

Action 14:

Install Flame-Retarding Foam Systems to Protect Homes

Cautions:

Foam systems only work when there is adequate time to coat homes before the fire arrives (improved detection and response [Action 15] would be a benefit). Foam is not a substitute for appropriate vegetation management and other approaches to address the threat of fire. These devices should not engender complacency.

Description:

Recommend that home owners in the Caldecott area install specialized fire protection devices on their property which can be used in the event of fire to coat exteriors of buildings with Class A flame-retardant foam. Recommend that planning agencies in the area make installation of foam systems a condition of approval for new development. These systems have proven effective in protecting structures from fires that might otherwise have caused severe damage. Foam can be applied by either home owners (as above) or by fire fighters as part of suppression actions.

Implementation:

Installation of foam systems typically requires a small water storage tank, a foam canister, and a hose for application. These devices can be augmented with a foam canon used to project foam at an approaching fire. The possibility of an automated system to foam houses when the owners are away should be explored. This recommendation should be conveyed to planning agencies and to the Hills Emergency Forum. The recommendation to home owners could be conveyed through community awareness/preparedness programs (Action 13).

Fiscal Impacts:

Purchase and installation of foam systems is estimated to cost \$2000 to \$5000.

Anticipated results:

Better protect structures from the threat of fire. Potential to aid fire fighting and slow the progress of fire.