

Wildfire in a Changing World: Climate, Human Activities and Adaptation

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Recent analyses have highlighted warming temperatures and recurrent droughts as key climate-related drivers of increasing wildfire size, severity and frequency in some regions. Human activities such as land use, ignitions, and management decisions play a critical role in the enhancement of wildfires and their impacts on humans and ecosystems in many parts of the globe. A growing cadre of scientists, decision makers and citizens are advocating new approaches to increase adaptations and resilience to the new realities of wildfire in our landscapes and built environment. These approaches require (1) clear definitions of values at risk and potential outcomes that result from the interaction of wildfire and humans, (2) insights into where gaps exist in our understanding of processes, complex interactions among disturbances, spatial and temporal scales and the persistence of wildfire effects, and (3) of paramount importance, the ability to convey clear information to decision makers and the public. This talk will explore proposed mitigations and adaptations that increase our resilience to wildfire in the context of a world transformed by changes in climate and human activities.

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