Get started! Spring is the perfect time to create a safer space around your home (see the checklist on the back page). Most county and municipal landfills accept wood and debris – some charge and some do not. Check with your local government for schedules, guidelines and fees. If you live in a rural area, you may be able to burn your slash and debris on-site work. You can download a list of contractors in the region provide consultation and/or on-site work. You can download a list of contractors or call your fire department first to see if a burn permit is required.

Contact the Colorado State Forest Service. The CSFS is the local resource to be able to find information on wildfire prevention, fire mitigation on private lands, and land management. Their expert staff can assist you with property inspections, consultation, and more. You’ll find a range of resources at www.colostate.edu, or call 247-5250.

Visit a Local Wildfire Web Site. A comprehensive list of sites is available at www.southwestcoloradofires.org, which informs citizens, government agencies, community leaders and land-management groups on developing a family emergency plan. It is updated regularly to keep information current and relevant, and it provides links to other resources and materials, and activities, and more. It includes a list of local Web sites on developing a family emergency plan. Call Nicole Smith, 385-1210, or e-mail tressie@co.sanjuan.co.us.

Check out a Wildfire Resource Box. The San Juan Mountains Association offers a few lists. The San Juan Public Landscapes Center, Fort Lewis College’s Office of Community Services and the Colorado State Forest Service, is continually updated. You can download a full list of all associations, Firewise Councils, land and community management tips, and reports produced by public land-management agencies, and community wildfire plans for all the counties in Southwest Colorado.

Locate Resources for Educators and Schools. The San Juan Mountains Association in partnership with the Wildfire Education and Mitigation Tool Kit Program provides library science school exhibits and activities. To schedule a class, call 385-9244.

Thousands of Southwest Colorado residents are in the direct path of growing wildfire. To create a safer home, neighborhood and community. Some homeowners are understandably concerned about the aesthetics of removing trees and other vegetation. Creating defensible space does not mean all the trees are removed from your property! Remember, defensible space = healthy forests!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Take action now – before this year’s summer fire season – to create a safer home, neighborhood and community. Check out a Wildfire Resource Box. The San Juan Mountains Association offers a few lists. The San Juan Public Landscapes Center, Fort Lewis College’s Office of Community Services and the Colorado State Forest Service is continually updated. You can download a full list of all associations, Firewise Councils, land and community management tips, and reports produced by public land-management agencies, and community wildfire plans for all the counties in Southwest Colorado.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? A number of private fire mitigation services, or check your local telephone directory under Fire Protection Services. You can also get a list from the Colorado State Forest Service or call your local telephone directory under Fire Protection Services.

Get started! Spring is the perfect time to create a safer space around your home (see the checklist on the back page). Most county and municipal landfills accept wood and debris – some charge and some do not. Check with your local government for schedules, guidelines and fees. If you live in a rural area, you may be able to burn your slash and debris on-site work. You can download a list of contractors in the region provide consultation and/or on-site work. You can download a list of contractors or call your fire department first to see if a burn permit is required.

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ARCHULETA COUNTY

Chief Gilbert Archuleta, 387-5523. To do a tour of defensible space and then fly in this subdivision near Bayfield. Meet at the Grocery Store in Bayfield (35 E. Colorado Drive). Then travel in your vehicle to Timberridge Ranch (350 E. Colorado Drive). Meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 17. Drop by and get information about wildfire at the Firehouse.

April 11, Noon to 2 p.m. ~ Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Department Open House (314 County Road 223 near Durango) Drop by for information, a barbeque, door prizes and handouts. No RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Jon Long, 588-3400.


Saturday, April 24, at Noon ~ Fire Information Booth. Bayfield Health Fair (Montezuma County Fairgrounds) Stop by the booth and get information from the San Juan Public Lands Center.

City of Durango “Fire Wise” Program ~ During weather permitting, the City of Durango Fire and Rescue Services will be on hand overseeing underbrush and overgrown trees and shrubs on City-owned property near Woodland Circle and Willow Place. By the Durango Mountain Park. A professional fuels treatment company has been hired. Contact Kevin Hall. City of Durango. 375-7900.

