



City of Cortez
Service Center
110 West Progress Circle
Cortez, CO 81321

January 17, 2025

Dear City of Cortez Residents,

As Los Angeles County faces the threat of one of the most destructive wildfires in California state history, it is important to address concerns by affirming that we are not in the same danger. Our region's unique geographical features, emergency preparedness measures, and community collaboration significantly reduce the risk and potential impact of wildfires compared to areas like Los Angeles County.

The City of Cortez benefits from low population density, sparse vegetation, and many water sources, providing a natural buffer against the spread of wildfires. Additionally, our local authorities have implemented robust wildfire prevention strategies through the Montezuma County Wildfire Protection Plan. These measures are designed to detect, respond to, and contain wildfires effectively, minimizing the potential harm to our community.

Public Works also has robust water resources including three 2MG (million gallon) storage tanks, a 20MG raw water storage reservoir, and access to additional reservoirs and canals, further strengthening the community's resilience and ability to mitigate fire-related risks. Moreover, Public Works has a maintenance plan that ensures the proper operation of more than 511 fire hydrants and water main valves. By fostering a culture of vigilance, cooperation, and readiness, we have established a united front against wildfire threats.

While wildfires remain a concern for all regions, it is essential to recognize that the City of Cortez is well-equipped to handle such challenges through a combination of geographical advantages, strategic planning, and collective effort. By staying informed, prepared, and proactive, we can continue to safeguard our community and mitigate the potential impact of wildfires.

Together, let us remain vigilant, support our local authorities, and prioritize wildfire prevention efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the City Service Center at the address shown above, call me at 970.564.4069, or email me at bpeckins@cortezco.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Peckins
Director of Public Works