

Robert Fanshel, ward 9:

Besides Altadena, recent fires include:

-Monticello Utah, America's largest wildfire. The lead firefighter for the federal response said about this fire and the previous ones this year: " 'I have never seen in all my years in fire the fuels and fire behavior that we saw there. "'So there's something different this year." Once the fire had ignited, the mayor there fielded panicked calls from residents on how they were going to protect their lives and homes.

Spokane fire:

More than 700 buildings were destroyed as the fires spread from surrounding vegetation into residential neighborhoods, posing an unprecedented threat to lives and property.

Reno fire:

The fire went from insignificant to needing evacuation within one day. It was extremely confusing," said Darin Balaam, the Washoe county sheriff, describing how changing winds sent the flames in different directions. The fire had already proved to be a challenge on Saturday night, moving exceptionally fast, jumping over fire trucks and making it difficult for responders to get to hotspots while residents were trying to get out, Balaam said.

Communities are now playing catch-up with wildfire prevention regulations- most times after the fact of devastating fire events. Fire prevention regs can be unpopular, but communities are nevertheless taking the hard, responsible and necessary steps- partly because Insurance companies are scrutinizing wildfire risk and cancelling policies in communities where they assess risk is high and where communities have not adopted appropriate fire risk prevention measures, making their decisions based on community preparedness.

The unthinkable is happening all over the US in places that had never experienced devastating fires, and we here in Kingston have the benefit of solid data to inform us to keep our community safe- if we pay attention.

We are a climate-aware community and must be proactive! It is up to the council to

ACT and pass this temporary burn ban on all outdoor burning when Kingston is in high fire danger per DEC map!

We have model language from the Town of Marbletown during the 2024 wildfires, and we need to adopt this, as we are arguably at higher risk than surrounding communities.

The point of this measure is to reduce risk by eliminating potential sources of ignition. This measure epitomizes the very definition of public safety.

We need this total, temporary ban on all outdoor burning when DEC designates Kingston as being in “high fire danger”! There can be no exclusions. Where there is combustion, there is risk, and we can be one spark away from disaster.