

## TOMALES RESILIENCE: A WILDFIRE BOARD GAME WORKSHOP



Figure 1. Professor Tom Maiorana introduces the game at the start of the workshop. (Photographer: Ciel Wood)

On Saturday June 8th, our SCC team hosted a community workshop at Tomales Town Hall. The gathering was centered around a board game called Tomales Resilience that was created by UC Davis Professor Tom Maiorana. The event was a partnership between our research team, Tomales Emergency Response Network (TERN), the Tomales Town Hall and the Marin County Fire Department.

About 40 members from the community were present as well as six on duty fire fighters and Senior Captain Tom Nunes.

Laura Trippi (from TERN) helped make the game a reality by literally going door to door to drum up support and connecting our team with KWMR as a way to spread word about the event. Laura kicked off the day with opening remarks and then the community members played the game for the next hour. Each of the six tables in Town Hall were filled. The community members played while the fire personnel acted in the role of "the fire".



Figure 2. A Marin County Fire Fighter starts the game by creating the wildfire incident. (Photographer: Ciel Wood)



Figure 3. A group of community members find delight in a "serious game." (Photographer: Ciel Wood)

Throughout the game each table was a mix of rich conversations, insightful questions and periodic outbursts of laughter. It truly validated our hypothesis that it's possible to think about serious topics while still having fun.

Following the game, Tom Maiorana hosted a structured discussion where community members raised a range of issues and questions and takeaways from the game. The debrief also served as a chance for Senior Captain Tom Nunes to share information directly with the community.



Figure 4. Community members and fire fighters explore a potential wildfire event by playing the game together. (Photographer: Ciel Wood)



Figure 5. Members of the community discuss tactics for escape during the game. (Photographer: Ciel Wood)



Figure 6. A community member holds up a Chance Card that highlights heavy traffic due to an influx of hikers in the area. (Photographer: Ciel Wood)

UC Davis undergraduate researchers, Ciel Wood (who helped create the maps) and Jessica McPeak were there to document the event and take notes. From UC Berkeley, Dr. Louise Comfort attended and was accompanied by UC Berkeley Graduate Students, Pengshun Li and Yanglan Wang.

Overall, we were so thrilled to have the support of TERN, Town Hall and the Marin County Fire Department. We hope it is the first of many such events.

The event was covered by Katherine Monahan at KQED and the segment can be found here.

<https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=1253940909:1253940913>