



Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department Town Hall Meeting

Wildland Fire Outlook 2013

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS
DAY of SERVICE
Saturday, May 4, 2013

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS
DAY of SERVICE 2013

Commit a couple of hours or an entire day, and see how your actions help reduce the community's wildfire risk.

Grab a friend, your family, or group of neighbors and join Coloradans throughout the state making big changes.

Do something GREAT – be a local champion on Saturday, May 4th!

For project ideas around your home and neighborhood, visit Firewise.org. Post your plans, ideas, photos and videos on our Facebook page at facebook.com/Firewise and influence others to start a project.

PEOPLE PROJECTS PURPOSE

Serving others through projects, helps build a safer Colorado.

For information contact cprudhomme@nfpa.org

NFPA
READY Colorado
Plan a Plan. Make a Difference.
RMIA
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
RURAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
American Red Cross



READY, SET, GO!

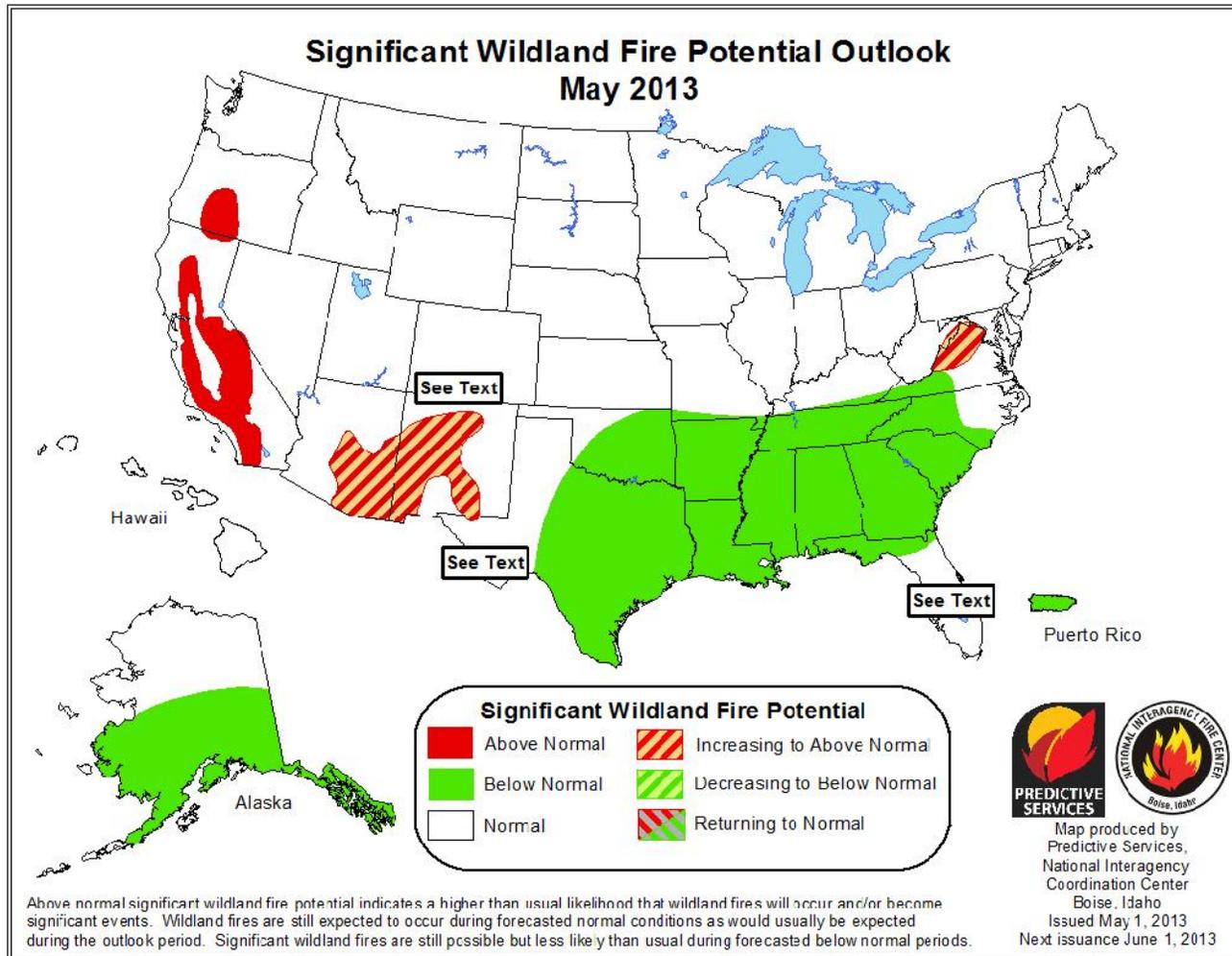
**Understanding Wildland Fire and
Preparedness in *Crystal Park***

