

An illustration of a wildfire scene. In the foreground, there are dark brown bushes and a path. Two trees with black trunks and no leaves stand on either side of the path. In the middle ground, there are large, bright orange and yellow flames. The background is filled with thick, grey smoke that rises to the top of the frame. In the distance, there are brown, jagged mountain peaks. Several small black birds are flying in the sky above the smoke.

Preparing for Wildfire Season

The logo for Summit County Colorado. It features a stylized blue mountain range with three peaks. Below the mountains, the words "SUMMIT COUNTY" are written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the word "COLORADO" is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. The entire logo is contained within a white rounded rectangle.

SUMMIT COUNTY
COLORADO

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

An 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 filled with white smoke. Several birds are flying in the sky. In the foreground, there are dark brown silhouettes of trees and bushes. On the left and right sides, there are large, stylized flames in shades of orange and red, representing the wildfire. The ground is a mix of dark brown and light brown, suggesting ash and charred earth.

Wildfire Basics

How Homes are Ignited by Wildfires

Radiant Heat

High Intensity Crown Fire



Direct Flame Contact

Surface Fire



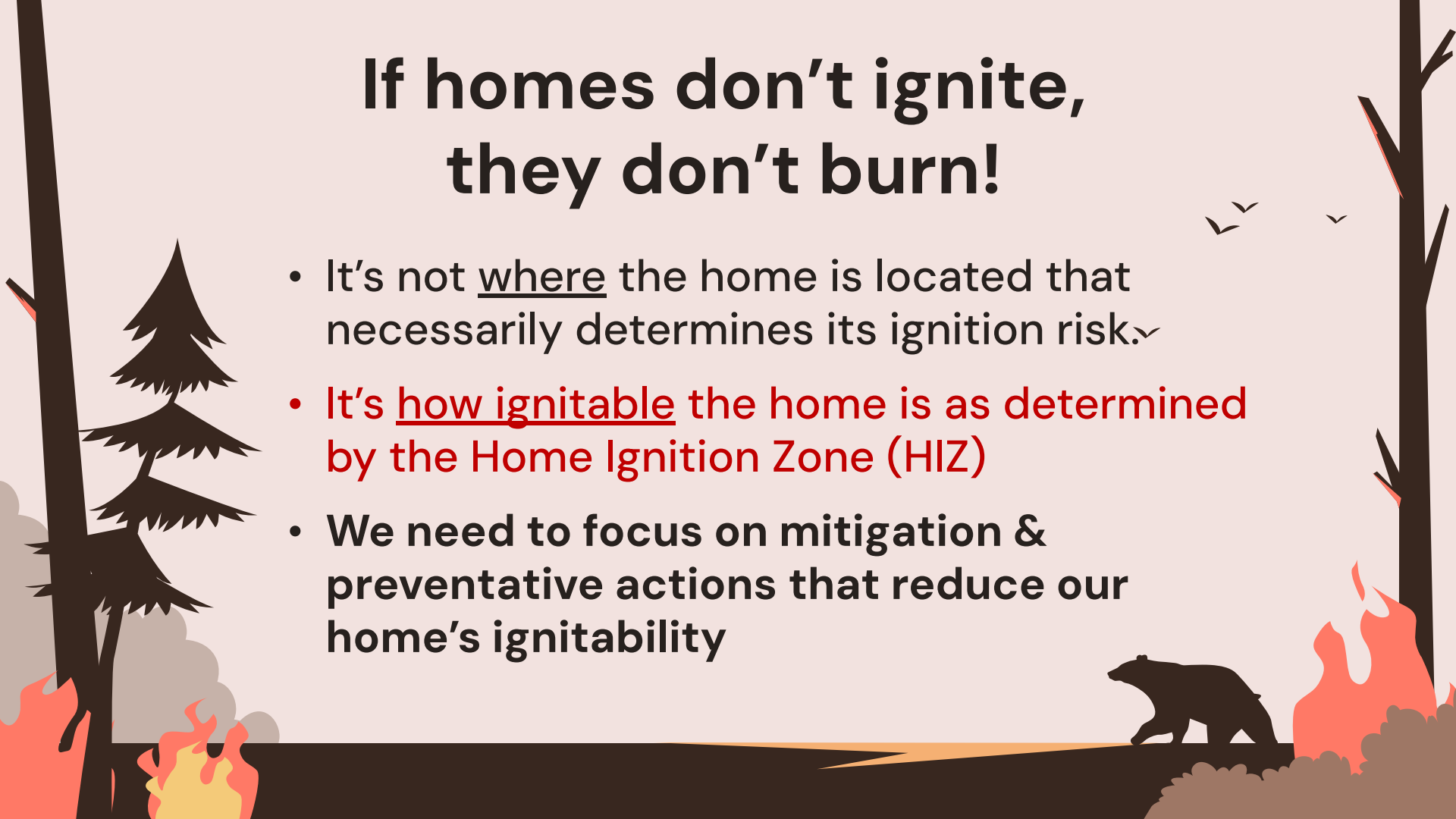
Firebrands / Embers

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



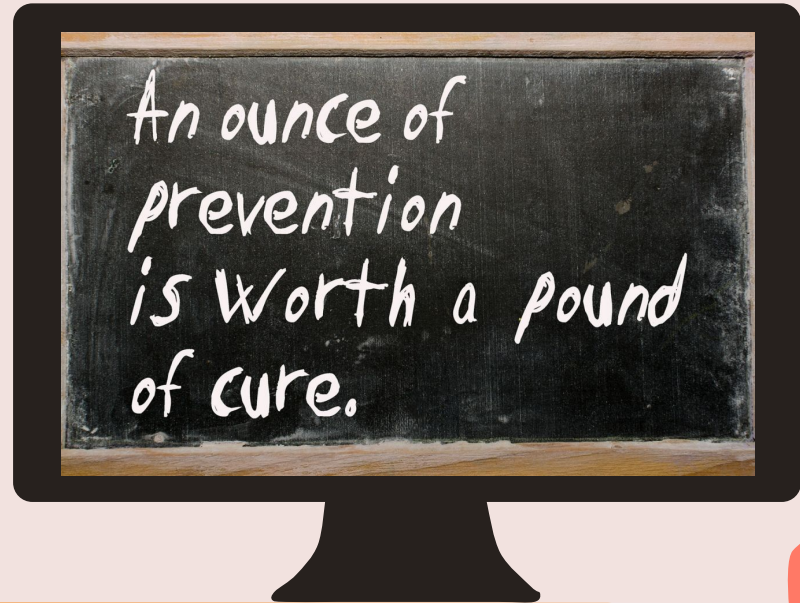
Why do some homes burn and others survive?

- 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



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

**For every \$1
spent on
mitigation and
preparedness,
society saves \$6
on response.**



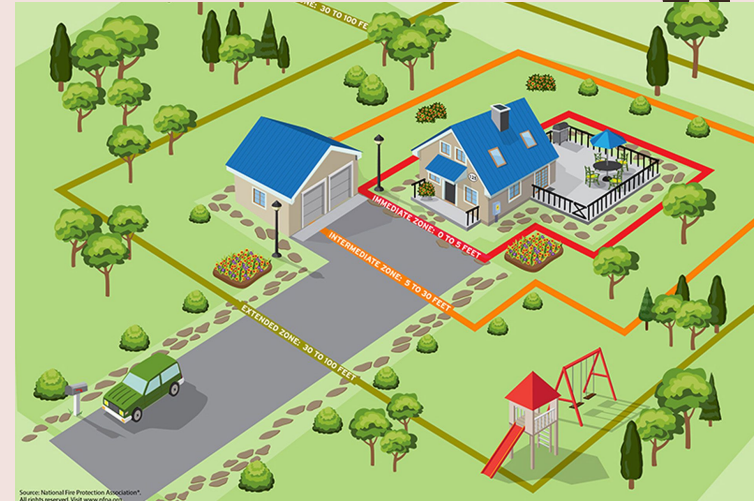
First Step: HIZ Assessment



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



SUMMIT FIRE & EMS

970-262-5100 | www.summitfire.org

*Copper Mountain,
Frisco, Dillon,
Dillon Valley,
Heeney, Keystone,
Montezuma,
Silverthorne,
Summit Cove and
Wilderness*



