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Colorado Tree Farmers

# Press Release

Be Prepared

For Wildfire and other Disasters

Fort Collins, Colorado May 12, 2013: "Be Prepared" was a community event to help people be better prepared to reduce the damage to their property and to increase the odds that their homes can be saved during the upcoming wildfire and flood seasons in the High Park Fire burn area.

More than **125** forest landowners attended.

The event addressed the questions:

- What did we learn from the recent fires?
- What can we expect this year?
- What can we do to be better prepared?
- Who can help us?



Opening Remarks were by Larimer County **Undersheriff - Bill Nelson**

During the event:

- Neighbors, including fire fighters, who lost their homes in the High Park Fire discussed what they learned and what they would do differently.
- Fire and flood experts **Tony Simons** with Larimer County, **Chief Bob Gann** with Rist Canyon, **Chief Carl Solley** with Poudre Canyon, and **District Forester Boyd Lebeda** with the Colorado State Forest Service told us what to expect in the future.
- **Patti Maguire**, Firewise Southwest Regional Advisor, **Todd Boldt**, NRCS District Conservationist, and **Mike Hughes**, CSFS Asst. District Forester showed attendees how best to be prepared

- Numerous volunteer organizations introduced themselves, described what they do, and offered assistance to those in need or who may be in need in the coming years.

PLUS!

An unveiling of a High Park Fire Memorial sculpture created by local sculptors and neighbors, Jackie Sindelar and Chris Gugelman took place at Mishawaka Amphitheatre at 12:30pm, after the Be Prepared event.

Losing a home is extremely stressful and costly. Being prepared and taking the steps necessary to reduce that risk, even if no one can guarantee that your home can be saved in every situation, is worth the effort.

"We were better prepared than most. But we were nowhere near as well prepared as we should have been. Or could have been." – Linda Masterson, author of *Surviving Wildfire - A Handbook for Homeowners*, lost her home in the Crystal Fire.

**When:** Saturday, May 11, 2013

**Where:** Ward Mountain Ranch, 4985 Stove Prairie Rd., Bellvue 80512

**What time:** 9 am to Noon

**Who was invited:** Everyone interested in wildfire and flooding.