



TREEPEOPLE

Media Contact

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For Immediate Release

How to Rebuild Fire-Resilient Smart Homes!

TreePeople Hosts "Building Fire Resilient Homes and Communities: Innovations and Lessons from Australia" Symposiums.

LOS ANGELES, CA, April 4, 2019 – (Los Angeles, CA) - The 2018 wildfire season was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season on record in California. Last November, the Woolsey Fire burned almost 100,000 acres of land in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. It destroyed 1,643 structures and homes, tragically killed three people, and prompted the evacuation of more than a quarter million residents. These destructive wildfires have become common occurrences and devastated our local mountains, forests, communities, and neighborhoods. It highlights the need for smart home designs and solutions to create more fire-resilient communities.

"A tremendous amount of energy and creativity is just starting to be unleashed as the post Woolsey Fire rebuilding activity starts up, so it is an important time for us to think about what a more resilient and sustainable community will look like," said City of Malibu Mayor Jefferson Wagner. "Activities like this that focus the mind on building towards a better future can also have a strong healing effect."

Following the success of TreePeople's collaboration on drought resilience with Australian policymakers and experts, TreePeople is hosting two (2) **"Building Fire Resilient Homes and Communities: Innovations and Lessons from Australia" symposiums**; both symposiums will be open to the general public.

[Tuesday, April 9, 2019](#) - For General Public
Malibu City Hall, Council Chambers
23825 Stuart Ranch Road
Malibu, CA 90265
6 PM to 8:30 PM

[Wednesday, April 10, 2019](#) - For General Public
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District / Board Room
4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302-1994
6 PM to 8:30 PM

Each symposium will feature Craig Lapsley as a keynote speaker. He is a former Emergency Management Commissioner of Victoria (AUS). As Southern California communities look to rebuild their homes and communities, Mr. Lapsley will share lessons learned from Australia's devastating "Black Saturday Bushfires" of 2009. He will present smart, practical, and applicable modifications in building design and zoning codes, on-site water capture, vegetation and fuel management, and building resilient communities to increase fire safety and resiliency. Australia has been dealing with climate-enhanced extremes for over a decade and a half, and they will now share their successes and challenges in implementing Best Management Practices, building designs, policies, and strategies so that we can learn from their experiences to further fire resiliency in our area.

TreePeople CEO Cindy Montañez notes, "TreePeople has always looked to nature for solutions. In the aftermath of the 2018 fires, we realized that this is an opportunity to highlight the success of our friends in Australia in creating fire-resilient communities after their own devastating fires. We need to be vigilant in our approach to rebuilding since wildfires have become more and more commonplace."

In addition, the symposiums will feature additional experts who will provide expert advice on topics such as increasing fire-resiliency in building design, fire-conscious landscaping, community emergency preparedness, water and energy conservation and self-reliance, associated rebates, other incentives, and more. Each workshop will be co-sponsored by a local organization or agency.

Therefore, please let me know if you're interested in attending one of these events and speaking with either Mr. Lapsley, other panelists, or a TreePeople expert.

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ABOUT TREEPEOPLE

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a more climate-resilient city as the region faces historic drought and a hotter, drier future. The organization inspires, engages and supports people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership in grassroots volunteers, students and communities. In this way, TreePeople seeks to build a powerful and diverse coalition to grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit treepeople.org.