West Central Highlands RC&D

Enriching Lives…Building Communities

Gem County REDZONE Fire Hazard Assessment

In 2008 Gem County (Idaho) began implementation of REDZONE, a fire hazard assessment computer software program that greatly enhances preparation and response time to fire incidents. The project was successfully completed in December 2010.

The Gem County assessment included an inventory of hazardous conditions associated with 3,497 homes in Fire Districts I and II of Gem County. Holly LeFevre, owner of MPE Wildfire Solutions, was the project leader. The Bureau of Land Management and the SW Resource Advisory Council provided funding, and the West Central Highlands RC&D assisted with grant administration and project oversight. Uniformed fire department employees conducted the door-to-door assessment, took photographs and captured data in electronic format. The data included numerical ratings for fuel buildup, fire-prone fuels, difficult access, hazardous terrain, and vulnerable structures. The data was then uploaded to a REDZONE laptop computer mounted in the fire Chief's vehicle.

So imagine what REDZONE does to enhance fire response! When a call comes in the Chief enters the address and instantly knows everything about the emergency site! A picture of the house and surrounding property further supports the data. The Chief can then allocate resources in an efficient and rapid manner. Advance knowledge of hazards provides firefighters an additional layer of safety and protection as they approach the scene.

In addition, REDZONE opens the door for prevention opportunities and allows the Chief to work directly with landowners to reduce hazards and make the urban/rural interface a safer place for all.

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