

Get Your Smokey On and Tune In to Learn How to Prepare for a Wildfire Emergency

Webinar on February 16, 2017

1:00 – 2:00 PM

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Would you like to engage your fire department, office of emergency management or police department in your community's Sustainable Jersey program work?

This webinar will help municipalities understand the suite of Emergency Preparedness Wildfire Actions that include: Firewise Community; Ready, Set, Go; Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and creating a Wildfire Safety Council. These actions provide a road map for addressing the issue of managing the increasing risk of forest fire in our communities as climate change impacts the forest resources.

To save lives, property and natural resources from wildfire, the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) **Firewise Communities** Program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. This is a grassroots initiative that promotes the concept that everyone has a role to play in protecting themselves and each other from the risk of wildfire by mobilizing and engaging residents.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has designed the **Ready, Set, Go!** (RSG) Program to be a wildfire outreach program that local fire departments use to develop and improve the dialogue between the department(s) and the residents they serve. In delivering this program to local residents however, the NJ Forest Fire Service, local governing bodies, local police departments and municipal Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinators should all be familiar with the RSG program work being championed by their local fire department.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are a mechanism for municipalities to address their wildfire risk in a comprehensive manner. These plans promote collaboration and local action, and can work in partnership with Firewise and Ready-Set-Go activities. Together, CWPP, Ready-Set-Go and Firewise Communities' involvement can strengthen the success and outcomes of each. CWPPs are developed collaboratively with the municipal government, local fire departments and the New Jersey State Forestry Services – Forest Fire Service (NJFFS) and US Forest Service or other federal agencies, depending on the location of the community. **Learn about grant funding available from NJDEP Forest Fire Service to develop a CWPP for your municipality.**

Establishing a municipal **Wildfire Safety Council** is a new program action that encourages towns to establish by ordinance a Wildfire Safety Council to advise, coordinate and strengthen the capacity of your Municipality to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to the residents and businesses.

Speakers from Sustainable Jersey staff, NJ Department of Environmental Protection – State Forest Service, NJ Fire Safety Council and Barnegat Fire Company will be on hand to help municipalities to understand their role, where to find technical assistance and funding to complete these actions.

