BUILDING WILDFIRE-SAFE FROM THE START IS A WISE INVESTMENT

Many building materials for improved wildfire resistance are cost-effective and commonly found on the market, such as asphalt shingles or metal for roof coverings, fiber-cement siding (i.e., Hardi plank), and metal flashing for vulnerable junctions. Building with these materials from the start adds little to no additional costs. Wildfire resistant homes provide additional cost-saving benefits in the long-run, such as energy efficiency, thermal insulation, and easier maintenance.

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SAFETY

Wildfire mitigation measures serve many health and safety goals at once: ignition resistance and wildfire survivability, long-term durability, moisture control, and more. Building with ignition resistant materials and wildfire safety best practices is effective against other hazards, such as extreme wind events, hurricanes, seismic events, and more.

THINK OF YOUR HOUSE AS A SYSTEM OF COMPONENTS

Building wildfire-safe from the start ensures that the entire system of your home’s components work together for comprehensive and cohesive protection. For example, if you decide to retrofit a home later with safer windows, but still have combustible siding or a combustible roof, the structure is still susceptible to ignition. Instead, build your home with the whole system of components working together, without weak links that leave a structure vulnerable. This is much easier at the beginning of a build than after the designing/building has begun.

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization is a statewide non-profit organization that has been serving as Hawaii’s hub of wildfire information, planning, preparedness, and mitigation since 2000. To learn more, visit hawaiiwildfire.org.