



The Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance invites you to a briefing on:

Hot Topics: Climate Change & the Science of Safeguarding our Communities from Wildfires

Sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association
& the American Geophysical Union

When: July 6, 2009
Time: 10:30 – 12:00pm
Where: Rayburn House Office Building
Room 2103
50 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20024

Refreshments served

The Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance, the National Fire Protection Association, and the American Geophysical Union invite you to a briefing about the effects of climate change and its impact on hot hazards. The panel will explore the science and societal impacts of increasing wildfire frequency and intensity, the latest approaches to wildfire modeling and mitigation. Speakers for this event include:

- **Roger Pulwarty**, Climate Scientist and Director, National Integrated Drought Information System, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- **Susan Cutter**, Carolina Distinguished Professor of Geography and Director, Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute University of South Carolina
- **Samuel Manzello**, Mechanical Engineer, Fire Research Division of the Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology
- **Michele Steinberg**, Senior Fire Service Specialist – Firewise Communities, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Wildland fires are a natural process. Fire has helped shape our wildlands for thousands of years, and it is important for the survival of many plants and animals. However, society's influence has altered historic fire cycles, leading to a dangerous build-up of vegetation in our wildlands. When paired with the right terrain and weather conditions, dense build-up of vegetation leads to fires that burn hotter, last longer, and spread faster, potentially threatening areas of residential development. The wildland/urban interface is a set of conditions under which a wildland fire reaches beyond natural fuels (such as trees and brush), to homes and their immediate surroundings. According to the USDA Forest Service, there are 22,000 "at risk" communities located in the wildland/urban interface throughout the U.S. Over 130 Million people live in these communities in an estimated 40 million homes.

This briefing is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.
For more information, contact NFPA Government Affairs at (202) 898-0222 or nmcnabb@nfpa.org.