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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

NARUC Launches Interactive Wildfire Workbook at Annual Meeting

First Chapter on Mitigation Practices Released

WASHINGTON (November 14, 2025) — In response to the ongoing proliferation of wildfires and the ensuing damage to communities, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has announced the publication of an interactive wildfire workbook.

Through seven chapters, the *Wildfire Workbook: Information for Utility Regulators* addresses topics such as mitigation plans, cost recovery, community engagement, financial tools and insurance impacts. Each chapter includes extensive links to wildfire plans, statutes, rules, databases, reports and emerging technologies. It serves as a digital resource that can and will be updated over time as more states and utilities develop plans and investments to address the financial risk of wildfire.

As noted in the foreword to the workbook, the financial risk of catastrophic fire ignited by utility infrastructure — whether a wildland fire, grassland fire or urban conflagration — affects utilities, their customers and state regulators, not only in the Western United States, but also in other areas of the United States. Significant fires in Hawaii, New York, North and South Carolina, North Dakota, Texas and California have demonstrated that such fires can occur anywhere and under certain conditions, with devastating consequences.

“On behalf of NARUC, I am pleased to recommend this workbook as a resource for state commissioners and staff, as well as state energy offices, policy makers and utilities, both investor-owned and consumer-owned, to rely on when faced with the mitigation measures and costs used to address fire ignited by utility infrastructure,” said NARUC President Ann Rendahl of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. “Wildfires have become a major, significant threat to communities and represent a source of concern for across the utility landscape.”

The first chapter (“Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning”), is now online, representing a broad look at wildfire risk assessment and mitigation. A utility’s wildfire mitigation plan assesses wildfire ignition risk and defines the methodology to reduce the risk of wildfire to infrastructure as well as communities. These plans may include broad-based risk assessment, planning, operations and emergency response during the event, as well as plans for restoration. A host of regulatory bodies, national labs and industry associations continue to develop standards and metrics to guide these efforts, with state-specific variations reflecting local conditions.

Chapter 1, spanning more than 70 pages, notes components of wildfire plans, which were identified through an analysis of utility practices and regulatory guidelines, with examples demonstrating implementation. Specifically, topics covered include types of maps, assets and

risk metrics and utility poles (ownership, liabilities and types of entities that attach to utility poles).

The workbook was developed over the course of the last year with input from a steering group that included commissioners, staff, utilities and others representing states and regions across the country. The NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation managed the process and facilitated the development of the workbook.

Wildfire Workbook: Information for Utility Regulators is online at bit.ly/NARUCWildfireWorkbook, with more chapters scheduled for release in December and January 2026. Dialogues will continue through workshops and NARUC conference sessions, and the workbook will be updated to ensure that it remains a current and useful resource. To track future chapter rollouts and access other wildfire resources, visit bit.ly/NARUCWildfireResources.

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.