



## Forest Service News Release

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### **Teton Basin Ranger District to hold Wildland Fire Preparedness event. *Local community to join effort in reducing wildfire risk across the county on May 6, 2023***

April 21, 2023 Teton Valley, Idaho— As the snowpack in the lower elevations begin to recede and with summer right around the corner, it is critical to ensure your home and family are prepared in the event of a wildfire.

May 6<sup>th</sup> is the National Wildfire preparedness day. In support the Teton Basin Community Wildfire Preparedness event is a collaborative effort of local, state and federal firefighting agencies; Teton County Fire and Rescue, Teton County Emergency Management, The Nature Conservancy - Fire Learning Network, the Forest Service and other partners. This event is to encourage residents of Teton Valley in wildfire-prone areas to prepare their homes and families for a wildfire by anticipating changing weather conditions, taking precautions on dry windy days and knowing how to evacuate quickly when asked by emergency responders.

“Everyone in Teton Valley is at risk of wildfire near or adjacent to their homes at various times of the year. Many residents want to take steps to increase their fire safety for their homes and outbuildings but are unsure about how to start the process,” said Jay Pence, Teton Basin District Ranger. “They can find the information they need to accomplish wildfire risk reduction projects around their home and within their community May 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Teton Basin Ranger District office at 495 South Main in Driggs, Idaho.”

Through this educational activity, residents of Teton Valley can learn more about the importance of wildfire preparedness and planning, defensible space, and how to get a home ignition zone evaluation. Additional activities include a visit from Smokey Bear, wildland fire trucks and free hotdogs and hamburgers, while they last.

Here are some actions residents can take to reduce the risk of home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

- Clear brush and grass away from homes
- Clear needles, leaves and other debris from roofs, gutters, porches, and decks.
- Remove all flammable outdoor items from decks and porches (cushions, door mats, and portable propane tanks).
- Firewood piles can ignite from wildfire embers and then ignite your home. Keep piles at least 30 feet away from buildings.

For more information on how to reduce the wildfire threat, visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org), [www.wildlandfirersg.org](http://www.wildlandfirersg.org) or contact Ryan Baum at Teton Basin Ranger District, [ryan.baum@usda.gov](mailto:ryan.baum@usda.gov), 208-354-2312.

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