

Adapting to California Wildfires: Keys to Rebuilding in High Fire Risk Locations



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Literature Review

Research included:

- Current fire codes
- Research different fire-resistant building methods
- How wildfires spread
- Cost to rebuild a fire-resistant house

A rise in California wildfires has led to a significant increase in the number of acres and structures destroyed annually. The Tubbs Fire affected parts of Northern California in October 2017. In an effort to reduce the damage caused by wildfires, it is vital that houses are constructed so that they are more fire resistant. This paper will look at the reconstruction of Santa Rosa after the Tubbs Fire to see what building methods are being used by contractors. This was investigated by surveying residential contractors who participated in reconstruction after the fire. The purpose of this project is to provide homeowners information on fire-resistant building methods when constructing or retrofitting a house, by specifically looking at the roof, siding, and landscape. Building to stricter building code can be effective for an individual house, but is far more effective when applied to an entire community or city.

Methodology

- Sent survey out to 10 different residential contractors
- Feedback from companies that did, and did not build to stricter code.
- Interviewed one wildfire expert



Conclusion

- Be mindful of the potential danger of a wildfire in your area
- Properly seal your home
 - Landscape
 - Systematic approach
- Consider the future of California

