

## FireWise Bulletin

### February, 2015

Have you had a Home Ignition Zone assessment done on your home? It's quick, easy, and *free*! It could make a big difference in the event of a wildfire, whether the fire approaches your house or just sends burning embers your way. You should also consider having your driveway assessed to determine its accessibility by emergency vehicles. This includes the width and height clearances as well as the turn-around space at your house. Both of these assessments together take about an hour. Keep in mind that, in a wildfire situation in our community, fire fighters will not approach a dwelling if they cannot safely get their equipment in and out of a driveway. Contact Peggy Beach at 264-0463 or [peggybeach9@aol.com](mailto:peggybeach9@aol.com) to make an appointment or for more information.

Another source of funding has opened up. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and State Farm Insurance are sponsoring sixty-five \$500 project awards to implement neighborhood projects as part of Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 2, 2015. The projects can be individual or group activities that contribute to making our homes and development more fire resistant. Applications must be in by midnight on March 5. For more information and to get the application form, visit the NFPA website at [www.WildfirePrepDay.org](http://www.WildfirePrepDay.org). Suggested project ideas from this website include:

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves within a minimum of 5 feet of a home's foundation. As time permits – continue up to a 30 foot distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Get out your measuring tape and see how close wood piles are located to the home. If closer than 30 feet, they need to be relocated and moved at least 30' away from structures.
- Sweep porches and decks clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds and play structures and dispose of debris.
- Mow grasses to a height of four inches or less.
- Collect downed tree limbs and broken branches and take them to a disposal site.
- Remove items stored under decks and porches and relocate it to a storage shed, garage, or basement.
- Join forces with neighbors and pool your resources to pay for a chipper service to remove slash.
- Visit the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association site at [rmiia.org](http://rmiia.org) and download free home inventory software. Work together as a family to videotape and take photos of your possessions – that ensures you'll have the documentation needed to replace belongings.

