



Session 1A

Can Wildland Fire Modeling and Fire Protection Engineering be Used to Minimize the Impact of Wildland Fires to People and Property?

In 2017, wildland and wildland urban interface fires burned around 10,000 structures in California. This presentation will provide an overview of several major California wildland fires and discuss relevant factors such as land use/development, fuels, weather, and topography. Wildland fire modeling tools being used to map areas prone to such damaging fires and forecast the spread of active fires will be briefly explained. Fire Protection Engineering strategies for minimizing the impact of wildland fires to people and improved property will then be discussed, ranging from enhanced building code requirements to community planning & community preparedness programs such as NFPA's Firewise USA.



Chris Lautenberger
Principal Engineer
Reax Engineering, Inc. (Berkeley, CA)

Chris Lautenberger is a co-founder of Reax Engineering Inc. in Berkeley, CA. He received a PhD in Mechanical Engineering (major area: Combustion, minor areas: Fluid Dynamics and Wildland Fire Science) from the University of California at Berkeley with a dissertation related to materials' flammability and fire modeling. He also received an MS in Fire Protection Engineering from WPI with a thesis related to computational fluid dynamics modeling of fires. Chris is a licensed Fire Protection Engineer in California.

Dr. Lautenberger's responsibilities span code consulting, fire science research, design of fire protection and life safety systems, thermal sciences, atmospheric processes, and forensic reconstruction of fires. His work combines fire/building codes and related standards with technical aspects of fire science such as combustion, heat transfer, fluid dynamics, thermodynamics, fire dynamics, and fire modeling. Chris has co-taught Masters-level courses in Fire Dynamics and Fire Modeling in the Department of Fire Protection Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

WWW.SFPEATLANTA.ORG

Please visit the website for conference costs and registration information.