

The Department of Environmental Studies at San José State University is pleased to present a public research presentation:

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/5858275843> pw: ENV@SJSU



**Dr. Amanda Stasiewicz**

*Assistant Professor, Department of  
Environmental Studies,  
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**What to do during a wildfire?**

**Towards building wildfire**

**resilience in fire-prone communities through  
evacuation intentions**

**Abstract:** Wildfire is returning to the California landscape in a big way. While wildfire has always been a part of western landscapes, over 120-years of land and fire management policies that exclude fire (including indigenous burning) from fire-adapted and -dependent landscapes, in addition to climate change, have fostered today's larger and often more intense wildfire events. Our social and ecological systems struggle to endure and recover from these wildfire events that are often outside of what our response and recovery systems are capable of dealing with. In this talk, we will focus on how human communities and professionals (e.g., emergency services, land or fire management agencies) are adapting to their changing wildfire risk circumstances and the importance of local relationships and culture in sculpting "politically possible" and realistic adaptation pathways for social-ecological systems. We will focus on lessons learned from published and ongoing studies on wildfire evacuation, including ties between evacuation intentions and wildfire risk management, resident experiences with recent wildfire events, their decisions to evacuate or stay and defend their properties, and how relationships between agencies and residents can foster increased wildfire resilience in an area--or the exact opposite. *In addition to serving on the faculty of the Department of Environmental Studies at SJSU, Dr. Stasiewicz is a member of the [Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center at San Jose State University, which seeks to develop tools to prevent, forecast and respond to blazes](#). Dr. Stasiewicz spent her MS and PhD exploring local (human) community adaptation to changing wildfire conditions and now focuses on local preparation for and response to wildfire events, including citizen-agency partnerships for addressing landscape-level wildfire resilience issues. She received her MS and PhD in Conservation Social Science at the University of Idaho and her B.S. in Environmental Science from Siena College in New York. Dr. Stasiewicz has also interned with the Department of Energy examining the influence of renewable energy approaches on wildlife and vegetation dynamics and studied marine and invasive species management issues in Ecuador.*

**PLEASE JOIN US -- ALL ARE WELCOME**