

Living with Fire

Series



Preparing for Wildfire Season



What is GCWC?

Non-profit, community-based education and mitigation program for the residents and visitors of Grand County, Colorado.

Our Mission

“Through collaboration, education and action, engage in wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival.”



Fire Adapted Communities

"A human community consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire."



Benefits of being Fire Adapted

- Peace of mind knowing that your home is better prepared to survive a wildfire
- Defensible space reduces fire from advancing and endangering lives and homes
- Property values improve while reducing risk of loss
- Greater sense of human connection, community interaction and pride
- Better neighbor relations
- Possible insurance rate reduction or benefit

A stylized illustration of a wildfire scene. In the center, the text "Wildfire Basics" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background features a range of brown mountains under a grey sky with several birds in flight. In the foreground, there are dark brown silhouettes of trees and bushes, with bright orange and yellow flames rising from the ground on both sides. The overall color palette is muted, with the fire providing the primary source of color.

Wildfire Basics

How Homes are Ignited by Wildfires

Radiant Heat

High Intensity Crown Fire



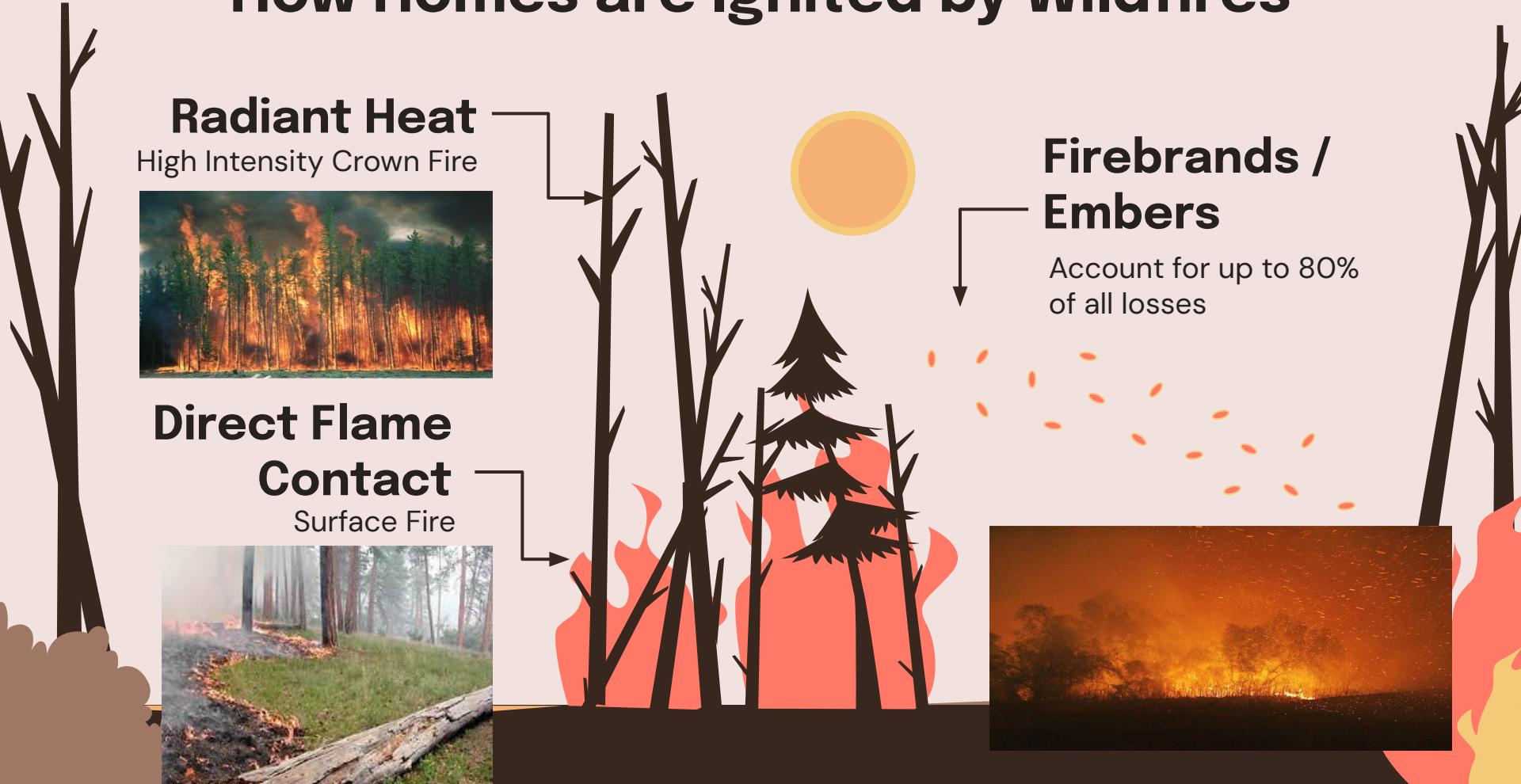
Direct Flame Contact

Surface Fire



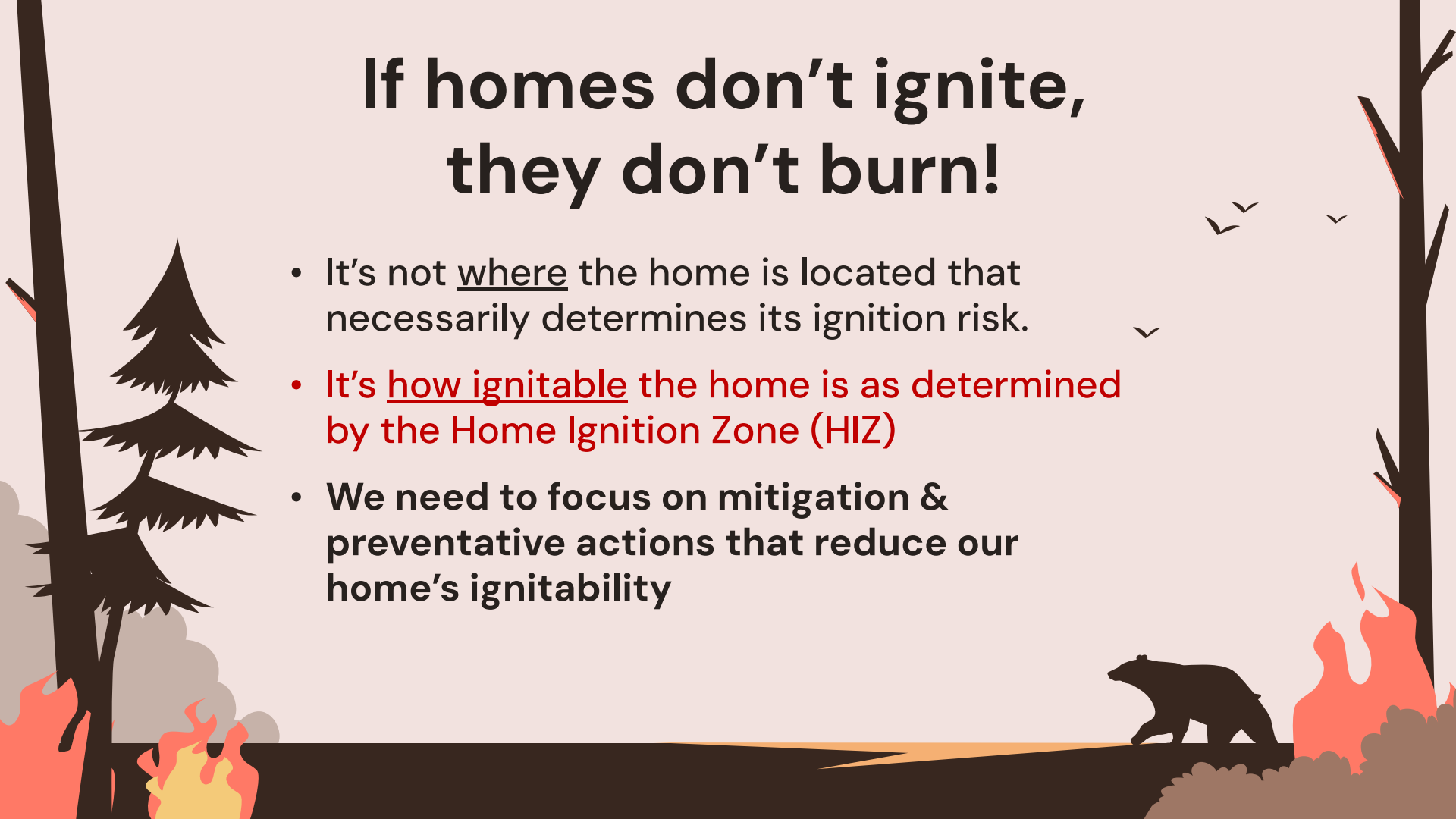
Firebrands / Embers

Account for up to 80% of all losses



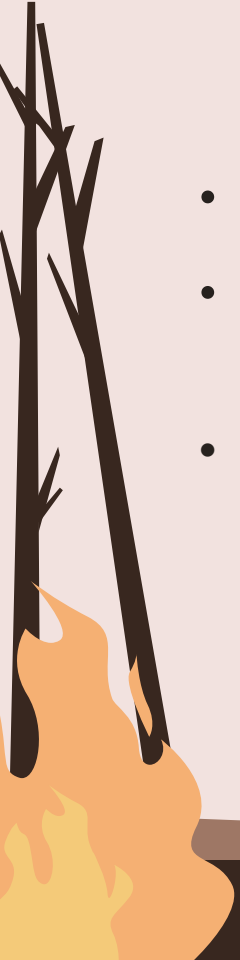
If homes don't ignite, they don't burn!

- It's not where the home is located that necessarily determines its ignition risk.
- It's how ignitable the home is as determined by the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)
- We need to focus on mitigation & preventative actions that reduce our home's ignitability



