



## Missoula County Fire Adapted Communities

## Elk Meadows Ranchettes Wildfire Preparedness Team (EMRWPT)

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**Greetings** Elk Meadows Ranchettes (EMR) Homeowners and Property Owners!

Here is updated information to the July 2023 EMRWPT letter to fill you in on our 2024 activities. As always, our goal is to prepare our neighborhood to survive most wildfires, but remember it is each individual property owner's responsibility to prepare their own property from the risk of wildfire.

First off, we would like to thank all the property owners that have completed full or partial mitigation on their property to reduce wildfire risk in our Firewise® USA community. We would also like to thank those property owners that have received a Wildfire Risk Site Visit. So far, we've had 20 site visits redone. Please consider getting an updated one done, Thanks.

### Updates

- ✓ For 2024 we are again a nationally recognized Firewise® USA community. One of the immediate benefits of this certification is property owners that have insurance with USAA receive a discount on their insurance. Check with your insurance agent if you haven't received the discount. There may be other insurance companies that give discounts so check with your insurance agent.
- ✓ We had our annual National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 4<sup>th</sup>, successfully cleaning up vegetation around the neighborhood. There were 8 neighbors from EMRHA that participated throughout the day either at the burn pile or picking up garbage along the roads. We had 15 additional loads of vegetation brought to the pile that day, thank you neighbors! We also had Bob Henderson-Ninemile Ranger District/Lolo National Forest, O.T. Fleming, and Olivia Anderson-Missoula Unit/Southwest land Office (SWLO)/MT Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation (MT DNRC), on hand to answer any questions and sign-up property owners for their free Wildfire Risk Site Visit to be done on their residence/property. We had one property owner sign-up for a Wildfire Risk Site Visit. If you brought loads of vegetation to the burn pile prior to the May 4<sup>th</sup> National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day PLEASE let us know how many trips you made and whether it was a pick-up load, trailer load or ATV load. Do not count the hours that you participated in on May 4<sup>th</sup> event, we've got those hours covered, thanks!
- ✓ MT DNRC has completed a shaded fuel break on the common north border with EMR. This will help decrease wildfire intensity should one occur as well as giving emergency responders a better barrier where they can hold/control the fire along the road. We are working with them on getting a shaded fuel break on our southwest border completed.
- ✓ You may have noticed Missoula Electric (MEC) replaced transformers in our subdivision recently. These replacements were one of the several initiatives MEC is doing that fall under their Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP). The WMP is a comprehensive plan that lays out how MEC will build, maintain, and operate their electric distribution system to minimize and mitigate power line caused fire starts. This MEC program is helping reduce wildfire risk in our subdivision, THANKS MEC!

- ✓ We now have a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), forms and other resources listed on the Elk Meadows Ranchettes Homeowners Association website at **Elkmeadows.org**. Check it out. Also don't forget about information posted on the garbage enclosure.
- ✓ We currently do not receive any outside funds but rely on donations from the neighborhood. If you would like to donate money to help pay for Wildfire Evacuation signs and office supplies, please contact EMRWPT. Thank you to those that have already donated, it is greatly appreciated!

**WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A PROPERTY OWNER TO HELP YOUR PROPERTY AND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SURVIVE MOST WILDFIRES:**

- **Firewise® USA Volunteer Hourly Work Sheet:** PLEASE record the hours you worked removing natural vegetation from around your residence & other buildings as well as Firewise landscaping within 100ft of your residence/property on the **attached** Volunteer Hourly Work Sheet, from November 1, 2023, to November 1, 2024, This includes hours you have worked or contracted out. We get credit for all hours worked & costs to keep our Firewise® USA Community certification annually. **Please return this worksheet to us, EMRWPT, either by email or USPS mail by November 1, 2024.** Removing natural vegetation from around your residence and property increases its wildfire survivability. Thanks! You can also download the work sheet from the Elk Meadows Ranchettes Homeowners Association website at **Elkmeadows.org**.

For more information on the following subjects please go to the Elk Meadows Ranchettes website, **Elkmeadows.org**. There you will find FAQ, links, forms and other resources (such as contractors that do mitigation work remove fuel) which you can download.

- Review your property continually for Wildfire Home Ignition Zone Preparedness:** To help you review your property the Missoula County Fire Protection Association created a Top 10 Wildfire Preparedness Tips on YouTube, here's the YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooSo9Xkpmss&t=103s>
- Request a Wildfire Risk Site Visit for your residence/property**
- Install a Reflective Address Sign**
- Sign-up for Smart911**
- Clear areas around fire hydrants to ensure proper access and response**
- Thin your property along the roads**
- Burn your natural fuels on your property**

If you are interested in joining the Elk Meadows Ranchettes Wildfire Preparedness Team, please let us know. If you have any questions, please contact us by mail or email.

Thank you!

Elk Meadows Ranchettes Wildfire Preparedness Team (EMRWPT)

Risa Lange-Navarro, EMRHA Neighborhood Ambassador (NA)

John Ault, Damian Cremins, Rickie Van Berkum, Charlie Janson, EMRHA Community Members

Joe Calnan, Chief & Tristen Jarmon, Hazard Fuels Mitigation Program Mgr.-Frenchtown Rural Fire District

Bob Henderson, Fire Prevention Technician-Ninemile Ranger District/ Lolo National Forest (LNF)

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