

Structure Protection Plan

Quemado Lake Estates, Catron County New Mexico

June 3rd, 2017



Prepared for: Quemado Ranger District, Gila National Forest
Quemado Lake Estates Fire District/Department
New Mexico State Forestry
Catron County NM, Office of Emergency Services

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STPS (Structure Protection Specialist), RXB2, DIVS



<https://goo.gl/DsLZXW>

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Introduction

This is a revision of the 2010 Structure Protection and Evacuation Plan for Quemado Lake Estates prepared by New Mexico State Forestry dated August 9, 2010.

In the seven years since the original document was prepared there have been several changes that have occurred requiring a revised plan.

The 2010 plan has now been divided into two separate plans, a structure protection plan based on the revised assessments conducted as part of the 2017 Baca Fire to the east of Quemado Lake Estates and a separate evacuation/ re-occupation plan.

Also included in this 2017 plan is a separate list of recommendations for the Quemado Ranger District, New Mexico State Forestry, and Quemado Lake VFD.

The intent of this document is for it to be a “living document” to assist in continued development, revision of this plan, continued communications and relationship building between agencies, between the community and fire and emergency management agencies such as Catron County and law enforcement.

Overview

The intent of this plan is to provide flexible guidelines rather than a rigid predetermined list or cookbook format in dealing with the protection of private property and residential structures as many older structure protection plans attempt to do. Individual circumstances such as local or widespread drought, the ever changing firefighting resource availability issue and individual experience of fire managers from multiple agencies require this approach. A basic concept to understand and to be sensitive to includes fuel, weather, and topographic conditions, the three variables that drive all wildland fires once they have started, regardless of cause, human or natural.

Quemado Lake Estates is located in north central Catron County, north of State Road 103 and approximately 2 miles east of State Hwy 32 and is located within the Largo Creek drainage. The largest community is the town of Quemado which is located approximately 20 miles north. Quemado Lake Estates is adjacent to the Apache National Forest which is administered by the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest.

Subdivision Layout

The Quemado Lake Estates subdivision consists of around 336 residential lots and currently has approximately 90 constructed residences, some of which are year round residents and others are seasonal residents. Lot size ranges from under an acre to just over 5 acres, although some residents have purchased multiple adjoining lots to create a larger total lot size. There is 1 commercial property at the entrance to the subdivision.

This is a gated community using a large electric key pad controlled main front gate and two metal swing gates located in the NW and NE corners of the subdivision which are secured with multiple padlocks including USFS Yale locks and combo locks.

An area of early development located within the larger Quemado Lake Estates area is identified as Pueblo Largo East and West.

Most residences have at least one out building and or detached garage structure.

Topography is generally flat or gently sloped and bisected by three main drainages, the south edge of the subdivision is on a rim with a south to southwest aspect slope below homes and lots.

The road system is generally an all-weather surface with some dead end and cul-de-sac roads being a dirt/clay mix. Road width is generally sufficient for two vehicles to pass however most driveways will not support an Engine turning around at the residence, thus requiring fire apparatus to back into position to defend a structure.

Metal street signs are high quality and appear to be of reflective material with street names on contrasting background making street identification easy.

Specific residence identification is difficult as only some lots have street addressing posted and of those that do the numbers are of minimal size.

Additionally there are different numbering systems in use, some lots are identified by lot number, some by a fire department developed numbering system, and others by both means making it difficult to locate a specific address or property. Both numbering systems use numbers and in the case of lot identification an associated letter and are on a contrasting background. Both systems use blue and white colors.

Utilities consist of above ground power with wood power poles and some buried electric. Currently there is no natural gas in use, only propane.

Multiple fire hydrants exist within the subdivision.

The fire station also functions as a helispot directly in front of the station.

Currently one signed secondary escape route exists at the NW corner of the subdivision and is known as the Paradise Canyon route. This road is maintained by the Quemado Lake Estates HOA and contains a total of three locked gates and a single Texas gate and exits onto State Hwy 32 approximately 1 ½ to 2 miles north of the junction of roads 103 and Hwy 32.



Emergency exit out of Quemado Lake Estates (Paradise Canyon).

Quemado Lake Estates Volunteer Fire Department

Structure fire protection is provided by a relatively small all volunteer fire department with 16 volunteers including administration. Fire apparatus vary in age and consist of Engines, Water Tender, and Command Vehicles.

