

September 2008

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

National Preparedness Month & Preparing for Wildfire

On a national level, September is Preparedness Month. The theme for this month is: **Get A Kit, Make A Plan, Be Informed, Get Involved.** All four of these elements are very important to your family, your community and your nation. All four of these topics will be covered during a Preparedness event this month as presenters from Emergency Management, Fire Department, Health Department, National Weather Service, Idaho Power, Intermountain Gas and United Water all gather to deliver this information to you.

When: Saturday, September 27, 2008

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Where: Walmart, 4051 E. Fairview Ave
Meridian, ID 83642**

Presenters will staff booths and give live demonstrations throughout the day. Do not miss the opportunity to learn about 72-hour Kits, family disaster plans, utilities in an emergency, severe weather, pandemic and more.

On a local level, our community has recently been touched by a disaster. The outpour of aid from all corners of the Treasure Valley to help with the recovery is a testimony to the fine spirit of those who live here. Wildfires are incredibly unpredictable events and for this reason, we must do all that we can to be prepared for them. We all want to help those in need. Let us also help ourselves by taking steps to make our homes as fire-resistant as possible. Here are some tips from www.Firewise.org on how to properly prepare your home.

A FIREWISE HOME HAS ...

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco and concrete masonry. Double pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Do you have at least 30 ft of space surrounding your home that is **Lean, Clean** and **Green**? The objective of Defensible Space is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing the characteristics of the surrounding vegetation.

Lean – Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 feet of your chimney.

Clean – Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry grass and even stacked firewood

Green – Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.

★ Defensible space allows firefighters ★
room to put out fires.

FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to a home is *not* fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is *not Firewise*.

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Firewise construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, cement and concrete products. Additionally, the inclusion of a fire-resistant sub-roof adds protection. Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves and roof are clear of debris can reduce your fire threat.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers so emergency vehicles can rapidly find the location of the emergency. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet to provide access to emergency apparatus.



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