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NAME: News Editors / News Directors
FROM: The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
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MEDIA RELEASE

Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Implements *Ready, Set, Go!*

Arapahoe County has seen an increase in residents in the rural portion of the county and in the Wildland - Urban Interface (WUI) – the area where development meets natural vegetation. In Arapahoe County this vegetation is primarily native grasses that can dry out and become fast burning fuels when ignited. Homes that sit within a two mile radius of any natural area are located in the Wildland- Urban Interface.

Public Safety personnel within Arapahoe County take great measures to protect homes and lives from the devastation of wildfires in our communities; however, residents should also focus on protecting their property and assets through proper mitigation and planning. To assist Arapahoe County citizens with this important preparation, the Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the rural fire departments in Arapahoe County and the Arapahoe Public Works and Development department is offering a helpful tool called *Ready, Set, Go! Your Personal Wildfire Action Plan*. *Ready, Set, Go!* is a personal preparedness initiative developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). It focuses on containing WUI fire suppression costs and reducing injuries by making communities less vulnerable to wildland fire.

The *Ready, Set, Go!* plan teaches residents what to do when their families and homes are threatened by a wildland fire. Compiled in a convenient checklist format, the plan includes steps to take to get **ready** for a wildland fire, important triggers and immediate actions to take to get **set**, and planning considerations and resources for when it is time to **go** as a wildland fire approaches.

(More)



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Research has shown that homes are more commonly damaged and/or destroyed by burning embers in the ignition zone rather than the actual wildland fire. The plan places an emphasis on this factor by instructing homeowners on concepts such as defensible space, fire resistant building construction, and fire resistant landscaping. The plan also addresses how to protect vulnerable areas of your home such as eaves, vent openings, windows, doors, and patios.

Working through the *Ready Set Go! Your Personal Wildfire Action Plan* will help rural and wildland –urban interface residents become well prepared in case of a wildland fire. A booklet detailing the program will be available at the Sable Altura Fire Department, the Bennett Fire Department, the Strasburg Fire Department, the Byers Fire Department, the Deer Trail Fire Department, and the Arapahoe County Planning and Development Building Division. It can also be downloaded from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Website www.arapahoesherriff.org. You may also request a copy by calling the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management at 720-874-4186.

For further information please contact Sheriff Grayson Robinson at 720-874-4165.

END