

## Assessment Report

Smokey Bear  
123 Station Ridge Rd  
Boulder, CO 80302

**Wildfire Mitigation Specialist:**  
Abby Silver

**Assessment Date:**  
August 14, 2019

**Deadline for Financial Award:**  
October 19, 2019

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Thank you for participating in Wildfire Partners.

By taking part in your assessment and acting to reduce your risk, you are serving as a positive example for others in your community. Your leadership and stewardship will help create a positive change and build a more resilient community. Wildfire Partners is here to support you as you work to implement the following key messages that were stressed during your home assessment.

### Key Messages

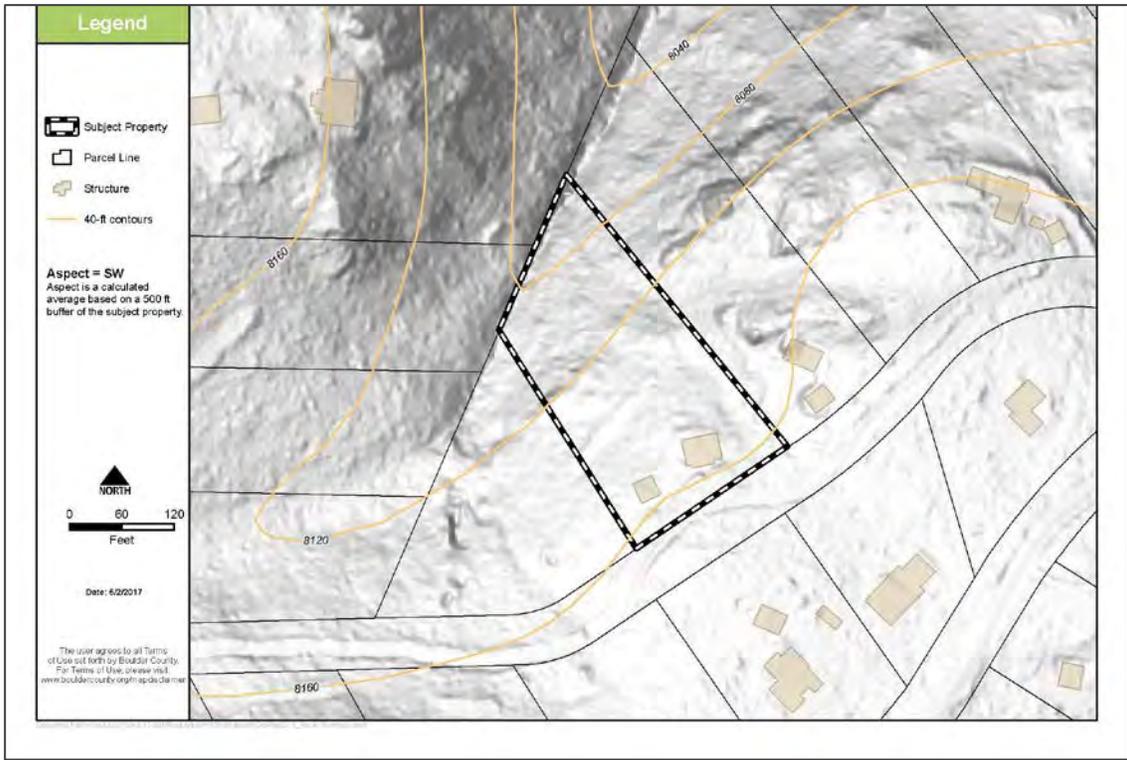
- Take Personal Responsibility
- Implement Your Individual Action Plan
- Work With Your Neighbors
- Actively Maintain Your Mitigation
- Understand There Are No Guarantees

[www.WildfirePartners.org](http://www.WildfirePartners.org)

[info@wildfirepartners.org](mailto:info@wildfirepartners.org)

(303) 441-1420





# WILDFIRE MITIGATION CHECKLIST

- Good Job! No mitigation is necessary at this time.
- Mitigation is recommended in this area.
- Mitigation is required to obtain certification.

For details and photographs of the required and recommended mitigation, please see the page numbers listed.

Check this box when completed.