Mutual aid is limited as this is a very rural area of the state and can take an extended time for neighboring fire departments to arrive.

There is currently an active Firewise.org program in use which began in 2011. This program has resulted in an improved wildfire awareness among residents and with the thinning of multiple lots and creation of defensible or survivable space around structures. This community has been a recognized Firewise Community for 7 years and has a Firewise program lead who lives within the subdivision.

Currently the Ready-Set-Go program is not being used as a public education tool.



VFD station with helispot in driveway and 40,000 gallon water supply.

Water Distribution System

Water is supplied via two wells located within the Largo Creek drainage and pumped into the subdivision and held in two above ground storage tanks of 15,000 and 30,000 capacity. Additionally there are two above ground storage tanks located at the fire station consisting of a total of 40,000 gallons.

The pumping system is electric radio controlled with a propane backup should power be interrupted or shut off. These pumps support both domestic water supply as well as the fire hydrant system in the subdivision.

Multiple fire hydrants exist and vary from a single 2 1/2" connection dry barrel hydrant capable of supplying around 150 to 200 gallons per minute (gpm) to larger double 2 1/2" single 4 1/2" connection dry barrel hydrants.

All fire hydrants are red in color making them difficult to see in low visibility conditions such as dawn/dusk, at night and in smoky conditions. Many hydrants are partially obscured by vegetation.

The majority of lots have a single garden hose spigot for use in the yard.

Typical water pressure within the subdivision is around 75 to 90 psi. Many residences have had to install pressure reducers to minimize damage to plumbing appliances.

A secondary water supply exists east of the subdivision along Forest Road 13 at Quemado Lake. Access for water drafting is from boat ramps where a portable pump could be placed.



15,000 and 30,000 gallon water tanks and a single 2 1/2" outlet hydrant.

Fuels

Fuel type consists of a grass, oak, pinon, juniper mix on the mesa with scattered ponderosa pine and a similar fuel condition within the main drainages that divide the subdivision. Fuels outside the subdivision are similar.

The Quemado Ranger District completed a fuel break in 2008 along the north, northeast corner, and east side of the subdivision to Forest Road 13. There currently is no constructed line within this fuel break.

A significant hazardous fuels reduction project was started within the subdivision thru NM State Forestry in 2011/2012. This project focused on treating three main drainages that bisect the subdivision as well as the south aspect slopes below the subdivision between Hwy 103 and residential lots above. These combined fuels treatments have significantly reduced the likelihood of crown fire by eliminating interlocking crowns and increasing crown spacing among the remaining vegetation.

The VFD houses a chipper for use by residents to dispose of residential slash. The Quemado Ranger District also provides a slash disposal site to the east of Quemado Lake Estates.



Isolated heavy fuels and above ground wood power poles with structures visible in the background.

Structure Protection Concepts (Risk Management & Hazard Mitigation)

Fire operations within the wildland urban interface (WUI) is a recognized high hazard area of firefighting and fire management.

Sound risk management can only do so much to mitigate the known hazards.

Topics such as multiple agencies with differing philosophies, budgets, staffing, and missions, a dynamic fire environment, the possibility of extreme fire behavior (rapid rates of spread, spotting including long range spotting, high fireline intensities, crown fire (dependent or independent), an underestimation of potential fire behavior, structures, known hazards including the potential for explosions or BLEVE's (boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion), downed live/energized powerlines, common household toxic substances (rodenticide, pesticide, insecticide), common household cleaning items (bleach, rust removers, muriatic acid), and human factors (fatigue, anxiety, confusion, and fear) inexperienced leadership (most structural fire departments working in WUI while experiencing structure loss, Type 2 crews, recently promoted supervisors (ENGB, CRWB)) or some combination of the above have too often resulted in multiple loss of life incidents for wildland firefighters (Dude, South Canyon, Esperanza, Yarnell, Twisp River).

Identification of WUI hazards is an important part of the above mentioned risk management process.

Below are some of the identified WUI hazards for Quemado Lake Estates Subdivision.

