

## Trainings and Conferences for USAPI Partners

This resource is compiled by the Pacific Fire Exchange program, a joint program of the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization and University of Hawai'i at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension. Please reach out to us if you have any questions: Sara Gabrielson, Pacific Fire Exchange Program Coordinator: [sara@hawaiiwildfire.org](mailto:sara@hawaiiwildfire.org) or [admin@hawaiiwildfire.org](mailto:admin@hawaiiwildfire.org). Check out our website for more information: <https://pacificfireexchange.org/>

### Information about this Document

This resource compiles training and conference opportunities related to wildland fire response, mitigation, and post-fire recovery that may be relevant for partners across the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI).

At the same time, we recognize that many existing trainings are developed for continental U.S. contexts and may not fully reflect the unique conditions, ecosystems, and needs of Pacific Island communities. Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO), through the Pacific Fire Exchange (PFX) program and other funding mechanisms, is committed to supporting the development of more Pacific-relevant training and resources. This includes adapting existing materials, co-developing new trainings, and elevating approaches that are grounded in local knowledge and practice.

We see this list as a starting point to generate conversation and identify gaps. We welcome partners to reach out to share gaps, priorities, and ideas for future training needs. In particular, there are opportunities to expand offerings around topics such as post-fire erosion control, replanting and restoration strategies, and vegetation management approaches suited to island environments. There is also strong potential to support peer-to-peer learning across the region, capturing lessons, methods, and case studies already being implemented by local practitioners and sharing them more broadly.

HWMO and the PFX program can help convene partners, document and translate on-the-ground experience into practical resources, and support the development and delivery of trainings that are tailored to Pacific contexts. If there are specific needs not reflected here, or practices you would like to share with others, we encourage you to connect with us so we can explore opportunities together.

## Trainings

### Coalitions & Collaboratives (COCO): Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices Training

<https://co-co.org/programs/community-wildfire-mitigation-best-practices-training/>

**About:** COCO leads and adapts a training course on Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices for various communities. They facilitate the training both in-person and virtually. The in-person training is sometimes associated with other conferences or gatherings such as the Wildland Urban Interface Conference and is usually 2-3 days in duration. The virtual training is 10 weeks with weekly virtual meetings and asynchronous homework and learning opportunities. COCO also adapts this training for particular locations or communities. Facilitators from COCO have worked with HWMO and local partners in Guam and Palau to locally adapt their in-person curriculum for trainings in these locations. Opportunities for cost assessments and local adaptation for those trainings are available upon request.

**Considerations:** Locally adapted trainings are ideal since the material is always applicable. Possible opportunities for in-person and virtual training for islands across the western Pacific. Contact COCO directly through their website to arrange an in-person or virtual training or feel free to reach out to HWMO if coordination support or financial support is needed as HWMO may be able to help partners find support for training.

### National Fire Protection Association: Assessing Structure Ignition Potential (ASIP) from Wildfire Training

<https://www.nfpa.org/for-professionals/training-for-your-business/wildfire-team-training>

**About:** NFPA leads a training course on ignition potential of the built environment. This training is a two day course that covers the science behind how buildings ignite in a wildfire and what actions we can take to prevent ignition. This thorough and well-designed course is the foundation for assessing homes for wildfire preparedness and identifying mitigation strategies for individual structures. NFPA has the ability to send trainers to the Pacific for in-person courses. Opportunities for cost assessments and local offering of this training is available upon request.

**Considerations:** This curriculum was developed in the mainland USA and some of the common building materials or construction approaches addressed may not be the same across all island locations. However, all recommendations are rooted in fire susceptibility science and transferable regardless of location. Contact NFPA directly through their website to arrange an in-person training or feel free to reach out to HWMO if coordination support or financial support is needed as HWMO may be able to help partners find support for training.

## Wildland Fire Training with the US Forest Service

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/training>

<https://www.nwcg.gov/training/training-catalog-and-index>

**About:** The US Forest Service offers training for Wildland Fire Response for partners across USAPI primarily focused on Agencies or Fire Departments. In the past there has been some training available for civilians, but that is not generally the case. Agencies and Fire Departments can request Wildland Fire Training for specific topics through Barb Geringer, Assistant Director - Cooperative Fire/Regional ESF4 Coordination, Forest Service, (barbara.geringer-frazier@usda.gov). For example, in May 2026 FS offered a refresher course in Saipan (only open to those already trained in the respective topic) and an Introduction to Incident Management course for Hawai'i Fire Agencies. They are working on a Fire Investigation Training that would happen later in 2026 and welcome requests for specific training opportunities from partners across the USAPI. Additionally, training requests can be made through the State Fire Funding proposals. For more information about the training availability both in person and virtually, please see the above links and consult with Barb directly.