Why do some homes burn and others survive?

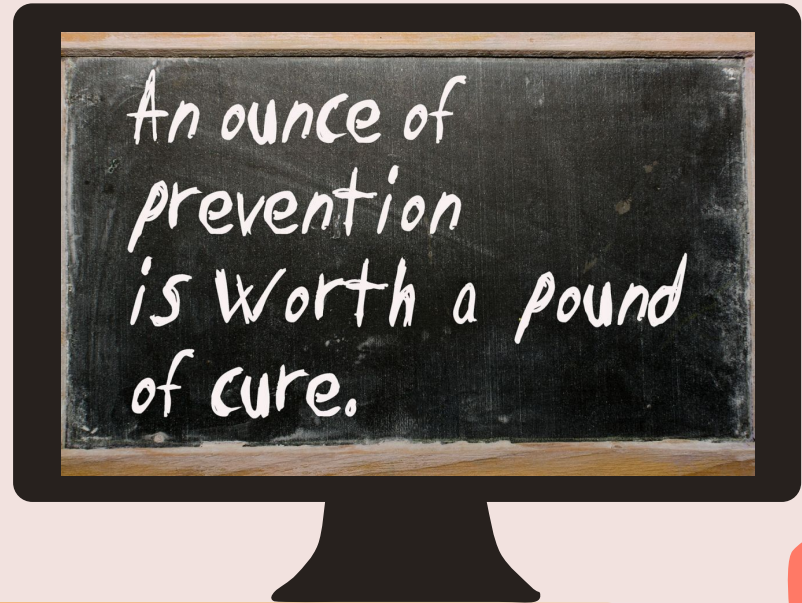
- Fire does NOT spread to homes like an avalanche or flash flood
- Fire only spreads to locations in its path where the requirements for combustion are met
- It depends on
 - 1) **The home and its construction** features
 - 2) The home's **attachments** (garages, decks, fences)
 - 3) The **immediate landscaped area** (defensible space)
 - 4) The **homesite characteristics** (slope, natural firebreaks)



As many as 80% of homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had followed simple fire-safe practices.

Wildfire-related deaths often occur because people wait too long to leave their homes.

**Society Saves
\$6 for Every \$1
Spent Preparing
for Natural
Disasters**



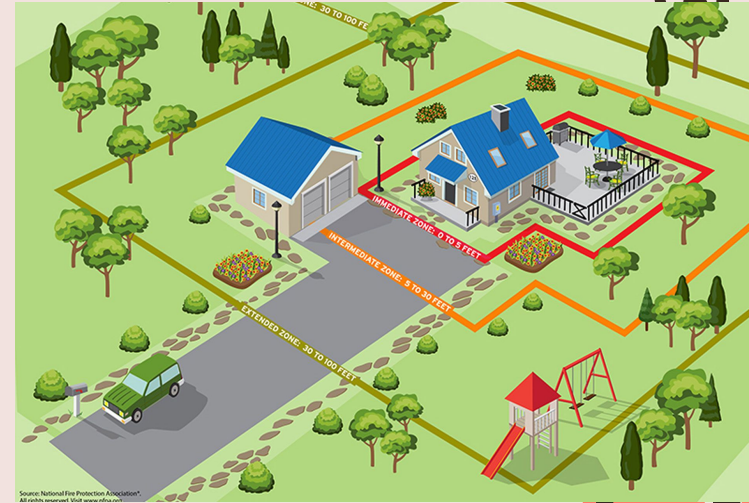
First Step: HIZ Assessment



Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment

Assessment that determines “how vulnerable the structure” will be during the wildfire.