**Working with *The Crystal Park*
*Volunteer Fire Department***



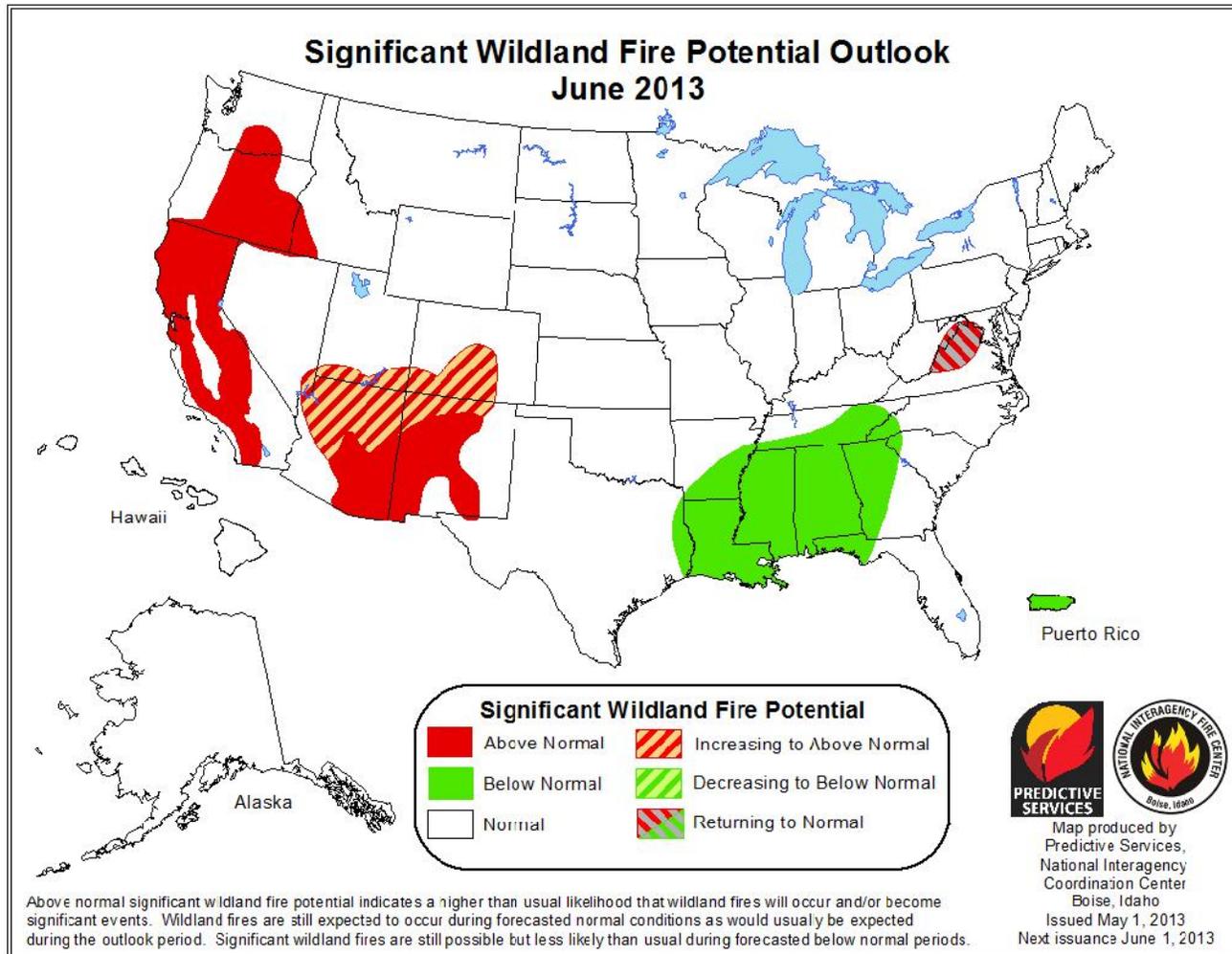
2013 May Outlook

- The moisture we have gotten in April has been helpful
- For May, we are at “normal” condition for significant wildfire potential



