

**Utah State University**

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**From the Selected Works of Michael R. Kuhns**

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2011

# Wildfire Safety

Michael R. Kuhns



Association of Natural Resources  
Extension Professionals

# Natural Resources Extension Programs and Impacts

## *Wildfire Safety*



**Wildfire Mitigation in Arizona** – In cooperation with the State Forester, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension founded the Arizona Firewise Committee in 2001 to coordinate fire education amongst federal agencies and fire districts to mitigate wildfire in the Wildland Urban-Interface (WUI). The committee created dozens of educational products and displays, held hundreds of outreach educational events reaching tens of thousands of residents, and facilitated fuel reduction activities on over 92,450 acres in the WUI. These efforts have made Arizona Cooperative Extension a state leader in fire education. **Contact:** Christopher Jones, Associate Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, University of Arizona; phone: 928-402-8586; email: ckjones@cals.arizona.edu.

**Living With Fire Issue Makes Nevadans Safer** – One of Nevada's most pressing natural resource issues is the threat of wildfire to human life and property. Many Nevadans live and work in of Nevada's fire prone areas, but few are prepared to survive a wildfire. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension developed the Living With Fire (LWF) program

to develop consensus among firefighting agencies concerning wildfire threat reduction recommendations, and to teach these recommendations to homeowners living in high fire hazard communities. LWF has produced publications, workshops, websites, and television programs, and has sponsored conferences. A program evaluation showed that the LWF materials are the most used wildfire threat reduction educational materials in Nevada, and 84% of respondents indicated that LWF materials/programs played an important or very important role in getting homeowner to take action. **Contact:** Ed Smith, Natural Resource Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; phone: 775-782-9960; email: smithe@unce.unr.edu. Photo (below): Candice Towell, Reno Gazette Journal.



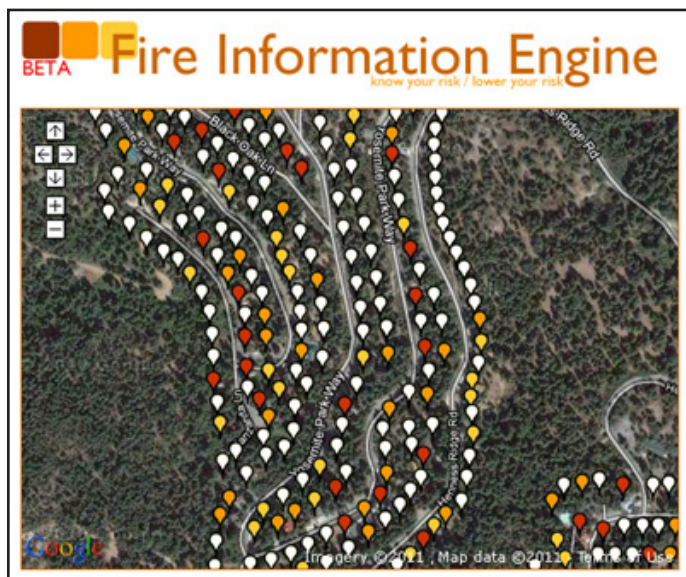


### Fire Education in California's WUI –

Research has clearly shown the benefits of addressing home vulnerabilities to reduce fire-related losses in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). University of California Cooperative Extension created an interactive homeowners assessment tool ([http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/homeassessment/home\\_assess\\_intro.html](http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/homeassessment/home_assess_intro.html)) to evaluate and prioritize structure vulnerabilities to fire (especially ember attack), using the best science available. This tool was quickly adopted and used in a variety of locations and contexts including a community-wide mitigation project in Yosemite West, an assessment project for the entire Lake Tahoe Basin, and to help teach classes to homeowners in southern California. Materials also were translated into Spanish to meet the needs of California's under-served Latino community, and it was used in



the Itasca County Wildfire Protection Implementation Team and has completed a successful Chipper Days project. 275 tons of potentially hazardous fuel was collected and used to generate renewable energy at a power plant. Sixty-four property owners were involved with the project and contributed 1,700 hours of volunteer time removing vegetation from driveways and structures. **Contact:** Julie Miedtke, University of Minnesota-Itasca County; phone: 218-327-7365; email: [miedt001@umn.edu](mailto:miedt001@umn.edu).



2009 to educate a team of visiting fire professionals from Spain. **Contact:** Max Moritz, Extension Specialist, and Steve Quarles, Extension Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension; phone (Moritz): 510-642-7329; email: [mmoritz@berkeley.edu](mailto:mmoritz@berkeley.edu).

**Increasing Fire Safety in Minnesota –** A local Extension educator in northern Minnesota facilitates

### Fire in Washington's Wildland-Urban Interface –

The wildland-urban interface (WUI) in Washington State is more densely developed than most other western states. As relatively undeveloped WUI areas of northeast and north central Washington (nearly 700 mi<sup>2</sup>) are developed the risk of future wildfire problems will increase and so will the need for Extension forestry educational efforts. Washington State University Extension Forestry, in close partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, uses innovative educational techniques to educate home and property owners how to prepare for the next wildfire. In 2011 their efforts impacted homeowners and landowners controlling over 28,000 acres in eastern Washington alone. **Contact:** Erik Sjoquist, Extension Coordinator, Washington State University Extension; phone: 509-477-2175; email: [esjoquist@spokanecounty.org](mailto:esjoquist@spokanecounty.org).

### ANREP – Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals

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