

Dear Neighbor,

I am Dawn Engler, and I recently became one of the FireWise Neighborhood Ambassadors for Forest Lakes. I've been working with Anne Schrier who has been your Ambassador for many years. With help from Upper Pine Fire Department, we handed out over 125 information bags in October to make owners aware of the fire danger in our community.

Forest Lakes is one of the largest communities in La Plata County and we're growing! We also have the highest level risk in the County for a wildfire. Based on the recommendations of the Forest Lakes CWPP, or Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a great deal of work has been done in and around our subdivision. Many of our neighbors have been hard at work mitigating their properties, *but more work needs to be done!* Resale values climb and insurance coverage is easier to obtain when a lot is mitigated. We want to work with you and our other neighbors to minimize the risk of wildfires to our community when (not if) the next one happens.

The FireWise Council of Southwest Colorado strives to keep lives, homes, and property from being damaged by, or lost to wildfire. We provide education, planning and mitigation support to spark wildfire preparedness in the hearts of our neighbors! It does so through neighborhood-based, citizen-driven approaches including overseeing a Neighborhood Ambassador program. Our community is currently 1800 residents strong and we welcome more volunteers on the Ambassador program. Go to [www.southwestcoloradofires.org](http://www.southwestcoloradofires.org) or contact the FireWise County Coordinator, Charlie Landsman, at [laplatafirewise@gmail.com](mailto:laplatafirewise@gmail.com) to get more information.

We are planning some great things for 2018 so keep your eyes open for more information coming your way. Mark your calendar for Saturday May 5 for a Community Wildfire Preparedness Day. We'll enjoy community and Food/Education/Planning.

If you have 2 minutes to help us evaluate the current mindset of our neighbors, please complete our survey set up at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VVYTWCN>

Thanks so much!

Dawn Engler

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