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FireSafe Montana Sponsors “Communities & Wildfire Conference”

FireSafe Montana announces “Wildfire Preparedness: It’s Your Responsibility” as the theme for their third Montana Communities & Wildfire Conference, to be held at Fairmont Hot Springs February 25-27, 2010. The conference will assist landowners, contractors, realtors, firefighters, fire managers, insurers, and anyone interested in taking positive action to reduce fire risk to their communities while increasing firefighter and public safety in the Wildland-Urban Interface.

This year’s key note speaker, Dave Thomas, will present about his experiences in New Zealand and Australia and how they never saw the wildfires coming on that Black Sunday. The conference also contains sessions on new wildfire research, mitigating fuels with a burn component, the future of biomass utilization, the role of disturbance in the forest, forestry techniques, and successful grant criteria, among others. Presentations will address what all this means to communities in Montana. Participants will hear what local FireSafe Councils are doing to help landowners protect their homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface, as well as first-hand accounts from several wildfire survivors. Featured at the conference is a luncheon presentation by Forest Service official Jim Hubbard on federal wildfire policies and an evening presentation on the 1910 Fires Centennial Commemoration. Contractors, insurance companies, or anyone wanting to showcase their company and/or projects are encouraged to register for the tradeshow in conjunction with the conference.

FireSafe Montana is a private, non-profit organization coordinating and supporting a statewide coalition of diverse interests working together to help Montanans make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe. Their work involves establishing local councils across the state and raising public awareness of local wildfire threats and risks.

Participants can register for the entire conference or attend parts as their schedule allows. To view an agenda, register for the conference, or gain details about the tradeshow, visit www.firesafemt.org or contact Crystal Hagerman (406) 431-8718.