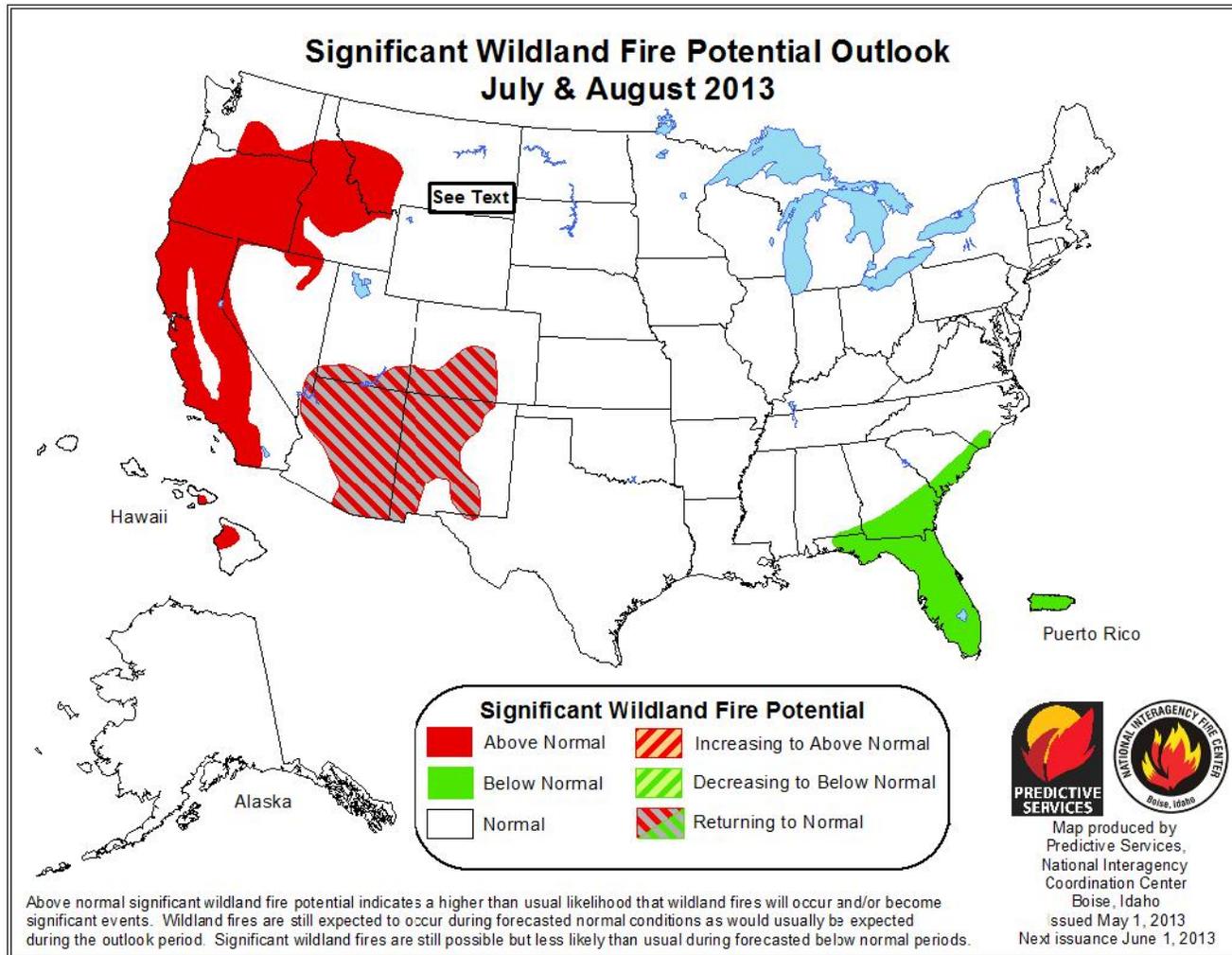
2013 June Outlook

- In June, we begin the process of warm, dry weather with increasing to “above normal” potential for significant wildfire potential



