



Frequently Asked Questions of the Ready, Set, Go! Program

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1. What is the Ready, Set, Go! Program?

The program brings firefighters to the public outreach effort on wildland fire and provides them tools for the job. National studies have shown that firefighters are uniquely respected in their communities and can project a trusted voice in the public preparedness appeal. The Ready, Set, Go! Program enables firefighters to teach individuals how to be ready for wildland fire – utilizing existing preparedness tools like Firewise; to have situational awareness when a fire starts; and to leave early for the safety to themselves and firefighters. The program seeks to make residents and fire departments partners in the wildland fire solution.

2. Does Ready, Set, Go! compete with programs like Firewise and their state funding resources?

The Ready, Set, Go! Program works in complimentary and collaborative fashion with other wildland fire public education programs – such as Firewise, Living with Fire, Take Responsibility, FireSmart, etc. – and amplifies their messages to individuals to better achieve the common endeavor we all share of Fire Adapted Communities. The program does not replace or diminish the existing beneficial work of many community-based wildland fire public education programs. The Ready, Set, Go! Program is endorsed by Firewise and the USDA Forest Service, among others.

3. Can I customize the program materials to include local information?

Yes! The program encourages the localization of the program. It helps the residents you serve better see themselves in the program. Many states and localities have done so successfully. Commonly customized resources of the program include *Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide*, the national video, PowerPoint, press releases and other handouts.

4. We do not have mandatory evacuation in our state. Does RSG dictate evacuation?

No, the program does not supersede state and local practices regarding how and when people evacuate an area. Evacuation is a local issue and it is important for both fire departments and residents to understand

what it means to them, before the fire threatens. The program’s call to “act early” reflects the fact that waiting till the last moment can put residents in danger, and impedes the responding time of first responders trying to access an area.

5. Does our fire department have the resources to participate?

Yes! This program can support your existing active public education and outreach effort or help your department which may have limited resources and staffing, to effectively have a positive impact in your community. As a national program, it is free to join, to benefit from networking and education, and receive national materials for your outreach. The RSG! Program tool kit and materials provide: the national video (in English and Spanish-language); *Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide (in English and Spanish-languages)*; presentation materials; local media templates; letter and meeting form templates; and effective practices and implementation guidance.

6. Why do individuals need to “engage” in a dialogue on wildland fire issues?

The RSG! Program encourages the fire service to talk with individuals about the collaborative roles and responsibilities in protection and response so that expectations and abilities are clear before an event occurs. For example, residents can learn about their responsibility and the fire service can learn about any unique needs of the residents they serve.

7. I have heard about Fire Adapted Communities, how does it connect with RSG?

Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a strategy that encourages a community-wide effort in adapting to the wildland fire challenge, where all groups, residents and local government are involved as partners. Fire departments have an important role to play as a trusted voice in their community.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), who manages the National RSG! Program, shares in recognizing the importance of FAC raised by the National Wildfire Management Cohesive Strategy of 2011, and the mission Congress gave to the various federal agencies for effective action. In a “fire-adapted community,” the RSG! Program helps strengthen firefighter safety, because a fire-educated community can advance a safe environment for all.



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