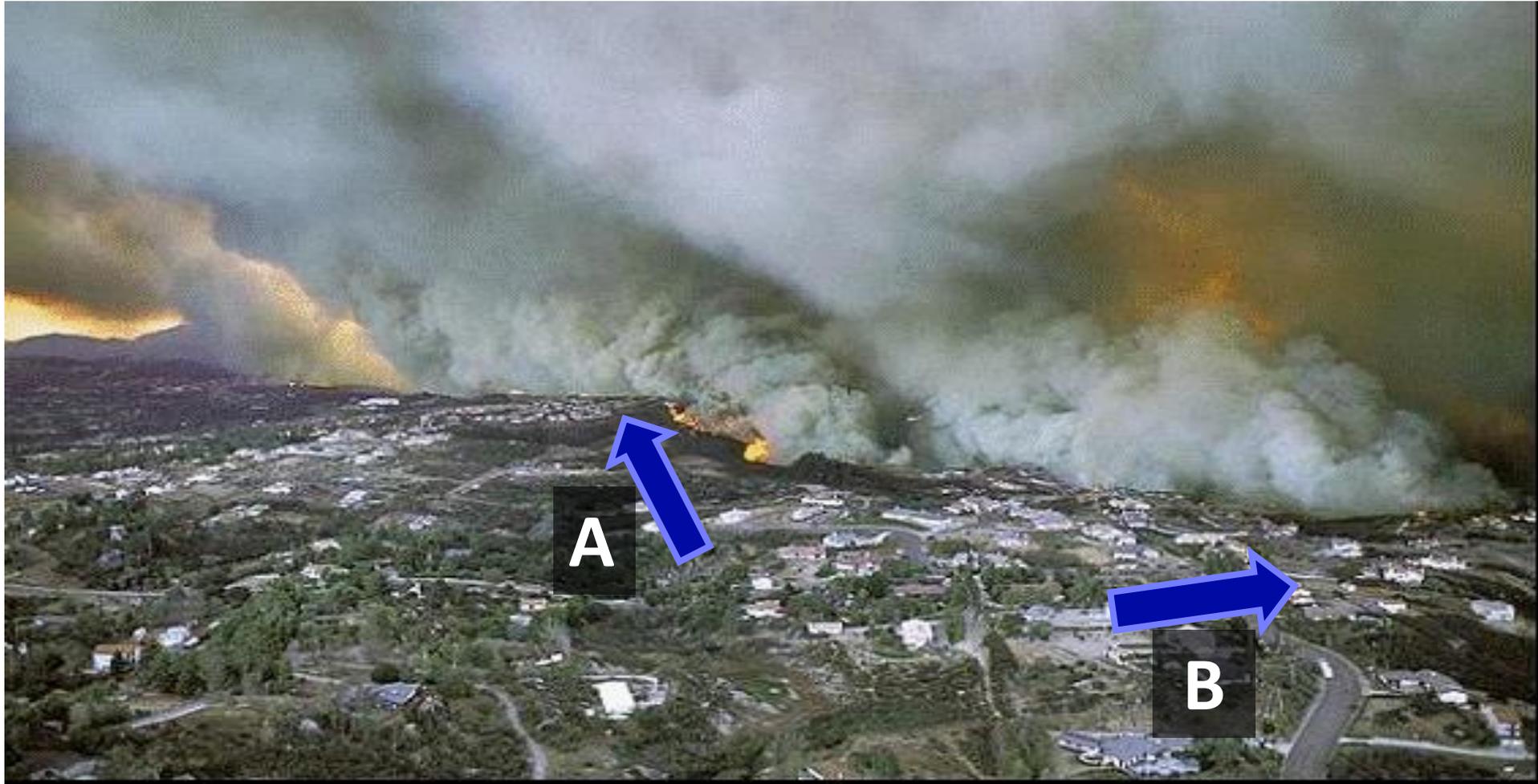
C – CONSTRUCTION/CLEARANCE



C – CONSTRUCTION/CLEARANCE



T – TIME CONSTRAINTS



T – TIME CONSTRAINTS



S – STAY OR GO?



S – STAY OR GO?



STRUCTURE TRIAGE



NOT THREATENED



THREATENED DEFENSIBLE



THREATENED NON-DEFENSIBLE





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE: STRATEGY AND TACTICS

STRATEGY AND TACTICS



The **BEST** strategy for structure defense is to suppress the fire **BEFORE** it reaches threatened structures.



STRATEGY AND TACTICS

Objectives - What needs to be accomplished

Strategies - What to do

Tactics - How to do it



TACTICAL AGILITY

The ability to make decisions and adjust as the fire environment changes.



