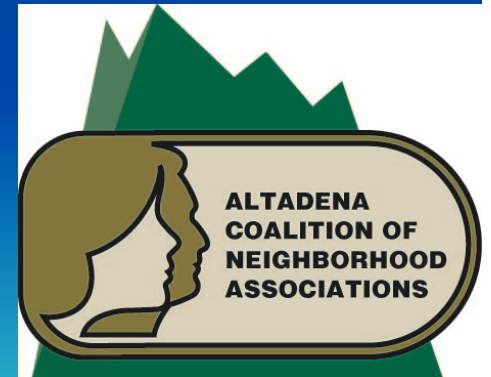


# Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA)

Let's keep Altadena  
*"The best neighborhood in LA  
County"!*

January 30, 2019



# Agenda for Tonight's Meeting

## 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

- **7:00 PM – 7:05 PM Quick introductions and welcome**
- **7:05 PM – 7:25 PM ADU: Accessory Dwelling Units (Granny Flats)**
  - Ayala Scott, LA County Regional Planning
  - Connie Chung, LA County Regional Planning
- **7:25 PM – 7:45 PM Leaf Blowers and Title 12 Environmental Protection**
  - Robert Vasquez, Industrial Hygienist, Environmental Health Division, LA County Department of Public Health
- **7:45 PM – 8:05 PM Protecting Homes in a House Fire and from a Wildfire**
  - Maria Grycan, Community Services Liaison, LA County Fire Department
- **8:05 PM – 8:30 PM Open discussion Q&A**
- **8:30 PM Meeting end**

# Your ACONA Team

- Elliot Gold
- Nina Ehlig
- Melody Comfort
- Ellen Walton
- Holly Rundberg
- Carlotta Martin
- Sussy Nemer
- Captain Vicki Stuckey



# ADU: Accessory Dwelling Units (Granny Flats)

- Ayala Scott, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning
- Connie Chung, LA County Regional Planning



# Accessory Dwelling Units

- Also known as ADUs, “second units,” “backyard homes,” or “granny flats”
- Houses that are accessory to a single-family home (cannot be sold separately), with a kitchen and a bathroom
- Can provide rental income for homeowners or additional living space for family members
- A way for young people and older folks to stay in the community
- The County has had a second unit ordinance since 2004
- State law passed in 2016 that required local jurisdictions to provide more opportunities for ADUs
- County is updating its ordinance to comply with State law. Board of Supervisors approved the new ordinance in May 2018, will take effect in the coming months



# Examples of new provisions

(not an exhaustive list)

- Simplified application process (no public hearing)
- CSD controls for size, height, and other standards not specifically regulated by the ADU ordinance
- Limits on ADUs in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
  - Minimum street width requirement (24 feet), must be publicly maintained or built to public street standards
  - Not within 200 feet of publicly dedicated open space



# Examples of new provisions (2)

## Setbacks

- State law says that local jurisdictions cannot impose setbacks on ADUs created entirely within existing space (such as a garage conversion). The state also places a maximum setback of 5 feet for ADUs built on top of a garage.
- The County's ordinance requires a 5-foot setback for all ADUs not created entirely within an existing space



# Examples of new provisions (3)

## Parking requirements

- No parking is required for the ADU outside of a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Parking for the main house is still required, but it can be uncovered if the garage has been converted to an ADU.
- Within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, 1 parking space for the ADU





# Thank You

Ayala Scott

County of Los Angeles

Department of Regional Planning

320 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 974-6417



# Leaf Blowers and Title 12 Environmental Protection

Robert Vasquez, Industrial Hygienist,  
Environmental Health Division, LA  
County Department of Public Health



# Title 12, Chapter 12.08 of the County of Los Angeles Noise Control Ordinance

Summary of Title 12 &  
discussion on revising Title 12 &  
application to Leaf Blowers



# Introductions

- Introductions- **Robert Vasquez, Industrial Hygienist**  
LA County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Toxicology & Environmental Assessment Branch Program
- (2) Industrial Hygienists are tasked with enforcing Title 12 Chapter 12.08 within the LA County *Unincorporated* areas only. Incorporated cities within LA County have their own noise control ordinance or municipal code.