2013 July/August Outlook

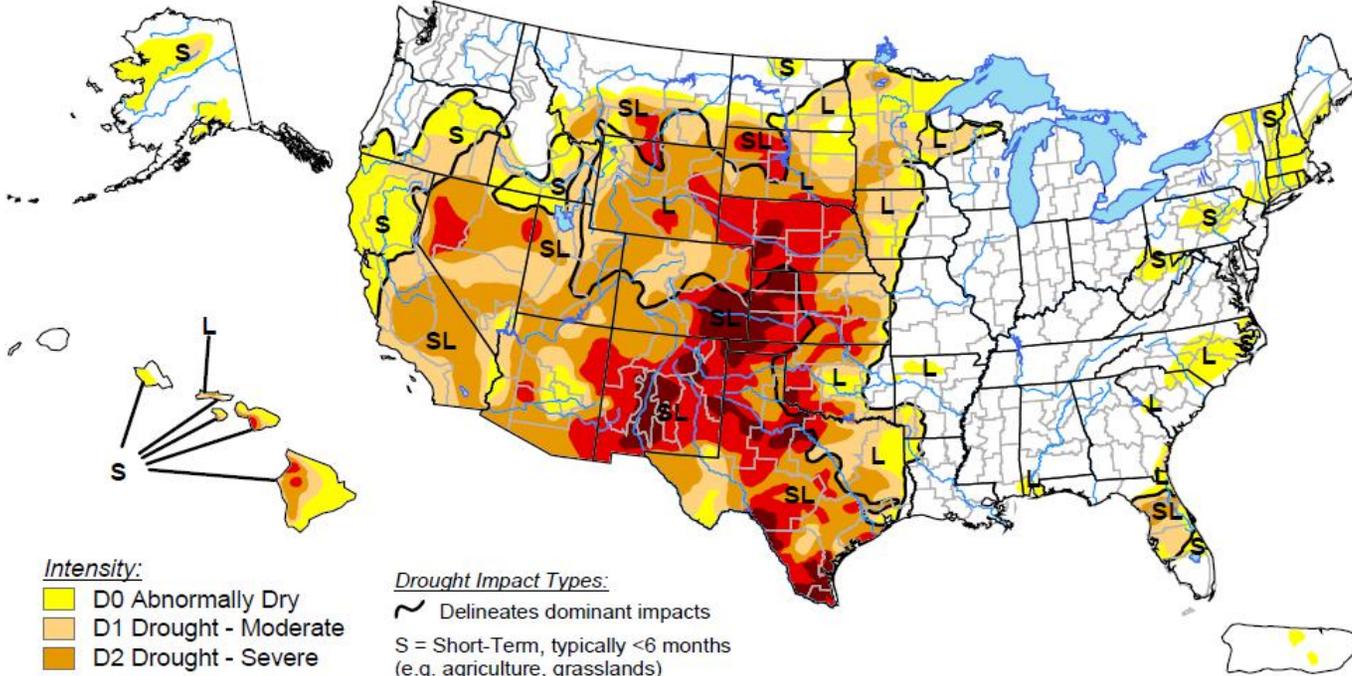
- Some improvement in July and August but note, we are simply returning to “normal” potential for significant wildfires



