



*Contact:* Amanda Sutton, Administrative Coordinator  
(970)385-8909  
asutton@wildfireadapted.org

## **Wildfire Adapted Partnership receives \$10,000 grant from the National Fire Protection Association and State Farm in support of Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 4**

4/19/2024 – Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP) has announced that it was among 10 organizations nationwide selected to receive \$10,000 in grant funding from the [National Fire Protection Association®](#) (NFPA®) and [State Farm®](#) in support of its [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#) efforts on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Wildfire Adapted Partnership is preparing to actively support Preparedness Day in southwest Colorado by helping plan two mitigation events for landowners and dispersing funds to local communities for wildfire education and mitigation events. In total the funding will support 17 communities in Archuleta, La Plata, and Montezuma counties.

“It was an honor to receive grant funding from NFPA and State Farm in recognition of the work we’ve done to increase wildfire resiliency in southwest Colorado,” said Ashley Downing, Executive Director, WAP. “The money we received in support of our Preparedness Day plans will help ensure that we reach as many local residents as possible, which is critically important for our community, particularly as the wildfire season is now upon us.”

Now entering its 10<sup>th</sup> year, Wildfire Community Preparedness Day takes place the first Saturday in May. The annual campaign encourages individuals and organizations to come together on a single day to proactively reduce wildfire risks. Typical activities might include simple, low-cost home improvement projects such as clearing dead leaves, debris, and pine needles from roofs and gutters; keeping lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches; or removing anything stored underneath decks or porches that could burn.

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires points to embers and small flames as the main way homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris, and other objects. By bringing people together on a single day, Wildfire Community Preparedness Day motivates residents to take actions that help protect homes and neighborhoods before a fire ever starts.

“I’m delighted that NFPA and State Farm can support Wildfire Adapted Partnership’s Wildfire Community Preparedness Day plans this May, as they have consistently demonstrated a dedication to wildfire mitigation. We hope the funding will help maximize their efforts to reach and impact as many homes in southwest Colorado as possible,” said Michele Steinberg, NFPA wildfire division director.

To learn more about Wildfire Adapted Partnership’s Wildfire Community Preparedness Day plans in Archuleta, La Plata, and Montezuma Counties visit [www.WildfireAdapted.org](http://www.WildfireAdapted.org). In addition, NFPA has



created a [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Toolkit](#), which provides all the resources and information individuals and communities need to plan and implement projects that can help make their homes and neighborhoods safer from wildfire. For more information about Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, visit [wildfireprepd.org](http://wildfireprepd.org).

### **About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)**

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

### **About State Farm®**

For 100 years, the mission of State Farm has been and continues to be to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. State Farm and its affiliates are the largest providers of [auto](#) and [home](#) insurance in the United States. Its more than 19,400 agents and approximately 61,764 employees serve over 91 million policies and accounts – which includes auto, fire, [life](#), [health](#), commercial policies and [financial services](#) accounts. [Commercial auto insurance](#), along with coverage for [renters](#), [business owners](#), [boats](#) and [motorcycles](#), is available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 44 on the 2023 Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.statefarm.com>.