# LA County Code

- Title 12 falls under the County of Los Angeles Code which contains 8 volumes covering codes from Title 1 to Title 32 governing environmental protection, animals, buildings, utilities, airports, fires, etc. The entire code is available on **[municode.com](http://municode.com)**.

# LA County Code-2

- **Title 12 pertains to environmental protection such as providing codes for insecticides use, hazardous waste control/site assessment, solid waste control, *noise*, storm water runoff, single use straws and other items.**



# Title 12 Chapter 12.08

Chapter 12.08 is the noise control ordinance (NCO)

1.The NCO was codified in August 2, 1988 and was established in order to control unnecessary, excessive & annoying noise and vibration in the County of Los Angeles, *unincorporated* areas.

2.There has been no revisions or modifications since then. **BUT.....The 2035 LAC General Plan, Chapter 16: General Plan implementation Goal N-1 calls in part the following:**

•**Revise the County's Noise Ordinance, & update the vibration standard. We are currently working on this...**

# Some Background on the NCO

- The NCO is based on the many noise studies conducted and publications in the 1970's, such as but not limited to the following:
  - a) USEPA, Public Health & Welfare Criteria for Noise 1973
  - b) USEPA, Community Noise, 1971
  - c) USEPA, Effects of Noise on People, 1971
  - d) CDPH, Report to the 1971 Legislature on the Subject of Noise

1. Background Report, Community Noise Control Ordinance LAC 1978



# Summary of NCO

- The NCO is divided into **3 main parts**:

1.EXTERIOR NOISE STANDARDS OR COMMUNITY NOISE CRITERIA (section 12.08.390)

2.SPECIFIC NOISE STANDARDS (section 12.08.430)

3.EXEMPTIONS (section 12.08.570)

(The ordinance also includes sections on definitions, variance, general provisions which we wont discuss here)

- 1.Interior noise standards are included in the ordinance but we will focus on the 3 main parts

# Summary of NCO (Exterior Noise standards)

- Exterior noise standards are established for each of four general land-use categories:

1. Noise sensitive area (No designated areas to date)
2. **Residential** properties (single or MFD)
3. **Commercial** properties
4. **Industrial** properties

The applicable land use area is based on where the receptor or complainant occupies.

