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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**February 1, 2022**

**Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round:**  
*Prune Your Trees for Those Hotter Degrees!*

**SANTA FE, NM** – Recognizing that longer, more extreme fire seasons are likely to continue, preparing our homes, properties, and communities for wildfire is more important than ever. The 2022 Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round campaign provides monthly wildfire preparedness tasks that follow the changing seasons. The February message from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s (EMNRD) [Forestry Division](#) and its partners is **Prune Your Trees for Those Hotter Degrees!**

Removing trees and other vegetation from around your home can have a positive effect on how flames and embers will behave in the event of a wildfire. This month, follow the guidance of the National Fire Protection Association to prepare your [Home Ignition Zone](#) for wildfire. Preparing your home ignition zone may involve removing some trees to increase the horizontal spacing between trees as well as removing lower branches to increase the vertical spacing from the ground to the canopy of the trees. Removing trees completely to increase horizontal spacing can be done at any time of the year. However, the late winter month of February is a particularly good time to increase vertical spacing by thinning lower branches because trees are dormant in the winter, making them less susceptible to insects or disease.

The following guidelines can make even first-timers feel confident they won’t damage their trees:

- Learn about your specific vegetation by exploring [NMSU Extension’s Yard and Garden page](#), or by reaching out to a [Soil and Water Conservation District](#) near you.
- Start with sharp pruners, loppers or a saw.

- Remove any branches that are crossed over or rubbing.
- Remove all damaged or dying branches that look diseased.
- Dispose of wood offsite or safely burn it, especially if wood may be diseased.

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

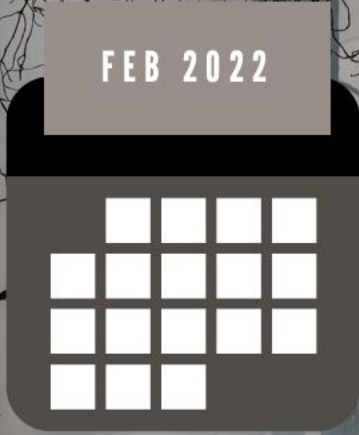


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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

<http://www.emnrd.nm.gov>

FEB 2022



# Prune Your Trees For Those **Hotter** Degrees



# 2022

**Wildfire Preparedness Is Year-Round**