



Center for Fire Research and Outreach

College of Natural Resources • University of California, Berkeley

Two Web-based tools are now available for homeowners to evaluate the wildfire hazard they face and determine what they can do to improve the safety of their home.

Homeowner's Wildfire Mitigation Guide

<http://groups.ucanr.org/HWMMG/index.cfm>

The 'Homeowner's Wildfire Mitigation Guide' is a structure fire hazard evaluation program that can be performed by the homeowner.

Fire Information Engine Toolkit

<http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/toolkit/>

The "Fire Information Engine Toolkit" (FIET) has a parcel-level structure vulnerability assessment and ranking approach based on the latest science. This approach goes beyond current wildfire hazard assessment methods, which often include only factors related to fire suppression, by focusing on fire brand or ember ignition -- which is increasingly seen as the wildfire attack mechanism that leads to the most structure damage -- and spatial interactions between vulnerabilities (e.g., dry, stressed vegetation directly overhanging a wood deck). Though many communities have expressed an interest in carrying out wildfire hazard assessments, they are often at a loss when it comes to figuring out what is most important to assess, how to rate the results, what can be done to mitigate hazards, and, finally, how to communicate the results with homeowners. The FIET provides a "one-stop shop" in response to these and related needs

Specific tools include:

Tools for homeowners:

- an online, science-based, wildfire vulnerability self-assessment for homeowners that returns a customized "report card" with tips for improving their vulnerability to wildfire
- an extensive guide to mitigating wildfire hazards

Tools for decision-makers:

- a wildfire assessment and ranking form in .pdf or handheld-device ready, including a field guide, for communities interested in completing a community-wide assessment
- an easy-to-use interface that allows users to upload the results of the community-wide assessment and automatically generate a web-based map interface, including the "report card", for communicating results with homeowners and other stakeholders

Multi-user tools:

- online, search-by-address wildfire maps, including fire threat, fire history, and areas potentially affected by upcoming changes to building codes, for the state of California
- up-to-the-minute wildfire news
- interactive maps of active fires in California