Hazard	Mitigation
VFD members minimally trained in wildland firefighting.	Provide basic wildland fire training. Work Capacity Testing may not be necessary.
Structures that rate out as "un-defendable" due to heavy fuel loading surrounding or next to the structure	Continue to educate the public using Firewise.org and continue hazard fuel reduction and thinning. The Firewise program is reducing this concern.
Haz-Mat (propane, gasoline, household items)	Awareness
Burning structures	Avoid smoke from burning structures, burning vehicles, or any non-vegetation material.
Powerlines. Potential for downed lines to block interior road system or electrocution during active fire situation.	Awareness
Potential for extreme fire behavior.	Fuel reduction
Absence of multiple safety zones within subdivision (the VFD has been identified as a safe area within the subdivision).	Consider creating or identifying existing "open space" areas within the subdivision for homeowners to assemble as needed.
Long, narrow driveways with and without adequate turnarounds for fire apparatus.	Zoning ordinances, architecture guidelines, and HOA rules for new construction.
Potential for limited water supply. Some WUI fire codes definition of "adequate water supply" is 1000 gpm for 30 minutes per house, for houses less than 3600 sq. ft.	Continue to install and maintain hydrants.
One way in, same way out subdivision.	Awareness
Limited Escape Routes. Quemado Lake Estates was approved with only one primary entrance/exit. While a second route out of the subdivision was created in 2011, this route	Consider replacing back gate with electric gate with key pad similar to front gate to eliminate the lock issue.

<p>requires opening 4 gates, three of which are locked, and this route requires travel down a steep slope and is 2 miles in length.</p> <p>Route 103 between Quemado Lake Estates and Hwy 32 is through timber and could be impacted by heavy smoke and or fire thus limiting options for residents to reach safety.</p>	<p>Maintain the Paradise Canyon Escape Route, scout each year after snow pack has melted to ensure blow down is not blocking road and culverts are not blocked.</p>
<p>Inadequate resources or staffing during an active WUI incident.</p> <p>Inadequate or un-experienced supervision.</p>	<p>Minimum resource needs are difficult to determine without seeing fire behavior and knowing current fire weather conditions.</p> <p>Generally a structure protection group leader (DIVS level), at least 2 mid-level managers (TFLD or STEN) and an adequate number of Type 1, 2, 3 Engines supported by Water Tenders would be needed. Having a small dozer available along with a Type 1 crew for conducting firing operations around the subdivision would be necessary.</p>
<p>Snags</p>	<p>While beneficial for wildlife, snags should be dropped along travel corridors such as roads and trails within the subdivision.</p> <p>Conduct awareness training of the danger of snags.</p>

Resource Needs

Older format structure protection planning had listed specific resource needs including personnel, apparatus, supplies and specific tactics to use. This format does not take into account that we expect Engine Captains, Crew Bosses, and Incident Commanders to use their experience to develop plans based on a variety of factors and not simply follow someone else's plan which may not fit current fire and weather conditions.

As a general rule Engines supported by Water Tenders are a very effective means of dealing with fire in the wildland urban interface (WUI).

Hand crews, especially Type1 crews, are also effective in the WUI especially if combined with Engines.

