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*For immediate release*

**NFPA releases new wildfire DVD for small and local fire departments**  
*Before the Smoke! Preparing Your Community for Wildfire* emphasizes partnerships  
between fire service and residents to reduce wildfire risk

April 12, 2013 – The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) announced the release of a new DVD, [Before the Smoke! Preparing Your Community for Wildfire \(Strategies for Small & Volunteer Fire Departments\)](#). Aimed at small and volunteer fire departments in the wildland/urban interface (WUI), *Before the Smoke!* emphasizes the importance of relationship-building between local fire departments and residents, and how these partnerships can make a marked difference in a community's effort to reduce its wildfire risk despite department budget cuts and limited fire suppression resources. The DVD is available at no charge through [NFPA's wildfire safety online catalog](#).

Video: *Before the Smoke! Preparing Your Community for Wildfire*

*Before the Smoke!* highlights three local fire departments whose outreach and neighbor-to-neighbor engagement allowed them to create a community better prepared for wildfire. Residents in Lake Hamilton and Diamondhead, Arkansas; Rist Canyon, Colorado; and Itasca County and Cohasset, Minnesota, took responsibility for preparing their own homes before the threat of wildfire including creating more defensible space around their property, which resulted in less structural damage, less reliance on costly suppression activities and ultimately allowed fire departments to focus more of their firefighting efforts in areas with the most critical need. The DVD features interviews with local residents and fire fighters, and highlights each community's struggle and its successes during the process.

In addition to personal interviews, *Before the Smoke!* introduces the concept behind the [Fire Adapted Communities](#)<sup>®</sup> initiative and the role it plays in connecting residents to organizations and programs that can help with a community's specific wildfire mitigation needs. These resources include NFPA's [Firewise Communities Program](#)<sup>®</sup> and the International Association of Fire Chief's (IAFC) [Ready, Set, Go! program](#), in addition to information about community evacuations, wildfire codes and standards and other tools.

For more information and to order a complimentary copy of *Before the Smoke! Preparing Your Community for Wildfire (Strategies for Small & Volunteer Fire Departments)*, visit [NFPA's wildfire safety online category](#).

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### **About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

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