

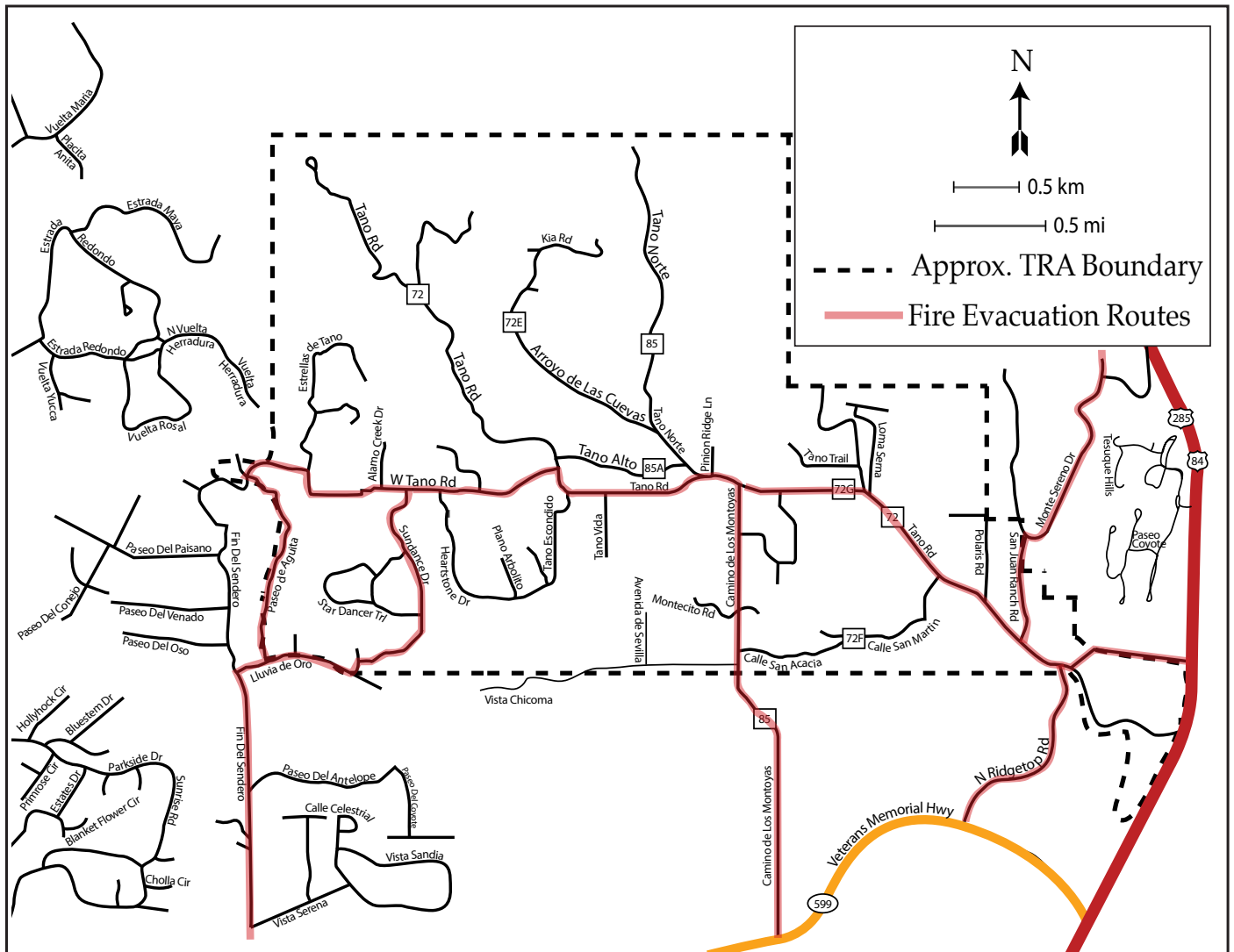
TANO ROAD ASSOCIATION

FIRE PREVENTION AND EVACUATION GUIDELINES



PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT

TANO ROAD AREA FIRE EVACUATION MAP



FIRE PREVENTION AND EVACUATION GUIDELINES

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**In case of fire, smoke, or any emergency,
always call 911**

If a wildfire approaches your home, it is your responsibility to be prepared!

