

2025 NMC Legislative Conference



NM F.A.I.R. Plan

New Mexico Property Insurance Program

- **Coverage increase**
 - 1 Million on Dwelling
 - 2 Million on Commercial
- **Mitigation requirements**
 - Wildfire Prepared Home Base Designation
- **Actuarially sound premiums**
- **50 Million dollars in enhancements**



- **HOA restriction on mitigation**
 - Prohibiting or restricting ignition resistant construction
- **Mitigation requirement**
 - Allowing IBHS standards in HOA covenants
- **Community Effort**

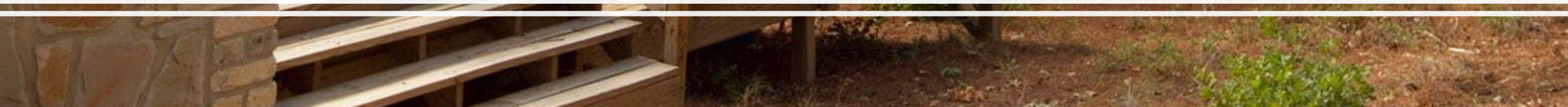


Collaboration amongst entities will be the key to successfully mitigate NM Fire Danger.

Thank you for your support in driving NM to a better future



Wildfire Prepared Act



Wildfire Prepared Act (SB)

Sponsored by Senator Liz Stefanics & Representative Harlan Vincent

What does the Wildfire Prepared Act do?

- Enhances the Fire Planning Task Force to include insurance experts, wildfire scientists and emergency managers
- Instructs the Task Force to create and maintain standards for home hardening consistent with national standards, such as IBHS Wildfire Prepared Homes
- The Act makes a \$20 million appropriation for a grant program and authorizes four full-time employees in the Forestry Division at EMNRD



Image courtesy NFPA

Creates the Wildfire Prepared Program with Grants & Opportunities

Two-Tier Grant Structure

- Political Subdivision Grants Supporting:
 - Structural modifications
 - Hazardous fuel reduction
 - Buffer zone creation
 - Assessment and certification services
- Property Owner Assistance Through Qualified Entities:
 - Direct support for eligible owners
 - Structure and property modifications
 - Landscape management
 - Professional assessments

Home Improvement Options

- Roof upgrades
- Deck reinforcement
- Property/landscape management
- Siding and wall improvements
- Creation of defensible space

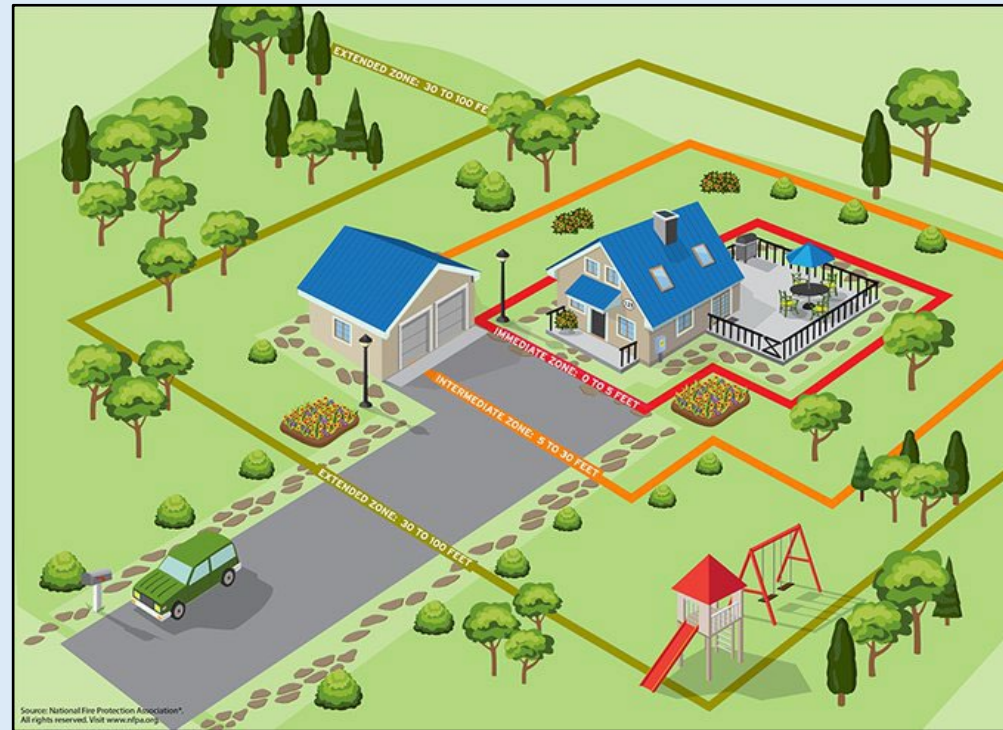


Image courtesy
NFPA

How will the Wildfire Prepared Program work?

- 1) State Fire Marshal provides training in home hardening assessments and IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home contractors are authorized to work in New Mexico
- 2) Property owner requests an assessment of property and structures and is given a list of changes needed to be wildfire prepared
- 3) Property owner makes the changes, typically costing \$3,000 - \$7,000 if the structure already has a Class A roof
- 4) Property owner requests a re-assessment after the changes are made
- 5) If the structure meets the standards for wildfire prepared they will be issued a certificate
- 6) The certificate is provided to the insurance carrier
- 7) The insurance carrier issues a policy



A home that survived the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon fire with defensible space. Photo by: George Ducker

The Costs of Doing Nothing

- Increased home losses to wildfire
- Insurance policy cancellations and non-renewals
- Mortgage availability constraints
- Statewide property value decline
- Population displacement to other states
- Rural county tax base erosion
- Reduced real estate market activity



Forest and Watershed Restoration Act Amendment (HB)

Sponsored by Representative Harlan Vincent

- Authorizes the creation and maintenance of buffers around communities with the recurring funding from the Forest Land Protection Revolving Fund
- Defines buffer as an area treated to reduce wildfire fuel to limit wildfire spread and provide a safe zone for firefighters
- Focuses the creation of buffers in high-risk areas
- Appropriates \$3 million one-time funding



Landscape view post-South Fork Fire; thinned areas helped maintain community defensible space. Photo by: Laura Doth