**RED WHITE &
BLUE FIRE**

Breckenridge, CO Fire Rescue

970-453-2474 | www.rwbfire.org

*Breckenridge and
Blue River, and
Breckenridge
Ski Resort*



Defensible Space & Home Hardening SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Middle Park Conservation District 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. MPCD worked with the Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC) to modify the original survey to suit Grand and Summit Counties, 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.

Online Interactive Self Assessment



Next Steps

Home Hardening



ON
Your
Home



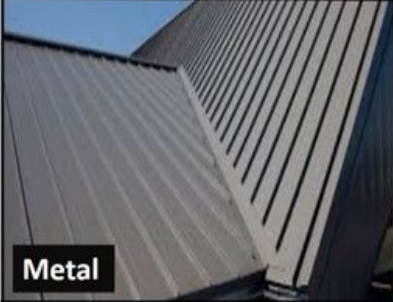
Low Risk



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

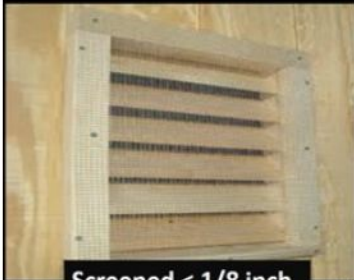
High Risk



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

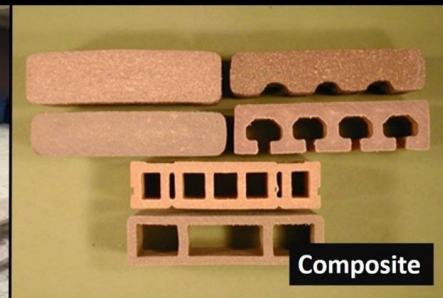
Deck/Porch
Stairways



Low Risk



Masonry/Concrete



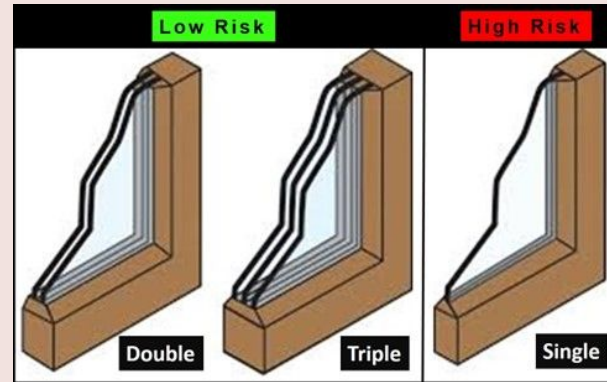
Composite

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



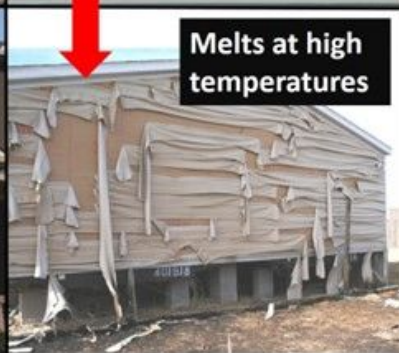
Metal



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

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

- Remove all vegetation
- No storage of firewood or other combustible materials
- Prune tree branches hanging over the roof
- 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 organic debris within 5' of all decks/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

