

Water Supply Systems and Wildfires

May 14, 2025



WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

TIMES IN PT/ET

REGISTER [HERE](#) TO ATTEND

Meeting Objective

This event will convene Water Science and Technology Board Members and experts to discuss the impacts of wildfires on water supply systems and waterways. The discussions will cover contamination of drinking water treatment and distribution systems by fires, stormwater threats to downstream communities following fires, and policies and programs for water supplies that can improve wildfire response and recovery.

10:00am/1:00pm

Welcome and Introductions

David Sedlak, WSTB Chair, University of California at Berkeley

10:10am/1:10pm

Keynote Speaker

Andrew Whelton, Purdue University

10:40am/1:40pm

Panel 1: Understanding the Damage Caused by Urban Wildfires

Moderator: Amy Pruden, WSTB Member, Virginia Tech

- **Brian Ebel**, U.S. Geological Survey
- **Kurt Kowar**, Director of Public Works and Utilities, City of Louisville, CO
- **Chris Olivares**, University of California at Irvine

11:25am/2:25pm

Panel 1 Discussion

11:40am/2:40pm

Break

11:55am/2:55pm

Panel 2: Water System Operations During Fires

Moderator: Camille Pannu, WSTB Member, Columbia University

- **Robert Sowby**, Brigham Young University
- **Ben Horenstein**, Marin Water
- **Greg Pierce**, University of California at Los Angeles

12:40pm/3:40pm

Panel 2 Discussion

12:55pm/3:55pm

Break

1:10pm/4:10pm

Panel 3: Future Proofing Municipal Water Systems

Moderator: Venkatamaran Lakshmi, WSTB Member, University of Virginia

- All previous panelists

1:45pm/4:45 pm

Synthesis Remarks

David Sedlak, WSTB Chair, University of California at Berkeley

2:00pm/5:00pm

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