Drought Continues

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 30, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Released Thursday, May 2, 2013

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Understanding the Threat of Wildland Fire

- ***The Threat of Wildland Fire in Our Area?***

The Waldo Canyon Fire started the afternoon of June 23, 2012 near Colorado Springs, Colorado. The fire threatened the Cedar Heights community in the early hours of June 24, however no homes were lost. Two days later, the fire entered the Mountain Shadows neighborhood, where 346 homes were eventually destroyed on June 26.

Considered the worst fire in Colorado state history, Waldo Canyon forced more than 30,000 people to evacuate, scorched 18,247 acres, killed two residents, and took firefighters 18 days to fully contain. The fire burned through brush, mountain shrub, grass, and trees including oak, pinion, juniper, ponderosa pine, douglas-fir, spruce and limber pine. In addition to disrupting thousands of lives and destroying hundreds of properties, the wildfire left the scarred landscapes vulnerable to flooding and/or debris slides that will pose long-term problems.



Understanding the Threat of Wildland Fire

- ***What Drives Wildland Fires in Our Area?***
 - ***The Crystal Park Community is located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and Intermix. The community relies on a single access road in and out of the community that rises over 2000' in elevation from beginning to end. There are no improved services, and water is limited.***
 - ***The WUI is in forested/vegetated foothills on alluvial fans along narrow drainages and ridgelines with slopes up to 45-50 percent.***
 - ***Average annual precipitation is about 17 inches and summer temperatures can reach 100 degrees.***



The Ready, Set, Go! Program

- ***RSG Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan***
 - ***Family and Property Preparation***
 - ***Checklists for Disaster Preparation as:***
 - ***Waldo Canyon spawns localized flooding***
 - ***Wildland Fire Approaches...***
- and Emergency Supplies if you have to leave***



Ready, Set, Go! Program Tenants

Ready! – “Prepare for the Fire Threat”

- **Defensible Space: Easy Steps You Can Do Now to Safeguard Your Home**

– *Schedule a Firewise Assessment!*



Ready, Set, Go! Program Tenets

Defensible Space: Easy Steps you can do now to Safeguard Your Home

- **Zone 1** is the area of maximum modification and treatment. It consists of an area of 30 feet around the structure in which all flammable vegetation is removed. This 30 feet is measured from the outside edge of the home's eaves and any attached structures, such as decks.
- **Zone 2** is an area of fuel reduction. It is a transitional area between Zones 1 and 3. The size of Zone 2 depends on the slope of the ground where the structure is built. Typically, the defensible space should extend at least 75 to 125 feet from the structure. Within this zone, the continuity and arrangement of vegetation is modified. Remove all stressed, diseased dead or dying trees and shrubs. Thin and prune the remaining larger trees and shrubs. Be sure to extend thinning along either side of your driveway all the way to your main access road. These actions help eliminate the continuous fuel surrounding a structure while enhancing homesite safety and the aesthetics of the property. Zone 2 can also extend into Crystal Park community property. Work with the HOA Forestry Committee to remove recommended trees.
- **Zone 3** is an area of traditional forest management and is of no particular size. It extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property boundaries or community property. As with Zone 2, work with the HOA Forestry Committee to remove recommended trees.