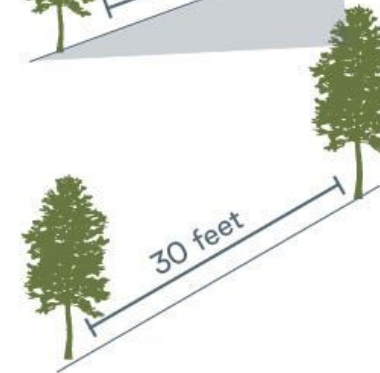
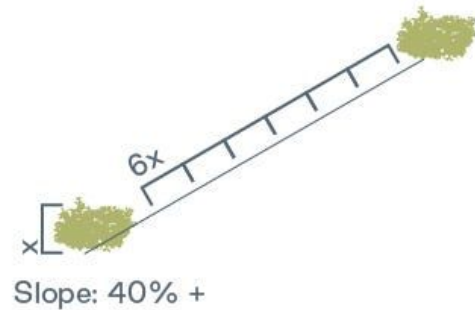
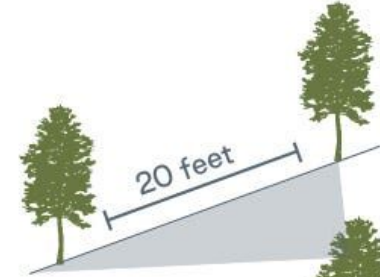
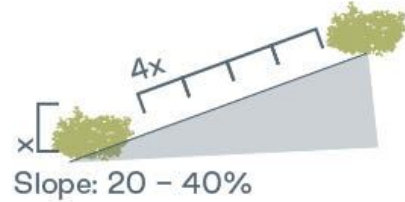
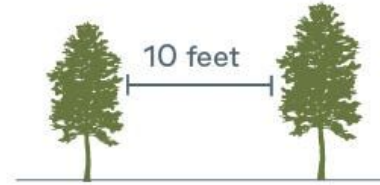
Zone 2

5 to 30' out from the structure

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

How Slope Impacts Spacing

Horizontal Clearance Best Practices





Low Risk



High Risk



High Risk



Low Risk



Low Risk

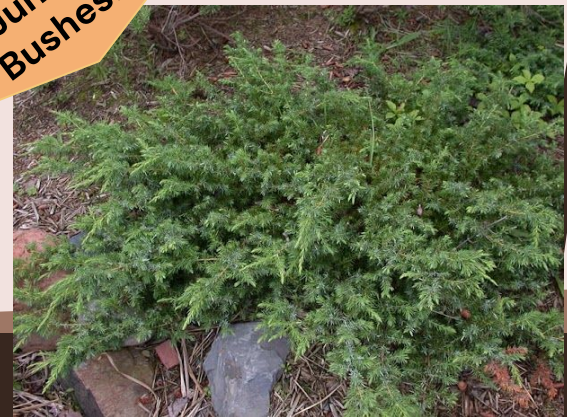


High Risk



Junk the Common Juniper Buses!!!

WHY? Common junipers are HIGHLY flammable.



Around Your Home



Defensible Space

Zone 3

30-100' out from the structure

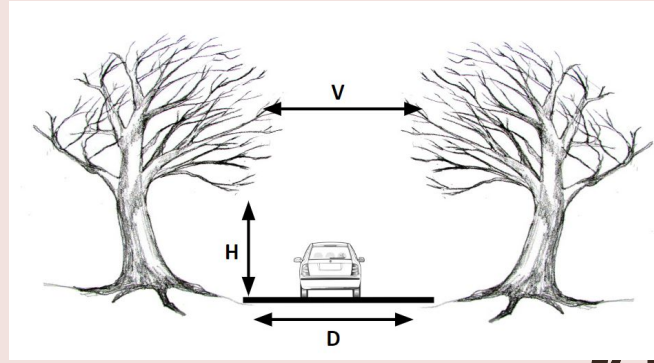
- Minimize ladder fuels and maintain tree crown spacing.
- Move wood piles at least 30 feet from the home
- Have propane tanks at least 30 feet from any structure and located at same elevation as the home.
- Install a reflective address sign at the end of the driveway.
- Consider driveway hazards such 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



Other Firewise Landscaping Tips

- Use stepping stones, rocks, or gravel to create **pathways/fuel breaks**
- **Species diversity is key** – beauty and resiliency
- In the event of drought, **water plants nearest the home first**
- **Best species** – those that naturally occur in the area



Other Firewise Landscaping Tips

- Keep grass nearest the home watered
- Plant ground cover species in areas where mowing is infeasible
- Maintain separation between flower beds
- Mow or remove wildflowers when they go to seed and their stems are dry



