



Angel Fire Wildfire Activities 2015 - 2026

Mike Overby, Former Chair - Fire Adapted Community Committee
New Mexico Urban Wildfire Summit
10/16/2026

Overview

- Who I am
- Angel Fire Facts
- Wildfire Related Activities – 2015 – 2026
- Challenges/Issues
- Q & A

Who Am I?

- Resident of Angel Fire since 2015 – not Village employee
- Retired corporate executive/small business owner
- Hot Shot/Smokejumper, Region 1 & Alaska (college years)
- Board of Directors – National Smokejumper Association
- Member and Chair - Angel Fire Wildfire Committees
- President of Angel Fire Rotary Club

Angel Fire Facts



- Colfax County – NE New Mexico
- 29 square miles (65% forest cover)
- Elevation – 8,400 ft (Village); 10,700 (Ski Resort Summit)
- Borders Carson National Forest and timbered private land
- Significant seasonal/tourist population

History of Wildfire Related Activities 2015 - 2026

- **2015 – 1st Village Wildfire Prevention Committee**
 - Developed and passed first Defensible Space Ordinance (DSO)
- **2015 to 2022 – Slash Disposal Challenges**
 - Deal with Slash from Home building development and thinning – Chip with Mobark Chipper / Haul to Wagon Mound Landfill
 - Total accumulation/backlog in 2022 – 45,000 Cu Yds

History of Wildfire Related Activities 2015 - 2026

- **2022 – CWPP – Community Wildfire Prevention Plan**
- **2022 – Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire – 12 miles south**
“Let’s Get Serious”
- **2022 – Village Hired Wildland Fire Crew (6 FTE)**
 - Started burning Slash (large piles and air curtain burner)

History of Wildfire Related Activities 2022 - 2026

Permanent Wildfire Crew:

- Issue slash permits to residents for pick up
- Season – April 1st – November 1st
- Pickup slash from residents lots and take to Transfer Station
- Burn slash
- Chip at Transfer Station with Morbark
- Chip slash on site with Vermeer 1800
- Dispatch crews to wildfires

History of Wildfire Related Activities

2015 - 2026

Village Transfer Station Slash Backlog / 2022 – Before – 45K cu Yds



History of Wildfire Related Activities 2015 - 2026

Village Transfer Station – 2023 – 2026 – Burning Slash Piles



Drip torches are used to ignite the piles with a fuel mixture of 3 parts diesel and 1 part gasoline.



Slash Pile Burns-RX Prescribed Fire Pile Burns are conducted only with favorable weather forecasts. Weather observations at each site are taken and submitted to the NOAA for exact "Spot Weather" for each burn. Weather readings are observed and relayed to all burn personnel on the Burn every hour on the hour for our safety.

History of Wildfire Related Activities 2015 - 2026

Village Transfer Station in 2026 – After processing – burn/chip



History of Wildfire Related Activities

2015 - 2026

2025 - Wildland Fire Crew Activities

- Slash permits issued.....450
- Slash delivered to Transfer Station.....9.1 K cu yds
- Slash picked up from residents.....1.8 K cu yds
- Slash burned at Transfer Station.....14.1 K cu yds
- Slash chipped.....400 “ “

History of Wildfire Related Activities 2015 - 2026

- **2023 to 2025 – Formed “Fire Adapted Community Committee”**
 - In-depth analysis – get rid of slash/other uses of slash
 - Visited Ruidoso, NM – Benchmarked DSO & Disposal of Slash
 - Grant from Co-Co to hire Wildland Fire Ambassador
 - Developed/Passed Angel Fire DSO – Phase 1
 - Ambassador Started voluntary audits of properties against DSO

History of Wildfire Related Activities 2015 - 2026

- **2024 to 2026**
 - 145 Defensible Space Ordinance Inspections Conducted
 - 5 inspections failed

History of Wildfire Related Activities

2015 - 2026

- **2026 – Final funding received for Angel Fire Community Wildfire Defense Grant**
 - \$10 M Grant Received 8/2026
 - Objective – Reduce wildfire risk along Village boundary to protect community from catastrophic wildfire
 - End Date – 8/2030
- **2026 - Village decision to adopt Firewise USA Program and form new committee**
- **2026 – Rotary Wildfire Ready Proposed**
 - Adopt Colorado successful website
 - Working with Village to provide education and materials

www.rotarywildfireready.com



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- [WILDFIRE THREAT](#)
- [GET NOTIFIED !](#)
- [GET READY !](#)
- [GET SET !](#)
 - [GO !](#)
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www.rotarywildfireready.com

Get Notified !

In case of wildfire, you need to make sure that you and your family receive emergency evacuation alerts. You **MUST** sign up for your county's emergency alert system to receive evacuation alerts.



GET NOTIFIED

www.rotarywildfireready.com

Get Ready !

Help protect your home by creating defensible space, by hardening your home with fire resistant materials and using fire-resistant plants and landscaping around your home.

CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

HARDEN YOUR HOME

FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPING



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Get Set !

You and your family need to prepare in advance for a potential wildfire. When you are prepared you can make your home and family safer during a wildfire.



PREPARE YOUR "GO BAG"

WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

INVENTORY YOUR HOME

www.rotarywildfireready.com

Go !

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help emergency personnel by keeping roads clear of congestion.

You should go to a predetermined location and make sure you have several travel routes in case your evacuation route is blocked.



MONITOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION

EVACUATION STEPS

WHAT TO WEAR

www.rotarywildfireready.com

Results to Date:

- 900,000 brochures viewed on-line worldwide
- 7 Rotary Clubs along Colorado front range adopted site and support distribution of brochures
- Major funding received
- Angel Fire – First Rotary Club in New Mexico to adopt and start communications

Challenges & Issues

- No “teeth” in original DSO – 2015 to 2022
- Constant turnover of Village Leadership – changing directions
- Cost of disposing slash
- Phase 2 – Defensible Space Ordinance
- Communicating with community with large numbers of seasonally used properties

Q & A