



Citizen Fire Academy Extension Programming: A Multi-Pronged Approach at Growing Fire Adapted Communities

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MAIN QUESTIONS OR ISSUES THAT YOU ADDRESSED

How can Extension help encourage and develop Fire-Adapted Communities? How can we use the 6-8 week long, Citizen Fire Academy program in a different way to attract more participants?

LOCATION AND ECOSYSTEM INVESTIGATED

Communities within the Wildland Urban Interface

KEY FINDINGS OF YOUR RESEARCH

In the move to Fire Adapted Communities, there are 4 basic steps. Perception - that wildfire threats are genuine, Perspective - That wildfire preparedness is both effective in mitigating wildfire threats, and should hold a priority for the community member, Culture - that a community at large holds the correct perspective, and Adaptation, that the community at large starts to implement mitigation strategies for wildfire preparedness. Traditionally, the CFA program has worked with participants already past the Perception stage by informing their Perspective of wildfire threats and motivating them to take action to impact Cultural change within their communities. We have had difficulty engaging the vast majority of the members of the community who have not yet reached the Perception stage. Implementation of these new outreach and delivery options is still in progress, but shorter programs are designed to make it easier to engage these people. We are noticing that utilizing the same peer-reviewed content developed in the CFA Curriculum in different formats is attracting a different set of the public than the longer, full program. Full results of this effort are pending.

HOW DID YOU ANSWER THE MAIN QUESTIONS OR INFORM THE ISSUES?

With members of the public at different levels of engagement on the topic of wildfire preparedness, OSU Extension has had to think creatively about how to cast a wider net and get more members of the community involved. Taking the primary source of wildfire prepared education programming within OSU Extension, Citizen Fire Academy, we have developed a new array of program deliveries and outreach methodology, while utilizing the published curriculum for content. This includes synthesized 2 hour presentations, one day combined in-class/field tours, and hands-on workshops.

HOW MIGHT/WILL IT INFLUENCE FIRE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS OR PRACTICES?

Our hope is to give educators options to engage the community at every stage of Adaptation.

WHO IS THE MAIN END-USER OF YOUR RESEARCH?

Wildfire Preparedness Educators, Firewise Community Coordinators

CONGRESS SESSION

Exploring Past & Future Roles of the Cooperative Extension Service in U.S. Fire Education