

Brazos Fire Mitigation News

Brazos Fire Mitigation Neighbors Working with Neighbors

This newsletter is being provided to you by your neighbors in the Brazos Canyon who, like you appreciate the unique beauty of this place.

After learning about the Very High fire severity threat in the area, we've coordinated with the Brazos Canyon Fire Department, and State and local officials to begin reducing the fire threat.

Fire regularly occurs in a ponderosa pine forest (every 10 to 13 years based on data from the Sargent's Wildlife area), but in the absence of fires, we need to thin and reduce fuels or we risk more harmful fires with long lasting damage.

Hopefully the tools provided here will help make our neighborhood more enjoyable for years to come.



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Opportunities to get and give some help!

Using the preliminary results of the Brazos Fire Mitigation Survey, we've identified a number of opportunities for neighbors to begin fire mitigation efforts.

Vendor List Many survey respondents are looking for help to get their property cleared. In addition to volunteer activities this Summer, we've begun compiling a list of local vendors that can be hired to get a jump on thinning. Be sure to get a clear scope of work and an understanding of the full cost before you start.

Grant Applications Neighbors who indicated that they were interested in financial assistance to mitigate have been notified of the first grant opportunity this year.

A Safer NM 512 Survey responders rated egress from the Brazos as a major concern. Discussions were held with both NMDOT and the District Forester. Both agencies are aware of the need to clear both sides of NM512 of brush and dead limbs and maintenance will be coordinated between these agencies.

Educational Opportunities Two half-day events this summer will provide residents with an opportunity to learn about fire mitigation and learn from other's experience. Attend a Saturday morning event at the Brazos Canyon Fire Station on June 3 and/or July 1 .

Slash and Chipping One neighbor is lending us a large chipper and an operator on June 17th and July 15nd. Register for chipping and slash days at KurtxFire@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed to Haul Slash The slash and chipping events will need a large number of volunteers to commit to help. If you aren't signed up to help with chipping and hauling contact Kurt at KurtxFire@gmail.com to volunteer for a half- day.

Firefighters Needed To Volunteer to become a BCVFD firefighter contact Stan at st1BCVFD@gmail.com.

Neighbor – to keep costs down and information flowing we really need your email address. Email it right now to KurtxFire@gmail.com.
Thank You.

Where do I begin?

Reducing fire risks can feel like a daunting task, but it doesn't need to be.

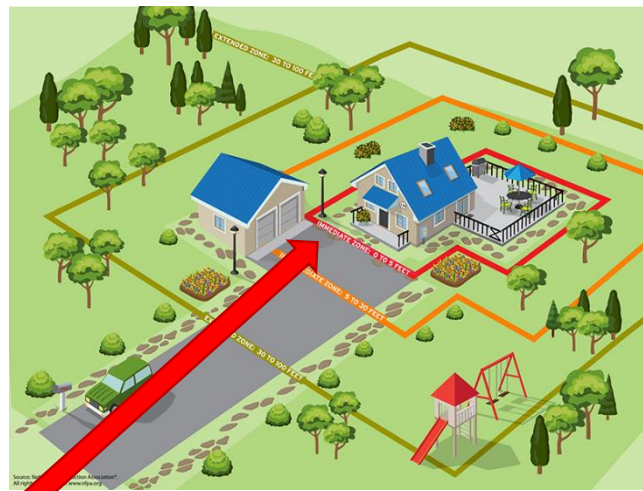
Start with the first five feet around your home, remove all vegetation, any debris and all flammable materials from this area. Weed fabric with a couple inches of pea gravel can help keep it clean. Once this is done you've made a great start! While you are working next to the house blow-out gutters and remove any debris from the roof. Big fires start with little fires so no tinder (pine needles, or oak leaves) on or near the house.

Take time to read some of the online guides identified on page 3.

Most guides suggest you next work on the area between 30 to 100 feet. This area should not have any "ladder fuels" that would allow flames to start low and climb high. (a few trees and a few small clusters of oak are allowed in this area if they won't boost fires.)

Having a fire adapted house won't happen all at once. We are working on a five-year plan for mitigation and suggest you do the same.

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>



Begin mitigation efforts within the first 5 feet of your home.



Slash pile ready for chipping (stacked, ends to street, less than 6")

Summer 2023 Mitigation Begins

"With your survey input, your neighbors have identified grants, identified vendors, slash drop-offs and chippers."

To kickoff fire mitigation this summer we are scheduling educational meetings, limb drop offs, chippers and volunteers to help load and haul.

Your input on the survey was used to determine the next steps to begin mitigation efforts. If you indicated you needed financial assistance, you should have already received directions to access the first grant application.