# Exterior Noise Standards cont.

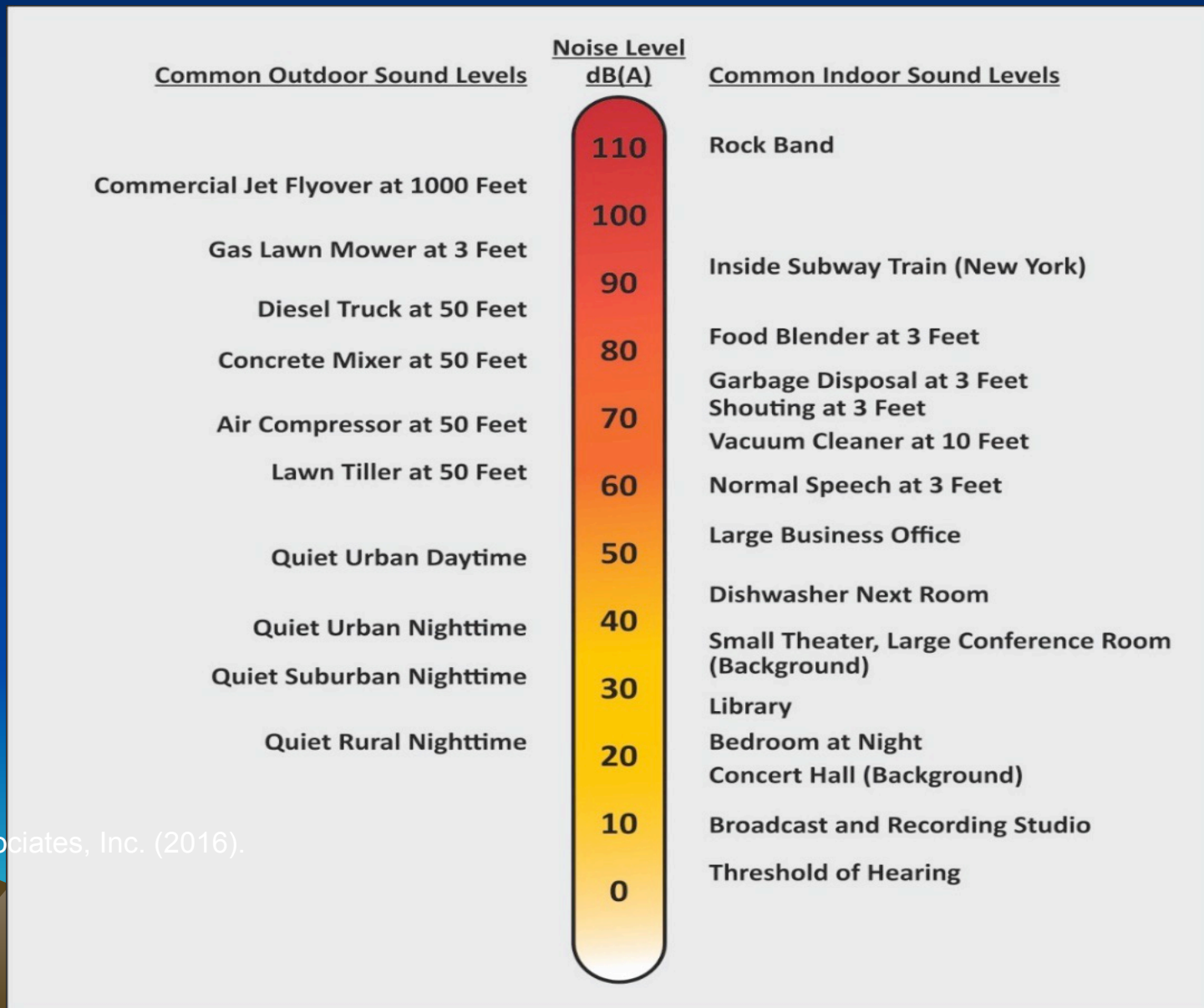
- The following noise levels shall apply to all **receptor** properties within a designated noise zone:

Noise Zone	Land use or receptor property	Time	Level L50 (dBA)
I	Noise Sensitive Area	Anytime	45
II	Residential	10pm – 7am	45
		7am-10pm	50
III	Commercial	10pm-7am	55
		7am-10pm	60
IV	Industrial	Anytime	70

# Exterior noise standards cont.

- The L50 dBA is the **median** noise level as measured in decibels, (A weighted filter) or the average noise level fifty percent of the total time or 30 minutes during the 60 minute sampling period. The L50 is used because it is often the gross approximation or indicator of the noise environment. The A weighted filter is used to include those frequencies within sound that are detected by the human ear.
- The decibel is the preferred unit of measurement for sound because it provides a reduced scale of measurement.

# Exterior noise standards cont.



1.LSA, Associates, Inc. (2016).

# Exterior Noise Standards cont.

- **In order to address intrusive noise of a short duration such as a peak noise (i.e. gun shot, banging noise) or loud noise that runs for a few minutes out of the hour (i.e. air compressor) additional standards were incorporated but based on the L50:**

Noise Zone	Land Use of Receptor Property	Time	Level (dBA)				
			Std 1 L50 30 min/ hr	Std 2 L25 15 min/ hr	Std 3 L8.3 5 min/ hr	Std 4 L1.7 1 min/hr	Std 5 L0 At any time
I	Noise Sensitive	Anytime	45	50	55	60	65
II	Residential	10PM to 7AM	45	50	55	60	65
		7 AM to 10 PM	50	55	60	65	70
III	Commercial	10 PM to 7 AM	55	60	65	70	75
		7 AM to 10 PM	60	65	70	75	80
IV	Industrial	Anytime	70	75	80	85	90

# Exterior Noise Standards (cont)

- The noise standards are based upon the health and welfare criteria found in the EPA studies. It is not surprising however, that many areas within LA County already exceed prescribed limits.