MONTezuma COUNTY

Fire House Open Houses and Slide Shows ~ Presenters: “Wildkids and You in Wildfire Safety” produced by the San Juan Public Lands Center. The program covers the basics of fire ecology and how residents can take steps to defensible property, but you must RSVP to Tim Richard, 247-7066, or richard_t@fortlewis.edu. This program is for elementary age children and their parents. RSVP is required by April 22.

Saturday, April 24, Noon to 3 p.m. ~ Montezuma County Home Builders’ Association Home, Garden and Recreation Show (Montezuma County Fairgrounds) The Cortez Volunteer Fire Protection District and Montezuma County Fire District will be hosting a presentation about ways to reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire. Sign up by April 18 by calling James Maines, Montezuma County, 505-7462.

Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m. ~ Fire Ecology Presentation ~ Pagosa Springs Community Center 2500 Main Avenue, Durango Discuss wildfire history and interrelated issues in the San Juan and San Miguel counties. The presentation will include historical accounts, analysis of tree rings and fire scars. Ms. Wu will present a slide presentation and lecture for the public. No RSVP is necessary.

April 2, 6:30 p.m. ~ Wildfires and Their Impact on Wildlife. Dave Baker of the San Juan National Forest will give a demonstration on how wildfires affect wildlife. Ms. Wu has received the Conservation Heritage award from the Colorado Forest Service for her work on wildlife interactions. No RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Jon Long, 588-3400.

Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m. ~ Your Missionary Ridge Burn Area. Join Dave Baker of the San Juan National Forest at a free workshop for residents who were affected by the Missionary Ridge Fire. Several recovery techniques will be discussed. Meet at the Vallecito Community Center. The tour is limited to 25 participants. Sign up by April 8 by calling Nicole Smith, 382-1210.

Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m. ~ Firehouse Open Houses and Slide Shows ~ Presenters: “Wildkids and You in Wildfire Safety” produced by the San Juan Public Lands Center. The program covers the basics of fire ecology and how residents can take steps to defensible property, but you must RSVP to Tim Richard, 247-7066, or richard_t@fortlewis.edu. This program is for elementary age children and their parents. Sign up by April 18.

Saturday, April 17, Noon to 3 p.m. ~ Montezuma County Home Builders Association Home, Garden and Recreation Show (Montezuma County Fairgrounds) The Cortez Volunteer Fire Protection District and Montezuma County Fire District will be hosting a presentation about ways to reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire. Sign up by April 18 by calling James Maines, Montezuma County, 505-7462.

April 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ~ Silverton/San Juan Volunteer Fire Department Open House. Contact Fire Chief Gilbert Archuleta, 287-2837.

April 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ~ Durango Fire and Rescue Authority. Meet at the South entrance of Rado Park. This workshop will provide information about the emergency evacuation of livestock and pets during a wildfire. Being prepared ahead of time can make all the difference in the world! Contact Jeff Long, 588-3400 for more information.

April 17, Noon to 3 p.m. ~ Montezuma County Home Builders Association Home, Garden and Recreation Show (Montezuma County Fairgrounds) The Cortez Volunteer Fire Protection District and Montezuma County Fire District will be hosting a presentation about ways to reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire. Sign up by April 18 by calling James Maines, Montezuma County, 505-7462.

Wednesday, April 15, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ~ First Line of Defense: Homeowners Stand Up to Wildfire. Visit a fuels-reduction site in the San Juan National Forest. Information will be available about other forest insects and diseases; reforestation/salvage/clean up of beetle-killed trees; wildfire hazard mitigation, and wildfire-wise landscaping. The presentation is related to reforestation and drought. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

April 18, 2 to 4 p.m. ~ Wildfire and Its Impact on Wildlife. Dave Baker of the San Juan National Forest will give a demonstration on how wildfires affect wildlife. Ms. Wu has received the Conservation Heritage award from the Colorado Forest Service for her work on wildlife interactions. No RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Jon Long, 588-3400.