- 1) **Home construction:** Building materials used
 - a) Roofing, siding, eaves, windows, vents
- 2) **Immediately Landscaped Area:** Vegetation and ignitables within 100 feet of the home
 - a) Types, spacing, heights of vegetation
 - b) Woodpiles, fences, decks, sheds
 - c) Propane tanks
- 3) **Homesite Placement:** Placement relative to potential severe fire behavior activity
 - a) Slope of terrain
 - b) Length, width, slope of driveway



Where do I Get a FREE Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment

Contact your Fire Protection District
(East Grand, Grand, Grand Lake, Hot Sulphur/Parshall or Kremmling)



Grand Fire
970.887.3380
grandfire.org



Grand Lake Fire
970.627.8428
grandlakefire.org



Hot Sulphur Fire
970.725.3414
hotsulphurfire.com



East Grand Fire
970.726.5824
eastgrandfire.com



Kremmling Fire
970.724.3795
kremmlingfire.org

Contact the Grand County Wildfire Council



BeWildfireReady.org
BeWildfireReady@gmail.com
970.627.7121

Note: A home assessment by a mitigation expert is required as part of the GCWC Cost-Share Program.



Defensible Space & Home Hardening SELF-ASSESSMENT

Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC) credits (and THANKS) CalFire (and its [Ready for Wildfire](#) program) as the original creator of this survey. All photos are credited to CalFire except where specifically noted. GCWC has modified the original survey to suit Grand County, CO.

This survey is meant to be a SELF-ASSESSMENT. Responses to this survey are NOT reviewed as no personal contact information is collected. It is strictly for your informational purposes.

If you have questions or you want a personalized home assessment performed by a local fire professional, please reach out to your local fire department or the Grand County Wildfire Council.

East Grand Fire (Fraser Valley): 970-726-5824, www.eastgrandfire.com
Grand Fire (Granby area): 970-887-3380, www.grandfire.org
Grand Lake Fire: 970-627-8428, www.grandlakefire.org
Hot Sulphur Springs/Parshall Fire: 970-725-3414, www.hotsulphurfire.com
Kremmling Fire: 970-724-3795, www.kremmlingfire.org
Grand County Wildfire Council: 970-627-7121, www.bewildfireready.org

Online Interactive Self Assessment

Next Steps

Home Hardening



ON
Your
Home



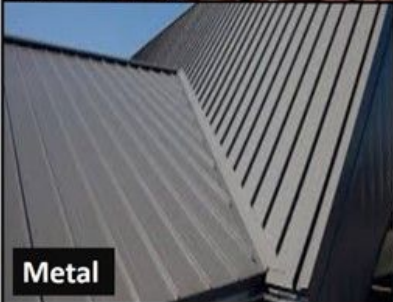
Low Risk



Tile



Asphalt



Metal



Concrete

High Risk



Wood

ROOF & ROOF EXTENSION

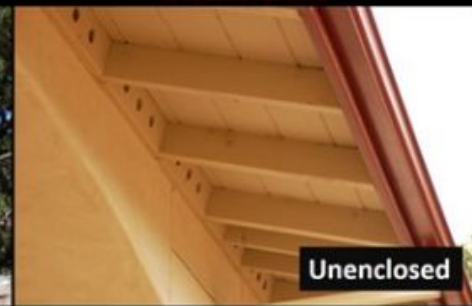
- **Use metal sheets, concrete, asphalt, tile, clay, stone or metal**
- Avoid wood and shake-shingle roofs
- **Keep the roof and gutters clear** of flammable debris.
- **Minimize overhang and build soffits with fire-resistant materials**

Low Risk



Enclosed

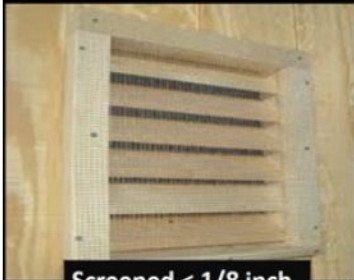
High Risk



Unenclosed

Low Risk

High Risk



Screened < 1/8 inch

Unscreened



VENTS

- Use metal mesh screens that are 1/8-inch or less
- Do not cover dryer vents with tiny /8 inch mesh because they could clog up with lint - fire hazard

