



LITTLE COLORADO RIVER PLATEAU RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

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Wildfire Safe, Sound & CODESMART Conference

Rim Country Wildfire

a Workshop to Review and Update Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Policy & Codes

September 5th and 6th • Show Low, Arizona

Licanos Conference Center (Thursday Evening) • Show Low City Hall (Friday)

Presented by the **Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D** in cooperation with the
National Association of RC&D Councils and the
International Code Council

Why I need to attend this workshop?

Frequently asked questions regarding the Rim Country Wildfire workshop

What is the problem? 2012 was yet another record-setting year for wildfires, burning deserts, mountains, valleys – almost 10 million acres - leaving behind an extraordinary toll of over 2652 homes lost and, tragically, 36 lives lost, both civilian and firefighter. It appears 2013 will be another year of catastrophic losses. Despite the fast-growing number of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities across the United States, studies show that rural areas lack proper building, fire and WUI codes. Communities across the Rim Country have Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and have begun embracing codes to better safeguard people and property. Additionally, public awareness programs have effectively educated our communities on methods to build defensible space around homes and businesses, and reduce the risk of catastrophic losses due to fire. But have we embraced the best and latest safety codes? Studies suggest that across the country there are few procedures to increase adoption and enforcement of WUI building safety codes, which science tells us would serve as a critical element for mitigating the nation's growing WUI fire problem. Adoption and enforcement of a WUI code also plays a critical role in WUI fire mitigation, strategically complementing existing WUI fire prevention programs.

What is a WUI code? A WUI code utilizes science-based understanding to develop proper construction methods to mitigate WUI fires for the local building environment, assisting in design recommendations for architects, builders and homeowners and providing concepts such as defensible space and fire-resistant landscaping when building or retrofitting homes. WUI codes also regulate building materials used in home and commercial developments and enable building inspectors to enforce them. Along with the safety benefits these provisions provide to the public at large, they also reassure homeowners that their homes incorporate regulated, standardized features that can protect them from many of the natural hazards existing in WUI areas.

What is the International Code Council? The International Code Council (ICC) is a member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe and

insurable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process. Most U. S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. The I-codes, as they are often referred to, are a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated building safety, fire prevention and energy-efficient codes. Building codes benefit public safety and support the construction industry's need for one set of codes without regional limitations. Most WUI codes cover new single-family homes and major restorations or additions to existing homes.

What is the purpose of the Rim Country Wildfire workshop? The primary workshop goal is to increase WUI fire safety and adoption of WUI ICC codes for communities in Arizona's Rim Country. The workshop methodology will be a series of presentations by Mr. Dan Bailey (see references below) coupled with breakout sessions to better exchange ideas and discuss the merits of embracing revisions to CWPPs and existing codes. When a city or county adopts a model code or standard, it has the freedom to adopt it verbatim, or to tailor it by adding requirements that address a particular situation or need. Breakout sessions will permit input from workshop participants and affected stakeholders. The workshop guides and supports community leaders as they review the merits of adopting a WUI code.

Who should attend the Rim Country Wildfire workshop? The workshop will be served best with participants who come from wide spectrum of professions and provide services to our Rim Country communities, including: Elected officials, fire departments, wildland fire agencies, homebuilders, insurance companies, real estate agents, non-governmental community-based organizations, home-owner associations, architects, green building organizations, Tribal agencies, and interested home and business owners.

Who is Dan Bailey?



**Dan Bailey, President of the Board
International Code Council™
Washington, DC, USA**

Dan Bailey is Executive Director for National and International programs dealing with Wildland Fire, Natural Resource, Environmental and Natural Hazard Programs for the *International Code Council™*. Dan's was a staff assistant to Senator Wayne Morse (Oregon) before moving to the *USDA Forest Service* where he was involved with land management, forestry and wildland fire programs in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arizona and Washington, DC. He served as a National Incident Commander leading efforts on more than 200 of the largest wildfires, hurricanes and other disasters. Prior to retiring from the Forest Service, he served as the National Program Manager for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fire and Firewise programs. Dan was also the founder of the *National Firewise Communities Workshop* series. He served on the *NFPA* Board of Directors, and founded the *NFPA* Wildland Fire Management Section, serving as chair for 8 years. He has served on the Boards of the *National Wildfire Foundation*, the *United Nations*, *International Wildland Fire Alliance*, and the *World Forestry Alliance*.