

2017 RSG Excellence Award Winners

RSG Award for Excellence – Career Department

South Metro Fire Rescue

The South Metro Fire Rescue Authority joined the Ready, Set, Go! Program in 2011 and has been an active and innovative member ever since. In June of 2016, South Metro Fire Rescue collaborated with the PineRidge Homeowners Association for the second year of the Ready, Set, Goat! campaign, a creative fuels reduction project. Over the course of 13 days, a herd of 300 goats grazed on seven acres of open land, efficiently removing ladder fuels. The media attention from the campaign provided the department with an opportunity to educate the surrounding communities on the importance of mitigation efforts to reduce wildland fire risk. They've already started planning for the 2017 Ready, Set, Goat! campaign, which will treat at least ten acres.

In addition to this, South Metro has provided RSG educational materials to homes in high risk areas within the wildland-urban interface. They've partnered with homeowner's associations to provide materials to new residents and discuss how mitigation efforts have saved structures from recent fires, and used the Farmers and Ranchers materials to build a partnership with the Colorado Equine Clinic.

South Metro's dedication to finding innovative ways to reach out to their community has made them an outstanding representative of the Ready, Set, Go! Program. For this reason and many others, we are excited to present them with the RSG Award for Excellence for a career department.

RSG Award for Excellence – Volunteer/Combination Department

Firefighter Christopher Hoxit – Brushy Mountain Fire and Rescue

Firefighter Christopher Hoxit joined the Ready, Set, Go! Program with the Brushy Mountain Volunteer Fire Department in 2013. Since then, he has worked diligently to expand the RSG! Program in his area.

Thanks to his tireless efforts, the department has developed working relationships with Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma City Fire, Keys Fire and Rescue, the American Red Cross, Marble City Fire, Brushy Citizen FireCorps, and the Office of Emergency Management. Together they have established procedures for emergency evacuation shelters, held wildland fire prevention days, conducted home assessments, carried out community defensible space projects, and completed training on wildland fire prevention and suppression. Firefighter Hoxit has conducted door to door outreach in an effort to reach more members of his community, outfitted a mitigation trailer for Brushy Mountain Fire and Rescue that has been used to perform home assessments and fuels reduction projects, and arranged for community wildland fire education events.

The relationships Firefighter Hoxit has worked to establish have resulted in a community that is better prepared to face wildland fire. We are proud to present him with the RSG Award for Excellence for a Volunteer or Combination Department for his dedication to working with his community and spreading the message of the Ready, Set, Go! Program.