



# Ready, Set, Go!

SAVING LIVES AND PROPERTY  
THROUGH ADVANCE  
PLANNING

## **It's not a question of if, but when the next major wildland fire will occur.**

- Each year in the U.S., wildland fires consume hundreds of homes in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Studies show 80% of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved.
- Wildland-fire related deaths occur when people wait too long to leave their homes.
- Community Wildfire Readiness (CWR) provides local residents, community responders, businesses and officials the tools, resources, guidance, and support to prepare for the threat of wildland fire.
- The most important person in protecting your life, pets and property is not the firefighter, but yourself.
- A home within one mile of a natural area is considered a part of an ember zone, where wind-driven embers can be a risk to your property.

## **Defensible Space Zones – Create a buffer zone by removing weeds, brush, and other vegetation. This helps keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risk from flying embers.**

- **Zone One** – 0-30 feet around the structure. Do not plant directly beneath windows or next to foundation vents. Frequently prune and maintain plants, remove dead foliage, enclose or screen decks with metal screening. Prune low-lying branches to reduce "ladder" fuels. Prune branches that interfere with the roof, that are within 10 feet of a chimney, and tree branches up to 10 feet above the ground.
- **Zone Two** – 30-100 feet from the structure. Remove stressed, diseased, dead, or dying trees and shrubs. Keep grass and wildflowers under 8 inches in height. Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- **Zone Three** – 100-200 feet from the structure or to property boundaries. Remove ladder fuels; maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between the tops of trees. Ensure trees in this area do not pose a threat to power lines or access roads.

## **Prepare your family.**

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans.
- Practice often.
- Ensure your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit as recommended by the American Red Cross ([www.redcross.org/get-help](http://www.redcross.org/get-help)).
- Keep an extra kit in your vehicle.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your kit.
- Your Family Disaster Plan should assume all cellular phone service will be down!

## **As the fire approaches...**

- Monitor conditions, stay hydrated, alert family and neighbors – be ready to leave as soon as you are set.
- Close all windows and doors; leave them unlocked.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can affect critical water pressure.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.

## **GO! Leave early.**

- Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion.
- Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave.
- Leave to a predetermined location.
- Take your Emergency Supply Kit.
- Have several escape routes.

## **Important Non-Emergency Contact Information – 911 for Emergencies!**

- Santa Fe County Fire Department (SFCFD) – (505) 996-2715
- El Dorado Fire & Rescue – (505) 466-1204
- SFCFD Fire Prevention/Wildland Division – (505) 995-6527
- Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office – (505) 428-3720
- Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) – (505) 428-3710
- Animal Control – (505) 986-2430
- New Mexico State Forestry – (505) 476-3325
- American Red Cross (New Mexico) – (505) 265-8514

\* Information prepared by the International Association of Fire Chiefs' RSG! Program and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Fire Administration. For more information about Ready, Set, Go! Program and its partners visit [www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org).