

Village of Taos Ski Valley Wildfire Mitigation Progress

Presented by the Taos Ski Valley Fire Department



Presentation Overview

- Village Firewise status and community at risk rating (CAR).
- Forestry Initiatives.
- Community Services Available.
- Fire Department Updates and Cooperative Agreements.
- Continued Commitments.
- Community Engagement.



Firewise/CAR



VTSV is one of 11 Firewise communities within Taos County.



Firewise status is community driven and supported by local and state government.



VTSV holds a current CAR of High. This was last assessed in 2021/2022 when the greater Taos County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was updated.



Major factors influencing CAR ratings: Topography, climate/weather, fuel type/density, community ingress/egress, road conditions and availability of water.

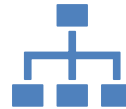
Highway 150 Fuel Modification Project



Led by USFS Fire and Fuel Management.



Consists of approximately 300 acres of forest thinning and piling from the mouth of the canyon to the Bull of the Woods.



Nearly half of the project is complete.



Multi-agency cooperation including VTSV FD.



Goals: Improvement on ingress/egress in the event of a wildfire, reduce fires starts and improve forest health.

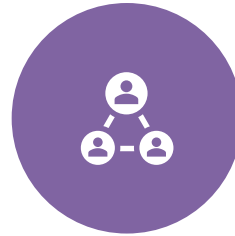
TSV Inc. Forestry Initiatives



MULTI-YEAR FORESTRY
WORK WITHIN RESORT
PERMIT BOUNDARIES.



USFS SUPPORT AND
ASSISTANCE WITH PILE
BURNING AND FOREST
THINNING GUIDANCE.



COLLABORATIVE WORK
WITH BOB COROON ON
NORTHSIDE.



VTSV FD SUPPORT WITH
PRESCRIBED BURNING.

VTSV Forestry Initiatives



Non-Federal Land (NFL)
Grant.



Funded due to proximity to
federal lands and Highway
150 project. Also
compliments TSV
Inc./Northside projects.



FREE for property owners.



Approximately 40 acres
treated as of 05/14/25 across
33 individual properties.



Fire risk reduction plus forest
health improvement.



Generated firewood for
community use.



Approximately 9 acres across
14 properties in progress.



Employed local contractors
from across Northern NM
including Taos County.

Community Services

Village wide risk assessments conducted by Jalmar Bowden and Americorp position as a part of the NFL Grant in 22/23.

On going risk assessments available by request.

Community Slash Drop Off Program: Community can bring slash to public works site for safe disposal via Air Curtain Burner or open pile burning.

Future plans for VTSV to purchase a chipper for continued fuel reduction assistance.

Fire Department Updates

In 2024 successfully acquired two Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants totaling \$45,000 to fund first ever Wildland Coordinator and wildland equipment/PPE.

Acquired same VFA grants again in 2025.

Joined the Resource Mobilization Plan (RMP) for the first time in 2024 to support local, state, regional and national fire suppression efforts. Deployed to Oregon to support the Battle Mountain Complex.

17 National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualified firefighters now employed at various capacities.

Have been participating in the Prescribed Fire Agreement between Taos County and the Carson National Forest since 2023.

Fire Department Updates Continued

Goal: Stand up a Type 1
Rapid Extrication
Module Support
(REMS) Team under the
RMP.

REMS Team's are a
combination of Fire,
EMS and Technical
Rescue experts.

Would be the first
REMS Team to be
developed within the
Enchanted Circle.

Progress
Made-
Commitment
Continued

Continue strong interagency and community partnerships.

On-going risk reduction and forest health improvements.

Continued growth in capability, training and resources.

Continued pursuit to update VTSV CWPP.

What Homeowners Can Do



Clear

Create defensible space up to 100' around your home.



Remove

Remove flammable materials within 0-5' of structure.



Pile

Store firewood at least 30' away from home.



Upgrade

Take affordable steps to fire harden structures.



Evacuation

Make and practice a family evacuation and communication plan.



Consult

Consult with local FD for guidance or visit NFPA for more information.

What Homeowners Can Do Continued

Protect Your Home and Community From Wildfire



Did you know?

Each year wildfire burns millions of acres of land.