CHIMNEY

- Cover chimney and stovepipe outlets with 1/4-inch wire mesh screen

DECKS/STAIRS

- Use non-combustible decking
- Ensure decks and stairs are clear of leaves

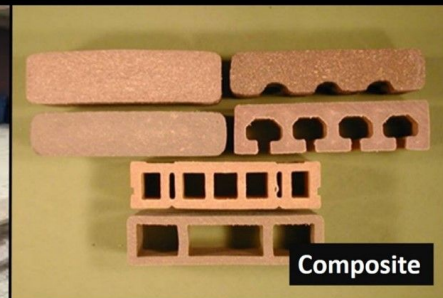
Deck/Porch
Stairways



Low Risk



Masonry/Concrete



Composite

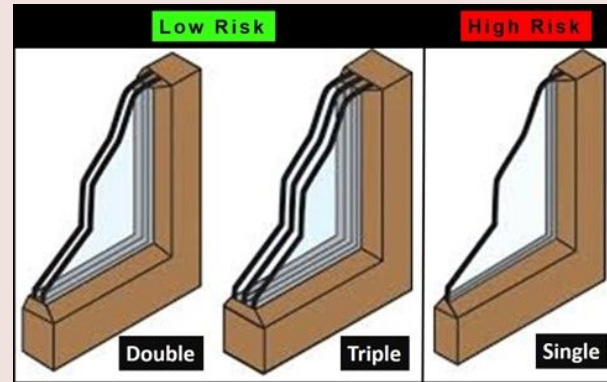
FENCES

- **Use non-combustible fencing**
- If fence must be wooden, **ensure that the 5' closest to the house is not combustible**



WINDOWS

- **Install metal screens**
- **Use multiple panes windows** with one pane being tempered
- **Limit the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation**



Low Risk

High Risk



Cement Fiber Board



Wood



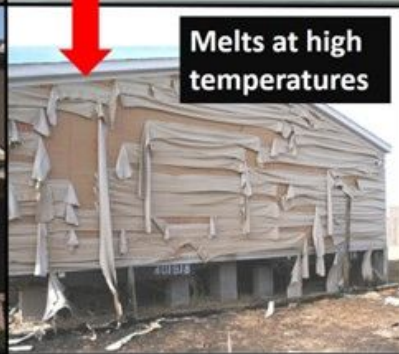
Metal



Vinyl



Stucco, Brick,
or Cement



Melts at high
temperatures

EXTERIOR WALLS/SIDING

- **Use Fiber cement board, brick, stucco or other fire resistant materials**

GARAGE

- **Install weather stripping** around & under access doors
- **Install a solid door with self-closing hinges** between living areas and attached garage.
- **Do not store combustibles or flammable liquids near combustion equipment** (e.g. a hot water heater)

Next Steps

Defensible Space /
Home Ignition Zone



AROUND
Your
Home





Defensible
Space

3
Zones



Around
Your
Home



**Defensible
Space**

Zone 1 – 1st Priority

0 to 5' out from the structure

Use non flammable, hard surface materials, such as rock, gravel, sand, cement, bare earth or stone/concrete pavers.

- Remove all flammable vegetation, including shrubs, slash, mulch
- Do not store firewood or other combustible materials inside this zone.
- Prune tree branches hanging over the roof and remove all fuels within 10' of the chimney.
- Regularly remove all pine needles and other debris from the roof, deck and gutters.
- Rake and dispose of pine needles, dead leaves, mulch and other organic debris within 5' of all decks and structures.
- Do not store combustibles under decks.

High Risk

Yes, this is a chimney



High Risk



Low Risk



Low Risk



Low Risk

High Risk







Around Your Home



Defensible Space

Zone 2

5 to 30' out from the structure (or to property line)

- Avoid large accumulations of surface fuels.
- Remove stressed, diseased, dead or dying vegetation.
- Create at least 10 feet of space between crowns.
 - *Small groups of two or three trees may be left in some areas if there is spacing of 30 feet between tree groups.*
- Remove ladder fuels (lower limbs/tall grasses) under remaining trees.
- Prune tree branches to a height of 6–10 feet from the ground or a third of the total height of the tree, whichever is less.



