**2020 Enchanted Forest Estates CWPP Committee Yearly Wrap Up Report**

* CWPP committee notified property owners of the following by email and neighborhood HOA meetings:
  + 2019 Enchanted Forest Estates CWPP Committee Yearly Wrap Up Report
  + Quarterly requests for resident mitigation hours reporting
  + Winter Fire Tips, Avoiding Winter Home Fires/Tips w/link to UPRFPD website
  + Snow Shedding tips for gas lines (winter safety)
  + Colorado State Income Tax incentive for work done in 2019
  + Link to La Plata County Interactive Wildfire Risk Map
  + Virtual National Wildfire Preparedness Day with Covid in mind…. Tips for working on own properties, community events were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic that swept the country & La Plata county.
  + Reminder to track mitigation hours
  + Code Red Signup Info/Reminder (also posted at middle entrance mailbox message board) (3 times)
  + Mitigation Contractors for Hire Link to CSFS list of local contractors
  + Property Wildland Fuels and Home Ignition Site Assessments reminder w/links to UPRFPD, CSFS & WAP
  + Neighborhood Chipper Day & reminders (1 day this year due to financial constraints with hiring a private contractor & unavailability of UPRFPD crews due to western wildland fires
  + Burn Permit Information w/link & photos of sample “chipper ready” slash piles (oak brush & evergreen)
  + Evacuation reminders /To Go Bags/Boxes/Tubs, etc. (4.25.2020) with link to To Go Bag info on livingwithfire.com website
  + Reminder to find EFE CWPP on EFE website: https://enchantedforestestates.org/cwpp
  + CWPP Committee plans for 2020 mitigation work/flagged EF DR/Blue Spruce & invite for property owners with flagged sections to work their ROW’s over summer months, community work days cancelled, many seasonal residents did not return for the summer due to Covid pandemic
  + CWPP committee email list updates request
  + Vallecito Slash Depot Days Information & reminder of extra, added days (also posted at mailbox message board)
  + Link to wildfire danger presentation w/Noah Daniels, Fuels Assistant Fire Management Officer for Columbine Ranger District, SJNF via WAP
  + Reminder of lightning strike fires and reminder to keep eyes, ears and noses alert to strikes nearby
  + Red Flag Days and Fire Restrictions (also links to articles in local paper)
  + EFE Wildfire Evacuation 5.5.2020 (86 Fire on CR 245) w/links and EFE specific quote from UPRFPD Chief Bruce Evans
  + Educational Outreach w/ Jack Cohen & other YouTube links to wildfire, wildfire preparedness & the Camp fire in Paradise, CA
  + CWPP document update status
  + Invite to join CWPP committee
  + Reminder to burn slash piles in winter
  + Electrical line dangers in winter with falling trees & snow loads
  + Blue reflective address signing info and availability & reminder for all lot’s w/structures to have signs in place for fire dept for fire & medical emergencies
  + Danger of trees falling into electrical lines = wildfire starts
* ***The EFE CWPP Committee’s big news and accomplishments for 2020 (despite the cancelled community work days due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns) was the amazing amount of work done by residents on their own properties. Many worked on their own properties and some (5 property owners) hired private contractors to work on their lots. A few residents also hired private contractors to create rock, fire resistant Zone 1, Zone 1 & 2 perimeters around their homes/primary structures and some property owners created fuel breaks on their properties.***

* Committee member Jan Pielech worked with Ian Barrett, Fire Mitigation Specialist with Colorado BLM, Southwest Colorado Fire Management Unit to address ongoing resident concerns regarding the BL M parcel adjacent to EFE on the east border of the subdivision. Of additional concern in the discussion was the land locked parcel to the south/southeast & southwest of EFE that includes the area the last 2 fires (86 Fire in May 2020 & 358 Fire in 2018) started that threatened EFE. The parcel south of the subdivision will not be addressed anytime soon. BLM’s inability to access it due to private property surrounding it makes it inaccessible.