In Hawai'i, some of our state agencies are required to take a minimum of 5 courses for the base qualifications to respond to wildland fires. These include 2 FEMA courses (ICS 100 and ICS 700) on Incident Command Systems and 3 courses from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (S130, S190, & L180) on wildfire behavior and wildland firefighting tactics. The FEMA courses can be taken online and are available here (<https://training.fema.gov/nims/>). The NWCG courses usually require both in-person and online components. These can be requested through Barb Geringer or taken through the AZ Wildland Fire Academy (see below). Additional NWCG courses that may be of interest include Initial Attack or Chain Saw Training for wildland fire fighting.

**Considerations:** Excellent depth and breadth of trainings offered by USFS. Coordination is required to set these up to support both local development of expertise and sometimes can include interagency exchanges.

## Arizona Wildland Fire Academy

<https://www.azwildfireacademy.org/>

**About:** The Arizona Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (AWIMA) is an annual in-person training event offering a wide range of courses related to wildland fire response and incident management. Trainings cover introductory to advanced levels and often include topics such as basic firefighter training, fire behavior, incident command, leadership, safety, operations, and coordination across agencies. Many courses follow National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards and support qualifications commonly used within U.S. incident management systems. The academy typically takes place over one week in March in Prescott, Arizona.

**Considerations:** AWIMA provides access to structured training pathways and widely recognized qualifications, but course content is primarily designed for U.S. mainland fuel types, fire environments, and agency contexts. Some material may require adaptation to better align with Pacific Island conditions such as invasive grass-fire cycles, tropical ecosystems, and remote island response logistics. Participation generally requires travel to Arizona and associated costs. While the training can help build familiarity with ICS and NWCG frameworks, locally adapted or supplemental training may be needed to ensure relevance for USAPI partners.

## Conferences

### Hawai'i Wildfire Summit -

<https://www.hwmo.org/wildfiresummit2026>

**About:** The Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization hosts the Hawai'i Wildfire Summit. The aim is to have a large wide-reaching summit every other year (2027, 2029, etc) with smaller more locally driven summits during the off years (2026, 2028, etc.). In 2026 the summit was held on Kaua'i for a maximum of 200 participants and was locally-focused. The aim for 2027 is to promote and include our Pacific Island partners and provide space for showcasing work across the islands and highlighting new opportunities for collaboration.

**Considerations:** The conference centers around Hawaii's wildfire issues, but aims to further include our Pacific Island partners. If there is interest in participating and/or organizing a session focused on Pacific Island wildfire updates and issues, please reach out to HWMO to get involved in the planning process for 2027. We would love to have your engagement and input.

### Wildland Urban Interface Conference -

<https://wui2026.eventscribe.net/>

**About:** This conference is held in the mainland USA each year usually in March (often in Reno NV, but has been in Kansas City, MO as well). The conference topics centers around fire response, government, industry, and research on the wildland-urban interface and how to address new and existing challenges for wildfire mitigation and response in this zone. The conference is 3 days and often other trainings are offered before and after the conference such as the NFPA ASIP or COCO's Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices trainings.

**Considerations:** The conference centers around mainland USA challenges and resources, so some of the recommendations or tools promoted or used to fight fires may not be applicable or transferable to some of our island communities. Hawaii has had a large presence at the 2025 and 2026 conferences and aims to continue engagement, so opportunities for Pacific collaboration are available.

## International Fire Behaviour and Fuels Conference

<https://firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com/>

**About:** The International Fire Behaviour and Fuels Conference is a global gathering of researchers, fire managers, policymakers, and Indigenous land stewards focused on advancing understanding of fire behavior and fuels management. The conference is usually held in April/May of each year and often located in Australia, USA, and Europe. The event highlights lessons learned from past fire events, showcases current research and on-the-ground practices, and explores emerging tools, policies, and approaches for living with fire in a changing climate. With participants from multiple countries and regions, the conference emphasizes knowledge exchange across diverse fire environments and supports dialogue on how fire management strategies can be applied at local to national scales.

**Considerations:** This conference offers strong opportunities for exposure to international research, networking, and cross-regional learning. However, it is primarily a knowledge-sharing and research-focused event rather than hands-on training. Participation requires international travel and associated costs. While discussions include diverse global perspectives, they are often focused on large countries with high GDP that may center around technologies and scales that are not reflective of Pacific Island communities. This context may not be transferable for Pacific Island-specific conditions such as invasive grass-fire cycles, small island logistics, or local governance structures. Additional effort may be needed to translate insights into actionable approaches for USAPI contexts.