



EAST MOUNTAIN WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION

BE AWARE . . . TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE!

EMWPA Newsletter--December 2025

VISION: Establish a resilient East Mountain community prepared for wildfire.

MISSION: Use wildfire preparedness information and resources while providing learning opportunities and supporting neighbor-to-neighbor interaction.

January 10--Looking Back, Moving Forward: Join us for our first presentation, *Looking Back, Moving Forward*, which includes a seasonal outlook, neighbors' accomplishments, and other fuels accomplishments this year on private and public land. [Flyer](#)

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS Success Stories

David Canyon Firewise USA® Recognition and Chipper Day; Organizer Susan Smith, November 1: The David Canyon area in the Manzanita Mountains south of Tijeras has received [Firewise USA® community recognition](#) after several years of hard work to achieve that status. Also, through a [microgrant from Fire Adapted Community New Mexico \(FACNM\)](#), Susan was able to organize two chipper days, completing the first on November 1.



Paa-Ko Chipper Day, Organizer Jim Kelley, November 8: With grants and guidance from Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Paa-Ko Communities completed a 2-year chipping project to mitigate hazardous fuels and maintain their Firewise USA® community status. This event involved neighbors setting out materials to be chipped, support from volunteers, and a contracted chipper with operator.



Heatherland Hills Chipper Day, Organizer Bob Watson, November 15: With funding and support from a Bernalillo County Neighborhood Grant, lessons learned and chipper contractor shared by Jim Kelley from Paa-Ko, the neighborhood held a 7-hour chipper day for 13 homes, chipping 60 wood piles set along the road by residents.

Team Rubicon national deployment--ROW clearance in Forest Park & Sierra Vista South, Organizers Judy Deinema and Priscilla Matlack, November 8-14:

Team Rubicon volunteers cleared rights-of-way along designated evacuation routes in Forest Park and Sierra Vista neighborhoods, staging at Vista Grande Baptist Church in Tijeras. [More details](#)

- [Bernalillo County Amateur Radio Emergency Service \(ARES\)](#) successfully conducted a simulated emergency test of communications for this event to better prepare for any future East Mountain emergencies.
- **December 27:** Local Team Rubicon volunteers will work on a weekend project in Paa-Ko, clearing brush on the properties of seniors and veterans physically unable to do so.



Ciudad SWCD update: Ciudad's forestry program has completed defensible space and forest thinning with 22 landowners--just over 100 acres treated since October 15--and is on track to complete over 200 additional acres before the active cutting season closes in April. Ciudad has also received Forest Service 5-year grant funding for fuels mitigation on 3,000+ acres of open space lands surrounding the East Mountain WUI area.

Given the increasing workload, Forest Health Manager Ricky Reedy and Forest Health Coordinator Brooks Swift welcomed two new forest health coordinators--Amy Singewald and Natalie Winward. View Ciudad SWCD's *Staff* page on their newly redesigned website, ciudadswcd.org, to learn what experiences and skills they can provide residents in restoring forest health on their property.

New Mexico Fire-Adapted Learning Network highlights actions that other New Mexico communities are taking to become wildfire ready. Take advantage of the Learning Network by reading FACNM's [Wildfire Wednesdays](#) newsletter published several times monthly. It's a useful tool for current information and new ideas on hazard mitigation work being done by homeowners throughout New Mexico to prepare for what's become year-round wildfire season.

Sandia Collaborative: Our Vice-President Kerry Jones gave a presentation to the Sandia Collaborative on November 18 explaining EMWPA's history and mission. The Collaborative is dedicated to landscape and watershed protection of Sandia Mountain. [Presentation](#)

EMWPA Wildfire Preparedness Survey: Here's a [summary](#) of results from survey questions we've asked over the past four years to better understand East Mountain residents' concerns and accomplishments. We'll continue to distribute our updated [Survey](#) at meetings and programs with the idea that we'll have a fillable version on our updated website.

Upcoming events

- **January 12: PNM's East Mountain Wildfire Awareness Town Hall**, 5:00 p.m. at Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras. [PNM Town Hall](#)
- **January 24: Residential Wildfire Insurance Concerns**, 9:00 a.m. at Los Vecinos Community Center with Melissa Robertson, New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance, and Julie Decker of Acuity Insurance.
- **February: Wildfire Monitoring Camera AI System**--Lawrence Crane, NM State Forestry. Increasing emergency responder capabilities through a wildfire monitoring camera system across the East Mountain area. **Evacuation Planning Workshop**--[Evacuation Workbook](#), [Manual de Evacuación](#), evacuation go-bags, and sheriff responsibilities during emergency evacuations; funded by a FACNM microgrant.
- **March: Hazard Assessment Workshop**, which will include a field trip to an East Mountain property to perform an actual home hazard assessment; funded by a FACNM microgrant.

TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE!

EMWPA can help. Let us know if you need logistics support, hand tools, or funding for your home hazard mitigation or for a chipper day in your neighborhood: EMWPA.2023@gmail.com

Take time to read this helpful Fire-Adapted Communities guidance: [How to Organize a Community Chipper Day](#).

Your EMWPA Board

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