2023 Fire Mitigation Calendar

Date	Time	Event
June		
June 3, 2023 (Sat.)	9:00 – Noon	Firewise Presentations at BCVFD
June 17, 2023(Sat.)	9:00-4:00	First Slash Haul and Chipper Day Requires registration - up to 3 loads*
July		
July 1, 2023 (Sat.)	9:00 – Noon	Firewise Presentation and BCVFD Open House
July 15, 2023 (Sat.)	9:00-4:00	Second Slash Haul and Chipper Day Requires registration - up to 3 loads*
August/September		Slash Haul and Chipper Day pending interest

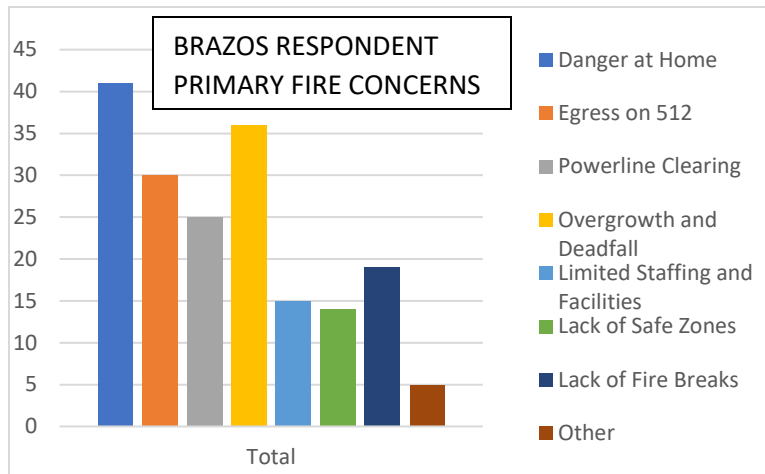
SIGN UP to either **drop off** materials or to **have material hauled** or to volunteer to help by emailing to KurtxFire@gmail.com with date, quantity (see preliminary limits in calendar above), timeframe or hours you can work. Tracking your mitigation hours and this year will help us get grants.

* A load is a small trailer load - 3 piles of limbs 3'x3'x6' max. If you need volunteers to haul your limbs they must be stacked near an easily accessible road in 3 neat piles.

Donate to Brazos Volunteer Fire @ BCVFD HC-75 Box 92 Chama, NM 87520

Did you know that in April 2023 our area had 3 Red Flag Days (High Fire Danger) warnings?

Take a minute Right Now - Sign up for alerts at Nixle.us



Survey Results Are Coming In— Brazos Neighbors are Concerned and Ready to Act!

Preliminary Survey Highlights:

Early data from our Brazos Neighbors is encouraging!

Importance: 98% of Respondents consider the Fire Danger in the Brazos Important. (Of those 76% that fire danger in the Brazos is very important and another 22% rate it as important.)

Major Concerns: Fire Danger around their home is the number one concern of respondents (76%) followed by general overgrowth and deadfall (63%) in the areas and egress on NM512 (55%).

Neighbors will Help: Over 80% will mitigate their parcel.

Helping Each Other About ½ of all respondents are willing to help their neighbors reduce fire risks.

Opening the Pocketbook Over 36% are ready to donate funds to the cause.

Who will do the Work? Of the 80% of parcel owner who will mitigate their parcels, about ½ will do their own and about ½ will hire contractor.

PLEASE USE EMAIL Please join the 66% (2/3) of your neighbors that already want us to stay in touch via email. Email is faster and cheaper than the alternatives.

Requested Resources by You!

The most common items requested to assist in fire mitigation include:

- List of Vendors (50% requested)
- Expert Review of Parcel (43%)
- Financial Assistance (42%)
- Written Guide (21%)
- Firewise Meeting/present (18%)

Final Survey data will be presented at FireWise presentations on June 3rd and and July 1st.

Did you say "Fire is Likely"?

A key element of owning a home or cabin in or adjacent to the forest is understanding the risks. It's important to remember that we live in a fire prone area. Fires are likely to occur and we need to reduce the fuels adjacent to our homes and work to "harden" the structures so they can withstand fire. In a fire adapted area like ours, it is also unlikely that the fire department has the resources to stop large fires nor can we prevent all fires so we need to be ready to evacuate and have a plan for leaving on a moment's notice.

Expert Review

BCVFD will identify a few homes during the FireWise presentations in June and July, to share thoughts on best practices. If you can't wait to get started check out this video.

https://youtu.be/vL_syp1ZScM

If you'd still like an expert to review your property, We'll be scheduling them over the summer as time permits. Contact Stan at st1bcvfd@gmail.com

Vendor List Underway

A list of local thinners, loggers and masticators is coming together. Check with your subdivision leader over the coming weeks.

