



EAST MOUNTAIN WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION

BE AWARE! TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE!!

Spring 2026 EMWPA Newsletter

LOOKING BACK . . .

Since the beginning of the year, East Mountain neighbors are continuing their fuels mitigation work.

- Bernalillo County Commissioner Eric Olivas has supported residents' property cleanup by making Bernalillo County Tijeras Transfer Station vouchers available at no charge this year.
- Utilizing Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) fuels grant funding from New Mexico Counties, EMWPA coordinated right-of-way clearing in Forest Park and Sierra Vista South as well as fuels reduction in the Pine Ridge and David Canyon Firewise areas by funding a contractor with chipper.
- Ciudad SWCD partnered with 6 neighborhoods for chipper events--Sierra Vista Estates, Sierra Vista South, Sierra Vista West, Fox Hills, The Woodlands, and Sandia Knolls.

CIUDAD SWCD

East Mountain Free Green Waste Days is your chance to haul as much slash as you can to the Tijeras transfer station. This event is brought to you by Bernalillo County, Commissioner Eric Olivas, Ciudad SWCD, and New Mexico Counties. [Flyer](#)

Ciudad also partnered with 55 different private landowners between October and April to complete forest health thinning projects on 240 acres, more than three times their previous best in a season--70 acres.

Neighborhood leaders and champions are encouraged to reach out to Ciudad forestry staff to coordinate chipper events for the upcoming fall and winter season.

[Ciudad staff](#)



SPRING PROGRAMS

EMWPA hosted multiple learning opportunities for East Mountain residents by utilizing New Mexico Counties' WRR education grant along with a microgrant from Fire Adapted Communities New Mexico (FACNM).

January: Presentations included the Spring Weather Outlook, Ciudad SWCD's Forest Health Program, and Sandia Ranger District's Hazardous Fuels Program presented by the Sandia District Ranger.

February: Presentations included Residential Insurance Concerns presented by NM Office of Superintendent of Insurance and Acuity Insurance followed by PANO/Wildfire Monitoring presented by NM Forestry Division, PNM operations details in the East Mountain wildland-urban interface (WUI).

March: Presentations included the Emergency Evacuation Planning Workshop, including Go Bag Creation, and the Forest Health, Drought, and Bark Beetles program.

April: Programs included the Home Hazard Assessment Workshop and a Community CPR course.

On March 10-11 hosted at Sandia Ranger Station, the Forest Service funded [Assessing Structure Ignition Potential](#), a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) course, which included a field portion. Attendees included East Mountain representatives from EMWPA's board, Ciudad, and Bernalillo County Fire & Rescue.



NEW MEXICO FIRE ADAPTED LEARNING NETWORK highlights actions that other New Mexico communities are taking to become wildfire ready. We'll continue sharing their important topics with you via EMWPA email list.



[Wildfire Wednesday](#) newsletter is published several times monthly. Each issue offers current information and new ideas on hazard mitigation work by homeowners throughout the state. Take a closer look at [Wildfire Wednesday #182](#), which offers tips on wildfire prevention, mitigation, and education.

[The Spark](#) is a monthly 1-page bulletin to support you in communicating wildfire preparedness. We want to highlight the [January issue](#) here, which focuses on ember attack and home hardening.

[FROM BERNALILLO COUNTY -- Wildfire Danger Grows in Bernalillo County As Warm, Dry, Spring Hits --](#)

On May 2, the Albuquerque Journal published this guest column written by Chief Zack Lardy, Bernalillo County Fire & Rescue, and Director Tom Walmsley, Jr., Bernalillo County Department of Emergency Management. Their words reinforce our ongoing request of East Mountain residents--BE AWARE! TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE!

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

May 9: "Really--Are You Ready?" features an update on the seasonal weather outlook by Kerry Jones detailing temperature and moisture outlooks for this summer, an update on Team Rubicon's upcoming work in East Mountain neighborhoods in May, and a Home Hazard Assessment presentation explaining Home Ignition Zones and ember fire threat. The program will be held from 9:00-12:00 at Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras. [Flyer](#)

May 29-31: EMWPA will be supporting Team Rubicon deployment to Sandia Knolls to help senior homeowners with property cleanup and fuels mitigation.

June 4: A field trip this day will supplement the April 11 "Understanding Home Hazard Assessment Workshop" for neighborhood leads. Josh Skron Dahl, Bernalillo County Fire & Rescue wildland coordinator, will conduct a "walk through" at an East Mountain property to perform an actual home hazard assessment using [How-To Prepare My Home Checklist](#) and [Home Hazard Assessment Guide](#).

June 6: Wildfire Emergency Evacuation Utilizing "Ready, Set, Go!" -- EMWPA will repeat this program based on overall response and the upcoming fire season. The program will focus on wildfire emergency evacuation based on "Ready, Set, Go!" and New Mexico's Evacuation Workbook, along with Go Bag creation and distribution. The program will be held from 9:00-12:00 at Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras.

Neighbors Support -- How can we help?

EMWPA is actively funding a contractor with chipper for 2 property cleanups in May. Also, we are providing a truck with dump trailer to assist with "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" property cleanup as well as other logistical support for property cleanup in your neighborhood--hand tools, gloves, and funding. If you're interested, have a need, or have questions, contact us: EMWPA.2023@gmail.com.

