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New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit



A statewide forum for New Mexico's local government leaders, fire and emergency responders, businesses, and community members to discuss strategies to prevent and plan for fire in the wildland urban interface

2017 New Mexico Wildland Urban Interface Summit

You are invited to join New Mexico's leading authorities in wildfire preparedness for the 2017 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Summit. The WUI Summit, held annually since 2010, provides an ideal opportunity for federal, state, local partners, and communities members to collaborate on ways to prepare for and prevent fire in the wildland urban interface. The 2017 WUI Summit will be held at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel from March 30 - April 1, 2017.

WUI: Closer Than You Think

Each year, the WUI Summit focuses on a theme designed to meet the changing needs and current innovations in wildfire preparedness. The theme for the 2017 WUI Summit is "WUI: Closer Than You Think." Too often, residents in urban communities forget that the wildland urban interface is right outside their door. This is especially true for the many communities in New Mexico that are located along the Rio Grande Bosque. This important topic will be discussed throughout the three-day event and includes presentations from federal, state and local experts with special insight on cohesive strategies to lower fire risks.



Wildland Urban Interface Topics

Local, State, & Federal Collaborative Projects
Fire Adapted Communities
Firewise Programs
Good Neighbor Authority
Community Wildfire Protection Plans
Fire Resistant Homes & Defensible Space
Home Assessments
Social Media During an Emergency
WUI Land Use Planning
SIM Table Demonstrations
Funding Opportunities
Smoke Management
Green Waste Programs
Prescribed Burns

Educational Opportunities

During a disaster, it is difficult to respond to all of the details that must be addressed such as communication, evacuation, emergency resources, animal welfare, and flooding. Early preparation and planning can make a significant difference in public safety and protection of assets.

Throughout the WUI Summit, general session speakers and panelists will provide lessons learned from wildfire disasters. They will also explain ways to increase collaboration from community and local government efforts, as well as state and federal stakeholders. These real-life examples provide attendees with a greater understanding of the broad effects that a wildfire can have in their communities and ways they can work together to reduce their risk.

The WUI Summit also provides targeted tracks for local government leadership (i.e. Mayors, Councilors, Commissioners, and County Managers), fire and emergency response representatives, and community members. Each of the educational tracks is designed to be relevant for the specific audience and provide them with tools that they can incorporate into their wildfire response strategies.

Community Day

Beginning in 2016, the WUI Summit began to incorporate a free community day on Saturday. This special day features educational sessions for homeowners and families about wildland fire and how to live safely and harmoniously next to fire prone areas. Specific topics include the role of the resident in a Fire Adapted Community, how to start a community Firewise group, and ways to engage youth groups in wildfire prevention.

Field Trip

WUI Summit attendees have the opportunity to get out in the field and experience the role of wildland fire in the community. The annual field trip offers insight on the considerations for building in the wildland urban interface, things to think about when determining prescriptive treatment methods, ways to leverage resources, and highlights of successful community collaborative projects.

BLAZE Community Award

Individuals and organizations that go above and beyond to protect communities from wildland fires are eligible to receive the annual BLAZE Community Award presented during the WUI Summit. These local champions have set the bar of excellence for New Mexico's efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire.

This annual event is a collaborative initiative sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, New Mexico State Forestry, New Mexico State Land Office, New Mexico Association of Counties, New Mexico Municipal League, Forest Stewards Guild, and Southwest Fire Science Consortium.