



TRENDING TOPIC:

Wildland Urban Interface Maps & Wildfire Risk Solutions

The recent outbreak of fires, fueled by strong winds and exceptionally dry conditions, in Southern California, is a new chapter in California's wildfire history. Fire zones, building standards, and vegetation management are growing topics of concern and focus -- especially now as we transition from response to recovery. These events have caused a need for additional information and resources, such as the FortressFire® Wildfire Disclosure Report which is available on our website. The Wildfire Disclosure Report can help homeowners understand their property's vulnerabilities, so they can take necessary steps to protect one of their most valuable investments.

We are often asked about Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) maps and their use for real estate disclosure purposes. While some disclosure companies universally reference certain maps (see below) in their reports, we qualify the data sources available and provide determinations in the counties and cities where there could be a property-use constraint.

Our Natural Hazard Disclosure reports omit WUI area determinations, such as those from the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") WUI map or the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CAL FIRE") WUI map. The USFS WUI map was the research product of a university in Wisconsin. Intended for academic research in national and global environmental programs (see <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06320-0>). CAL FIRE expressly disclaims the use of its WUI map in California real estate disclosure: "Until the dataset is refined through a field review process, it is not suited for WUI designations for individual houses or neighborhoods." The USFS and CAL FIRE WUI maps are not statutory, regulatory, property-specific, or intended for real estate disclosure.

We are committed to providing accurate and reliable information for you and your homeowners. If you need any assistance with understanding or utilizing any of the reports we offer, please contact us at NHD.Sales@firstam.com.