

Overview of MTC and ABAG Wildfire Resilience Efforts

MTC and ABAG have supported wildfire resilience planning across the Bay Area through technical assistance, policy guidance, and multi-agency coordination. Below is a summary of these efforts and links to past deliverables.

Integrating wildfire considerations into housing and resilience planning.

These resources focus on actions that mitigate future wildfire risk, particularly for housing.

- [2017 Wildland Urban Interface White Paper](https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/fire-study-final.pdf) (https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/fire-study-final.pdf): Assessed regional wildfire planning efforts, analyzed the efficacy of various wildfire hazard maps, and compiled over 350 mitigation strategies used across the region.
- [2017 Wildfire Recovery Assistance](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2017-north-bay-wildfire-affected-areas-resources-bay-area-cities-and-counties) (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2017-north-bay-wildfire-affected-areas-resources-bay-area-cities-and-counties): Following the 2017 Wildfires, MTC secured the services of Henry Gardner, a past ABAG executive director who was also the Oakland City Manager during the 1991 Tunnel fire to assist local city managers with their recovery strategy.
- [2021 Resilient Housing Policies & Programs Guidance](https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/4resilienthousingpoliciesversion11docx) (https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/4resilienthousingpoliciesversion11docx): Provided actionable strategies for jurisdictions to incorporate hazard-resilient housing policies into their Housing Elements, supporting compliance with State mandates and local safety goals.
- [2021–2022 Wildfire Technical Assistance Cohort](https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/wildfires-how-preserve-protect-housing-program-overview) (https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/wildfires-how-preserve-protect-housing-program-overview): A four-part learning series offered to local jurisdictions, supported by expert-led sessions and accompanying resource guides. Session slides and time-stamped recordings are available on each landing page.

- **Part 1: Understanding Wildfire Hazards in the Bay Area**
(<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/wildfires-housing-101>): Covered regional fire science, wildfire trends, and approaches to reduce home ignition.
 - **Resource Guide #1** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/resourceguide01wildfireorganizationspdf>) – Wildfires – Research, Science, & Key Organizations
 - **Resource Guide #2** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/rg02mwpapdf>) – Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority
- **Part 2: Defensible Space and Home Hardening** (<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/defensible-space-home-hardening-cal-fire-updates>): Shared best practices and implementation strategies for defensible space and home hardening. Fire Safe Marin highlighted its community outreach approach to support collective action.
 - **Resource Guide #3** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/rg03residentresourcespdf>) – Home Hardening and Defensible Space Resources for Residents
 - **Resource Guide #4** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/rg04firesafemarinpdf>) – Fire Safe Marin
- **Part 3: Evacuation and Public Safety** (<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/evacuations-law-practical-approaches-technology-tools>): The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) shared new state evacuation requirements while researchers and practitioners shared new applications for evacuation planning and notification.
 - **Resource Guide #5** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/rg02mwpapdf>) – New Evacuation Laws, Key Considerations and Planning Resources

- **Part 4: Land Use Planning for Wildfire Resilience:**
(<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/land-use-planning-wildland-urban-interface-wui-including-accessory-dwelling>): Explored land use planning best practices for communities with wildfire risk with updates from CALFIRE and OPR 2022 guidance. Discussion focused on three key challenges, making homes with minimal setbacks more resilient, improving fire apparatus access and evacuation times, and fostering community wildfire adaptation.
 - **Resource Guide #6** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/resourceguide06comingsoon2022pdf>): State Initiatives and Resources
 - **Resource Guide #7** (<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/resourceguide07wildfirehousingpoliciespdf>): Wildfire Programs and Policies for Housing Element Updates
- **2022 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)**
(<https://abag.ca.gov/tools-resources/digital-library/resourceguide07wildfirehousingpoliciespdf>): Developed in partnership with eight Bay Area transit agencies to address regionally significant hazards, including wildfire. This FEMA-approved plan supports eligibility for federal hazard mitigation funding and outlines priority actions for regional collaboration.

Preparing for a coordinated transportation response during emergencies

These resources focus on preparedness and response efforts for the Bay Area's transportation systems:

- **2018 Regional Transportation Emergency Management Plan (RTEMP)**
(<https://mtc.ca.gov/operations/programs-projects/disaster-preparedness-recovery/regional-transportation-emergency-management-plan-rtemp>): Defines roles, responsibilities and coordination procedures for managing transportation operations during disasters. After an emergency, MTC collaborates with Caltrans, CHP, WETA, and major transit operators to restore regional transportation services.

- **Transportation Response Planning Committee** (<https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/committees/interagency-committees/transportation-response-planning-committee>): Formed after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake to improve coordination among transportation agencies during emergencies. The Transportation Response Plan (TRP) outlines functions, responsibilities, and procedures for a multimodal emergency response. The TRP Committee, composed of emergency coordinators from key agencies, meets quarterly to: review recent incidents and lessons learned; guide regional initiatives like the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP); and support updates to the Priority Emergency Transportation Routes and RTEMP.
- **2021 Priority Emergency Transportation Routes:** MTC and the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) compiled local evacuation routes from nine counties and Caltrans into a regional map. This project was built on the 2020 Transportation Network Resiliency Assessment, which helped inform evacuation planning with system performance data and shape a regionally coordinated network of priority routes for emergencies.