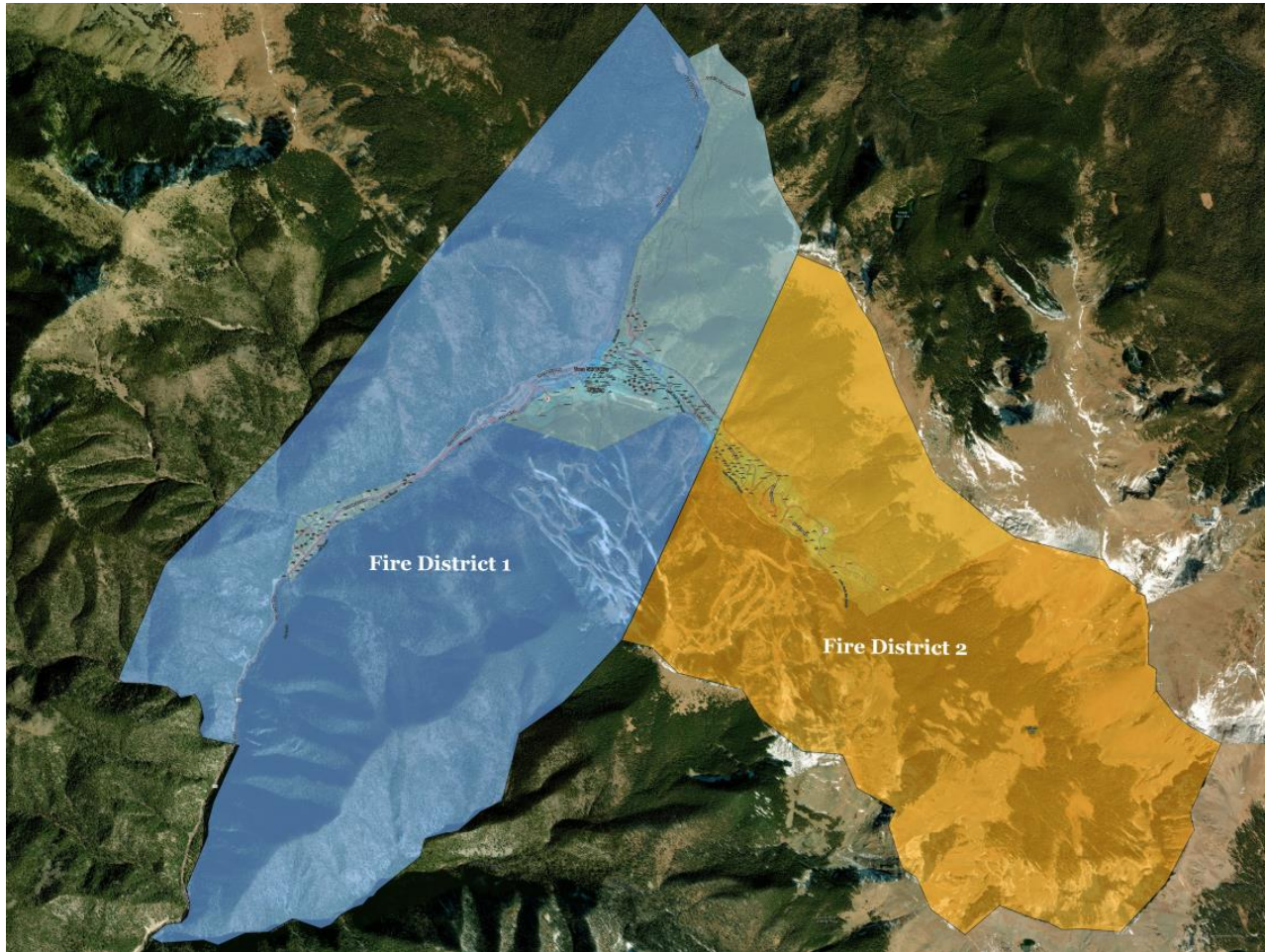
Practice and share wildfire-safety tips in your community.