**When** the ambient or background noise levels within an area exceed the standards, the ambient noise levels become the standard.

The standard can also be adjusted down if there is a pure tone noise (single pitch or series of pitches), or impulsive sound (i.e. gun shots) due to added annoyance factors.



# Specific Noise Standards

The following are specific activities that have their own noise standards and some are **exempt** from **exterior noise standards**:

- 1. Construction
- 2. Forced air blowers in tunnel car washes
- 3. Loading & unloading operations
- 4. Noise disturbances in noise sensitive zones
- 5. Places of Public Entertainment
- 6. Powered Model Vehicles
- 7. Emergency Signaling Devices
- 8. Refuse Collection Service
- 9. Residential Air Conditioning or Refrigeration
- 10. Street Sales
- 11. Vibration
- 12. Stationary non-emergency Signaling devices



# Exemptions

The following activities are **exempt from our ordinance**:

- 1. Emergency Exemption
- 2. Warming Devices
- 3. Outdoor Activities on Public & School Grounds
- 4. Motion Picture Production & Related Activities
- 5. Railroad Activities
- 6. Part 4 or Specific Standards:
  - Construction, Stationary nonemergency & emergency signaling devices
  - Refuse Collection Vehicles, Residential air-conditioning, Car wash air blowers
- 7. Federal or State Pre-Exempted Activities
- 8. Public Health & Safety Activities
- 9. Motor Vehicles (Except for repairs & playgrounds Testing)
- 11. Agricultural Operations
- 12. Minor Maintenance to Residential Property
- 13. Operation of Oil & Gas Wells



# What About Leaf Blowers?

- There is no specific code or section for Leaf blowers in Title 12
- **Can we apply Title 12 NCO?**

**We can apply the exterior noise standards if the leaf blower activity is on commercial or Industrial property. The problem is that leaf blowers are mobile and intermittent so its difficult to obtain a good measurement with a stationary sound meter placement on receptor properties.**

# What About Leaf Blowers? - 2

- **Why can't we apply residential standards? From the code:**
- Minor Maintenance to Residential Real Property. Noise sources associated with the minor maintenance of residential real property, provided said activities take place as follows:
  - During Pacific Standard Time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday, when such activities may take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and
  - During Daylight Savings Time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday, when such activities may take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ***We can issue a notice violation if the said curfew is violated.***

# Leaf Blowers cont.

- As mentioned previously, we are currently reviewing and will revise the ordinance. There are typos, outdated definitions & code, poorly worded or confusing language. The code needs to be simplified & enforceable for some sections, and the actual noise level standards maybe changed. *We are looking at introducing new codes possibly a leaf blower section.*

# Leaf Blowers cont.

- We have a lot to consider regarding leaf blowers:

- 1) What are the best available blowers out there for sound reduction?

- 2) Electrical vs gas powered?

- 3) Should there be a ban or restriction-based on noise levels (noise avg 70-75 @ 50 ft)? Or a combination of both? Should restrict by curfew?

- 4) We can examine other jurisdictions that have a leaf blower ordinance

# Leaf Blowers cont.

4) How effective is the enforcement and who enforces it? The code enforcement inspector? Local police?

5) Should it be part of Title 12 or added to another ordinance? Should the local police enforce it or the local health inspector? It may not be practical for us given the few resources we have depending on how many complaints are received.

# Leaf Blowers cont.

6) *Most of the calls we receive regarding leaf blowers in the unincorporated areas are coming from the Altadena area.* Most of the calls involve residential use and are within the curfew for residential work.

