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2010 prescribed burn at Bear Creek Lake Park

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Prescribed Burns at Bear Creek Lake Park

Hands-on Training for Firefighters, Improved Habitat for Park

Lakewood, CO - West Metro Fire Rescue, in cooperation with the City of Lakewood and Bear Creek Lake Park, has scheduled a series of prescribed burns, beginning Monday, February 25, weather permitting. The burns are designed to improve conditions in the park for native plants and wildlife and give West Metro firefighters valuable hands-on training with live fire.

Over the past few years, the park has seen invasive species begin to crowd out native plants and grasses. Prescribed burns will help rid the burn area of the invasive species, and encourage native plants and grasses to grow, improving habitat for wildlife and insects.

The burns will also reduce the amount of dry vegetation (fuel) so that a potential wildfire would be less severe. West Metro firefighters will have the opportunity to not only train with live fire, but to experience how fire behaves in the different vegetation types present in much of the fire district.

The burns are targeted for two areas of the park and firefighters are scheduled to burn a total of 220 acres, with primary dates of February 25 – 27, March 11 – 13 and April 8 – 10.

It's possible that smoke from the prescribed fires could affect the health of those in neighborhoods closer to the park. Residents can protect themselves and their families by closing windows and doors, staying inside and avoiding exercise or other strenuous activities. Elderly people, young children under 7, and those with preexisting respiratory or circulatory conditions should take precautions.

For more information, visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

Safety for the public and our firefighters is the top priority when considering any prescribed fire operation. The weather forecast and condition of the fuel may affect the dates for the burns. West Metro firefighters will monitor conditions to determine if and when ignition should take place.

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About West Metro Fire Rescue:

West Metro Fire Rescue is a full-service, ISO Class 1 rated, all-hazard, fire and rescue agency, serving nearly 280,000 residents in the cities and towns of Lakewood, Morrison, Golden, Wheat Ridge and Edgewater. The District also serves sections of Jefferson and Douglas County and unincorporated Littleton, Colorado.

WMFR is committed to providing professional fire protection, emergency medical services, life safety and community service with a vision that shapes the future.

Visit us at www.westmetrofire.org.