You can help prepare for the wildfire season by following these important tips:

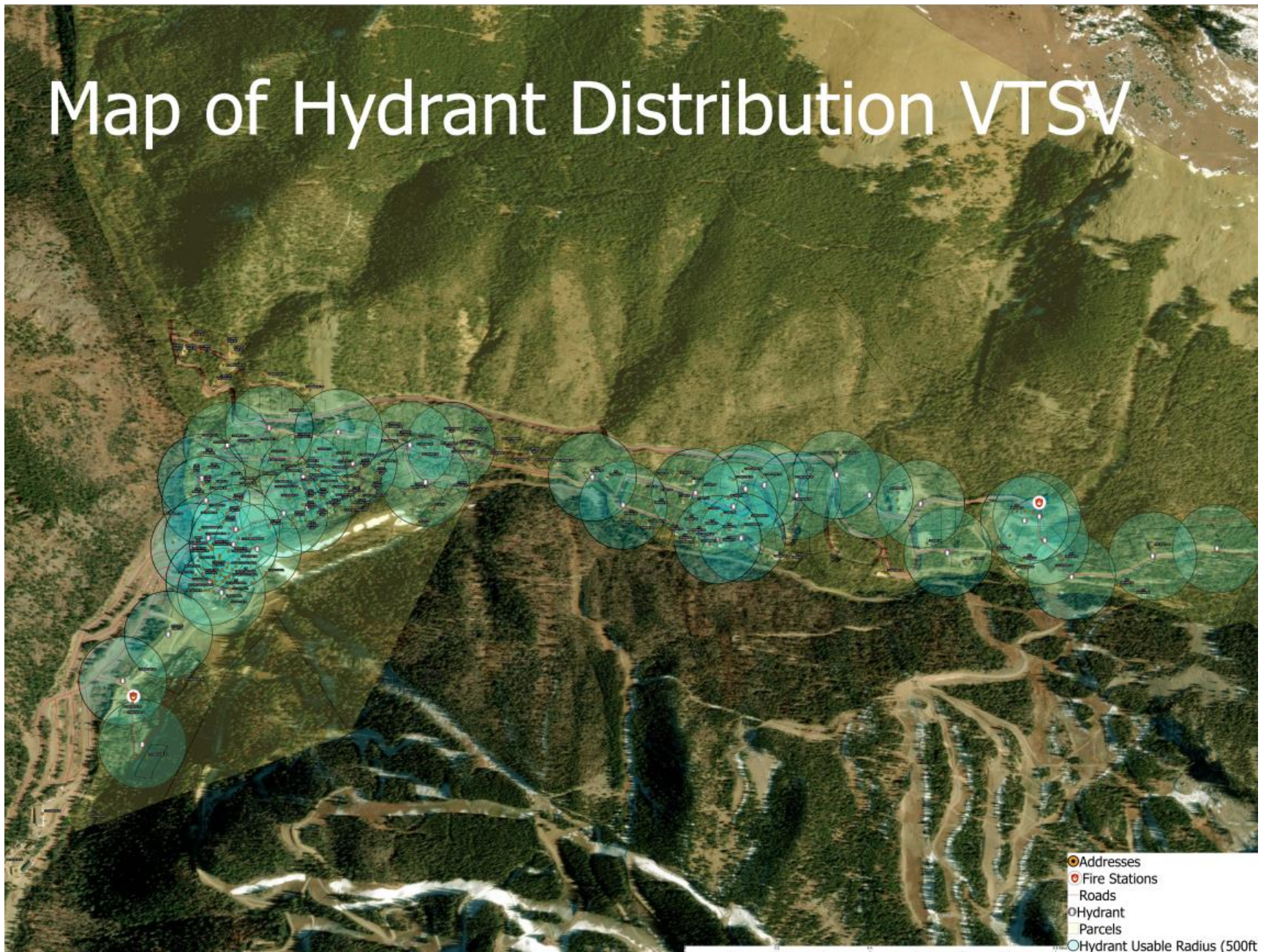
- 1 Create a safety zone of up to 100 feet around your home.
 - > Remove pine needles and dry leaves from around your home.
 - > Keep woodpiles at least 30 feet from your home.
- 2 Plan and practice a home evacuation plan. Create a family communication plan.



Fire District Map



Map of Hydrant Distribution VTSV



Additional Fire Resources

Link to department of homeland security and emergency management fire page.

<https://www.dhsem.nm.gov/preparedness/wildfire-preparedness/>

Fire Updates for New Mexico

<https://nmfireviewer.org>

Fire Information for Taos County

<https://nmfireinfo.com/>

New Mexico Natural Resources Department Fire Prevention Resources

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/>

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/preparing-homes-for-wildfire>