7) Should there be a code for leaf blowers for the entire LA County unincorporated or should communities like Altadena incorporate such an ordinance in their Community Standards District?



# Leaf Blowers cont.

- Do other jurisdictions within Southern CA have a code on leaf blower noise?

## 1. Los Angeles:

*112.04(c) LAMC: No gas powered blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at anytime. (the code is directed at reducing health & nuisance issues)*

# Leaf Blowers cont.

## 2. Palm Springs:

This Ordinance (ordinance number 1932) prohibits the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers in the City commencing on January 1, 2019, and provides for the regulation of electrical or battery powered leaf blowers.

# Leaf blowers cont.

## 3) City of Malibu

Due to the Woolsey fire, the BOS temporarily banned the use of leaf blowers in the burned areas (unincorporated & incorporated cities)

**There are other cities with leaf blower restrictions already in effect.**

**We welcome and appreciate any feedback or suggestions you may have as we work to revise the noise ordinance.**

**THANK YOU!**

# Contacts

Robert Vasquez

213 738-3220

[rvasquez@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:rvasquez@ph.lacounty.gov)

Evenor Masis

213 738-3220

[emasis@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:emasis@ph.lacounty.gov)

# Protecting Homes in a House Fire and from a Wildfire

- Maria Grycan, Community Services Liaison, LA County Fire Department – Division III





# FIRE SAFETY

Maria Grycan, Community Services  
Liaison, LA County Fire Department –  
Division III

