

Appendix K

Firewise Household Tips, Property Mitigation and Protection

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

1. Keep a clearing of at least 30 feet around your house for fire fighting equipment.
2. Space the trees you plant carefully.
3. Remove "ladder fuels". They link the grasses and the tree tops.
4. Create "fuel break" - - - driveways, gravel walkways, or lawns.
5. Maintain your irrigation system regularly.
6. Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6' - 10' from the ground.
7. Remove leaf clutter from your roof and yard.
8. Mow regularly.
9. Remove dead or overhanging branches.
10. Store firewood away from your house.
11. Refuel garden equipment carefully.
12. Maintain garden equipment regularly.
13. If you smoke, use your ashtray.
14. Store and use flammable liquids properly.
15. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
16. Observe local regulations regarding vegetative clearances and fire safety equipment requirements.
17. Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair.
18. Don't keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches.
19. Make trellises of non-flammable metal.
20. Have at least two ground-level doors as safety exits.
21. Keep at least two means of escape (either a door/window) in each room.
22. Mark your driveway and access roads clearly.
23. Keep ample turnaround space near your house for fire equipment.
24. Prevent sparks from entering your house by covering vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8".
25. When possible, use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible.

The following Construction and Landscaping information was reproduced from information produced by Firewise Communities™, www.firewise.org, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269.

Firewise Construction

To create your Firewise structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reductions.

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or noncombustible whenever possible.
- Consider using materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal, or cement and concrete products for roof construction.
- Construct a fire-resistant sub-roof for added protection.
- Use fire resistant materials such as stucco or masonry for exterior walls. These products are much better than vinyl which can soften and melt.
- Consider both size and materials for windows; smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones; double pane glass and tempered glass are more effective than single pane glass; plastic skylights can melt.
- Prevent sparks from entering your home through vents, by covering exterior attic and under floor vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.
- Keep your gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and other debris.

- Clear dead wood and dense vegetation within at least 30 feet from your house, and move firewood away from your house or attachments like fences or decks.

Any structure attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences and sheds should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials. Therefore, consider the following:

- If you wish to attach an all-wood fence to your home, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between the fence and house.
- Use non-flammable metal when constructing a trellis and over with high-moisture, fire-resistant vegetation.
- Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath patio deck or elevated porches; screen underneath or box in areas below the deck or porch with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.

To create a landscape that will make your home less vulnerable to wildfire, the primary goal is fuel reduction. Think of the area around your home in zones. Zone 1 is closest to the structure, Zone 4 is the farthest away.

- Zone 1 This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plants should be limited to carefully spaced fire resistant tree and shrub species.
- Zone 2 Fire resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.
- Zone 3 Place low-growing plants and well spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low.
- Zone 4 This furthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Also remember to:

- Carefully space the trees you plant.
- Take out the “ladder fuels” – vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire from vegetation to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.
- When maintaining a landscape:
 - Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees six to 10 feet from the ground.
 - Water and maintain your lawn regularly.
 - Mow dry grass and weeds..
 - Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly.
- Landscape with less-flammable plants: Contact your local state forester, county extension office or landscape specialist for plant information.

For more information visit these helpful websites:

- USDA Forest Service, www.fs.fed.us
- US Dept of the Interior: www.doi.gov/bureau.html
- National Assoc of State Foresters: www.stateforesters.org
- National Fire Protection Assoc: www.nfpa.org
- US Fire Administration: www.usfa.fema.gov
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov
- Firewise Communities: www.firewise.org

- Colorado State Forest Service: www.colostate.edu/depts/CSFS
- Roxborough Park Foundation: www.roxborough-park.com

Free public information brochures:

Free brochures on home preparation for wildfire and emergency conditions are also available at the Phillip S Miller Library in Castle Rock.

- *Emergency Preparedness Guide*, published by Douglas County
- *It Could Happen to You!, How to Protect Your Home!*, USDA Forest Service
- *Wildfire Are You Prepared*, American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency and United States Fire Administration

Appendix L

Colorado State Forest Service

Minimum Standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

1. Participants

- The core planning team must include local government, local fire authority, local CSFS representative and representatives of relevant federal land management agencies.
- Planning activities that involve assessing community risks and values, identifying community protection priorities, or establishing fuels treatment project areas and methods MUST involve diverse representation from interested non-governmental stakeholders.

2. Plan Components

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans must include the following components:
 - A definition of the community's wildland-urban interface (WUI), preferably outlined on a map with an accompanying narrative.
 - A discussion of the community's *preparedness* to respond to wildland fire.
 - A community risk analysis that considers, at a minimum, fuel hazards, risk of wildfire occurrence and community values to be protected – both in the immediate vicinity and in the surrounding zone where potential fire spread poses a realistic threat.
 - Identification of fuels treatment priorities, including locations on the grounds and preferred methods of treatment.
 - Recommendations regarding ways to reduce structural ignitability.
 - An implementation plan.

3. Level of Specificity

- A CWPP may be developed for any level of "community," from a homeowner's association or mountain town to a county or metropolitan city.
- Information contained in the plan should be at a level of specificity appropriate to the size of the community being addressed. For example, data used to develop a community risk analysis or identify fuels treatment priorities for a small town would need to be at a finer scale than that used for a county.
- County level plans can be used as an umbrella for plans in smaller communities, but should not be considered a substitute. A county plan will not provide the detail needed for project level planning.

4. Adapting Existing Plans and Combining Related Plans

- If a community has an existing plan that already meets the majority of the CWPP criteria, it is preferable to work with the community to adapt that plan to meet the remainder of the criteria. However, plan adaptations must be collaborative as described in (1) above and include stakeholder representation. This is particularly important if the adaptation involves establishing fuels treatment priorities.
- Communities are encouraged to combine CWPPs with related documents such as FEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Plans where appropriate.

* Minimum standards are to be used in combination with the national publication titled, "Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Guide for Wildland Urban Interface Communities." Maximum flexibility should be sought in meeting individual community needs.

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