RSG! Program – Be Ready, Be Firewise



Courtesy: Firewise

RSG! Program – Be Ready, Be Firewise

- Firewise Strategies: Keep Flames from Touching the House and Attachments



– Create a ‘fuel free’ area around the house that runs 3 ft. out on all sides

– Home Ignition Zone: start with the house and work out



Courtesy: Firewise



RSG! Program – Be Ready, Be Firewise

- Firewise Strategies: Keep Flames From Touching the House and Attachments



Courtesy: Firewise



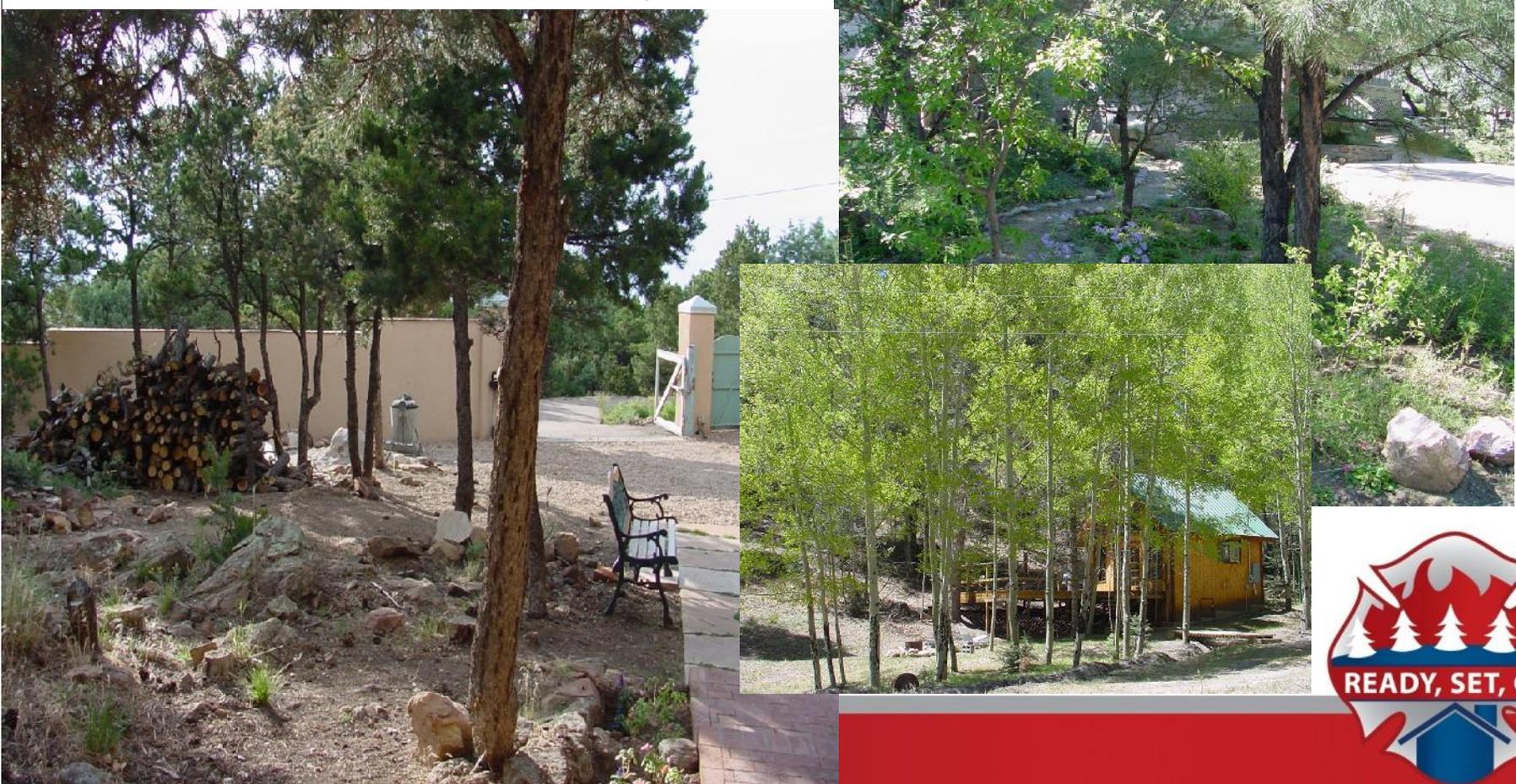
RSG! Program – Be Ready, Be Firewise

- Considering the Ember Danger



RSG! Program – Be Ready, Be Firewise

- Firewise Strategies: Keep Radiant Heat Sources Away From the Home



RSG! Program – Be Ready, Be Firewise

- Maintenance is Important



Recent Examples of Mitigation



- We have conducted several dozen Firewise Assessments in the last year
- Many residents have done great work



Recent Examples of Mitigation



- Good work in Zone 1 – out to 30 feet
- Zone 2 thinning and ladders fuels being removed
- Note the steep slopes





Wildland Firefighter Training Underway

2013 Wildland Firefighting
“Field Day”



- We are doing our part to get ready training with 7 other agencies last Saturday West of Crystal Park in similar terrain
- Nick Gurin and Adam Dyet are our newest Wildland FFs



RSG! Program – Be Set

SET! - What Does it Mean to be “Set”

- What is Situational Awareness
- Ability of Response
- What are “Functional” Needs Populations
- What are the local Methods of Emergency Communication



Ready, Set, Go! Program Tenants

- **Set – “Situational Awareness when a Fire Starts”**
 - **Preparing the Home for a Fire**
 - **Stay abreast of local news TV/Radio**
 - **Register with Reverse 911**
 - **Call 911 to report an emergency!**



RSG! Program – Be Set

- “Functional Needs” Populations

- Home Care

- O2 dependent
 - Lift assist
 - Hospice
 - Special Needs Children

- Assisted Living

- Different levels
 - Shelter in Place?
 - NO Electricity for Health aids

- Language