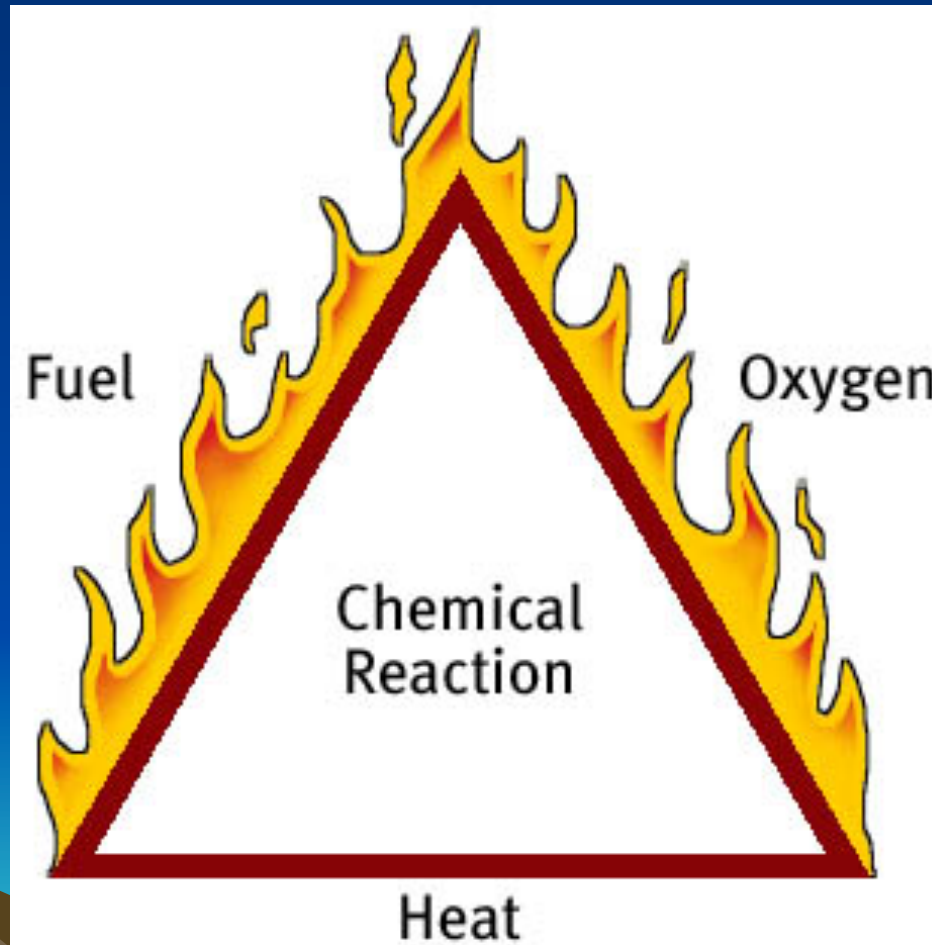
# AGENDA

- Protecting your Home from Fire
  - Fire Safety in the Home
  - Wildland Fire Preparedness
- Questions/Comments





# FIRE TRIANGLE



# STRUCTURE FIRES

- Dangers of fire:
  - Asphyxiation.
  - Heat.
  - Smoke.
- If a fire starts:
  - Get out quickly.
  - Call 911.
  - Go directly to your family meeting place.
  - EDITH – Exit Drills In The Home



# PREVENTING HOME FIRES

- Install and Maintain Smoke Detectors.
  - Locations.
  - Test periodically.
  - Change batteries when you change your clock.

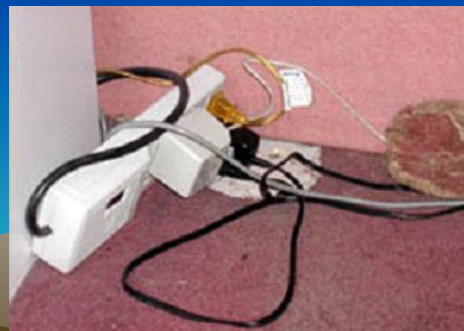
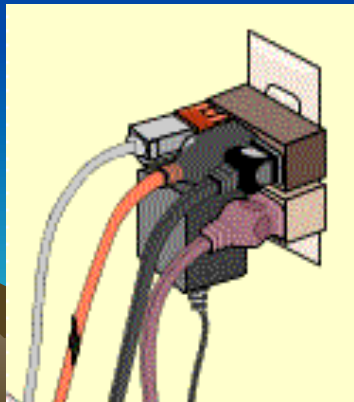


# PREVENTING HOME FIRES

- Conduct home hazard hunt.
- Purchase only “laboratory-tested” heaters.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Check electrical wiring.
- Keep combustibles away from the stove.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.
- Close doors at night and when gone.
- Cooking tips.

# REDUCING FIRE HAZARDS

- Avoid the “electrical octopus”.
- Don’t run cords under carpets.
- Replace broken or frayed cords.
- Pull the plug, not the cord.
- Maintain appliances.
- Extension cords are **temporary** solutions.



# WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

- High Hazard Days (Red Flag Warning)
  - Strong winds, low humidity.
- Mobilization of resources required to respond must happen quickly for maximum protection of life and property.
  - Augmented staffing program.



# READY! SET! GO!

- Get Ready
  - Create a Defensible Home
    - Fuel Modification
    - Brush Clearance
    - Hardening Your Home



# READY! SET! GO!

- Get Set
  - Prepare your Wildfire Action Plan with all members of your household.
  - Use the Ready, Set, Go! checklists to create your plan.
  - Rehearse your plan regularly with your family and keep it safe and easily accessible.
  - Make a list noting location of items most important to take with you.





# READY! SET! GO!

- Go Early
  - The decision on when to leave is critical.
  - Time spent on home preparation ahead of a wildland fire is important to reduce property loss.
  - Every fire is different.
  - Leaving early gives your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire!
  - Leaving early keeps roads clear, enabling firefighters to do their job.





QUESTIONS  
COMMENTS

• QUESTIONS?



**Please be sure you  
signed in**

(if we already have your email  
address, we just need your name)



# Schedule for remaining ACONA Meetings 2019

- March 26<sup>th</sup>
- May 28<sup>th</sup>
- September 24<sup>th</sup>
- November 26<sup>th</sup>



Thank you!  
Questions?