

ESCAPE GLOSSARY

AHJ

authorities having jurisdiction; any office, agency, or entity that the power and responsibility to approve and enforce the requirements of codes, standards, and regulations

Burnover

life-threatening situations where planned escape routes or safety zones are inadequate or compromised and individuals are overtaken or trapped by fire, often resulting in equipment damage and personal injury or death

Community

a place where a group of people live and work, often with delineated boundaries or jurisdictions; generally referring to a collection of smaller locations or neighborhoods; a town or village

Contraflow

a traffic management strategy where traffic flows in the opposite direction than normal in some lanes to increase capacity in one direction

Defensive action

a firefighting action with the intent to suppress, extinguish, or fire or attenuate fire exposures for protection of life, property, or equipment

Egress artery (egress route)

a key route in the road system that is a common path of travel away from the area being evacuated

Ember

a piece or particle of burning fuel that is detached from its source and can range in size from millimeters to several inches, from vegetative or man-made fuels

Entrapment

see *burnover*

ESCAPE

WUI Fire Evacuation and Sheltering Considerations—Assessment, Planning, and Execution (NIST Technical Note 2262)

ET

evacuation time: the time required for community evacuation after the issuance of evacuation communications and notifications to the public

Evacuation

the act of physically leaving a hazardous location

Evacuation order

a lawful order to leave an area deemed hazardous by the AHJ

Evacuation shelter

a designated location outside of the hazardous area where evacuees can find support resources and services; may include family reunification, food and clothing, medical assistance, and shelter

Evacuation zone

1. an area designated to be evacuated
2. a designated subdivision of a larger area to facilitate communication and execution of evacuations

Firebrand

see *ember*; specifically, an airborne ember capable of igniting a spot fire

Fire shelter

a place of refuge engineered and designed to withstand WUI fire exposures

Fuel

burnable objects, including vegetation and manmade combustible items (construction materials, buildings, vehicles, sheds, fences, etc.)

Full evacuation

simultaneous or near simultaneous evacuation of an entire community

HMM

WUI Structure/Parcel/Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology (NIST Technical Note 2205)

Interface (wildland interface)

the area where the built environment meets or abuts wildlands

Intermediate size community

defined as communities with a total population less than approximately 30,000 people

Intermix (wildland intermix)

the area where the built environment overlaps and mixes with wildlands; characterized by more vegetation interspersed within the built environment compared to interface

ITA

ignition to activation; the duration of time from a fire ignition to the activation of the public notification system to announce an evacuation order

ITS

ignition to safety; the duration of time from ignition of a fire to the complete evacuation of a population

No-notice event

emergency incidents that occur with no warning

Partial evacuation

an evacuation that includes less than the full community

Phased evacuation

an evacuation that occurs in stages of groups smaller than the full community, for example, a sequential evacuation of multiple designated evacuation zones

PPE

personal protective equipment: for firefighting includes flame resistant clothing, goggles, head protection, gloves, boots, etc.

RSET

required safe evacuation time; often used in building fire protection engineering, the time required to evacuate unimpeded by fire or smoke

Safe evacuation

evacuation without hazardous exposure to fire or smoke

Safety zone

an open area without fuels that is sufficiently large to reduce fire exposures to a safe level without the use of fire shelters

Shelter-in-place

a protective action in which a person remains at the location where they are, typically in a building

Spot fire

a new fire ignited by firebrands starting at a distance ahead of a wildfire

TFRA

temporary fire refuge area: a pre-identified and maintained open space location that can provide reduced exposure to flames and heat as compared to the life-threatening exposures encountered in entrapments and burnovers

TRA

see *TFRA*; specifically, an unplanned ad hoc use of an area providing relative reduction in exposure to flames and heat when entrapped and unable to immediately evacuate to a safer location

Wildland

areas dominated by vegetative fuels; often in a natural state, but may also be infrequently or non-intensively managed vegetation

WUI

wildland urban interface: locations where the built environment and human settlement meet or intermix with wildland and natural vegetation; see *interface* and *intermix*

Zoned evacuation

see *phased evacuation*