PACE

LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

Consider **PACE**

- **P**Primary Plan (Offense)
 - Focused on firefighter safety and objectives
- **A**lternate Plan (Offense)
 - Fallback plan that closely resembles primary plan
- **C**ontingency Plan (Defense)
 - Focused on firefighter safety, move to safety zone, temporary refuge areas
- **E**mergency Plan (Defense)
 - Firefighter survival
 - Deployment zones/Refuge areas
 - Fire Shelters



PACE

Primary Plan (Offense)

- Focused on firefighter safety and objectives



Alternate Plan (Offense)

- Fallback plan that closely resembles primary plan



Contingency Plan (Defense)

- Focused on firefighter safety, move to safety zone, temporary refuge areas



Emergency Plan (Defense)

- Firefighter survival
 - Deployment zones
 - Fire Shelters



TACTICAL ACTIONS

Primary Tactics

- Evacuation
- Check and Go
- Prep and Go
- Prep and Defend



Secondary Tactics

- Evacuation
- Fire Front Following
- Bump and Run
- Anchor and Hold
- Tactical Patrol



EVACUATION



CHECK AND GO



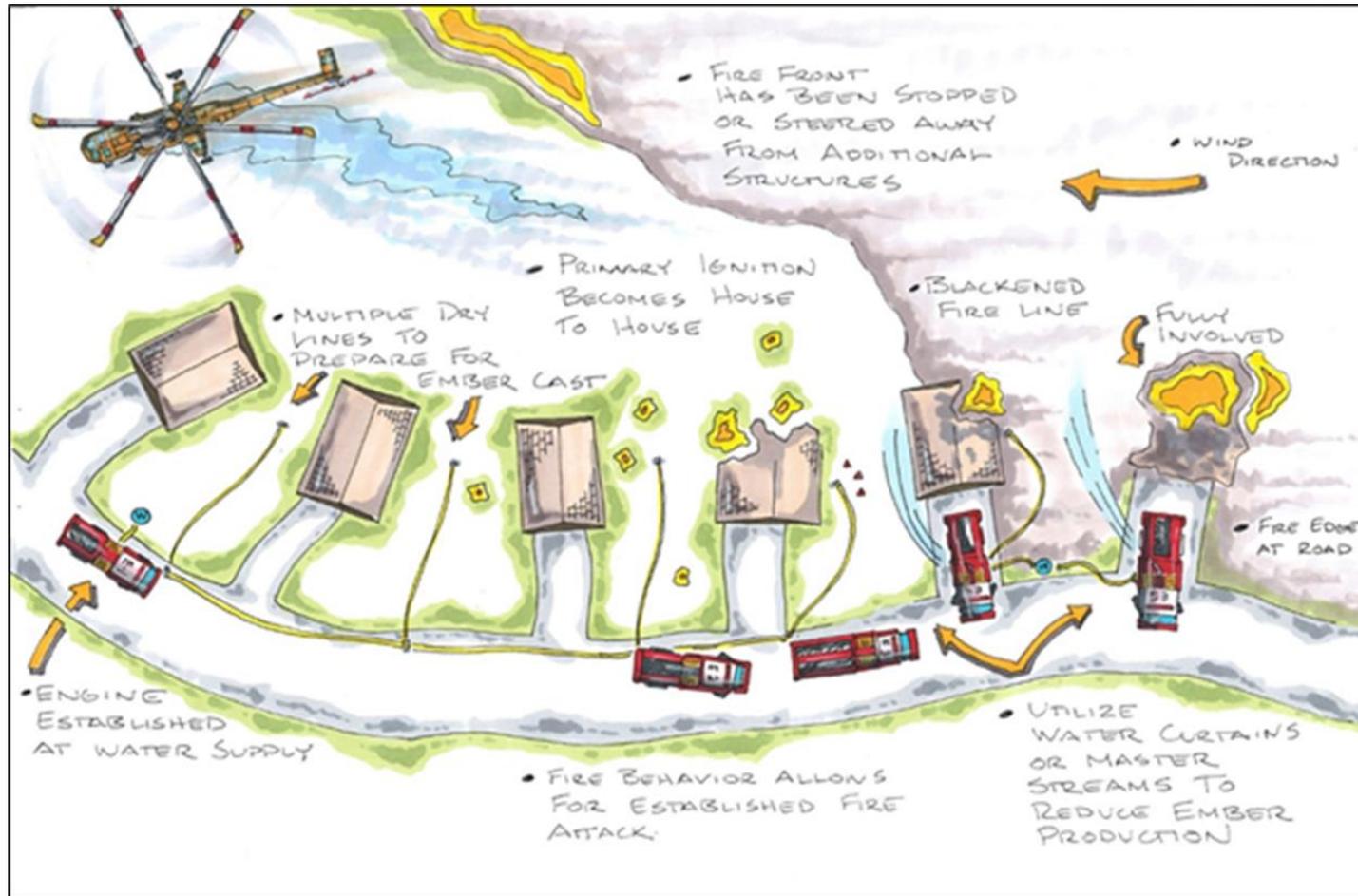
PREP AND GO



PREP AND DEFEND



ANCHOR AND HOLD



TACTICAL PATROL







INTER

IAFF.ORG

TACTICAL COMBINATIONS

Structure Defense Category	Appropriate Tactical Actions
Not Threatened	Prep and Defend Tactical Patrol
Threatened Defensible	Prep and Defend Bump and Run Anchor and Hold Tactical Patrol
Threatened Non-Defensible	Check and Go Evacuation Prep and Go Fire Front Following Tactical Patrol



STRUCTURE FIRE ENGAGEMENT



DEFEND?



RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

Train-the-Trainer (TtT)

- IAFF Members Only
- 4-day class
 - 2-day Operational
 - 2-day Trainer class
- 2-day class
 - 2-day Operational



RESPONDING TO THE INTERFACE

FIGHTING FOR THOSE ON THE FRONTLINES

www.iaff.org/wildfire/

Registration information

Free 10-hr online course
Responding to the Interface: Awareness
(IAFF and non-members)





THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



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