

Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

► Forestry Division

Presentation to the Land Grant Committee - October 14, 2020

Wildfire Mitigation and Prevention



AFTER WILDFIRE

A GUIDE FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES



- *After Wildfire: A Guide for New Mexico Communities* is an interagency guide providing a one-stop-shop for information and post-fire impacts including flooding
- The guide can help communities navigate a complex system of state and federal response authorities and programs
- Find the complete guide at <https://afterwildfirenm.org/>

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AFTER WILDFIRE

A GUIDE FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES

only in current section



Immediate Safety



Mobilizing Your Community



Who Can Help?



Post-Fire Treatments



Financial Tips



Flood Information



Additional Resources

Quick Links

[▶ Immediate Safety](#)

[Additional Safety Resources](#)

[Home](#) / [Immediate Safety](#)



Immediate Safety

[PRINT SECTION](#)

[PRINT PAGE](#)

Filed under: [Immediate Safety](#)

Although wildfire damage can be immense, often the danger is **not** over after the flames are put out. Flash flooding, structural damage, road instability and damaged trees are just some of the dangers that landowners face after a wildfire. Keep these tips in mind:

If you feel you are in danger, call 911 or your local emergency number.



- **Stay away from your home or business until fire officials tell you it is safe to return.**
- **Flash floods are a very real and potentially deadly hazard after a wildfire**, particularly as a result of rain falling over a burned area upstream of your location. **Stay away from storm channels and arroyos** (ditches are deadly, especially after a wildfire). Keep a **battery-powered radio** to listen for emergency updates, reports of weather and flash flooding, and news reports. For more information, visit our flood section here.
- Have an **evacuation plan** in place and make sure all family members know it in case you need to leave your home for any reason.
- **Do not drink or use water from the faucet** until emergency officials say it is okay; water supply systems can be damaged during wildfires or flooding. Visit the NMED Drinking Water Bureau website for more information, or call 877-654-8720 Monday - Friday, 8-5, for more information.
- **Be aware of and use extreme caution** around trees, power poles and other tall objects that may have lost stability during the fire. Most burned structures and surfaces will be unstable. Stay out of burned forests in windstorms as burned trees are easily downed by wind. **Do not touch any power lines.**
- **Utilities:** If there is no **power**, check to make sure the main breaker is on. If the breakers are on and power is still not present, contact the utility company. If you have a **propane tank or system**, contact a propane supplier, turn off valves

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Planning is Important

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You may not have to start planning the recovery process from scratch. A growing number of New Mexico communities have adopted an all-hazard mitigation plan that addresses wildfire response. If your county, tribe, pueblo or municipality already has a plan, many of the tasks on the next few pages will have been done for you. If your community doesn't have a plan in place, this guide will help you identify steps to take.

If you are reading this before a wildfire has occurred, the most important thing you can do is [plan ahead](#).

Does my Community Have a Plan?



Prevention: Thinning & Burning Changes Fire Behavior



Untreated



Thinned



Prescribed Burn



Thinned and Burned

Preventing Wildfire:

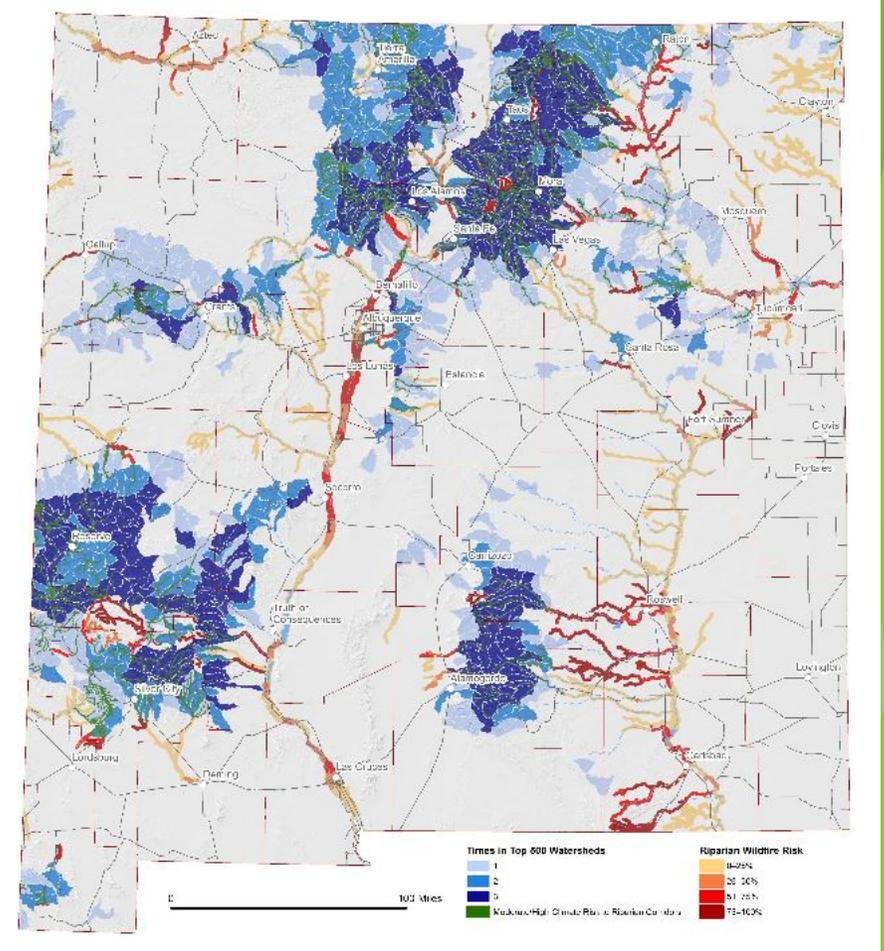
Federal/State Resources for Land Grants

- ▶ Land Grants can apply directly for grants of federal funds administered through the Forestry Division, District offices:
 - ▶ Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) - up to \$300k, 1:1 match, applications Jan-March
 - ▶ Hazardous Fuels Treatments Non-Federal Lands (NFL) - up to \$300k, 10% match, applications Jan- March
 - ▶ Forest Health Initiative - up to \$100k, 30% match, rolling deadline

Preventing Wildfire

State Resources for Land Grants

- ▶ Land Grants can collaborate with the Forestry Division administering the project (in priority watersheds):
 - ▶ Forest and Watershed Restoration Act
 - ▶ Capital Outlay
- ▶ Forestry Division, District staff can provide assistance with project design, maps and grant applications
- ▶ Water Trust Board, Water Project Fund, NOI comes out in August



Preventing Wildfire

Other Resources for Land Grants

- ▶ New Mexico Counties, Wildfire Risk Reduction for Rural Communities Program
 - ▶ Up to \$50k, 10% match, applications in March
- ▶ USDA Forest Service, Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
 - ▶ Up to \$360k, 20% match, applications due February
 - ▶ Funds three types of projects: treatments, utilization and planning