



## **INTEGRATING RECOVERY INTO PRE-PLANNING FOR WILDFIRE**

Taking the time to incorporate recovery planning into the Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP) process is a useful opportunity to proactively address potential post-fire recovery needs. By thinking ahead, you are setting your community up for success in the event that recovery actions need to be taken.

### **Watch the Webinar**

Jessica Farmer from the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group offers advice on how to integrate sound recovery practices into CWPPs. She provides example action items to include in a CWPP based on her experience updating the Okanogan County CWPP.



To properly make recovery a priority before a wildfire event, it is important to have a clear understanding of what recovery means. Often, recovery and response are confused. The difference between **wildfire response** and **recovery efforts** lies in their focus, timing, and activities.

# RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

RESPONSE	RECOVERY
<b>FOCUS</b>	
<p>Immediate actions to protect life, property, and natural resources during active wildfires.</p>	<p>Long-term rebuilding, rehabilitation, and mitigation after the wildfire is contained.</p>
<b>TIMING</b>	
<p>Occurs during the wildfire event and immediately afterward, until the fire is fully contained or controlled.</p>	<p>Begins after the fire is controlled and continues for months or even years, depending on the extent of damage.</p>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuation planning and execution to ensure community safety.</li> <li>• Deployment of firefighters, fire engines, aircraft, and other resources to suppress wildfire.</li> <li>• Establishment of incident command systems to coordinate efforts.</li> <li>• Emergency communication with the public regarding safety measures and wildfire updates.</li> <li>• Implementation of strategies to protect critical infrastructure and homes, such as fire lines and defensible space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing the damage to homes, infrastructure, and natural landscapes.</li> <li>• Restoring utilities and rebuilding homes, businesses, and community facilities.</li> <li>• Offering emotional and financial support to affected individuals and families.</li> <li>• Restoring ecosystems and addressing erosion risks through soil stabilization, replanting vegetation, and mitigating post-fire flooding.</li> <li>• Updating community plans, such as CWPPs, to reduce future wildfire risk.</li> </ul>
<b>KEY PLAYERS</b>	
<p>Fire departments, emergency management agencies, incident management teams, and local government.</p>	<p>Local governments, community organizations, disaster recovery groups, environmental specialists, and state/federal agencies (e.g., FEMA, USFS).</p>

## Recommendations on how to integrate sound recovery practices in pre-fire planning

Federal agencies will allocate post-fire recovery resources to communities that have integrated recovery actions into their county all-hazard mitigation plans. However, many of these plans often fail to include comprehensive recovery actions. Alternatively, actions may actually be contained in separate CWPPs that have not been adopted as a part of official county plans. To improve your community's eligibility for funding and resources, here are a few considerations:

1. During updates to your county all-hazard plan or local CWPP, collaborate with partners to identify necessary actions, activities, and resources for post-wildfire recovery.
2. Incorporate these recovery actions into your all-hazard or CWPP action plans.
3. If your CWPP is separate from your all-hazard mitigation plan, work with county commissioners to formally adopt the CWPP into the county plan through a resolution. This integration ensures plan alignment and eligibility for federal funding.

## More Resources...

**Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network: [CWPP Toolkit](#)**

**Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group: [Website](#)**

**Okanogan Conservation District: [Okanogan County CWPP](#)**

**Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network: [Wildfire Recovery Graphic Facilitators Guide](#)**

**FEMA:**

**[Post-Disaster Recovery Planning for Fire and EMS](#)**

**[National Disaster Recovery Framework](#)**