Low Risk



High Risk



High Risk



Low Risk



Low Risk

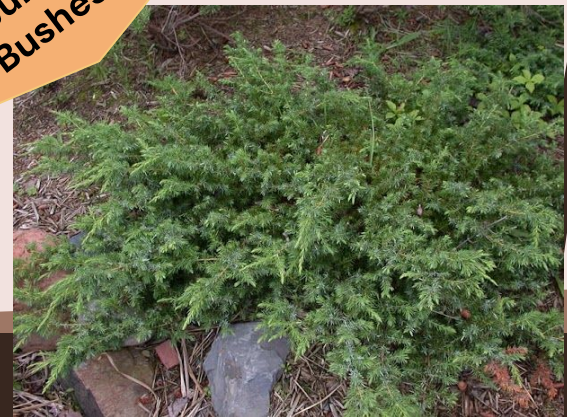


High Risk



Junk the Juniper Bushes!!!

WHY? Junipers are HIGHLY flammable.



Around Your Home



Defensible Space

Zone 3

30-100' out from the structure (or to property line)

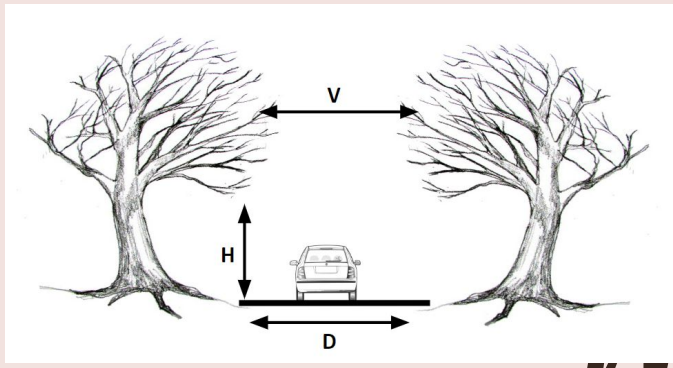
- Minimize ladder fuels and maintain tree crown spacing.
- Move wood piles at least 30 feet from the home during the fire season.
- Have propane tanks at least 30 feet from any structure and located at same elevation as the home.
- Install a reflective address sign at the end of the driveway.
- Consider driveway hazards such as overhanging vegetation, vegetation too close to the road, culverts that may not support fire trucks.

Work with adjoining property owners to complete an appropriate defensible space if structure is close to property line.

Low Risk



High Risk



High Risk



VS



What a difference defensible space makes



Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code



COLORADO
Wildfire
Resiliency
Code Board

2025 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
Building Code
SB 23-165

<https://dfpc.colorado.gov/WRCB>

Applicability



New Construction

- All new construction must meet code requirements
- Existing structures do not need to meet code, except as stated below

Additions or Alterations

- Increasing the footprint by >500 sq. ft. = Addition required to meet code

Roof Coverings

- Existing structures having >25% of the roof replaced, altered, or repaired = Entire roof required to meet code

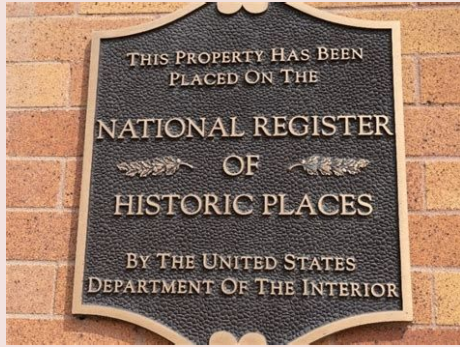
Exterior Walls

- Existing structures having >25% of the exterior walls replaced, altered, or repaired = Entire exterior wall required to meet code & immediate zone (Zone 1, 0-5 ft.) also required to meet code

Maintenance

- Owner is responsible for maintenance of buildings, structures, landscape materials, & vegetation and must meet/maintain code requirements
-

Exceptions



Historic Structures

- As authorized by the authority having jurisdiction & holding a historic designation

Interior alterations of existing structures

Additions smaller than 500 sq. ft.

Work that affects less than 25% of roof coverings or exterior walls

Painting, staining, or similar maintenance work

One-story, detached, nonhabitable structures

- Must be <120 sq. ft. & >10 ft. from occupiable structures
- i.e. tool or storage shed, small garage, etc.

