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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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January 4, 2022

Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round:

Resolve to Be Ready in 2022

SANTA FE, NM – The Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round campaign continues in 2022 with monthly wildfire preparedness messages from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's (EMNRD) <u>Forestry Division</u> and its partners. While winter may provide a break from significant wildfire activity, wildfires are possible during any time of year. As we begin this year, the message for January is Resolve to be Ready.

In spite of recent snow in many parts of the state, New Mexico is still expected to have a dry, "La Niña" winter following a strong 2021 monsoon season which regenerated grasses and other vegetation. As a result, <u>fire danger</u> may increase, and New Mexico could experience large wildfires this winter.

There are many resources available to learn about <u>Living with Wildfire</u> and <u>Ready, Set, Go!</u> principles to help protect your family and home. Consider sharing what you learn with neighbors to enhance the effectiveness of your own planning and action.

Resolve to be ready:

- Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Take a current photo of you and your pet(s) together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- Get to know your neighbors and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR and first aid.

- Keep and update emergency supplies, including cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like wildfire and floods. Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Sign up for emergency alerts and warnings. Download the <u>FEMA app</u> or check with your city or county government to see if they have an alert and notification system in place.
- Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund. Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.

The <u>New Mexico Forestry Division</u> is working with the <u>Carson</u>, <u>Cibola</u>, and <u>Santa Fe</u> National Forests, <u>Forest Stewards Guild</u>, <u>Fire Adapted NM</u>, <u>New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts</u>, <u>National Park Service</u>, <u>Bureau of Indian Affairs</u>, and <u>Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office</u> to continue our wildfire preparedness calendar in 2022 and share the message across multiple platforms, including social media, webinars and community events. Bookmark the <u>wildfire preparedness webpage</u> to follow the campaign throughout the year.



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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

http://www.emnrd.nm.gov