The BLM parcel adjacent to EFE is a different story though, if property owners along the eastern boundary of the subdivision allow access to the parcel. Jan has put the bug in Ian’s ear to keep EFE in mind in the future when they are able to address the parcel. The work may be able to include fuels mitigation assistance by BLM for properties adjacent to the parcel. As the proposed work draws closer, the EFE CWPP board will be in touch with property owners who will be affected to get permission and participation for work on your properties. The heavy fuel load of scrub oak/oak brush left from the Missionary Ridge fire in 2002 is of concern due to the high (and hot) flammability of oak brush boarding the subdivision.

* Additional Fire Starts: 2 lightning fire starts in 2019 (156 & 186 fires on Missionary Ridge to the west of EFE) were also of concern to EFE but did not originate or come through BLM lands. The lightning strike fire, named the “Enchanted Fire” above EFE in August 2020 was of concern also.

***\*\*Again on 11.21.2020 a wildfire started across County Rd 240 from the lower entrance of Enchanted Forest Dr. The fire was caused by fireplace ashes placed outside that caught the meadow grass on fire. The grass fire took off extremely fast and threatened roadside fuels that had the potential to jump the county road if the wind had picked up and changed direction. Upper Pine was able to stop the fire before it reached a nearby mobile home and patch of trees.***

Please watch the UPRFPD Facebook website for fire news in the area:

<https://www.facebook.com/page/204179552941671/search/?q=enchanted%20forest>

* Jan also worked to submit the annual application for National FireWise Neighborhood status. The committee is pleased to announce that with the limited community and mitigation hours, but with large financial investments property owners made in 2020, EFE was able to secure FireWise status for a 2nd year. This national recognition is included in our CWPP document and is a goal to maintain going forward.
* The national award can be viewed at FireWise.org:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Firewise-USA-Resources/Firewise-USA-sites/State-listing-of-participants>

* Although there were no community work days in 2020 due to Covid-19 virus concerns, Jan & Joe Pielech worked on EFE community’s right of way on Upper Skyline Dr. regardless. Skyline Dr. is of concern when a wildfire comes through the neighborhood and Joe & Jan live “at the top” so they jumped right in for the safety of the community. They took on the task of clearing a 20’ radius around the utility equipment on the upper end of Skyline Dr. Several poles were freed from the overgrowth bondage of scrub oak and can be safely and quickly accessed by utility crews in an emergency now. Clearing around equipment also protects vital infrastructure from damage when a wildfire does sweep through EFE. A debt of gratitude goes out to these property owners who worked on behalf of the entire EFE community. THANK YOU, Joe and Jan!!! 😊 \*If you have utility equipment on your property or along your right of way, feel free to create a 20’ fuel- free perimeter around it to help us out, and to help restore power more quickly in the event of a wildfire or other power outage.
* In October 2020 the CWPP Committee had a meeting with Upper Pine River Fire Protection District Chief Bruce Evans, Paul Valdez, Upper Pine River FPD Wildland Coordinator and Charlie Landsman, La Plata County Coordinator with Wildfire Adaptive Partnership. The meeting with agency partners was scheduled for the primary purpose of a ride-around of EFE in preparation of the submission of the ***neighborhood's 5 yr. required EFE CWPP document update to agency partners***.  The meeting began at the center entrance where Chief Evans addressed the CWPP committee members/WAP ambassadors Jan Pielech, Amy Paylor and Jim Lewis, CWPP Committee member and HOA VP.

In his comments to the committee, he went over several topics including:

a. Fire Department access to properties along Skyline Dr.

b. Neighborhood street signing

c. Blue reflective signing on individual properties

d. Code Red survey/feedback on recent nearby wildfires in 2018, 2019 & 2020.

e. Property available for a neighborhood water source, grant potentials for water source, etc.