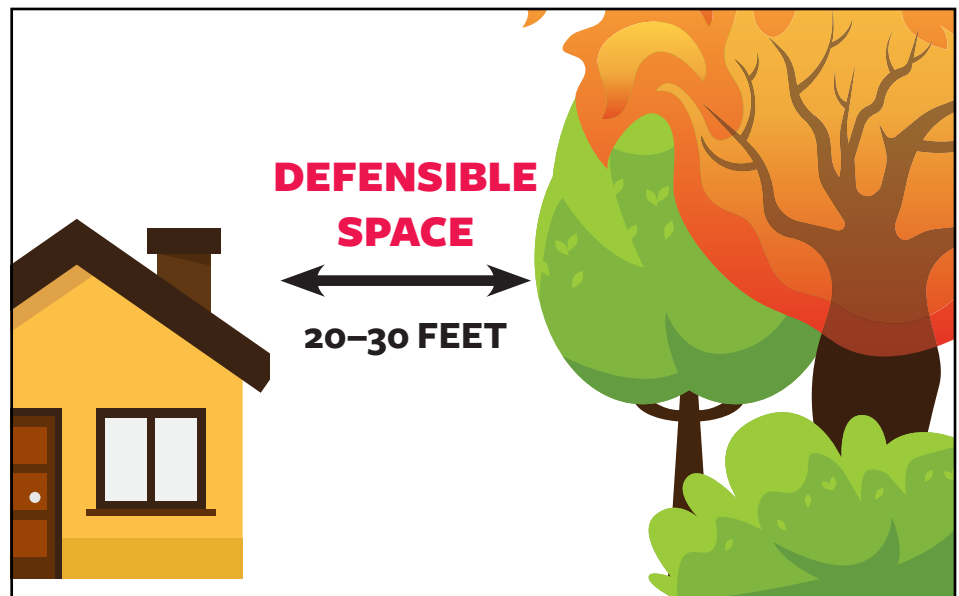
These guidelines are for homeowners in the piñon/juniper forests in the high deserts in Northern New Mexico, an area designated as a “Wildland Urban Interface.” These guidelines are intended to provide specific actions which can help prevent or reduce the effects of fire on personal property, human life, and wildlife.

This booklet was prepared by the Tano Road Association in cooperation with the Santa Fe County Fire Department (SFCFD) and the City of Santa Fe Fire Department. The Tano Road area is served by the Tesuque Volunteer Fire District (TVFD) which is one of fifteen fire districts within SFCFD. The TVFD consists of community-minded volunteers who are on call 24/7 to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to Tesuque Village, Rio en Medio, and the Tano Road area.

Santa Fe County Fire Department
35 Camino Justicia
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
Voice: 505-992-3070

The Three Steps to be FireWise:

Prepare your Defensible Space
Prepare your Evacuation Plan
Know how to Evacuate!



STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE

You may not be able to accomplish all measures listed in this booklet, but each will increase your home and family safety. Start with the easiest and least expensive actions. Begin closest to your house and move outward. Keep working on the more difficult items until you have completed your entire project.

Fact: Fire needs fuel, oxygen and heat to spread, so reducing the amount of fuel around your home is your best defense against wildfire. Less fuel equals less heat; less heat equals less risk to your home. Your home ignition zone can be made safer by creating a defensible space around it. Multiple homes close together share this home ignition zone and must work together to create a safe Fire Wise Community. To repeat, this can be best accomplished by reducing the amount of flammable vegetation surrounding a home thereby creating a defensible space.

Fact: Wildfire is most dangerous traveling uphill, traveling five times faster than on level ground, so understand your home site's location, overall terrain, grade and prevailing wind patterns.

Fact: Nearby arroyos are dangerous because they act as channels or "wind-tunnels" for ember-blowing winds.

Fact: Speed Counts! A house fire doubles in size every minute!



