

# Before Fire season

**Review this checklist every spring**

**Take Time To Protect Your Home!**



## Reduce the Threat of Wildland Fires

1. Stack firewood away from the house.
2. Thin and prune trees and shrubs.
3. Maintain a circle of safety—at least 30 feet or greater on slopes.
4. Keep grass and weeds mowed.
5. Keep the immediate area clear of debris.
6. Enclose openings such as porches and foundations.
7. Remove tree limbs that hang over structures.
8. Replace or treat wood shake roofs with fire retardant materials.
9. Keep roofs and gutters clear of debris.
10. Keep your fire extinguisher charged and available, and a hose near outdoor faucets.
11. Dispose of ashes properly.
12. Provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
13. Install spark arrestors on chimneys.
14. Provide an adequate outdoor water supply.
15. Dispose of trash legally—do not burn it.



Call, click or come in to Village Forestry to get a copy of your “what to do” **Fuels Management Standards** described in Section 42-80 for Ordinance compliance

For More Information Contact:

**Village of Ruidoso Forestry (575) 257-5544**

**421 Wingfield Street, 8AM–5PM Mon-Fri**

**[www.ruidoso-nm.gov](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov)**

**State of New Mexico Forestry (575)354-2231**

**[www.nmforestry.com](http://www.nmforestry.com)**

**Smokey Bear Ranger District (575)257-4095**

**[www.fs.fed.us/r3](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3)**

**County of Lincoln (575) 258-9991**

**[www.lincolncountynm.net](http://www.lincolncountynm.net)**

**Village of Ruidoso Fire Department 257-4116**

**[www.ruidoso-nm.gov/Fire Dept](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/FireDept)**

**Village of Ruidoso Solid Waste Department**

**(575)257-1502**



**Firewise [www.firewise.org/](http://www.firewise.org/)**



This brochure is produced by:  
The Village of Ruidoso Forestry Department



## Preparing for Wildfire

We don't have to worry about hurricanes and tornadoes in Ruidoso, but we do need to think about wildfire. We live in a fire-dependant ecosystem often affected by drought. Adjusting to this fact and being prepared is the price we pay to live in such a beautiful place.

There are many things you and your family can do in advance to prepare for wildfire. You can improve the defensible space around your home and make it easier for firefighters to do their jobs. You can have a pre-arranged plan for your family in case a wildfire occurs near your home. Plus you can have your family, home, and important personal items ready for evacuation if it becomes necessary. What you do now, in advance, can make a difference and give you peace of mind.

# What to do During a Wildfire

## Prepare to Evacuate

- Dress to prevent burns: Wear sturdy shoes, cotton or wool clothing, long pants, gloves, eye protection, and a bandana to protect your face.
- Contact your neighbors and tell them about the fire.
- Park the car in the garage, facing out with the windows closed and the keys in the ignition. Do not leave the vehicle running.
- Close and unlock garage door. Disconnect automatic openers.
- Place documents and mementos inside the car in the garage. Don't forget home insurance information, your address book, the computer hard-drive, prescriptions, medications, eyeglasses, cell phone charger, extra car keys and credit cards. Take personal items and clothes for a minimum of five days.
- Confine pets to one room or inside pet carriers.
- Leave a note inside your home with contact information.



## If Time Allows In and Around Your Home

- Cover windows and other openings with fire-resistant material.
- Shut off propane or natural gas valves.
- Move excess gasoline and propane bottles to open areas.
- Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- Fill trash cans and buckets with water and place outside where firefighters can find them.

- Move combustible deck furniture inside the home or garage.
- Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- Remove curtains or drapes. If you have metal blinds or fire-resistant window coverings, close them.
- Turn on room lights and porch lights for visibility.
- Move stuffed furniture away from windows and walls.



## Evacuating

- Let authorities know of neighbors needing assistance.
- Use pre-planned routes, away from the approaching fire front.
- If you are trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation. Close the windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket, and lie on the floor.
- If you are trapped by wildfire inside your home, stay away from the outside walls. Close doors, but leave them unlocked. Keep your entire family together and remain calm.