

The Rio Verde Fire Districts Wildland Team was called to assist in the Bush Fire last week. The Bush fire grew to over 180,000 acres. Engine Boss Jamie Hughes and Firefighters Dean Donaldson and Adam Kepler were on scene for seven days and assisted with preventing the fire from jumping Highway 188 near Punkin Center. With the EXTREME fire danger in the region, the Rio Verde Fire District recommends the following Firewise safety tips to keep you home safe.

Rio Verde is a Firewise community. Firewise is a designation awarded by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to a community that has demonstrated a sustained effort to mitigate the risks of wildfires. Rio Verde is proud to have earned this coveted status for eleven years running and having enjoyed the benefits of this accomplishment. Keep your homes safe from wildfires by:

- Clean roofs (especially flat roofs) and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of eighteen feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

Thank you

Jay Ducote

Rio Verde Fire Chief

Pictures of RVFD fire crews and fire apparatus fighting the Bush Fire.