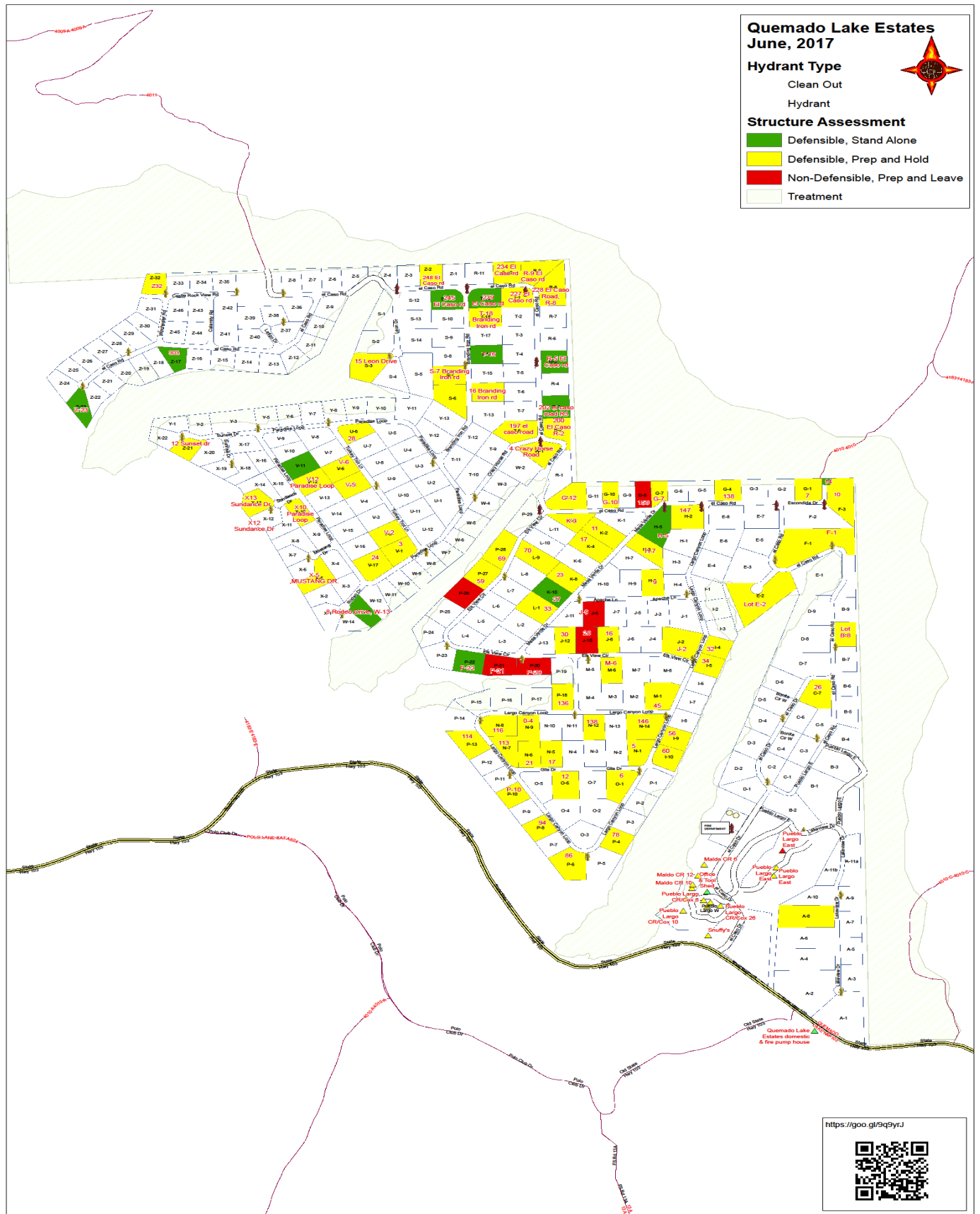
Aircraft are typically somewhat limited but if weather conditions are favorable air tankers and helicopters can support firefighters on the ground.

Items such as shelter wrap, sprinkler systems, and gels are of less use and are often misunderstood by the public and by some firefighters.

With these concepts in mind initial attack first line supervisors have a variety of resources to select from to address specific structure protection problems that present.

Strong leadership along with experienced fire management personnel who have the ability to order resources commensurate with the fire situation will be a better plan than providing a cookbook approach to listing resource needs in the WUI.

Appendix A: Maps



Appendix B: Do Forms Structure Assessments.

Available on SWCC FTP site, Baca Fire May/June 2017.

(specific assessments of each residence within Quemado Lake Estates subdivision).

Wildfire Preparedness



Find out what the experts know about the best way to make your home and neighborhood safer from wildfire. From the basics of defensible space and sound landscaping techniques to research on how homes ignite (and what you can do about it), there are tips, tools and teachings you can use!

Share your knowledge with others using our Firewise Toolkit tip sheets or our videos and Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Subscribe to our free monthly newsletter

Fire Break, our free, monthly newsletter will keep you up to date on the latest news and information on mitigating your wildfire risk. Subscribe today or read archived issues.

Online courses and education

Wildland fires can occur in residential development areas without disastrous loss of life, property and resources. But, recognizing the problem and knowing how to protect your family, home, property and your neighborhood before a fire happens, are the first steps to successfully becoming truly “firewise.”

The Firewise Communities Program offers both workshops and training and Web-based, interactive training geared toward homeowners, forestry professionals, firefighters and others on a variety of wildfire safety topics. Whether you are a homeowner looking for additional information for your Firewise program, or a fire safety professional eager to help neighborhoods become a part of the Firewise Communities/USA program, these courses will give you the tools you need to get you started.

Firewise Communities USA/Recognition Program

Scientific research has shown the effectiveness and benefits of implementing wildfire mitigation concepts across individual property boundaries and throughout communities.

Since 2002, The **Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program** has empowered neighbors to work together in reducing their wildfire risk. Join the growing network of more than 1400 recognized Firewise communities from across the nation taking action and ownership in preparing and protecting their homes against the threat of wildfire.

