



# Bending Down Wildfire Risk in Oregon

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# WHY?

Severe weather disrupts lives, displaces families, and drives financial loss. IBHS delivers top-tier science and translates it into action so we can prevent avoidable suffering, strengthen our homes and businesses, inform the insurance industry and support thriving communities.









**Wildfires become  
CATASTROPHES  
when they move into our  
BUILT ENVIRONMENT  
and a CONFLAGRATION  
UNFOLDS.**

# Built environment conflagrations follow:



**Humans**



**Drought**




**Wind**

- 
- A photograph of a fire burning in a field, with a dark semi-transparent box overlaid on the right side containing a list of fire components. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with smoke rising from it. The background is a blurred landscape with green grass and trees.
- 1. Embers***
  - 2. Flames***
  - 3. Radiant Heat***







"...but none spread so wide or caused as much damage..., as [the city] mainly consisted of wooden buildings, tightly packed together along very narrow streets. This poorly built urban sprawl, together with dry weather and a strong easterly wind, created the perfect conditions for the rapid spread of the fire."

**On the London Fire of 1666**

From *Flammable Cities: Urban Conflagration and the Making of the Modern World*

Aerial photograph: Coffey Park, Santa Rosa, CA – 2021  
Rebuilt after the Tubbs Fire

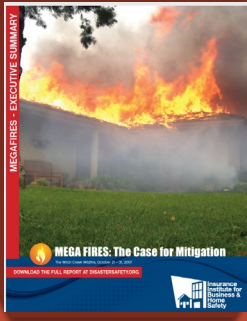


**SCIENCE IS  
CATCHING UP.**

**Research advances our  
codes & standards,  
improves test methods,  
and informs stakeholders.**

# THE RACE IS ON

Witch Creek Fire Investigation



2007



Waldo Canyon Fire Investigation

Ember Attack & Radiant Heat



2012

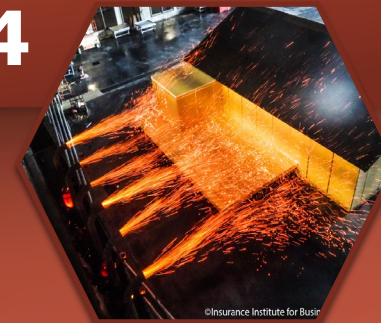


Vents

Ember Characterization



2014



Vulnerability of Decks

2015

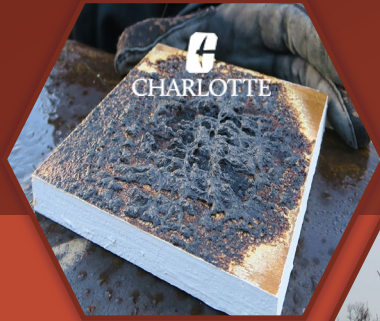
Fire Spread



2016

# SCIENCE IS CATCHING UP

Coatings & Gels



2017

Wine Country Fires & Camp Fire Investigations



Home Hardening



2018

Home Ignition Zone



2019

Roof Cover Performance



2020

Fuel Breaks



2021

Structure Separation & Wind-driven Fire



2022

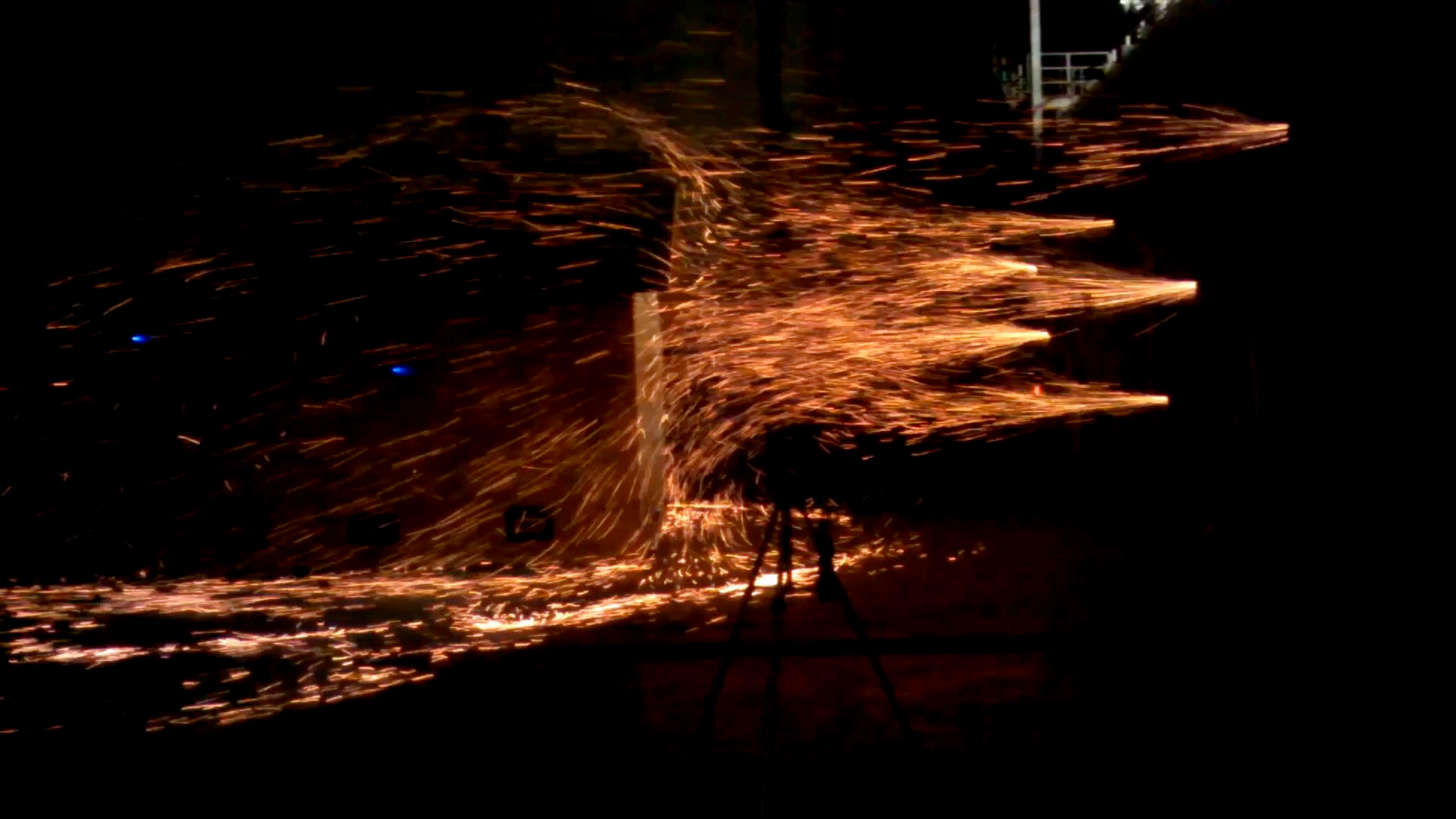
