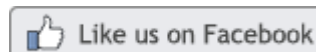


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FireWise "News You Can Use" December 2017



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Mark Your Calendars

Jan. 8: Montezuma County Coffee Break, 9:00-11:00am
Cattle Drive Coffee, 38651 US 160, Mancos

Jan. 30: Fire Council Meeting, 4:30-7:00pm
Durango Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango

Feb. 13: Montezuma Chapter Meeting, 5:30-7:00pm
Mancos Public Library, 211 E 1st Street

Feb. 27 - Mar. 1: WUI Conference
Reno, NV

Fire Danger this Winter

As we move further into the winter, we expect fire danger to decrease but it is still present! Unfortunately, we have seen an unusually low snow year with only 22% of average snowpack in mid December in SW Colorado and 52% of snowpack across the state. The San Juan National Forest released [a statement](#) warning of fire danger on December 13th urging residents to follow their fire prevention tips.

In November and December, there were fires in La Plata County that burned approximately 60 acres and 20 acres respectively near Electra Lake and County Roads 116 & 117. There have also been a number of ignitions from fireplace ashes being dumped into yards or left on decks and not properly stored in a metal container with lid or dumped into a bucket of water. Remember, always be aware of fire danger especially during drought conditions!

Check out [this video](#) of the Electra Lake Fire posted on Facebook by Durango Fire.

Log your 2017 Hours!

Don't forget to log your volunteer hours for 2017! Every hour logged give FireWise the opportunity to show funders on the national, state, and local level how much incredible work is being accomplished by Ambassadors and Volunteers within our neighborhoods. Without your hours, we would not be able to run our program! To enter hours online click [here](#). Our online log does not allow you to enter hours from a mobile device, so feel free to send them directly to your coordinator if you run into any trouble online or if you need information about when you last recorded your hours.

2017 Christmas Tree Train and SJMA Tree Lot

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Christmas Tree Train and the SJMA Tree Lot. This year, 131 christmas tree permits were sold by volunteers to remove potentially hazardous white firs from the San Juan National Forest via the Christmas Tree Train. Since these white firs were young and over populated in the areas we cut them from, the forest is not more resistant to crown fire and beetle infestation. Thank you everyone for making that possible.



The SJMA Christmas Tree Lot had their best sales day ever on our FireWise day at the lot this year. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the lot and to those who stopped by to get your trees. This is a great way to show our gratitude for all of SJMA's organizational support to FireWise by giving back to their conservation education programs.

2018 Fire Council Meeting Dates

Dates for the 2018 Fire Council Meetings have been set! All meetings will be located at the Durango Public Lands Center located at 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301 from 4:30-7:00pm weather permitting. Add them to your calendar

now so you don't miss out and check out the meeting agendas which will be sent out a week prior to each meeting to make sure you don't miss out.

January 30, 2018
March 20, 2018
May 15, 2018
July 17, 2018
September 18, 2018
November 27, 2018

Articles of Interest

If you are curious about everything FireWise of Southwest Colorado has been involved with throughout 2017 then check out our Accomplishment Report [here](#).

Check out the lessons learned by Fire Adapted Communities practitioners in 2017!

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/17-ways-we-grew-community-wildfire-resilience-lessons-from-2017/>

Unfortunately, there is no sign of wildfire danger decreasing across the U.S. in the near future. Read more about how fire prevention experts are trying to combat the increased danger.

<https://www.100milefreepress.net/news/wildfire-experts-say-it-will-happen-again-and-it-will-likely-be-worse-during-100-mile-house-presentation/>

Don't make the mistake of waiting until a fire is burning to plan your evacuation. The best way for your community to stay safe is by planning and practicing evacuations now. To get started, take a look at how one community in Utah is preparing.

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/evacuation-planning-take-get-community-started/#.WjS24i2CTGU.email>



Working Together to Reduce Wildfire Risk

[Ashley Downing](#), Executive Director

[Rebecca Samulski](#), Assistant Director

[Amanda Brenner-Cannon](#), Montezuma County Coordinator

[Charlie Landsman](#), La Plata County Coordinator

[Bill Trimarco](#), Archuleta County Coordinator

[Charlene Swansen](#), Administrative Coordinator

FireWise of Southwest Colorado | 970-385-8909 | swcoloradofirewise@gmail.com |
www.southwestcoloradofires.org

STAY CONNECTED:



% San Juan Mountains Association, PO Box 2261, Durango, CO 81302

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