Accessory Structures

- Must be classified as Utility or Misc. Group U & >50 ft. from occupiable structures

Fences >8 ft. from occupiable structure

Large parcels

- Parcels >35-acres with only one residential structure present & parcel does not abut a residential or commercial area

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Designation

Definition: The geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels

- Code applies in WUI designated areas
- The WUI is determined by the **2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code Map** or by an approved locally developed map

3 Designations of Fire Intensity

Low

Moderate

High

Low Fire Intensity
Classification

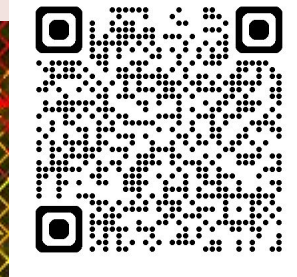
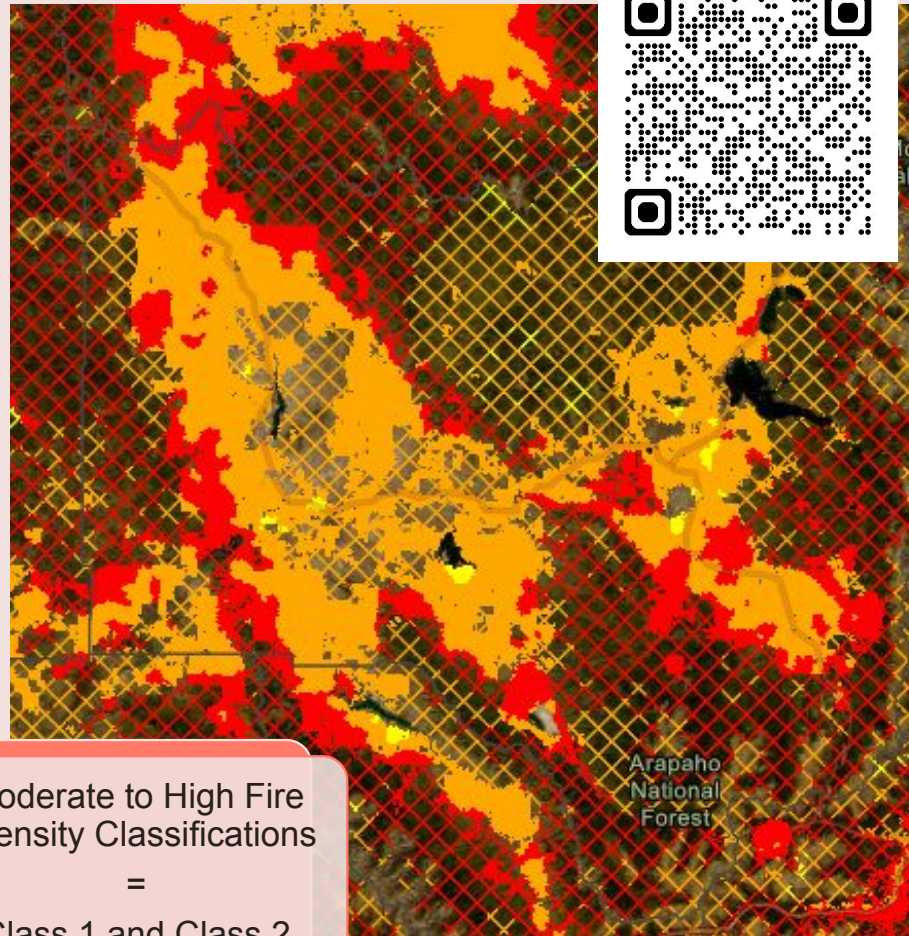
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Class 1 Code
Requirements

Moderate to High Fire
Intensity Classifications

=

Class 1 and Class 2
Code Requirements



Structure / Home Hardening Requirements



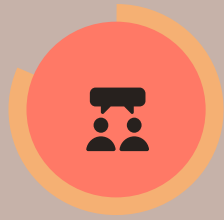
Class 1 Requirements

- Roofing
- Gutters
- Vents

Class 2 Requirements

- + Eaves
- + Exterior Walls
- + Decking
- + Windows
- + Doors
- + Detached Accessory Structures

Now What? Engage



Engage with GCWC



Grand County Wildfire Council

- **BeWildfireReady.org** is your one-stop shop for all wildland fire information in Grand County
- **GCWC Programs**
 - Community Chipping Days
 - Fuels Reduction Cost Share Funds
 - Reflective Address Signs
 - Trainings & Events
 - Firewise Community Application Assistance



WILDFIRE Prevention, Preparedness & **Survival**

The **ULTIMATE** Guide for Wildfire Mitigation and Survival in Grand County, CO



East Troublesome Fire in Grand County, Colorado
October 21, 2010
Photo by Philip Brinkmann