Using a five-step process, communities develop an action plan that guides their residential risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging their neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live.

Neighborhoods throughout the United States are embracing the benefits of becoming a recognized Firewise Community – and you can too!

The following steps will get your community started and on their way to receiving their official Firewise Communities USA recognition status, and the honor of proudly displaying their own high-profile signage along with many other benefits.

Program Benefits

Every community benefits in different ways from being recognized as a Firewise Communities/USA site. Reports of these benefits have reached NFPA's Firewise Program through the years and are summarized below in our Top Seven Benefits to Becoming Firewise:

1. Framework for Action

Meeting the criteria for becoming a Firewise Communities/USA site helps communities get organized and find direction for their wildfire safety efforts. Like the first rungs on a ladder, the criteria help get a community started toward annual, systematic action to reduce their risks from brush, grass and forest fires.

2. Learning About Wildfire

As people go through the Firewise process, they learn about wildfire risks in the community and the simple things they can do to reduce them. They connect with experts – local fire fighters, state forestry professionals, and national researchers – to continue to learn about fire and find resources to accomplish Firewise actions.

3. Peace of Mind

People who work with experts to learn about wildfire and take action start to see results quickly. Knowing that they are using the best information available and actually taking steps to reduce the risk of damage from fire helps people start to feel safer in their environment and in their homes. Having a plan for what to do in the event of a fire helps people become calmer and more prepared to act quickly.

4. Community-Building

As neighbors get together to do Firewise work, often meeting one another for the first time, they build a stronger bond with each other. Firewise activity can help rally people to a common cause for the good of the neighborhood. This strengthening of community ties can benefit residents in many ways, and is especially helpful during an emergency.

5. Citizen Pride

While Firewise work can be fun, it isn't always easy. Neighbors work very hard in Firewise communities to remove brush and debris, clean up common areas, and dispose of green waste. They are rightly proud when they achieve national recognition for their efforts.

6. Publicity

The national Firewise program provides communities with metal signs, a plaque and other materials that can be presented publicly to honor their status as a Firewise Communities/USA recognition site. These recognition ceremonies are great ways to shine the spotlight on community efforts. News media find this to be a great story to cover, and the national program features community stories regularly on the website and in its publications. All this publicity results not only in satisfaction for the residents involved, but also provides one more way to reach large numbers of people with information about wildfire safety.

7. Access to Funding and Assistance

Preference is sometimes given to Firewise Communities/USA sites over other candidates when allocations of grant money are made for wildfire safety or fuel mitigation. The reason is that there are invariably more requests than available funds when grants are available through state or federal agencies. If requests are equally worthy, some officials tend to have more confidence in communities that have demonstrated the foresight of becoming a recognized Firewise Communities/USA site.

Appendix D: Ready-Set-Go Program



- [Learn About Ready, Set, Go!](#)
- [What Is the Wildland Urban Interface?](#)
- [Ready, Set, Go! Partners](#)
- [Fire Adapted Communities](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Learn About Ready, Set, Go!



The Ready, Set, Go! Program seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve. Engaging in this dialogue is particularly important for the fire service, because national studies have shown that firefighters are uniquely respected in their communities and can project a trusted voice to the public preparedness appeal. They can also explain what fire resources are available during an event and the role that individuals can play in preparedness and early evacuation – if called for by their local officials – to increase the safety of residents and responding firefighters to a wildland fire.

The RSG! Program works in complimentary and collaborative fashion with Firewise and other existing wildland fire public education efforts. It amplifies their preparedness messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal we all share of fire-adapted communities. When firefighters encourage residents to take personal responsibility for preparing their property and family for WUI/wildland fire, residents become an active part of the solution to the problem of increasing fire losses.

The Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program is managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Launched nationally in March 2011 at the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI 2011) Conference, the program helps fire departments to teach individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas – and the wildland-urban interface – how to best prepare themselves and their properties against fire threats.

Evacuation & Re-Occupation Plan

Quemado Lake Estates, Catron County New Mexico

June 3rd, 2017

**Prepared for: Quemado Ranger District, Gila National Forest
Quemado Lake Estates Fire District/Department
New Mexico State Forestry**

**Prepared by: Eliot Pickett, Safford Ranger District, Coronado National Forest
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General Concepts of Public Evacuations

Emergency evacuations vs. early notification events.

