

MEDIA CONTACT:

Justin Caporusso

justin@caporussocommunications.com

(916) 412-0571



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wildfire Education Academy Invites Residents to Join
Virtual Session on Home Hardening and Defensible Space Projects**

ESCOG Hosting Seven-Part Series Educating the Public on Wildfire and Preparedness

MONO COUNTY, Calif. (August 8, 2022) – The fifth session of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Citizen’s Wildfire Education Academy (Academy) will focus on “Home Hardening and Defensible Space Projects.” The session is scheduled for Monday, August 15th at 6:00pm.

The session will feature guest speakers Yana Valachovic with the University of California Cooperative Extension, and Crystal Medhurst with Whitebark Institute. Ms. Valachovic will provide a presentation exploring how home construction and design can make homes more resilient to wildfire. Ms. Medhurst will share resources that can help build local fire adaption.

Details on the Academy and instructions on how to register for the upcoming session can be accessed here: <https://www.eswildfirealliance.org/academy>. All sessions are recorded, and available on-demand following the live event via the Academy’s website.

Organized by ESCOG and sponsored by Mono County, Inyo County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Friends of the Inyo, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, the Mono Lake Committee, the Whitebark Institute, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, several Mono County Fire Safe Councils, and others, the Academy is aimed at reducing the anxiety about wildfire, and addressing and responding to the multitude of questions that residents and visitors have about the topic. The 60–90-minute sessions are held the third Monday of each month at 6:00PM.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

September 19	Smoke, Evacuation, and Other Preparation Procedures
October 17	Insurance Concerns, Local Fire Departments, and Fire Safe Councils

ESCOG is an association of city and county governments created to address regional issues.

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