ONLINE HELP

Great Online Guides for More Information

Home Hazard Assessment Guide

<https://www.santafefreshed.org/homehazardassessment/>

Firewise from National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire>

Fire Adapted New Mexico

<https://facnm.org/wildfire-preparedness>

En español: En Sus Marcas, Listos, Fuera! -

https://santafenm.gov/document_center/document/8222

This is a great written guide for New Mexico!



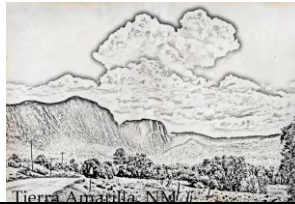
DEFENSIBLE SPACE ANNUAL CHECKLIST

- Trees and shrubs are properly thinned and pruned within the defensible space. Slash from thinning is disposed.
- Roof and gutters are clear of debris.
- Branches overhanging the roof and chimney are removed.
- Chimney screens are in place and in good condition
- Grass and weeds are mowed to a low height.
- An outdoor water supply is available, complete with a hose and nozzle that can reach all parts of the house.
- Fire extinguishers are checked and in working order.
- The driveway is wide enough. Clearance of trees and branches is adequate for fire and emergency equipment. (Check with your local fire

Source: Fire Adapted NM

• Why read this Newsletter?

- 1) Studies show that as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had only followed a few simple fire safe practices. In addition, wildland-fire related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their homes. (Source: Ready, Set, Go - [SantaFeRSGGuide2017.pdf](#))
- 2) Through the survey, your neighbors heard you and are beginning to address the resources you said you needed.
- 3) We must each take responsibility for understanding and reducing the risks associated with wildfire in the Brazos.



EQUIPMENT FOR RENT – The Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District has some equipment for rent - most has a farming bent, but is available for landowners in the broader Chama Valley which includes Los Brazos. Fire mitigation items include a 16 foot flat-bed trailer and two brush hogs. upperchamaswcd@windstream.net Call (575) 588-0093.

Brazos Fire Mitigation News, May/June 2023

Brazos Chipping Events Saturday June 17th, 2023 and Saturday July 15th, 2023.

Register now to dispose of your limbs and slash. From **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday June 17th** and Saturday July 15th, our neighbors at the Fishtail Ranch have generously offered to chip **up to 100 loads of limbs** from residents of the Brazos Volunteer Fire Department fire district. On these dates only - loads of clean slash (limbs only - no trash, no metal, no boards, no nails and no needles) up to 8" in diameter can be delivered to a huge Chipper on Fishtail Road. Signage will be posted just before the event.

We are hoping to have volunteers that day to manage traffic, inspect loads and help unload limbs to be chipped by the Fishtail Ranch owners and staff. All materials must be cut to reasonable lengths (6-8ft) and small enough that can be easily handled by volunteer staff. **This will be a first come-first served opportunity.** Chips will be disposed of by the owner of Fishtail Ranch, but arrangements can be made available if you need some chips for landscaping. This opportunity is for residents of the fire district only - not for commercial operations.

Register now by sending an email to KurtxFire@gmail.com. Please include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Size of the Load (pick-up load or trailer load) | B. Number of loads you expect to haul (limit of 3 loads (a load is considered 3 |
| piles of 3'x3'x6') per property owner) at this writing. | C. Your Subdivision and Property Address |
| D. Email address and mobile phone number | E. If you need help loading limbs that are neatly stacked adjacent to the road, |
| we hope to have volunteer teams in each neighborhood that have trailers and can help neighbors load and haul. | |
| F. Expected time you will deliver your load (E.g. 9-11, 12-1, 1-3, 3-4). | |

Volunteers needed:

If you can help on June 17th or July 15th day, please let us know when (morning or afternoon), what duties you can help with addition we are looking for volunteers for that day. E.g. - Help your neighbors load slash, - Help unload slash at the chipper site, - Staff the entry point and inspect loads to ensure there are no nails, no trash and no loose needles, - Provide lunch or water or snacks. If you have a trailer and tie-down straps and are willing to drive the neighborhoods, we'll assign some crew members to help you load and haul. Email KurtxFire@gmail.com if you can volunteer indicating how and when (morning or afternoon) you can help and which days you are available. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn about the area! Thanks in advance!

Safety is Paramount!

Hauling slash (limbs and downfall) is hard work and can cause death. Over exertion, cuts, scrapes and eye injuries are common. We recommend you wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, boots, gloves and eye protection. Drink lots of water. Put out flagging, signs or a hazard cone if you are working in the street and watch your coworkers when handling limbs. Only Fishtail Ranch staff can get within 15 feet of the chipper. One serious accident can negate the value of the entire neighborhood effort **so please be safe!**