Bent Tree Homeowners Association
Special Meeting on Wildfire Mitigation
October 18, 2012

There were 20+ homeowners in attendance at the YMCA.

The guest speaker was Fire Marshall John Vincent, Captain of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. His presentation included two topics: Discussion about the Waldo Canyon Fire and suggestions for homeowners to mitigate forest fire occurrence and damage.

These notes focus on his suggestions and comments - he reinforced that these are recommendations, and that we need to follow our HOA covenants and requirements.

- He does not consider I-25 as a buffer for fire protection due to unpredictable wind conditions.
- If you are told to evacuate – follow instructions.
- Trim trees up to 6' from the ground
- Where feasible, trim trees to permit 10' between branches
- Don't stack firewood next to your house – it should be at least 30' from the house
- Be aware of scrub oak trees – they generate an oil to protect it, thus increasing the potential for them as a fire source.
- Make your house number visible on the street from the direction that the fire or rescue truck will be coming from.
- Look into replacing your non-metal window screens with steel window screens. This will help to stop flying embers that melt the non-metal screens.
- Check your homeowners' policy for appropriate coverage.
- Thin out your trees where necessary – "Hug a tree – and get rid of a tree"
- Check to see if your smoke alarm operates independently of your burglar alarm.

For a complimentary fire mitigation inspection of your home – call 484-0911.

References:
- Refer to the Bent Tree HOA website for suggestions on fire mitigation and forest management
- www.firewise.org – go the "homeowners" section for information on how to protect your home and property, Firewise plant lists and other resources.
- Colorado Springs Emergency Preparedness and Safety Guide. Contact the CS Office of Emergency Management – 719-385-5957; oem@springsgov.com
- El Paso County Wildfire Protection Plan –

Notes prepared by David Wittman