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BEGIN BY HELPING THE FIREFIGHTERS ~ THIS IS HOW

- Road signs should be visible; if not, clear the obstructions or call the county for assistance in removing obstructions.
- Mark your driveway and access roads clearly. Remove blocking vegetation and tree limbs.
- Use large, undecorated house numbers clearly visible night or day, from the street.
- Ideally, your gate and driveway should be at least 14 feet wide and your gate opening at least 15 feet high to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Ideally, there should be ample turnaround space in your driveway for fire trucks and ambulances, otherwise expect damage if emergency personnel must force their way in or spend valuable time stringing fire hoses.
- Prominently mark the locations of your (a) well, (b) water storage tank, (c) water pressure tanks, (d) septic tank and (e) propane tank so trucks will steer clear and equipment won't be damaged.
- If your house is surrounded by a fence, mark a section as a “breakaway” area for emergency vehicles to crash through if necessary. Breakaway zones give plain indication where emergency vehicles may enter; the cost of repairing a fence is small consideration when saving a home on fire.
- Install a red Knox-Box™ to store duplicates of your keys on your front door and gate. This allows instant access without forcible entry by firefighters. Call the Santa Fe County Fire Department for approval at 505-992-3070. Santa Fe County requires a Knox-box on gated entrances for firefighter entry. Then have the fire department inspect the Knox-Box™ after installation; call the Knox Company at 800-552-5669 for information; check with your homeowner insurance agent for a reduced rate.
- Ideally, have at least two means of escape (doors and/or windows) in each room at ground-level.



CONSIDER YOUR HOUSE BY ITSELF

Fact: Your house is endangered by the big flames which typically last a minute or so, but danger also comes from the blizzard of blowing embers which can travel for miles.

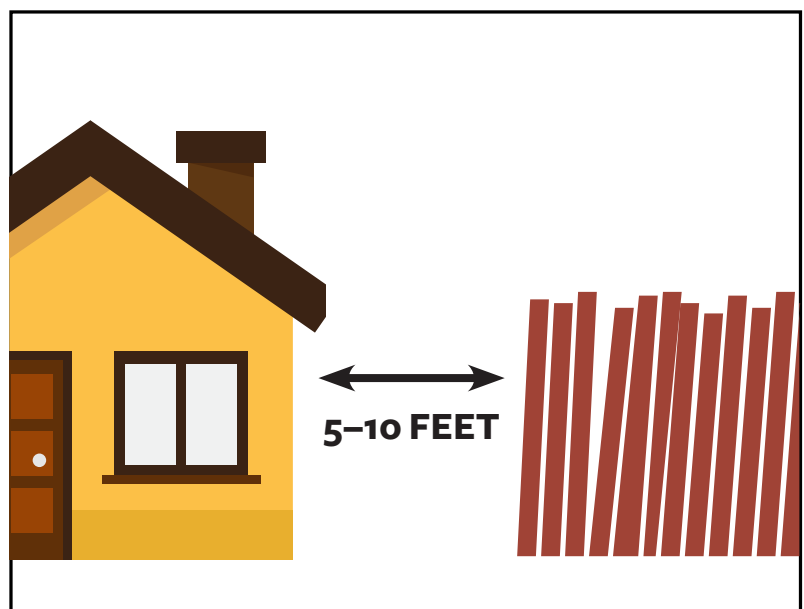
- Ideally, your house should be “self-defensible”; in other words, a structure that has a non-combustible roof and exterior.
- Do not keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches.
- Decks, deck stairways and portales can catch and trap embers blown from miles away. Screen over openings under decks with 1/8 inch or less wire mesh. Install risers or screens on open steps to decks to block embers.
- See that attic, eaves and foundation vents are screened entirely, and in good condition; use screens with mesh no larger than 1/8 inch; plug all holes in your house exterior to prevent entry of sparks and embers; pay special attention to eaves and soffits.
- Keep fuel and other flammable materials such as paint thinner in a detached shed or enclosure that is clearly marked, and at least 30 feet away from any other structure.
- Use trellises of non-flammable material.
- Remove branches hanging over your roof; remove debris from your roof, gutters and canales; remember, embers can travel several miles in windy conditions.
- Store your firewood at least 30 feet away from your house.
- Have your chimney maintained by a chimney sweep annually. Cover chimney outlets with nonflammable mesh screens.
- Ashes from fireplaces and grills should be kept in a metal container until all embers are extinguished. The Tesuque landfill transfer station accepts ashes.
- Have ladders available for attic and roof access.
- Keep your fire extinguishers charged and available. Every three to six months, heft each fire extinguisher by picking it up and turning it upside down and back three or four times to redistribute the contents.
- Consider installing a water storage tank which could be invaluable to the firefighters in a wildfire emergency. This can be a water catchment system (cistern) or replenished by your well.
- Consider installing a generator to operate your well pump in the event of power failure.
- Double-pane windows of tempered glass are recommended for reducing incoming heat that can torch the interior.
- Install a monitored smoke/heat detector outside every bedroom, averaging one for each 900 square foot area, each wired to a central alarm.