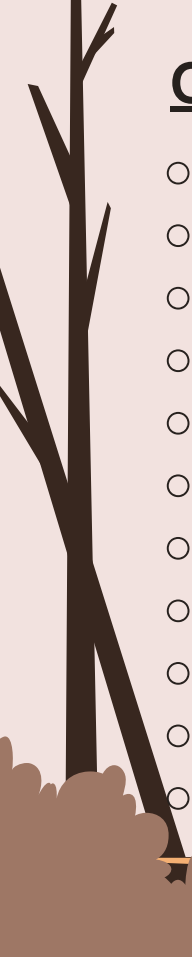
Firewise Landscaping Resources



CSU Extension Fact Sheets



- 6.302, *Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones*
- 6.303, *Fire-Resistant Landscaping*
- 6.304, *Forest Home Fire Safety*
- 6.305, *Firewise Plant Materials*
- 6.306, *Grass Seed Mixes to Reduce Wildfire Hazard*
- 7.233, *Wildflowers for Colorado*
- 7.406, *Flowers for Mountain Communities*
- 7.413, *Ground Covers for Mountain Communities*
- 7.423, *Trees and Shrubs for Mountain Areas*
- *Low-Flammability Landscape Plants*
- *Low-Water Native Plants for CO Gardens: Mountains*



MPCD Seed & Seedling Sales



- **Seed**

- Various mixes for different purposes
- Available year round for pick up at CSU Extension in Frisco
- Order online at www.middleparkcd.com/seed

- **Tree Seedlings**

- Two sales a year
- Pick up in Frisco
- Variety of species
- Order online at www.middleparkcd.com/trees



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
-

Now What? Engage



Summit County Wildfire Council

- A coalition of local stakeholder organizations established in 2006
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - Colorado State Forest Service
 - Local fire protection districts, towns, river basins
 - Summit County government

Mission

- Mitigate wildfire risk in Summit County through implementation of the CWPP
- Administer [community wildfire grants](#) that help reduce wildfire risk.

Summit County Wildfire Programs

Wildfire Mitigation Grants

- **Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grants**
 - Homeowner Groups working on Defensible Space across multiple properties
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Grants**
 - Other Wildfire Projects
 - Emergency Water Supplies
 - Evacuation Route Improvements
 - Life Safety, Critical Infrastructure, Design, Education



Summit County Chipping Program

2026 CHIPPING PROGRAM DATES AND SERVICE AREA LOCATIONS

NORTH AND CENTRAL SUMMIT COUNTY

Week 1 June 1-5
Silverthorne (east of Hwy. 9),
Ptarmigan, Dillon Valley,

Week 2 June 8-12
Summerwood, Summit Cove,
Keystone, Montezuma
Town of Dillon, Corinthian Hill

Week 3 June 15-19
Frisco, Copper Mountain

Week 4 June 22-26
Summit Sky Ranch,
Eagles Nest, Three Peaks

Week 5 June 29-July 2
All-properties-north-
of Summit Sky Ranch

Week 6 July 6-10
Willowbrook, Willow Creek Highlands,
Ruby Ranch

Week 7 July 13-17
Sage Creek Canyon, South Forty,
Hamilton Creek, Angler Mountain
Ranch, Ponds at Blue River, Blue River
Run

Week 8 July 20-24
Silverthorne (west of Hwy. 9),
Mesa Cortina, Wildernest

SOUTHERN SUMMIT COUNTY

Week 1 June 1-5
Farmer's Komer, Gold Hill, Highland
Meadows, Tenmile Vista, Silver Shekel

Week 2 June 8-12
Airport Road, Peak 7

Week 3 June 16-20
Peak 8, Peak 9, Town of Breckenridge,
Western Sky Ranch, Moonstone