***\*\*Regarding the items listed above, there were 3 items that needed to be addressed promptly\*\****

**Neighborhood Street signing**:

1. The county road 501 sign at the lower entrance of EFE had been pushed down making the lowest entrance to the neighborhood off of County Road 240 unsigned.

2.  The Dead-End sign at Mountain Court was misleading making Enchanted Forest Dr appear to be the dead-end street.  This dead-end sign needed to be moved back and further in on Mountain Court to differentiate the road the sign refers to.  The CWPP committee requested the EFE Road or Signing committees address these street signing concerns in keeping with the safety, security of and potential for emergency response into the neighborhood at their earliest convenience.

**Safety of Skyline Residents/Properties:**

**Chief Evans made abundantly clear that he would NOT send crews into EFE along the entire stretch of Skyline Dr in the event of a wildfire due to the narrow road and the density of the fuel loads along the ROW. Because there are 35 lots (21 developed with homes or other structures) committee members are addressing this concern immediately for further mitigation work in 2021.  Jan Pielech is currently pursuing a CSFS grant for potential matching funds to have the entirety of Skyline professionally mitigated to CSFS standards to create a fuel break along the narrow, 1 lane road in 2021 due to liability concerns of the subdivision and the safety of our Skyline residents. The CWPP committee is currently pursuing a grant opportunity that may help offset the cost of this essential project next summer.  Due to the scope of the work involved in creating a fuel break, and the difficulty and danger of mitigating the tight hairpin turn over the deep drainage on lower Skyline Dr., it is believed that neighborhood work days in 2021 will not be able to safely & fully address the removal of fuels required to make Skyline a safe evacuation route and to push the ground and canopy fuels back far enough for a true fuel break. In kind neighborhood mitigation hours on the project area will be needed during the timeframe of the grant if EFE is lucky enough to be awarded the opportunity. The committee will reach out with more details if or when the grant is awarded. With wildland and WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) fires threatening neighborhoods like EFE all through the western US, i*t is imperative*the EFE community recognize and move forward to address the neighborhood's wildfire dangers, with Skyline Dr being a top priority. \***

* To view EFE from above, or your property specifically, for fuel loads and the visibility of our neighborhood road system from the air, please visit the La Plata County GIS website and search by Skyline Dr. or your property address: <https://gis.laplata.co.us/laplatajs/>

**Blue Reflective Street Address signing**

Chief Evans wasgravely concerned of Upper Pine’s ability to respond to an emergency at several EFE properties.  The reasons given by the fire department for having this reflective blue signing at driveway entrances and clearly visible to oncoming traffic are as follows:

1) Firefighters and emergency responders are trained to look for these address markers specifically when out on

a call.

2) During wildfire season firefighting crews from neighboring fire districts, counties, states and assisting agencies

(BLM, CSFS, La Plata County EOM responders, etc.) are also trained to look for these address signs specifically

when partnering with our local fire department

3) These signs are more easily seen in the dark, in heavy smoke and/or snow fall than other signing

4) ***Multiple fatalities have resulted in our Upper Pine fire district due to the inability of responders to locate a***

***call address (fatalities include a choking child, stroke victims, heart attack victims, etc.)***

Because these specific blue reflective address signs are so critical to emergency responders the CWPP committee sent out a targeted email to properties of concern urgently requesting signs be moved or installed as soon as possible, at the request of our local emergency responders. If a property owner does not have one of these signs posted (and **vacant lots are included)** should a lightning fire start on any lot it will be difficult to report the fire.