The earlier the notification the better, not always possible. Sometimes the best it gets is a knock on the door saying “your house is on fire”.

Evacuating public takes more time than you think, evacuating in the middle of the night really takes a long time (public under the influence of alcohol, fatigue, sleep medications, confusion).

Terminology such as “Pre-Evacuation” vs “Evacuation” can be confusing for the public.

Explain terminology to the public, fire personnel, and law enforcement often.

The need for pre-planning where to direct evacuees (evacuation centers).

It helps to have pre designated locations to direct public to vs “get out” messages.

Have multiple routes planned out to account for different fire scenarios, from all residential areas.

Public evacuation plans are great but how often do they get practiced? Not often.

So should it be a surprise to us when things don’t go as planned?

Evacuation should be a law enforcement action not a firefighter action, except in limited rapidly evolving fire events that occur close to residential areas.

Resources Available for Evacuation Planning.

https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/evac_primer/10_evac_planning.htm

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/evac.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/dep/evacmatrix/index.html>

www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov ›

www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public.../evacuationguidepdf.pdf

<https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family>

Law Enforcement Coordination

These should be the folks doing evacuations. They have guns.

US Forest Service Law Enforcement

BLM Law Enforcement

Catron County Sheriff

NM State Police

NM Game & Fish

Assisting Agencies

American Red Cross

Animal Support Services (see below)

Public may be more cooperative in leaving if they know their pets can be cared for at a shelter.

Propane and Natural Gas Agencies

Haz-Mat Coordination

Plan on having a Haz-Mat incident after homes burn. You find some interesting things after the fire is caught and before the public comes back in (meth labs, evidence of other illegal activity).

Utility Companies

Setting new power poles, transformers, powerlines.

Highway/Streets Department

Burned or missing Signage

Pets/Animals

NM Livestock Board

NM Animal Control

NM Veterinary Medical Association

NM Environmental Dept.

Catron County Animal Control

Fur & Feather Animal Assistance Inc.

Socorro Animal Control & Shelter

Animal Protection Association of Socorro

Security during Public Evacuations

Looting and theft (burglary) issues will occur. Not everyone evacuates. Some look at evacuations as an opportunity to procure someone else's items.

Re-Occupation of Evacuated Areas.

Looting and theft (burglary) issues will occur. Not everyone re-occupies at the same time. Some look at evacuations as an opportunity to procure someone else's items.

Public Safety

Smoke levels, is it healthy to re-occupy? Meth labs, smoldering plastic.

Hazard Trees.

Propane or natural gas leaks.

Loss of signage i.e. stop signs and warning signs.

Strong fire fighting force (local FD) presence.

Restoration of electric, water and phone service.

Impacts to Local VFD

Multiple 9-1-1 calls for political smokes (not a threat to anything but seems really important to the person who was just evacuated, especially if it was a panic type of evacuation).

May have a reduced level of services due to reduced staffing, fatigue, need for time off etc.

Contact List

Name	Title/Position	Agency	Phone	e-mail
	Catron County Dispatch	Catron County	575-533-6222	
		Catron County EMS	575-533-6222	
		Catron County Fire Marshal	575-772-2680	
		Catron County		
	County Manager	Catron County	575-533-6423	
	Sheriff	Catron County	575-533-6222	
	Silver City Inter Agency Dispatch	Gila National Forest	575-538-5371 800-538-1644	
Nate Nosie	Fire Management Officer, Quemado RD	Gila National Forest		
Heath Barker Detailed	Asst. Fire Management Officer, Quemado RD	Gila National Forest		
	Fire Prevention Quemado RD	Gila National Forest		
Emily Irwin	District Ranger, Quemado RD	Gila National Forest		
Jim Henderson	Chief	Quemado Lake Estates VFD	575-773-4710 sta. 575-773-4166 sta. 520-266-1701 cell	henderson.gle@ gillnet.com
Mike McDoniel	Asst. Chief	Quemado Lake Estates VFD	575-773-4237 sta. 575-773-4166 sta. 520-405-2227 cell	mikemcdoniel@gilnet.com
Mike Busse	Firefighter Training	Quemado Lake Estates VFD	575-773-4561 sta.	Trout-Bum@msm.com
Walt & Marylyn Harrison	Firewise Coordinator	Quemado Lake Estates VFD	520-240-4004 cell	
Jeff Saksek	Water Operator (wells & pumps)	Quemado Lake Estates	520-404-6182 cell	
6-8-5-3	Gate Access Code NM 103	Quemado Lake Estates		
	Chief	Quemado VFD	575-773-4744	

Baca Fire Structure Protection Assessment Recommendations

NM-GNF-000113

P-3KOLX (0306)



While the main purpose I was ordered was for the Quemado Lake Estates subdivision I also view FS structures as a part of the structure assessment /protect values at risk objective often listed in our IAP's.