Brought to you by:



bewildfireready.org
bewildfireready@gmail.com



middleparkcd.com
middleparkcd@gmail.com

Read the electronic version of this guide at: www.bewildfireready.org
Read the complete Landowner/Rural Living Guide at: www.middleparkcd.com/ultimate-landowner-guide/



GCWC Events



20
Jun
2026

Granby Community Chipping Day

Community Chipping Day

June 20, 2026 09:00 AM

Grand Fire Protection District, 60500 US-40, Granby, Colorado

Material is only accepted between the hours of 9am-2pm | \$10 donation suggested

Details >



26
Jun
2026

Living with Fire Lecture Series - Building a Fire Adapted Grand County with GCWC Programs - Grand Fire

Training Opportunity

June 26, 2026 05:00 PM

Firewise USA, Chipping Days, Grands and Cost-Share Program information at the parcel and community levels. Join us at Grand Fire for the ...

Details >



01
Jul
2026
FIRE LIVES
HERE

AN EXPLORATION OF FIRE'S ROLE IN SHAPING AND RESTORING
COLORADO'S FORESTS. ... PROTECTING BELOVED PLACES.

Presented by Grand County

"Fire Lives Here" PBS Documentary Showing - Winter Park- Fraser - The Foundry

Training Opportunity

July 01, 2026 03:30 PM

Join us at the Foundry in for a showing the PBS documentary "Fire Lives Here" with a special guest panel of Fire Professionals and ...

Details >



10
Jul
2026
FIRE LIVES
HERE

AN EXPLORATION OF FIRE'S ROLE IN SHAPING AND RESTORING
COLORADO'S FORESTS. ... PROTECTING BELOVED PLACES.

Presented by Grand County

"Fire Lives Here" PBS Documentary Showing - Kremmling

Training Opportunity

July 10, 2026 04:00 PM

Join us at the Kremmling Extension Hall for a showing the PBS documentary "Fire Lives Here" with a special guest panel of Fire ...

GCWC Events



East Grand Community Chipping Day

Community Chipping Day

July 11, 2026 09:00 AM

East Grand Fire Protection District, 77601 US-40, Fraser, Colorado

Material is only accepted between the hours of 9am-2pm | \$10 donation suggested

Details >



"Fire Lives Here" PBS Documentary Showing - Grand Lake Community House

Training Opportunity

July 16, 2026 03:30 PM

Join us at the Grand Lake Community House for a showing the PBS documentary "Fire Lives Here" with a special guest panel of Fire ...

Details >



Living with Fire Lecture Series - Property Insurance in the WUI - Grand Fire

Training Opportunity

July 17, 2026 05:00 PM

Discussion on new Colorado insurance laws, challenges with insurability pre-and post fire, and lessons learned/successes post fire. Join ...

Details >



Q3 Stakeholder Meeting

Stakeholder Meeting

July 23, 2026 11:30 AM

11:30-Presentation | 12:00-Lunch | 12:30-Partner Updates/Roundtable

Details >

GCWC Events



North Granby Community Chipping Day

Community Chipping Day

July 25, 2026 09:00 AM

Bud Wilson Fire Station, 501 County Road 40, Granby, Colorado

Material is only accepted between the hours of 9am-2pm | \$10 donation suggested

[Details >](#)



"Fire Lives Here" PBS Documentary Showing - Granby - Grand Fire

Training Opportunity

August 12, 2026 03:30 PM

Join us at the Grand Fire Training for a showing the PBS documentary "Fire Lives Here" with a special guest panel of Fire Professionals ...

[Details >](#)



Grand Lake Community Chipping Day

Community Chipping Day

August 22, 2026 09:00 AM

Grand Lake, United States

Material accepted between the hours of 9am-2pm | \$10 donation suggested | 1298 CR 466, Grand Lake

[Details >](#)



Q4 Stakeholder Meeting

Stakeholder Meeting

October 22, 2026 11:30 AM

11:30-Presentation | 12:00-Lunch | 12:30-Partner Updates/Roundtable

[Details >](#)



FIRE LIVES HERE

AN EXPLORATION OF FIRE'S ESSENTIAL ROLE IN SHAPING *and* RESTORING
COLORADO'S FORESTS, *and* PROTECTING BELOVED PLACES.

DIRECTED BY AARON COLUSSI

Thanks!



Do you have any questions?

BeWildfireReady@gmail.com

970-627-7121

BeWildfireReady.org



@bewildfireready

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