

National Fire Plan

Community Fire Plans

Utah

2003



In the summer of 2002, the Salt Lake Field Office conducted informal community firehouse meetings at the stations of Saratoga Springs, Cedar Fort and Eagle Mountain. The presentations were made to inform residents of wildland urban interface and hazardous fuels reduction projects surrounding their neighborhoods. Project descriptions involved cutting and thinning juniper trees in an effort to reduce the threat of wildfire. Cut trees were then offered to the public as fuel wood and posts via permit.

Fast forward 365 days. Recently the same staff sat down with representatives from the same communities at a wildfire preparation workshop. The workshop, offered through Community Solutions of Midway, Utah provided key information to help organize, activate and sustain a local wildfire council. On hand to answer any questions were folks from volunteer fire departments, county, state and federal agencies, including the Salt Lake Field Office.

What a difference a year can make! Agency specialists were amazed at the amount of knowledge acquired by the homeowners. Homework had obviously been done during winter break. For example, last year during the firehouse meetings BLM staff did most of the talking. This year concerned residents came to the table full of questions and information site specific to their locale.

Through this process, a goal was set to establish a fire plan and fire council by 2004 the several communities. The BLM field office has been busy this summer with fires, local events and patrols near communities. An increased presence has improved communication and accessibility with the public. Partnerships will be strengthened throughout the years to come.

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