



# EAST MOUNTAIN WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION

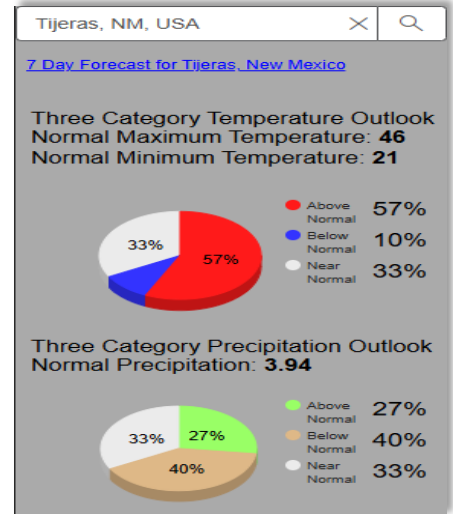
... TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE!

## EMWPA Newsletter--October 2025

With current moisture in the East Mountains (EM) and autumn's cooler temperatures, pine bark beetles are dormant by early November. Seize these opportunities to accomplish fuels mitigation and thinning work on your property before winter.

Here is the [90-day outlook for Tijeras](#) provided by our Vice-President Kerry Jones who worked at the Albuquerque Weather Service office, now with the Forest Service.

**Free drop-off for East Mountain Green Waste Days** starts this Saturday, October 25, and runs through November 9--the opportunity to haul as much slash as you can to the Tijeras transfer station, free during this time period. This event is brought to you by Bernalillo County, Commissioner Eric Olivas, Ciudad SWCD, and NM Association of Counties. [See flyer.](#)



**Join us Saturday, November 1, for County Commissioner Eric Olivas and Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue Wildland Coordinator Josh Skron Dahl** at Los Vecinos Community Center starting at 9:00 for County Commission updates, residents' questions and answers, and Josh's discussion of in-person home assessments and defensible space. [See flyer.](#)

**Neighborhoods with upcoming chipper days:** Paa-Ko--Jim Kelley, November 8; Heatherland Hills--Bob Watson, November 15. Other chipper days planned: Fox Hills--Mark Adolph, TBD. Let us know if you need logistics support, hand tools, or funding for home hazard mitigation or a chipper day. [EMWPA.2023@gmail.com](mailto:EMWPA.2023@gmail.com)

**Team Rubicon national and local volunteers are coming to the East Mountains** to clear rights-of-way along designated evacuation routes in the Forest Park and Sierra Vista neighborhoods from November 8-13, staging at Vista Grande Baptist Church in Tijeras. Last year, local Team Rubicon volunteers were able to complete weekend projects for EM residents who needed physical and financial assistance to remove and haul slash from their property.

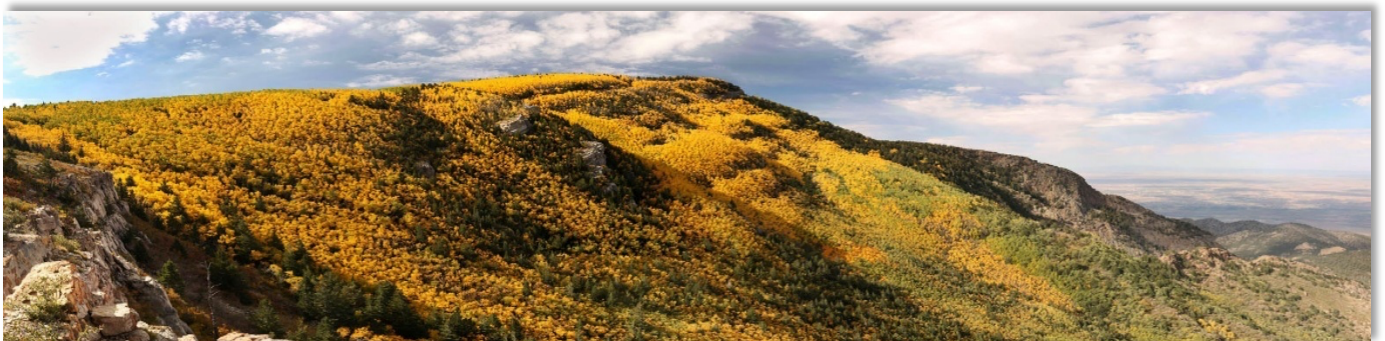


Photo: Don Lemke

## ***Everything You Wanted to Know About Bark Beetles . . .***

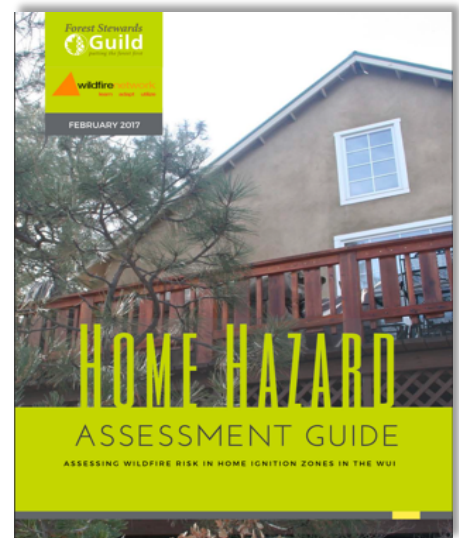
***. . . and a Whole Lot More You Didn't Know You Wanted to Know!***

**This article** was written by April Fletcher on the history of pine bark beetle infestation in the East Mountains. April is an environmental biologist and EM resident. Her undergraduate work focused on the Western pine bark beetle.

**Wildfire Prepared FAQs** "Protect your Home from Wildfires" is a program of the Insurance Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS). The Wildfire Prepared Home™ designation program enables homeowners to take preventative measures for their home and yards to protect against wildfire. Learn what you need to do for your home to qualify.

**New Mexico Fire-Adapted Learning Network** highlights actions that other New Mexico communities are taking to become wildfire ready, including home hazard assessments (HHA). See Fire-Adapted Communities New Mexico ([FACNM](#)), [Home Hazard Assessment Guide](#), and [Home Hazard Assessment Worksheet](#) to learn how to assess your home/property. We have used this publication over the past 2 years. Pick up some at our November 1 meeting if you need copies.

We are hosting a Home Hazard Assessment workshop for the East Mountains, to be held in February or March (TBD), which will include a field trip to an EM property to perform an actual HHA. More details to come.



**PNM will host an East Mountain Wildfire Awareness Town Hall** on Monday, January 12, 2026, starting 5:00 p.m. at Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras. <https://www.pnm.com/wildfire-safety>

**Upcoming meetings/presentations**--all at Los Vecinos Community Center: **January 10**--EMWPA annual board meeting and elections; **January 12**--PNM East Mountains Wildfire Awareness Town Hall; **January 24**: EMWPA program on business and residential insurance concerns.

### **Your EMWPA Board**

**Jerome Macdonald, President**

**Vacant, Treasurer**

**Joe Stehling, Firewise® Liaison**

**Jim Kelley, Paa-Ko Community Liaison**

**Mark Adolph, Fox Hills Community Liaison**

**Kerry Jones, Vice-President**

**John Helmich, Secretary**

**Ricky Reedy, Ciudad SWCD Liaison**

**Vicky Estrada-Bustillo, Community Liaison**

**Bob Watson, Heatherland Hills Community Liaison**