

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Jenkins, Monte Sereno
Firewise Committee Member
Phone: 505-933-9547
Email: solanajim@gmail.com

MONTE SERENO WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY
11:00 AM to 1 PM, Saturday, May 4th, 2019

[SANTE FE, NM, May 2, 2019] The Firewise Committee of the Monte Sereno residential community in Santa Fe announced today their Wildfire Community Preparedness Day activities will take place at the community's newly completed Firewise Garden this Saturday, May 4th from 11:00 AM to 1 PM MDT.

The Monte Sereno Firewise Garden was developed on a parcel in the community that includes a garden, a managed native landscape area with picnic tables, trailheads to community trails, and the community postboxes. The 'learning lab' garden exhibits to the neighborhood, and community at large, the types of native tree and plant species homeowners could select to locate around their homes at designated distances, and the kind of vegetation management practices they could undertake, such as trimming, limbing up, cluster reduction, and or tree and debris removal that will help make the structure more fire resilient, that is, to have a Firewise residential landscape.

Vegetation for the garden was selected with help from the HOA landscape committee, local nurseries, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, and specialists from New Mexico State University. Signage located near each plant indicates the common name, botanical name, and plant family to help the community identify the plants they should consider them for their gardens.

Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber and District 1 Councilor and Mayor Pro Tempore Signe I. Lindell will speak at the event about the importance of wildfire preparedness. Representatives of the Santa Fe Fire Department will guide attendees through the garden, providing education regarding techniques used in the garden to reduce the potential damage caused by wildfire.

The garden was made possible through contributions and generous support from the community developer 21 Club Holdings, the Monte Sereno HOA, a \$500 contribution from Farmers Insurance, Santa Fe Fire Department Wildlands Specialists, Proscap Landscape Management, the Monte Sereno Firewise Committee, Santa Fe Botanical Garden and many individual contributions.

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Background:

Recent wildfire events make the need for Wildfire Preparedness Day more important than ever before. Last October, more than 40 people lost their lives in a rash of Northern California wildfires that burned more than 245,000 acres. In December, wildfires near Los Angeles forced more than 230,000 people to evacuate their homes. Several other states that experienced large fires in 2017, including Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Utah, have put the U.S. on pace to exceed the average acreage burned annually over the past 10 years.

98 million U.S. citizens live in areas where wildfires happen, approximately one-third of the country's population. This generates a risk of wildfire loss to 45 million homes and 72,000 communities. The Santa Fe area is an area is subject to these risks.

"Since NFPA and State Farm first partnered together on Preparedness Day, the number of projects has grown tremendously. We are pleased to provide 150 communities with \$500 each to fund their wildfire risk reduction activities on May 5," said Vickie Hodges, P&C underwriting analyst, State Farm. "For State Farm, the largest home insurer in the U.S., it is important for us to take a leadership role in helping homeowners stay safe and better protect their property."

<https://newsroom.statefarm.com/2018-wildfire-community-preparedness-day/>

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqt-r9oLsLs&feature=youtu.be>

About Monte Sereno:

Monte Sereno is a master-planned community located in the north east side of the City of Santa Fe. Situated in the piñon- and juniper-studded hills between the Santa Fe Opera and the historic Santa Fe Plaza, the 600-acre residential community of Monte Sereno is the embodiment of Santa Fe.

www.monteserenosantafe.com

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Jim Jenkins at 505-933-9547, or via email at solanajim@gmail.com.