

Module 1: Introductory Module

Introduction

This module sets the stage for every subsequent module in CFA. It focuses on the content that will be covered, describes how to learn effectively using the classroom materials or hybrid approach, and most importantly, connects the modules with the overarching wildfire preparedness plan and volunteer projects. CFA participants should leave this session prepared to make the most of remaining coursework and understand how they fit into the concept of a Fire-Adapted Community.

Room setup

This module works best in a U-shaped layout so that participants can interact with each other. If there are 20 or more participants, a half-moon/cabaret style layout is recommended. If using the hybrid approach, plan to have laptops available, book a computer lab, or request that participants bring their own laptops. (See “Room setup,” page 7)

Total time needed

3.5 to 4 hours in the classroom

Equipment needed

- Computer with PowerPoint
- Projector and screen
- Handouts
- Flip charts, markers, easel
- Laptops if using the hybrid approach

Background resources

- “Wildfires and Us” video: <https://vimeo.com/106449254>
- Wildfire preparedness plan template, see Appendix C (page 135)
- Wildfire preparedness plan example, see Appendix C (page 135)
- OSU Volunteer Liability Form

- “How Will you Prepare Your Community for Wildfire as a CFA volunteer?” worksheet

Host prep

- While recruiting agency partners as speakers and field tour guides, invite them to attend the introductory session to give a few words on the need for the CFA program and what they hope to accomplish through it
- Familiarize instructors and panelists with objectives, content, agenda, and structure of session
- Communicate with CFA participants to confirm location and time
- Make sufficient copies of all handouts, schedules, and forms
- Reserve classroom
- Confirm projector and laptop for the video
- Set up room
- Prepare refreshments (if applicable)
- Prepare a cash box for program fees (if applicable)

Class prerequisites

There is no prework for this module.

Learning objectives

Participants will:

- Recognize how knowledge learned through CFA will help them prepare themselves and their communities for wildfire
- Identify the content, structure, and expectations of the CFA program, including:
 - Each module
 - Wildfire preparedness plan
 - Volunteer hours and projects
 - Time commitment

- ❑ Field tour needs and timing
- ❑ Access and use of Canvas¹ (for hybrid CFA courses)
- Recognize who to contact for additional information, questions, and resources
- Prepare for volunteer service by brainstorming potential volunteer and outreach opportunities

Behavior objectives

Participants will:

- Sign the OSU Volunteer Liability Form
- Prepare to meet the expectations of the course, fieldwork, and volunteer service
- Begin initial work on the wildfire preparedness plan
- Identify personal skills, talents, and interests as potential volunteer service opportunities

Delivery methods

- Video
- Presentations from partnering agencies and CFA facilitator
- Module presentation
- Introductory activity
- Participant roundtable discussion

Instructor guidance

The first day is your first impression for the rest of the course. It is important to get participants enthusiastic about the course, and to get them to take ownership in what they are about to learn over the next several weeks. Although a portion of this module needs to be lecture-style instruction about the syllabus and agenda for subsequent modules, this day should be generally interactive.

Learn about your participants' motivations for joining CFA. Learn about what they hope to get out of the course. Ask them how they hope to contribute to their neighborhoods and communities following the end of the modules, using the information they have learned. Ask each participant to describe the conditions where she or he lives. Do participants

generally live in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)? Are they part of homeowners associations (HOA), or do they have limited contact with their neighbors?

Ask participants about their experiences with fire and wildfire. Do they have friends or family who lost their homes to a wildfire or survived one? Ask participants about any special circumstances, such as how to evacuate an elderly parent living at home, or how to prepare collaboratively for fire when neighbors are unresponsive.

If you are including a volunteer component in the delivery of this course, talk with CFA participants about it from the start. Ask participants what is important to them, what their skills are, and brainstorm volunteer project ideas with participants.

The included PowerPoint presentation can help CFA participants understand where they fit into the concept of a Fire-Adapted Community and gives background on how to enact a community-wide change in the culture and perception of wildfire preparedness and response. However, CFA facilitators are not required to use the presentation and may prefer to keep the atmosphere more informal for this session.

Sample agenda

Location: Auditorium

1:00 p.m. Introduce CFA facilitator, agency partners, and participants.

Agency partners speak to participants about their roles in fire prevention and firefighting.

Instructors speak about local fire history, show maps of fires in the region.

Participants share motivations for joining and their experiences with fire.

2:00 p.m. Why is wildfire preparedness important to your community? How does CFA help you to prepare?

Discussion and/or show "Wildfires and Us" video

2:30 p.m. Review syllabus

Discuss expectations for the CFA participants, including wildfire preparedness plans and service commitment

Discuss field tour schedule and logistics

¹Canvas an open-source learning management system used by CFA to provide online content to participants. More information on Canvas can be found at: <https://www.canvaslms.com/>

- 2:45 p.m.** Refreshment break
- 3:00 p.m.** Review Final Project wildfire preparedness plan, including an example of a completed plan
- 3:30 p.m.** Complete volunteer “How Will You Prepare...” activity
Pass out Volunteer Service Activities sheet and discuss options available for CFA volunteers following graduation
- 4:00 p.m.** Pass out liability forms to sign
Confirm participants’ contact information
Provide CFA facilitator contact information
- 4:15 p.m.** (For hybrid approach): Instruction on how to access Canvas
- 5:00 p.m.** Adjourn

