

## 2026-2027 Cascadia Wildfire and Urban Smoke Webinar Series

Portland State University and the University of British Columbia

*The seventh year of the Cascadia Wildfire and Urban Smoke webinar series will include a diverse set of speakers and panels discussing critical research and policy issues related to the growing threat of wildfire. We continue to feature investigators funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's [Wildfire Resilience Initiative](#).*

*All sessions are held Wednesdays at 1 pm Pacific Time on Zoom. Video recordings of previous years' webinars are available at: <https://research.ubc.ca/cascadia-wildfire-urban-smoke>*

*Members of this mailing list will receive calendar invitations and announcements for each of the ten sessions. Webinar quality depends on audience participation. Please join us!*

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### September 23, 2026: Caitlin Fong, UC Santa Barbara: "Egress Thresholds and Wildfire Fatalities"

A nationwide analysis of wildfire fatalities reveals that risk is heavily concentrated in communities with severely restricted evacuation routes, highlighting a critical infrastructure vulnerability that threatens millions of residents. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/86442253220?jst=2>

### October 14, 2026: Dave Winnacker (former fire chief, Moraga CA) & Andy Revkin (science journalist): "Using Market Forces and Collective Action to Prevent Urban Wildfire Disasters"

This session will explore how neighborhood-scale mitigation, community collective action, and insurance price signaling can successfully prevent wildland fires from transitioning into catastrophic urban disasters. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/86103572888?jst=2>

### November 18, 2026: Savannah D'Evelyn, Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative: "A State-by-State Breakdown of Western Smoke Policy and Collaborative Solutions"

A new state-by-state assessment of Western wildfire smoke policy highlights the key regulatory levers needed to translate air quality research into public health action. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87520842948?jst=2>

### December 16, 2026: Michael Gollner, UC Berkeley: "Why Do Wildfires Burn Houses?"

This webinar will examine how community layout, structural spacing, and ember-driven ignitions cause fires to spread from house to house, while also analyzing the resulting smoke toxicity in the wildland–urban interface. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/81655572397?jst=2>

### January 20, 2027: Jeff Prestemon, US Forest Service: "Wildfire, Suppression, and Federal Spending, 2020–2100"

Projections out to 2100 reveal how climate change and socioeconomic drivers will universally increase wildfire activity and federal suppression spending, with the sharpest growth expected in the northwestern United States. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/83704121115?jst=2>

February 17, 2027: Claire Richards, Washington State University: "Cross-Sector Collaboration at the Wildfire-Energy-Community Interface in Alaska"

The interdependency among electric utilities, emergency management, and public health sectors in Alaska highlights the need to shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, cross-sector planning for compounding wildfire and power outage hazards.

<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/85327955791?jst=2>

March 17, 2027: Julie Dinasquet, UC San Diego: "The Impact of the LA Fire Ash Plume on the Ocean from Air to Water Quality."

Analysis of the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires reveals how toxic atmospheric smoke and "urban ash" drop heavy metals into the Pacific, altering marine biogeochemical cycles and threatening ecosystems from coastal microbes to the broader marine food web.

<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87060074621?jst=2>

April 14, 2027: Paige Fischer, University of Michigan: "Extreme Smoke Events: Trends, Causes, and Implications for Protective Health Behavior"

Dr. Fischer will present a framework for identifying extreme wildfire smoke events based on measures of severity, frequency, and duration at which smoke presents objective and subjective health risks. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/85150691785?jst=2>

May 19, 2027: Dmitri Kalashnikov, UC Merced: "How Heatwaves Enable Wildfire Activity and Accelerate Burned Area Across the West"

An analysis of data spanning 2001 to 2024 demonstrates that nearly half of the total burned area in the western United States occurs during or immediately after heatwaves, highlighting how extreme temperature anomalies amplify daily forest fire growth and co-occur with increased lightning ignitions. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/82449023271?jst=2>

June 16, 2027: Duke Reiter, Arizona State University: "10 Across: A Continental-Scale Transect of Wildfires and Other Disasters"

The 10 Across project (<http://10across.org>) allows the dozen metropolitan areas along Interstate 10, from California to Florida, to be compared, placing wildfire risk and other natural hazards, including hurricanes, extreme heat, and flooding within a uniquely helpful trans-continental context. <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/89503388541?jst=2>

*To join the mailing list or if you have other questions contact Jonathan Fink ([jon.fink@pdx.edu](mailto:jon.fink@pdx.edu)).*