Details of the CWPP Process

NM Community Wildfire Protection Plan Short Guide

COMMUNITY AND PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Create Core Team

5-15 people

Will meet frequently during planning process and no less than annually upon implementation.

Include at least one community resident, and someone with expertise in each of the following areas:

- fire behavior
- community outreach
- local regulations

Gather Community Input

- Landing page
- kick-off meeting
- news releases
- social media
- surveys
- focus groups
- storymaps

Develop Goals and Objectives

Relate them to the following issues:
- Partnership and Collaboration
- Risk Assessment
- Fuels Reduction
- Structural Vulnerability Reduction Emergency Management
- Education and Outreach

Example Goals:
- To enhance safety and preparedness.
- To create fire adapted communities.
- To restore and maintain landscapes.

Example Objectives:
- WUI fuels reduction.
- Potential evacuation routes identified.
- Reduce human caused ignitions.

Partner Input and Feedback

Partners must include:
- Fire departments
- Local governments
- NM Forestry Division district foresters

Also include federal agencies, land managers, tribes, pueblos, utility companies, nonprofit groups, and law enforcement.

Find NM Forestry Division District contacts here:
https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/contact-us/find-a-district-office/

RISK ASSESSMENT

Fire Hazard Mapping

Mapping Needs:
Expertise, software, and data.

- *Describe the Community.* Boundaries of community in relation to vegetation, social vulnerability index.

- *Locally developed Wildland Urban Interface map.*

- *Describe the Risk.* Community Risk Ratings, Suppression Challenges, Evacuation Hazards, Home Ignition Zone Hazards

- *Display the Solutions.* Identify and Highlight Priority Project Areas, taking into consideration what treatments are needed, land ownership, and what is feasible to do in 5-10 years.

Existing Fuel Treatments

New Mexico has a database of fuel treatments at www.vegetationtreatments.org. Create maps with the free tool available in the database. CWPP developers should ensure that prior treatments are accurately reflected in the database.

Identify Values at Risk/Critical Infrastructure

Clearly indicate whether priority projects are related to protection of communities and essential infrastructure or to reducing wildfire risks to other community values.

Response Capacity

Include action items like testing your Reverse 911 calling system and maintaining and improving rural addressing.

Evacuation Assessment, Roadway Hazards

Emergency evacuation routes, shelters, and smoke refuge for wildfire and post-fire flood situations.

On-the-Ground Assessment

Identification of residential areas at the highest risk to help prioritize action.

Steps:
1. *Divide community into neighborhoods,* or plan units (subdivision-level for smaller CWPPs, Fire Department-level for county-wide CWPPs).
2. *Develop assessment criteria and methodology.*
   Examples:
   Fire Risk – topographic features
   Fire Suppression Capacity – water sources, road accessibility, etc.
   Evacuation Capacity – road width, primary egress routes
   Home Ignition Zone Hazards – home hardening, defensible space
3. *Conduct the assessments.* Include photos and narratives.
4. *Analyze your data.* Rate risk as high, medium or low.

Details of the CWPP Process, continued

PRIORITIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Core Team and Partner Meetings

Response and Recovery Planning

Identify and establish a wildfire response and recovery team.

Develop a plan to provide communities with refuge from smoke during a wildfire.

Resources:
www.afterwildfirenm.org

https://www.fireadaptedwashington.org/toolkit/coordinating-recovery/

Make the Priority Action Plan

Plan for 5 years
Include recommendations for:
fire district capacity, evacuation, priority fuel treatments, education and outreach, and post-fire pre-planning

Be Specific and action-oriented!
Each category will have tasks with a responsible party and timeline associated.

The information should be presented in a spreadsheet or table.

Consider making an implementation plan and a monitoring plan to see if goals are being met. Having a clear schedule for monitoring accomplishments will ensure a dynamic plan that responds to the needs of the community.

Find monitoring framework resources here:
https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/Fire/CWPPEvalGuide.pdf

WRITING THE FINAL DOCUMENT

Write the CWPP Document

Written in plain language and is understandable to a broad audience, is concise, and usable.

Convene Implementation Committee

Consider Funding Avenues for Priority Actions

NM Forestry Division CWPP Resources and Guidelines

https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/community-wildfire-protection-plans-cwpp/

CWPP Development Process Visual Guide

Project Inception → Begin Stakeholder Engagement → Preliminary Hazard and Risk Assessments → Public Workshops → Detailed Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments → Develop Action Plan → Review Actions with Stakeholders → Prepare Draft CWPP → Public Workshops → Prepare Final CWPP → Approval and Final Signatures

FACNM CWPP Resources Page

EMNRD CWPP Homepage

Learn More!

Additional resources hosted by the Fire Adapted New Mexico Learning Network:
https://www.facnm.org/

FIRE ADAPTED NM learning network

This guide was created by The Ember Alliance, with revision and New Mexico-specific guidance from The Fire Adapted New Mexico learning network, NM Forestry Division, and The Forest Stewards Guild. 2024.