

Minutes of Fire Ready MT Conference Call

Fire Ready MT Conference Call

Held 7/7/11 at 2:00 pm

Attendants:

- FireSafe Montana
 - Jennifer Mayberry www.firesafemt.org
- DNRC
 - Bob Harrington rharrington@mt.gov, Jon Grassy jgrassy@mt.gov, Pat Cross pcross@mt.gov
- DES/ Citizen Corps
 - Karen Semple lewisandclarkcert@yahoo.com
 - Chris Lounsbury clounsbury@co.missoula.mt.us
- Fire Corps/ Fire Safe Councils
 - Bob Mutch bobmutch@montana.com
- National Civilian Community Corps
 - Deanne Reeves dreeves@cns.gov
- Senior Corps
 - Jackie Girard jgirard@cns.gov, Amy Busch abusch@cns.gov
- MSU Extension
 - Doug Steele dsteeler@montana.edu
- Governor's Office of Community Service
 - Jan Lombardi jlombardi@mt.gov, Rebecca Steele resteele@mt.gov, Julia Gustafson jgustafson@mt.gov, Jo Radtke jradtke@mt.gov

Jo Radtke

Opened the call and encouraged all partners to check out the Governor's Office of Community Service website ready.mt.gov and the Fire Ready Montana link. If any of the partners have outreach, resources, events, or information to share we will gladly post it on our website as well as facebook and twitter.

Jennifer Mayberry

FireSafe Montana reported they have put out several public service announcements and an ad in the newspaper connecting at the local level, as well as designating June "Wildfire Preparedness Month".

Bob Harrington and Pat Cross

DNRC reported they are in the implementation phase with incident management. Currently there are about 50 people deployed and helping with fires outside of Montana, they will be returning in the next couple of weeks. When fire season starts, DNRC will meet with patrols from fire crews, fire departments, fire coordination calls, as well as ongoing outreach in conjunction with FireWise, FireSafe, BLM, Forest Service, and NRD to promote campfire safety and mitigate agricultural harvesting issues. They try to keep media outreach to the local level and will continue to focus on changing the general public mindset from flooding to grass and beetle kill fire danger. The Governor's Fire Briefing is generally the 2nd or 3rd week in June, however this year it will probably be towards the end of July. The following websites were recommended for reference: inciweb.org and beetles.mt.gov

Karen Semple

Reported that "Fire Wise" day brought in over 115 people, and prompted 18 home evaluation requests! The Tri-county CERT is meeting July 13 and will actively engage the volunteers in wildfire preparedness and Pat McKelvey will be reviewing how volunteers can help during wild land fire season by sharing some of what he learned while working in Arizona with their major fires. Jefferson County is finishing their PDM with a focus on fire mitigation. Karen suggested starting the fire ready conversation with a conference call in May next year to give partners the opportunity to post fire-safety-mitigation-preparedness events that normally take place in May and June. Jefferson County Fire Council is in the design stage for starting a web-based burn permit system, so people know which fires are permitted and which ones need to be reported. Lake, Flathead, and Gallatin counties have all discussed similar programs.

Bob Mutch

Painted Rock Fire Safe Council reported that he participated in the Wolf Creek/Craig Fire Service Area and the Tri-County FireSafe Working Group 1/3 mile to safety staff ride over Memorial day weekend, and it was a huge success. People are really getting the message and are extremely touched by the tragic story of the Roach family. Bob is happy to see the face of the Bitterroot changing to reflect homes that are fire safe. The media coverage of the memorial Day event was excellent and also on Aging Horizons to keep the message alive and referred to the 1/3 mile to safety DVD from FireSafe Montana.

Chris Lounsbury

Missoula County DES reported that they are working to complete the county EOP and PDM. Missoula County will start having Monday morning meetings for the 2011 fire season.

Deanne Reeves

NCCC joined the call to hear about Montana resources and reported they have 3 teams deployed to Montana... one is working in Helena area on fuels reduction, the other 2 are in Virginia City and on the Musselshell helping with the flooding. Going forward, NCCC will have a 30-50% disaster focus.

Jackie Girard and Amy Busch

Senior Corps reported there are over 5000 RSVP volunteers in Montana that are willing to do everything from information dissemination to training with at risk Seniors. They joined the call to offer support on fire projects, similar to their presence helping with flood cleanup. RSVP has several ongoing projects doing call campaigns to develop lists of volunteers for emergencies and they are excited to use Build Montana for volunteer opportunities.

Doug Steele

MSU Extension reported their office has Big Sky Small Acres Magazine print article with a 600-800 distribution list that is available for getting articles and information out to people this fire season.

Jan Lombardi

Executive Director, Governor's Office of Community Service gave her appreciation for everyone taking the time to join the call. The Governor has 2 big picture messages, Fire Ready and Emergency Preparedness, both messages are asking citizens to be mindful of their neighbors. After the call please contact our office if there is something you would like the public to know, as we all strive to build capacity at the local level. 406-444-9077, or serve@mt.gov

Group	Resource	Opportunity for Preparing
Governor's Office of Community Service	Ready.mt.gov Build Montana Map Your Neighborhood	Information dissemination
DNRC	InciWeb.org Fire Prevention Pine Beetles Fire Season Information	Governor's Fire Briefing, incident management, media events, local events, information dissemination
DES	FEMA Wildfire News from MT DES	Emergency Operations Plan, Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan
FireSafe/ FireCorps Councils	Firesafemt.org	1/3 mile to safety staff ride, local events, information dissemination
NCCC	NCCC Information	Support projects, ie. Fuels reduction
Senior Corps	Senior Corps in Montana	Information dissemination, support projects in various ways
MSU Extension	Big Sky Small Acres Magazine	Information dissemination
DPHHS DEQ	Public Health and Safety Montana Volunteer Registry Smoke Updates	Information dissemination