The Blue Reflective Address signs can be purchased at:

La Plata County Planning & Building Department

211 Rock Point Dr. Durango Tech Center, Durango, CO 970.382.6251 Hrs: Mon-Fri   8am-5pm  (not avail 1-2) Cost:   $15 \*\*\*\*Please call ahead from parking lot to order and for Covid No-Contact pick up

Upper Pine has requested the blue reflective signs be posted**:**

a.  8-10 feet from the ground (emergency search lights are mounted high on the vehicles)

b.  so easily seen to oncoming traffic (some property owners have purchased and installed 2 signs pointing in

opposite directions & visible to oncoming traffic coming from different directions) and unobstructed by tree

branches, bushes, snow plow drifts, etc.

d.  located at your driveway entrance

***\*\*Please do NOT attach any signing to utility poles or equipment (private property of utility companies and an electrical and life-threatening danger to utility crews needing access to the poles and equipment)***



**CODE RED Residential Signups**

Upper Pine is concerned that not all property owners are signed up for La Plata County’s Code Red Emergency Notification System. Upper Pine requested a survey go out to all property owners to measure Code Red signup saturation in EFE. The committee piggybacked with a proposed bylaw change mailing that went to property owners in September. Disappointedly, there were only 38 lots who responded (of 78) with 25 confirmed as signed up for the emergency notification system. **\*\*\*Signing up for CODE RED is critically important!!** It is every property owners’ only notification to wildfire pre-evacuation and evacuation notifications.

**PLEASE, EVERYONE (including vacant lot owners\*, for those who asked on returned surveys) signup immediately at this La Plata County CO link:** <https://www.co.laplata.co.us/divisions/administration/oem_search_and_rescue.php#:~:text=La%20Plata%20County's%20emergency%20notification,t%20have%20a%20land%20line>.

**Code Red** ***notifications may be your only notification*** that wildfire or flooding is threatening and/or occurring in our neighborhood and WILL impact your safety and your property.

* Committee member Amy Paylor took on the task (with Jan Pielech’s help) of preparing and submitting the EFE CWPP document (found on our EFE website: <https://enchantedforestestates.org/cwpp> and at the Colorado State Forest Service’s website: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2015/09/EnchantedForestCWPP-FINAL-9-24-15.pdf> ), accompanying photo album and historical documents from the last 5 years for the 5-year required update. The CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) requires an ongoing 5-year update for neighborhood accountability, CWPP “active” status, National Neighborhood Firewise status and keeps EFE eligible to apply for fuels mitigation grants should they become available. The CWPP is currently under review with agency partners who will sign off on the document. Agency partners include: Colorado State Forest Service’s District Forester, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District’s Fire Chief, La Plata County Office of Emergency Management’s (OEM) Director and EFE HOA’s Board President. Once the updated CWPP document has been approved by all parties mentioned above, it will also be updated on the EFE and CSFS websites for your perusal.
* Residents and property owners please be aware of the HOA’s CWPP information on the neighborhood website and EFE Facebook page. The committee has its own webpage with information and links specific to wildland fuels mitigation, evacuation information, etc. (<https://enchantedforestestates.org/cwpp>) The Facebook group is a closed group that can be joined by property owners via approval by the EFE HOA Facebook contact Peggy Lewis <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237667986993523/>
* Mitigation Hours Reported in 2020: \*\*Fewer hours but increased expenses were reported in 2020 than in 2019

**Enchanted Forest Estates 2020 Fire Mitigation Hours (through 12.31.2020) …**………. LOW Reporting this year

**2020** **Mitigation Hrs.** **CWPP Hrs.** **COST** **Bio-Mass cubic yards**

1st qtr. 143 $360.00 0

2nd qtr. 324 22 $3100.00

3rd qtr. 731 59 $32,830.00 105.65

4th qtr. 276 611 $17,500.00 15

YTD TOTAL 1616 692 $54,090.00 120.65

**COMBINED TOTALs 2308 $54,090.00 120.65**

* The EFE CWPP committee enrollment/participation remains at 4 resident members but is always welcoming more property owners and residents to join. The CWPP committee is a busy committee and is always looking for participants to help us out.

Respectfully submitted by your EFE CWPP Committee Members,

Amy Paylor, Wildfire Adaptive Partnership (WAP) Ambassador Jan Pielech (WAP Ambassador) Barbara Hembree Jim Lewis