CONSIDER YOUR LANDSCAPE

- Reduce the amount and types of fuels by creating a fire-defensible space of at least 30 feet around your house; 60 feet is better especially if your house is on a slope; consider hedges and privacy trees as part of your house, then compute the distance of the entire defensible space accordingly.
- Fire breaks like driveways, open expanses of lawn and walkways can interrupt a fire's path.
- Thin out surrounding trees gradually to acclimate yourself to the visual change. It is best to remove the least attractive trees each year until remaining trees are spaced appropriately both for forest health and fire-defensible space.
- Tree canopies on level ground should be thinned to allow for an average clearance of 10 feet between crowns of trees.
- For trees taller than 30 feet, limbs and lower branches should be at least eight feet above ground level. Tree limbs and branches should be at least 10 feet from the roof; tree limbs and branches should be at least 15 feet from a chimney.
- Full propane tanks are safe when at least 30 feet from any structure on the same elevation as the house and 10 feet away from vegetation.
- When not in use, barbecue gas grill tanks should be stored in the shed designated for flammable material.
- Fire, in any environment, follows a path controlled by the amount and type of fuel, the contours of the terrain, wind velocity and direction. Fires start and burn rapidly in light fuels like dry grass which, in turn, provide a path to trees. Once at the base of a tree, fire can move into low branches and climb to the top or crown. This progression, known as ladder fuels, is how wildfires gain strength and power. A ladder fuel is vegetation that allows a fire to move from lower growing plants to taller ones. Prune lower piñon and juniper branches three to six feet from the ground up because they link the grasses and shrubs as ladder fuels to the tree tops in a wildfire. Pruning cuts should be clean and smooth, avoiding flush cuts and stubs. A properly pruned tree heals quickly while poor pruning results in scarring and possible disease. No more than one-third of a tree's live foliage should be removed at one time to avoid stressing the tree.
- Remove dead and diseased branches from trees to reduce the ability for fire to reach the crown.
- Remove all debris from around and under your trees except for the "duff" (matted needles) which is not fuel and provides for important moisture retention; vines and ground covers can build up a heavy underbrush of dead leaves and branches, which should be removed to lessen fuel for fire; use mulch over bare soil to retain moisture.
- Brush and cuttings from landscape maintenance create another fire hazard (if not chipped); this debris should be promptly disposed of leaving a clean, neat landscape.



- Fertilizing and pest control is important for maintaining healthy and FireWise landscapes.
- Keep grass and weeds mowed.
- Space new trees and shrubs “fire wisely”; those in the defensible area should be carefully spaced to create mini “firebreaks”.
- Consider new plants for fire resistance, ease of maintenance, as well as visual enhancement of your property. Typical fire resistant plants grow close to the ground, have a low sap or resin content, grow without accumulating dead branches, needles or leaves, are easily maintained and pruned, and are drought-tolerant in some cases. Ask at your garden center for suggestions.
- Avoid planting under roof eaves, vents, near gas meters, utility poles, propane tanks or close to wooden fencing; plant in small, irregular clusters, not in large masses; break up the continuity of the vegetation with decorative rock, gravel and stepping stone pathways which will slow fire spread.
- Plants nearest your home should be more widely spaced and smaller than those further away.
- Use a variety of plant species to support a mixed and healthy landscape; diversity of plants in the landscape will result in fewer insects and diseases and will better resist fires.
- Inspect your irrigation system regularly; check your garden hoses for damage; leave them near your spigots; make sure hose and nozzle can reach all parts of the house.
- Coyote fences are flammable and called “coyote fuses” by firefighters; a coyote fence should end several feet from any structure unless the fence is constructed of non-flammable material or joined to the structure by non-flammable material such as metal, stone, adobe brick or concrete.