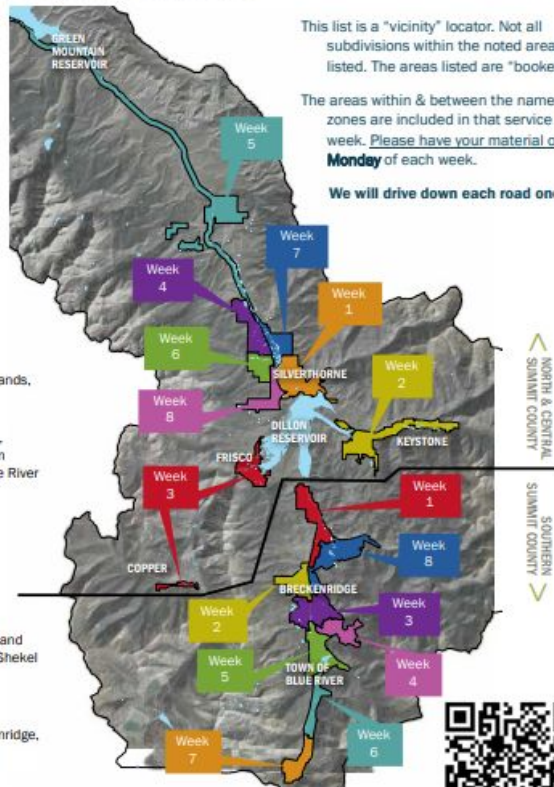
Week 4 June 22-26
Boreas, Baldy

Week 5 June 29-July 2
Warrior's Mark, Spruce Valley Road
(The Crown), Spruce Valley Ranch

Week 6 July 6-10
Town of Blue River vicinity

Week 7 July 13-17
Tordal Estates to Quandary

Week 8 July 20-24
Highlands, Summit Estates, Gilrose,
Swan River Valley



This list is a "vicinity" locator. Not all subdivisions within the noted areas are listed. The areas listed are "bookends".

The areas within & between the named zones are included in that service area week. Please have your material out Monday of each week.

We will drive down each road once.

Scan the QR Code for complete program details.

Summit County is helping residents and property owners create defensible space by providing free chipping and disposal for **conifer** and **aspen** branches, logs and small trees. If you clear this material from around your home and stack it in a uniform pile, we'll chip it and haul it away for **FREE**.

North and Central Summit County

DATES	NEIGHBORHOODS
Week 1 June 1-5	Silverthorne (east of Hwy. 9), Ptarmigan, Dillon Valley
Week 2 June 8-12	Summerwood, Summit Cove, Keystone, Montezuma, Town of Dillon, Corinthian Hill
Week 3 June 15-19	Frisco, Copper Mountain
Week 4 June 22-26	Summit Sky Ranch, Eagles Nest, Three Peaks
Week 5 June 29 - July 2 (7/3 Holiday)	All properties north of Summit Sky Ranch
Week 6 July 6-10	Willowbrook, Willow Creek Highlands, Ruby Ranch
Week 7 July 13-17	Sage Creek Canyon, South Forty, Hamilton Creek, Angler Mountain Ranch, Ponds at Blue River, Blue River Run
Week 8 July 20-24	Silverthorne (west of Hwy. 9), Mesa Cortina, Wilderrest

Southern Summit County

DATES	NEIGHBORHOODS
Week 1 June 1-5	Farmer's Korner, Gold Hill, Highland Meadows, Tenmile Vista, Silver Shekel
Week 2 June 8-12	Airport Road, Peak 7
Week 3 June 15-19	Peak 8, Peak 9, Town of Breckenridge, Western Sky Ranch, Moonstone
Week 4 June 22-26	Boreas, Baldy
Week 5 June 29 - July 2	Warrior's Mark, Spruce Valley Road (The Crown), Spruce Valley Ranch
Week 6 July 6-10	Town of Blue River vicinity
Week 7 July 13-17	Tordal Estates to Quandary
Week 8 July 20-24	Highlands, Summit Estates, Gilrose, Swan River Valley

Material & Pile Guidelines for Chipping Program



Example of a "Good Pile"



Example of a "Bad Pile"





SUMMIT COUNTY

ALERT

SCAlert.org

Sign Up for
Summit County
Alerts



Thanks!

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Katlin Miller

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970-724-3456, ext 4

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