Washington Kicks Off Wildfire Awareness Week With Wildfires

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

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OLYMPIA, Wash. - In recognition of Wildfire Awareness Week, May 5 – 11, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages everyone to learn their role in preparing for wildfire safety.This year, DNR is encouraging homeowners, land managers, first responders, developers, business owners, and civic leaders to focus on “Knowing Your Role” when it comes to preparing communities for wildfire. Visit the Fire Adapted Communities website (http://fireadapted.org/) to learn more about defensible space, fire-resilient building construction, community wildfire prevention planning, the Firewise Program, (www.firewise.org) and Ready, Set, Go! (http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/).Also, this is the first year that governors from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and California have joined together to proclaim Wildfire Awareness Week. It’s an important week to learn more about joining forces in local communities to become better prepared for wildfire safety.If designing or updating a home’s landscape, think of ways to incorporate firebreaks (things that don’t burn) into the landscape design. Defensible space doesn’t have to be an eyesore. Some examples of firebreaks are: concrete, brick or gravel walkways, concrete flower box borders or planters, and water features, such as a pond. Even the backyard swimming pool can serve as a firebreak. Go towww.firewise.org for more specific tips on how to protect homes from wildfire.

Wildfire Awareness Week events around the state**Chipping Day at Lake Cushman:**
What:Lake Cushman Firewise Council Chipping Day
Chipping your yard debris throughout the community
When:May 4 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Where:Lake Cushman Maintenance Company, 3740 N Lake Cushman Rd, Hoodsport
Contact:Jane Potter at 360-802-7030 or email at jane.potter@dnr.wa.gov**Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Prevention Education:**
What:Roll out the new campaign Ready, Set, Go!
Education for people to protect their homes
When:May 7 – 4 p.m.
Where:Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Station 2-1
2020 Vantage Highway, Ellensburg
Contact:Deputy Chief Rich Elliot at 509-933-7231
Burn Barrel Exchange:
What:Exchange your burn barrel for a compost bin
When:May 9, 10, and 11 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where:West Waste Landfill, Highway 110, Forks, WA
Contact:Bryan Suslick at 360-374-2800 or email at bryan.suslick@dnr.wa.gov**Washington’s 100th Firewise Community:**
What:Hidden Valley Meadows/Vista Community receives Washington’s 100th Firewise Award
When:May 10 — 10 a.m.
Where:140 Leo Lane, Cle Elum, WA 98922
Contact:Suzanne Wade at 509-925-8585 or email at suzanne-wade@conservewa.net