

# Brazos Firewise Plan

To make the Brazos safer we propose the Five-Year Goals below followed by more specific targets for 2023.

We were given a green light in March by the Captain and members of the BCVFD to begin implementing this plan.

## FIVE YEAR GOALS TO 2028 - THE BIG PICTURE

- 1) **The Brazos will be recognized as a leading neighborhood in fire mitigation** in Northern New Mexico.
- 2) **Raise Fire awareness among Brazos property owners** as measured by:
  - a. a 25% increase in awareness, and/or
  - b. 25% increase in Firewise event participation and/or
  - c. a 20% increase in the number of owners who have performed a substantial reduction of fuel or adopted Firewise property owner guidelines survey
- 3) **NM 512 will be mitigated and improved to be a safe evacuation route as well as the first ¼ mile** on designated public and private roads that feed into NM 512 for participating subdivisions.
- 4) **Sufficient funds will be identified to complete this plan by 2028 and support annual maintenance beyond 2028. Identify funds and other resources annually** from 2023 through 2028 to (1) mitigate fire danger; (2) improve evacuation routes and access along NM 512, and adjacent public roads, (3) establish a small seed funds to support initial neighbor to neighbor efforts to build awareness and stimulate action among residents (limbing/chipping/hauling) and (4) Creation of additional safe zones and fire breaks.
- 5) **Safe zones (shelter in place areas) and firebreaks will be identified, created and known to the residents.** These efforts will necessitate working with the BCVFD, State Forester and private parties to designate and improve zones and fire breaks.
- 6) **By 2028 document significant progress toward moving the Brazos neighborhood from extreme danger to moderate danger** (or greater actions, if moisture and weather conditions permit)
- 7) **Demonstrate a significant increase in the number of monetary contributions to BCVFD** donations from the Brazos neighbors (target a minimum of 10 % increase in the number of neighborhood contributions annually.) It is hoped that the dollar amount increases as well, but the number of contributions measure participation.
- 8) **A system for fire notification (reverse 911) will be developed and advertised to resident**

We are making great progress on 2023 goals with the help of 8 subdivision leaders. All efforts to date are privately funded.

**2023 Goals:**

**STATUS**

1. **Identify a Firewise team member for each participating subdivision.** Planning team members will educate themselves on existing Firewise efforts to date. **~ 8 of 10 complete**
2. **Target at least 3 large subdivisions for surveying and participation** and identify a volunteer representative from each to assist in the development of a fire survey to be mailed to parcel owners. **Surveys out to 8 of 10 subdivision leaders**
3. **Distribute a letter and survey to parcel owners in each subdivision.** **Over 130 mailed**
4. **Assemble a database of information from returned surveys** on Firewise guidelines, fire mitigation, and their willingness to help neighbors in need. From this data develop an action plan which will be shared with the BCVFD. **Have database of 878 owners, address,**
5. **Identify a point person responsible for knowing fire grant application submission dates and communicating information to participating subdivisions.** **Pending**
6. **Develop a plan for mitigation efforts and road improvements for NM512 especially the hairpin curves just below road 1753, and, begin mitigation efforts as practical in 2023.** Identify state agency responsible for such efforts and appoint a liaison to gather status reports and offer information to VFP for accountability and action. **NMDOT contact complete, NMDOT exploring.**
7. **If resources can be found, develop a Brazos Canyon Volunteer Fire Department website** with links to other organizations whose mission is fire mitigation and fire prevention; website would provide quick and easy access to Firewise materials, evacuation plans and current Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); provide listing of community events and annual conferences to broaden community awareness of current and future fire dangers. **Compiling, point person TBD**
8. **Using guidance from BCVFD, identify and notify neighbors of alternative access for major subdivisions to evacuate.** Work with VFD and others as necessary to identify access; report to neighborhood organizations on those safe zones for notification of their members. **TBD**
9. **Identify Funding (state grants or private funding) for 2023 if possible to:** **THIS APPLICATION**
  - a. Begin to Improve access first on 512 and then on first quarter mile of adjacent public roads **X**
  - b. Identify, label and clear safe zones in the three target neighborhoods **X**
  - c. If funding is available to assist private owners, identify a criterion for selecting highest priority and equitable distribution
10. **Initiate at least 2 events to stimulate “hands on” neighbor involvement in removing fuels from the Brazos such as limbing/Chipping/hauling and/or dumping.** Other alternatives may include chipper drop off location, chipper on site visits or other. **Planning Underway**
11. **Begin coordination efforts with BCVFD, State Forester, NORA, State Highways, State Police, etc.** to understand the goals of the Brazos Firewise efforts and their respective roles. **Started**
12. **Establish a tracking system to monitor and report on all Firewise participation, and resources including funds, events, activities, participation, staff and volunteer hours.** **Started**
13. **Identify funding sources (state grants or private funding) for 2023/2024, if possible, to**
  - a. **Expediate planning and implementation of easier access to 512 and then on the first quarter mile of adjacent public roads.** **THIS APPLICATION**

**Begin mitigation on private parcels to begin to reduce the fire danger from extreme to moderate.** **We are informing neighbors of the SWCC/WTB Program**