Announcement: Workshop on ‘Large Outdoor Fires and the Built Environment’ (LOF & BE 2020)

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The ‘Large Outdoor Fires and the Built Environment’ or LOF & BE working group, sponsored by the *International Association for Fire Safety Science* (IAFSS) is attempting to address problems with key phenomenological shared characteristics relevant to urban fires, wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires, wildland fires, and informal settlement fires [1]. The LOF & BE permanent working group consists of three subgroups, prioritized into the following topics [2]:

- Ignition Resistant Communities (IRC)
- Emergency Management and Evacuation (EME)
- Large Outdoor Firefighting (LOFF)

The IRC subgroup is being co-led by Daniel Gorham (IBHS, USA) and David Rush (UoE, UK). The EME group is being co-led by Maria Theodori (Reax Engineering, USA) and Sayaka Suzuki (NRIFD, Japan). The LOFF subgroup is being led by Len Garis (UFV, Canada), Brian Lattimer (Virginia Tech, USA), and Xinyan Huang (HKPolyU, China).

The overall objectives are to bring the full depth of knowledge of the IAFSS community to work on these priority topics [2]. In this workshop, followed by two previous workshops [3, 4], we will present why large outdoor fires are the important issue in the world, what this working group is doing about it, and what our progress is so far.

As problems being addressed by IRC, EME, and LOFF subgroups are complex and interdisciplinary, the planned workshop will devote a half day to the following topics (see Table 1):

- What research has been done so far on this problem? Fire safety science community research efforts on Large Outdoor Fires and the Built Environment

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Table 1
Draft Program

Time	April 25, 2020 (Sat, all day) April 26, 2020 (Sun, AM)
Location	Waterloo, Canada
April 25, 2020 AM	
What research has been done so far on this problem? Fire safety science community research efforts on Large Outdoor Fires and the Built Environment	
Introduction	Leaders
EME presentation	EME WG members
IRC presentation	IRC WG members
LOFF presentation	LOFF WG members
Discussion	All participants
April 25, 2020 PM	
What mechanisms exist to protect communities from large outdoor fire exposures? Overview of codes, standards, and regulatory framework	
Introduction	Leaders
EME presentation	EME WG members
IRC presentation	IRC WG members
LOFF presentation	LOFF WG members
Discussion	All participants
April 26, 2020 AM	
What knowledge has been garnered from actual large outdoor fires?	
Lessons learned from real fire events	
Introduction	Leaders
EME presentation	EME WG members
IRC presentation	IRC WG members
LOFF presentation	LOFF WG members
Discussion	All participants

- What mechanisms exist to protect communities from large outdoor fire exposures? Overview of codes, standards, and regulatory framework
- What knowledge has been garnered from actual large outdoor fires? Lessons learned from real fire events

Details of presentations and presenters will be updated at [5] before the LOF & BE 2020. We are looking forward to having your participation and hope you will also formally join LOF & BE! If you are interested, please join us.

References

1. Manzello SL, Blanchi R, Gollner MJ, Gorham D, McAllister S, Pastor E, Planas E, Reszka P, Suzuki S (2018) Summary of workshop large outdoor fires and the built environment. *Fire Saf J* 100:76–92

2. Manzello SL, McAllister S, Suzuki S (2018) Large outdoor fires and the built environment: Objectives and goals of permanent IAFSS working group. *Fire Technol* 54:579–581

3. Manzello SL, McAllister S, Suzuki S, Blanchi R, Pastor E, Ronchi E (2019) Large outdoor fires and the built environment: summary of kick-off workshop. NIST special publication 1236. <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.1236>
4. Manzello SL, McAllister S, Suzuki S, Blanchi R, Pastor E, Ronchi E (2019) Large outdoor fires and the built environment (LOF&BE): summary of workshop at Interflam 2019. NIST special publication 1241. <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.1241>
5. Workshops. LOF&BE working group. IAFSS. <https://iafss.org/committees/large-outdoor-fires-wg/workshops/>. Accessed 6 Jan 2020

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