- Translation and Word Choice
 - Hearing Impaired



RSG! Program – Go, ACT early

GO! - What Does it Mean to “Go”

- Evacuation is a Local Issue and Determination by IC and El Paso County Sheriff
- Education and Situational Understanding Key
- Fire Management/Evacuation Plans a Good Starting Point



Ready, Set, Go! Program Tenants

- **Go – “Leave Early”**
 - **Leaving Early Makes it Safer for You, Your Property and Responding Firefighters**
 - **Where to Go: El Paso County will designate which Red Cross shelters are open. The Cheyenne Mountain High School is the *pre-planned West-Side Shelter***



Ready, Set, Go! Program Tenants

- What if you are Trapped by a Moving Fire Front?
 - Action Guide Checklist: Page 9
 - What to Wear
 - What to Do



A Challenge We Can Face

- **Prepare Your Family and Home**
- **Understand Wildland Fire**
- **Ensure The Safety of You and Firefighters**
- **Be a Partner in the Wildland Fire Solution**



CA Wildfires Today!!!!

- “The good fortune of the Camarillo Springs area wasn’t the result of luck or clairvoyance by firefighters. It came after years of planning and knowing that sooner or later just such a conflagration was going to strike.”
- “Camarillo Springs, which was nothing more than rugged backcountry when homes began to go up there 30 years ago, was well prepared.”
- “Its homes were built with sprinkler systems and fireproof exteriors from the roofs to the foundations. Residents are required to clear brush and other combustible materials to within 100 feet of the dwellings, and developers had to make sure the cul-de-sacs that fill the area’s canyons were built wide enough to accommodate the emergency vehicles seen on TV racing in to battle the flames.”
- “Residents in the area are also particularly vigilant about clearing brush from the hillsides next to their yards.”



“Normally, firefighters remind people in such areas to do that every June, but in Camarillo Springs people do it every few months. The work paid off this week.”



Questions/Discussion?