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STEP 2: PREPARE YOUR EVACUATION PLAN BE READY!

- Keep a current list of all the items you need to evacuate
- Consider your evacuation exits. Have more than one escape route because your regular exit may be blocked (See map on inside front cover)
- Prepare a “Grab-&-Go Case”. Pack an overnight bag with clothes and toiletries, flashlight and batteries, portable radio, bottles of water, prescription drugs, blankets, cell phone, safe deposit key and contact list
- Designate a specific meeting place for household members in case of separation during evacuation
- Practice family fire drills and your fire evacuation plan; be sure that the meeting place and escape routes are understood by all family members. Have plans for a minimum of two fire escape routes; if you live on a one-way-in/one-way-out road, allow extra time
- Know all pertinent gate codes; leave gates open if you are forced to leave
- Place Yellow Evacuation Card on front door, gate, or mailbox on your property so it is visible from the road. Mark exterior doors, gates, or mailbox with bright plastic surveyor tape indicating that you have evacuated

STEP 3: KNOW HOW TO EVACUATE!

- If you see smoke or flames, call 911 immediately
- When calling 911, have an index card with your name, address, landline or cell number and directions to your house in a handy place. This can serve as a reminder of important information in case of panic
- Remain calm; be methodical
- Evacuate everyone not essential in protecting your home including pets
- Wear cotton or wool clothes, long pants, long sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to cover your face

and...If you have time

- Shut off propane tank or natural gas intake
- Remove combustible curtains and blinds from windows



- Place combustible furniture in the center of each room
- If possible, prop a ladder against the house to allow firefighters access to the roof
- Periodically check the roof and crawl spaces for embers, smoke or fire
- Fill sinks, bathtubs and other containers with water; do the same outside with garbage cans and buckets
- Soak rags, towels and blankets with water to help beat out embers or small fires
- Place remaining vehicles in the garage facing out, windows up; leave the keys or fob in the vehicle; close garage doors but leave unlocked; if possible, disconnect or disarm all automatic electric door openers
- Put blankets, water and overnight bag in vehicle; place all valuable papers and mementos in the car in a fire resistant box if available
- Remove flammable furniture from decks and porches
- Turn on your radio and listen for the latest developments

.....As You Evacuate

- Close all windows
- Close all doors, inside and out, but **do not lock**
- Leave lights on
- Do not set your house alarm
- Remember the Yellow Evacuation Card and bright plastic surveyor tape, indicating you have evacuated
- Leave all gates **open**
- Contact a friend or relative and let them know your exact plans: escape route, cell phone number, time of departure, estimated time of arrival, car license number and names of those traveling with you
- When evacuating, drive, do not walk; strong winds carry blinding smoke and embers
- Listen to radio broadcasts for information about evacuation procedures or destination



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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Non-Emergency contact numbers

Santa Fe County Fire Department (SFCFD)	(505) 992-3070
Santa Fe City Fire Department (SFFD)	(505) 955-3110
SFCFD Fire Prevention/Wildland Division	(505) 995-6523
Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office	(505) 986-2455
Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office Dispatch	(505) 428-3720
Santa Fe City Police	(505) 955-5010
Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC)	(505) 428-3710
Animal Shelter - City and County	(505) 983-4309
US Forest Service	(505) 438-5600
American Red Cross (Santa Fe)	(505) 424-1611

For the “Ready Set Go Wildfire Action Plan”, which has more detailed information, go to the link on the TRA website, www.tanoroad.org/fire

Provided as a public service by the Tano Road Association

Updated June 2020



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.