



Personal and Community Wildfire Preparedness

Routt Wildfire Conference
April 30, 2022

Why is this important?

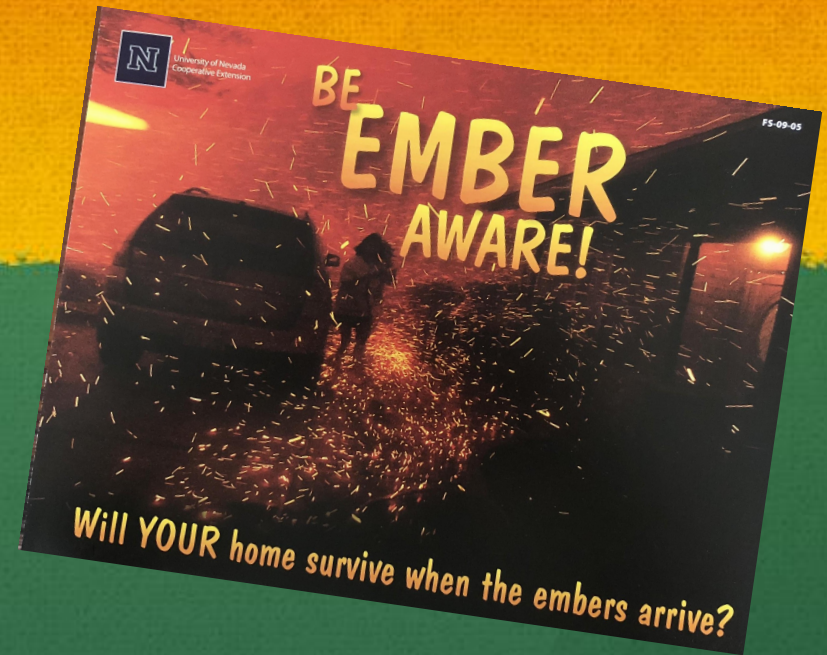
- Improve the odds of firefighters being able to save your home
- Will help keep your home insured
- Safe evacuation
- Safe access for firefighters

The background features a stylized mountain range with green peaks. A wide, textured orange band runs horizontally across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text. Below this band is a dark green area with a repeating pattern of inverted mountain shapes.

Ready, Set, Go!

Making sure your home is defensible and
your family is prepared to evacuate

Ready, Set, Go!



- ☐ Harden your home
- ☐ Create defensible space around your home
- ☐ Learn about vulnerabilities around your home where embers might land

Get ready!

Create A Family Wildfire Action Plan

- ☐ Evacuation plan for your family, pets and large animals
- ☐ Emergency Supply Kit – one for home and one for your car
- ☐ Emergency Contact Numbers
- ☐ Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off valves are and how to shut them down in an emergency

Get Ready!

Create A Family Communication Plan

- ☐ Sign up for Routt County Alerts
- ☐ Set an emergency meeting location for family members
- ☐ Learn the roads in your community and know various routes you can use to evacuate
- ☐ Make a list of key phone numbers, account numbers, insurance policies, and update annually

Get Ready

Other Considerations

- ☐ Create a home inventory
- ☐ Visit with your insurance agent and make sure your home and possessions are adequately insured

Get Set!

As The Fire Approaches...

- ☐ Evacuation Order (Mandatory) versus a Pre-Evacuation Order (Voluntary or Get Ready)
- ☐ Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle.
- ☐ Alert family and neighbors to your possible evacuation.
- ☐ Stay tuned to local media for updates

Go!

As Time Allows...INSIDE

- ☐ Shut doors, and windows, leave them unlocked.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades and curtains.
- ☐ Move flammable furniture to middle of room.
- ☐ Shut off gas. Turn off pilot lights.
- ☐ Leave lights on.

GO!

As Time Allows....Outside

- ☐ Gather flammable items from outside and bring them inside (toys, patio cushions, door mats, etc.)
- ☐ Move firewood at least 30 feet from home if you haven't already done this.
- ☐ Turn off propane.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on.

**When you need
to evacuate....**

**REMEMBER
THE SIX P's**

- ☐ People and pets
- ☐ Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
- ☐ Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- ☐ Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- ☐ Personal computer hard drive and disks
- ☐ "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

GO!

Some Considerations

- **Don't wait to be told to leave – especially** if you are uncomfortable or have family or pets needing special attention
- Leaving early helps reduce congestion on roads
- Know where to find reliable local fire information and follow during fire season (OEM, Sheriff's Dept., local newspaper, or Inciweb (generally for fires over 100 acres or in the WUI))

GO!

LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER YOU GET THE NOTICE

- Review your Evacuation Checklist.
- Locate your pets and get them crated.
- Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.





Community Preparedness

**We ALL have a role to play in creating
community wildfire resilience**

Define Your Community

You don't have to live in a neighborhood with an HOA

Lessons Learned

- Working together on a common goal helps to build community and helps when an emergency does happen
- Many people want to help; they just don't want to be the leader, the organizer
- Asking for help thru face-to-face engagement is the surest key to success!

Getting Started

- Establish a Wildfire Mitigation Committee
- Create a neighborhood e-mail list or use Next Door
- Host a neighborhood potluck or barbeque to introduce wildfire preparedness principles and develop a sense of community around a shared concern.
- Create a Welcome Packet for new residents.
- Tell your neighbors about the CO Income Tax Subtraction for mitigation work completed by a contractor.

Motivating Your Neighbors

- Plan an annual Community Workday to build a sense of community around fire mitigation.
- Start a list of what resources/tools neighbors can bring to the effort.
- Work with adjacent landowners to plan and secure permission for community fuel breaks, access thinning or safe areas.



Community Wildfire Prep Day



Planning Efforts



- Develop a Community Wildfire Assessment or CWPP; Review annually and update with accomplishments or new projects.
- Seek funds to implement plan recommendations if needed.

Risk Reduction

- Get a home assessment (FD or CSFS)
- Share the CSFS Mitigation Contractors List
- Organize a Community Chipping Day
- Work with your utility company to remove trees under powerlines
- Encourage your HOA to add a budget line item for mitigation work
- Consider buying equipment for community use
 - Chipper, Pole Saw, Brush Hog, Air Curtain Burner



Community Readiness

- Signage
- Have fire dept. out to assess your turnarounds, driveways, etc. for accessibility



Community Readiness

- Learn about your neighbors
 - Elderly and Disabled
 - Young children home alone after school
 - Families with pets or livestock
- Create a community tool cache
- Track volunteer hours



Community Readiness

- Mock Evacuation Drill
- Create turnouts on one-lane roads so fire trucks and residents can use the road simultaneously.





Be creative and have fun!

Celebrate Success!

