

## Wild Fire Season...What You Can Do To Prepare

Our community got a close look on June 26, 2012 when officials evacuated the Town of Elbert because of a fast moving wild land fire. The reality is that the fire season is now year round in our community due to dry, low moisture conditions. Our local fire districts take every precaution to prepare for devastating fires. In large fire events, fire departments don't have the resources to protect every home; that is why each homeowner needs to take responsibility for their part in protecting their family and property. Elizabeth Fire Rescue has adopted a plan called **Ready, Set, Go!**<sup>1</sup>. This program uses advanced planning to save lives and property.

**Ready!** talks about preparedness and everything a homeowner can do from creating defensible space around their homes to creating "Go Bags."

**Set!** is that situational awareness when a fire starts. In this phase homeowners are preparing their house and dressing appropriately to get ready to evacuate. It is very important that you know which media outlets your local first responders will be using to alert people of evacuation.

**Go!** is the easiest part when you have prepared for this event. Do not hesitate to leave, grab your "Go Bag", and evacuate to a low risk area. It is important to let family members know where that location will be for reunification after the fire event.

The Waldo Canyon Fire and the High Park Fire last summer showed firefighters that the embers from the fire caused most of the home damage compared to the actual flame front. A home within one mile of a natural area is in the ember zone.

When wildfire strikes in our community, we can all be ready to work together for a positive outcome. For more information on **Ready, Set, Go** Program Elizabeth Fire Rescue along with Elbert County Emergency Management has partnered to bring classes on this program. Follow us on facebook at Elizabeth Fire Rescue and twitter at elizabeth\_fire for upcoming class times and dates.

*Complimentary article by Kara Gerczynski, Fire Marshal, Elizabeth Fire Protection District*

<sup>1</sup> [Ready Set Go, Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide \(RSG Program\).](#)

