

Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month at a Glance

Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month was a great success! Partners in the goal to reduce the wildfire threat to Nevada communities – community members, fire service representatives, local, state, and federal agencies and others – dedicated their time, services, work and support to ensure that May 2014 was a month when community members learned to prepare their homes for wildfire. With multiple events and presentations held around the state, Nevadans everywhere learned about the difference they can make in their communities before a wildfire starts.

Community Events

What do you get when a dozen fire engines, a Nevada Division of Forestry helicopter, fire-fuel-eating goats, fire extinguisher demonstrations and much more take over Carson City's most popular park? The Carson City Kickoff Event. Saturday May 3rd saw warm weather and smiling local families who spent the morning learning how to be ember prepared with the Ember House Game, trying on firefighter turnouts, seeing fire trucks from many fire service agencies, enjoying a BBQ lunch and much more. Organized by the Carson City Fire Department, with participation from neighboring fire departments, local, state, and federal agencies, fuels reduction businesses and others, the Carson City Kickoff Event started the month off with a bang.

Additional community events included Firewise events in Eureka and Beowawe/Crescent Valley, featuring Smokey Bear balloon rides and FFA plant sales, Smith Valley's open house at Smith Valley Fire Protection District's Station 40 and Storey County's Virginia City Highlands evacuation drill.



Everyone loves a fire-fuel-eating goat.



Smokey accepts the governor's NWAM proclamation.



Volunteers gather for a briefing before the Virginia City Highlands Evacuation Drill.

Agency Events

State and Federal agencies also joined in planning events that encouraged awareness and helped reduce the wildfire threat to Nevada communities. The Nevada Division of Forestry held the Junk the Junipers event again this year at their East Lake Office in Washoe Valley on May 10th. Residents from nearby communities brought truck loads of flammable, woody vegetation from their properties to be chipped for free and disposed of. Additionally, each household that participated received a 30% off coupon toward a good plant choice from Moana Nursery.

The BLM hosted a Wildfire Awareness Race in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Over 200 runners gathered early in the morning of May 18th to run in some of southern Nevada's prettiest country, learn about wildfire awareness and give donations to support fallen firefighters and their families.



A Pile of flammable fuels to be chipped at the Junk the Juniper event.



On your marks, get set, go!
Runners at the Wildfire Awareness Race.

Living With Fire Regional Conferences

The Living With Fire program teamed up with partners to host conferences in six locations around the state during the month of May. The goal? To meet community members in their own backyards to discuss local fire issues, the importance of being ember aware, the emerging and exciting Fire Adapted Communities concept, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's new program, The Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities.

Community members from Eureka, Spring Creek, Winnemucca, Minden/Gardnerville,

Mt. Charleston and Pioche spent an evening learning about the importance of the actions they take before a wildfire, and the resources and programs available to help them in their efforts to work toward becoming fire adapted.

Local fire services and state, local and federal agencies all pulled together to help make the conferences a success. Whether partners gave their time to talk about their local projects and enthusiastically offer help where available, provided a terrific venue for a conference, prepared refreshments, paid for local catering or hosted a delicious BBQ for hungry residents ready to learn, the regional conferences wouldn't have been possible without them!



Chief Johnson makes opening remarks in Mt. Charleston.



BLM discusses local projects in Winnemucca.



Pioche VFD cooks up Dutch oven potatoes.



Spring Creek VFD bar-be-ques for hungry homeowners in the rain.

May 2014 has marked a month when Nevadans all over the state have learned the importance of preparing their homes for wildfire. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone who wants to reduce the wildfire threat to Nevada communities, Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month was a great success. We're grateful for everyone's efforts and look forward to many more learning opportunities to come!

Cheers,

The Living With Fire Team