



SPARKS of Interest

Newsletter # 2



Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round: *Don't "fall" behind*

Fall is not the time to *FALL* behind on wildfire preparedness. Although much of New Mexico has seen a robust monsoon season, large wildfires in other parts of the country have created competition for firefighting resources at the national level. The national wildland fire preparedness level is currently at 4 out of a possible 5, which means approximately 60% of all incident management teams and firefighting personnel are committed to incidents, and some fires may last until winter snow falls, putting additional stress on exhausted personnel.



The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division and its partners are sharing the "Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round" campaign message for September: Don't "fall" behind on wildfire preparedness!

Monsoon rains have resulted in heavy growth of annual grasses and weeds. Once this vegetation dries out, it can become a fire hazard around your home. Wildfires can spread quickly in dry grass. Mowing and clearing weeds now helps minimize that threat by reducing available fuels and give you a jump start for next spring.

- ✓ Cut grasses and weeds within 100 feet of structures with a mower or weed eater to a height of 4 inches or less.
- ✓ Rake and remove clippings within 30 feet of structures.

For additional information, check the National Fire Protection Association's guidance on [protecting your home from wildfire](#).

New Mexico's local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) may be able to provide help after a wildfire or post-fire impacts. For a listing of SWCDs, visit the [New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts \(NMACD\) website](#). Additional information can also be found on the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://www.nmdhsem.org/>.

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This is part of a news release issued by the State Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept. Forestry Services Division <http://www.emnrd.nm.gov>