Content outline

- Introduction and overview of agenda
 - Introductory activity and introduction of participants, facilitator, and agency speakers
- Overview of CFA / Introductory Module presentation
 - Why is CFA important?
 - “Wildfires and Us”
<https://vimeo.com/106449254>
 - Goals and mission of CFA
 - Explanation of the education and service model
 - Agency partners (who will be featured throughout the course and through volunteering) introduce themselves
- Review the syllabus
 - Structure of the course modules (conventional or hybrid)
 - Schedule
 - Time commitment
 - Working with Canvas (if applicable)
 - Field trip logistics
 - Carpool or caravans
 - Recommended gear
 - First aid kit
 - Water and snacks

- Physical demands of field locations, terrain, and travel
- Service component
 - Volunteer requirement and community engagement from a fireshed perspective
 - Volunteer plan and completion timeline
 - Volunteer skills and talents activity
 - Volunteer job descriptions
- Expectations and course outcomes
 - Participant development and coursework
 - Conduct an assessment on own property
 - Implement Firewise practices in and around the home
 - Implement fuels reductions on forested property
 - Engage in prefire planning such as working with Firewise communities and developing evacuation plans
 - Wildfire preparedness plan (See Appendix C, page 135)
 - Review sample wildfire preparedness plan
 - Community development
 - Service hours requirement
 - Use knowledge of fire and fire resiliency strategies to engage friends, family, neighbors and community
 - Develop a Volunteer Plan
- Communication
 - CFA Facilitator contact information
- Forms
 - OSU Volunteer Liability Form
 - Confirm CFA participant contact information

Exercises

“How Will you Prepare Your Community for Wildfire as a CFA volunteer?”

This activity is designed to get CFA participants thinking about how they will eventually give back to the community during the service portion of the program. The CFA facilitator should distribute the

Volunteer Service Activities sheet and the “How Will You Prepare Your Community for Wildfire as a CFA Volunteer?” worksheet. After going over the various types of volunteer service on the Service Activities sheet, have them fill out the worksheet. Try to keep the atmosphere casual so that participants feel able to share their thoughts if they want to.

Following the activity, have participants keep the worksheet and the Service Activities sheet, and have them use both to inform their volunteer plan.

Alternative delivery methods

This module can be combined with the next module if needed to reduce the overall number of courses. However, due to the importance of laying out participant expectations and future coursework, it is recommended that the module stay as a standalone.

It is also recommended that this module be conducted in person, even if the CFA facilitator has opted to use the hybrid approach for instruction. This allows the facilitator to learn names and faces, while developing the kind of personal connection that engages participants.

Suggested homework

Review wildfire preparedness plan at home with family. Fill in basic information portions.

If using the hybrid approach, ensure that CFA participants understand how to access the material by having them log in and post in a forum introducing themselves to the group.

Introductory Module Materials



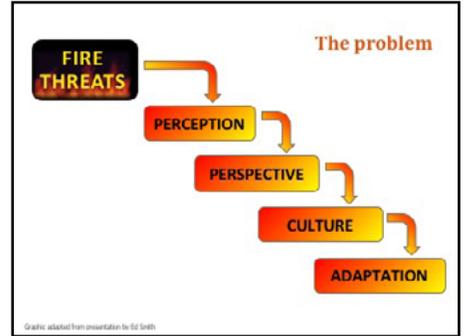
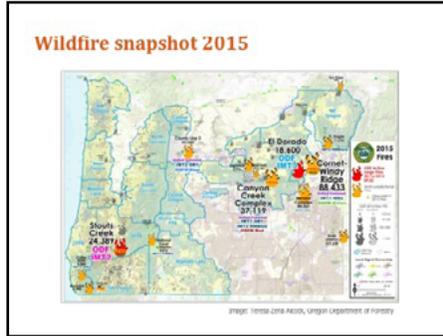
slide deck

Citizen Fire Academy
Introductory Module





Oregon State University
 Oregon State University
 Extension Service



Put fire on the agenda!

- Help promote learning and adaptation that helps individuals, neighborhoods better prepare for and live with wildfire
- Reduce loss of homes, infrastructure, and property
- Increase community and firefighter safety
- Reduce wildfire damage to forests, rangelands, and watersheds
- Promote fire-adapted communities



Photo: Nora Bouffig, © Oregon State University

What will you learn?

- The fundamentals of fire behavior from a scientific perspective
- Property owner responsibilities with regards to fire preparedness in your area
- Resources that exist on a federal, state and local level that you can access for help in preparation to and during a wildfire
- Strategies you can use around your home to improve the chances it will survive
- Strategies you can use in forested wildlands that are being used to help communities adapt to fire
- What you can do in your community to get your friends, family and neighbors on board to prepare for wildfire!

How does CFA work?

- 7 in-person classes
 - Introduction
 - Fire Science
 - Living in a Fire Environment
 - Home Protection Strategies
 - Fuels Reduction Strategies
 - Effective Volunteering
 - Graduation
- Interactive field tours
 - Field tours and outdoor demonstrations build on lessons learned in class
- CFA Participant Work
 - Completion of the Wildfire Preparedness Plan for each participant
 - 20 to 30 hours of volunteer service to community wildfire preparedness

How does CFA work?

- 2 in-person classes
 - Introduction / Learning Canvas
 - Effective Volunteering and Graduation
- 4 online modules, including a conference call "office hour" to answer questions
 - Fire Science
 - Living in a Fire Environment
 - Home Protection Strategies
 - Fuels Reduction Strategies
- 2 interactive field tours
 - Field tour #1: builds on lesson learned in Fire Science and Living in a Fire Environment
 - Field Tour #2: builds on lessons learned in Home Protection Strategies, Fuels Reduction Strategies and Effective Volunteering
- CFA participant work
 - Completion of the Wildfire Preparedness Plan for each participant
 - 20 to 30 hours of volunteer service to community wildfire preparedness

Thanks!



Photo: Brandon Quastner