With that said here are some recommendations for the District, for NM State Forestry, as well as the Quemado Lake Estates VFD.

I understand this might be viewed as criticism however it is offered as an honest review with possibilities to improve our level of service to the public and within our respective agencies and organizations.

Recommendations for USFS Quemado Ranger District, Gila NF.

Fuels:

The fuel break on the north and east sides of Quemado Lake Estates created in 2008 is in need of maintenance. Heavy dead down, continued needle cast as well as growth of forbs and grasses over several years of has reduced the effectiveness of the project.

A suggestion would be to build line (handline or dozer line) within the fuel break and turn this area into a burn block.

Prevention:

It was noted during scouting around the subdivision that dispersed recreation use has been occurring along the eastern edge of the subdivision including ATV/UTV use, and presumably hunting. Campfire rings with recent use are located within and adjacent to the fuel break.

There appears to be minimal fire prevention signage in this area, as the majority of the signage is located at day use areas (boat ramps) and in the Pinon, El Caso and Juniper campgrounds.

Recommendation to add some standard fire prevention signage along the road system accessing NFS lands near the Quemado Lake Estates private.

Recreation:

While there is little research on the impacts of wildfires on recreation facilities, anecdotal evidence and personal experience would suggest a relatively low level of concern about the loss of recreation facilities

from wildfire, however they do occur on a regular basis nationally and when it does occur it can have an impact on our already limited budgets.

Items potentially damaged by fire at recreation facilities noted on the Baca Fire include signage, guardrail posts and the older style restrooms located at campgrounds and day use areas.

Recommendations to replace these older restroom facilities built of wood with the newer FS specification concrete (fireproof) restrooms as budgets allow.

Some campgrounds have wood sided storage/maintenance buildings which can be prepared to withstand a wildfire by keeping roofs free of needle cast and branch wood and raking needles away from the base of the structure for a few feet.

Leadership:

Attendance of either the FMO, AFMO, District Ranger, or some combination of at the Quemado Lake Estates July 2nd 2017 board meeting at the VFD station where the topic of Firewise will be on the agenda.

Recommendations for NM State Forestry:

Continued support of the national Firewise.org program. This program has the ability to empower and enable the public to take responsibility for protecting their own land thus creating a reduced dependence on government. Plus the individual homeowner is the land management agency for their property and they need to understand it's their responsibility to have a fire safe piece of property and not the fire departments responsibility to simply show up and extinguish wildfires.

Venues such as the annual Firewise Summit's, conducting Home Ignition Course training around the state, and conducting train the trainer courses related to Firewise Assessor and Firewise Advisor positions within the Firewise program are examples of significant public education work.

Consider promoting the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) sponsored Ready-Set-Go program as a public service to the public. This program complements the Firewise program.

Recommendations for the Quemado Lake Estates VFD:

Evacuation Related Item: Consider placing a few signs within the subdivision indicating preferred direction of travel to the main exits. While permanent residents may be familiar with the main exit and the Paradise emergency exit not all residents are full time and they may not be aware of the secondary exit as would be the case for visiting family or friends who may be in the subdivision for the first time.

Hydrants: Several fire hydrants are obscured, partially or completely by juniper vegetation growing adjacent to the hydrants.



Both photos are of the same intersection.

Also hydrants can be hard to identify during an emergency response at night, during low light periods such as dawn and dusk and during heavy smoke conditions when identifying the hydrant might

be critical to fire suppression activities. Placing a blue reflector on or near hydrants could make hydrant location easier to identify by firefighters.

Continue to advocate for your homeowners safety thru active coordination and participation with Catron County emergency services programs and services such as EMS, law enforcement, and county sponsored or funded hazardous fuels reduction projects.

Consider adoption of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) sponsored Ready-Set-Go program as a public service to your homeowners. This program complements the Firewise program.

Respectively submitted,

Eliot Pickett

Fire Prevention, Safford Ranger District

Coronado National Forest

Southwest Area Incident Management Team 4 (STPS, RxB2, DIVS)