Marshall Fire Investigation



Maui Fire Investigation

2023





# CRITICAL ACTIONS

ROOF  
✓ Class A fire-rated roof

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ Maintain trimmed trees and removal of branches overhanging home ignition zone and roof

BUILDING FEATURES  
✓ Ember resistant vents

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ Replace combustible fencing

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ Maintain underdeck

BUILDING FEATURES  
✓ 6-inch vertical noncombustible clearance at base of wall

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ Maintain home ignition zone (0-5 ft)

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ No outbuildings near home

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ Enclose underdecks

DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
✓ Maintain yard clear of debris

**Zone 0**



**5 feet**







Vents





### ROOF

- ✓ Choose a Class A fire-rated roof maintained clear of debris
- ✓ Choose noncombustible gutters & downspouts

## WILDFIRE PREPARED HOME + PLUS

### ADDITIONAL MITIGATION

- ✓ Remove back-to-back fencing
- ✓ Eliminate combustible siding
- ✓ Enclose eaves
- ✓ Enclose under bay windows
- ✓ Upgrade to a wildfire-resistant deck
- ✓ Upgrade windows & doors
- ✓ Cover gutters
- ✓ Move outbuildings at least 30 feet away

### BUILDING FEATURES

- ✓ Install ember- & flame-resistant vents
- ✓ Ensure 6-inch vertical noncombustible clearance at base of wall

### DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- ✓ Create & maintain the home ignition zone (0-5 ft) including the removal of branches that overhang this area
- ✓ Clear & maintain the underdeck area; enclose low-elevation decks
- ✓ Maintain yard clear of debris
- ✓ Replace combustible fencing within 5 ft of the home

**WILDFIRE  
PREPARED**  
— A PROGRAM OF IBHS —

# + Community

- We must find the nudges to get parcel-level measures put in at scale
- Communities can break the chain of conflagration & act as fuel breaks, not fuel sources
- Initial focus on HOA/neighborhood level

**IBHS is here to help**



# Science INFORMED Wildfire Policy



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🐦 [IBHS\\_org](https://twitter.com/IBHS_org)