## ROOF & EAVES (Page 5)

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- |   |                          |   |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | The roof covering is free of openings, cracks, and gaps.                     |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Remove combustible debris from your gutters.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | The roof edge is protected by metal flashing and gutters are noncombustible. |                          |

## EXTERIOR WALLS, SIDING, & OPENINGS (Page 6)

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- |   |   |   |   |                          |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFC107; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | Replace combustible siding with a noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | The siding is free of gaps, holes, or areas where embers could accumulate.      |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Mitigate the siding to obtain a 2 inch clearance where it extends to grade.     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | All vents are properly mitigated.   |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Your Specialist identified one or more exposed areas that need to be mitigated. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | All other openings are properly mitigated.                                      |                          |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | The garage door is properly mitigated.  |                          |

## DECKS, PORCHES, & STRUCTURE ATTACHMENTS (Page 8)

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- |                          |   |   |   |                          |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Install metal flashing between the top of the deck and the exterior siding. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Replace all rotten or heavily damaged deck boards with new ones.            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFC107; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | Remove combustible materials from the deck.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## NONCOMBUSTIBLE ZONE 1A (0-5 feet) (Page 10)

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- |   |                          |   |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | Zone 1A has a noncombustible surface extending around the structure. |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Remove combustible live or dead vegetation.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F44336; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | Remove all combustible material under the deck.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**ZONE 1 (5-30 feet) (Page 11)**

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- |                                     |                          |                                     |  |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remove all marked trees.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remove branches 6-10 feet from the ground or 1/3 the height of "keep" trees. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remove pine needles and dead grasses within 3 feet of the base of trees.     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Shrubs are well-spaced and removed from the drip line of "keep" trees.       |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mow grasses and weeds to a maximum height of less than 6 inches.             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**ZONE 2 (30-100+ feet) (Page 13)**

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- |                                     |                                     |                                     |   |                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remove all marked trees.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Branches are properly mitigated on all "keep" trees.    |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | When possible promote aspen trees.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remove all marked shrubs.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Zone 2 is free of heavy accumulations of surface fuels. |                          |

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURES & PERSONAL PROPERTY (Page 15)**

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- |                                     |                          |                                     |   |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Your Specialist identified an accessory structure that needs to be mitigated. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | All other combustible items around the home are properly mitigated.           |                          |

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (Page 17)**

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- |                                     |                          |                          |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is an address marker clearly visible from both directions on the road. |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|

## ROOF & EAVES ASSESSMENT



### REQUIRED

#### **Gutter Debris:**

Remove combustible debris from your gutters.

#### **Specialist's Comment:**

#### **Notes:**

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# EXTERIOR WALLS, SIDING, & OPENINGS ASSESSMENT

## RECOMMENDED

### Siding Type:

Replace combustible siding with a noncombustible or ignition resistant siding product.

### Specialist's Comment:

### Notes:

## REQUIRED

### Base of Walls:

Your siding extends to grade making it vulnerable to ignition. Consult with a contractor to determine if your foundation design would allow some siding, at the base of the wall, to be removed; if the adjacent grade could be lowered to obtain 2 inches or more of clearance; or if your bottom siding board could be covered with noncombustible material. If you cannot take these steps, ensure that your noncombustible Zone 1A is properly cleared of combustibles.

### Specialist's Comment:

Mitigation — like flashing or relaxing the grade to reveal 2-4 inches of concrete — is required in the two areas pictured; I would recommend more reveal rather than less, or even doing both in front of the window. I also highly recommended these measures in all other locations where the wood siding meets grade.

### Notes:





## REQUIRED

### Unenclosed Floor Area:

Your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist identified other exposed areas that need to be mitigated.

### Specialist's Comment:

Mitigation is needed in the area pictured because tinder fuels will inevitably accumulate only a couple of inches below the wood beneath the overhang. We discussed metal skirting or enclosing with 1/8 inch metal screening.



### Notes:

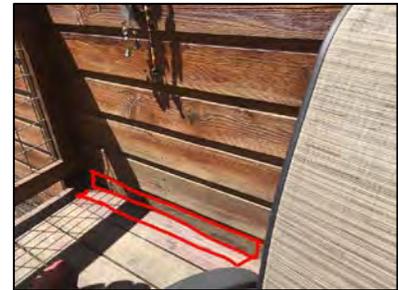
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# DECKS, PORCHES, & STRUCTURE ATTACHMENTS ASSESSMENT

## REQUIRED

### Deck Connections:

The area where your deck attaches to your home is vulnerable to ignition. For added protection, install a metal flashing strip between the top of the deck and the exterior combustible siding. Tip: Make sure the flashing is tucked behind the siding where the top of the flashing terminates so water cannot seep between the flashing and siding. Installing metal flashing provides protection from accumulating embers at the point the house intersects with the deck, a common spot for debris to collect.



### Specialist's Comment:

This should certainly be done when the new deck is constructed. If the future deck boards are noncombustible, the flashing would only need to cover the siding; otherwise use L-shaped flashing as illustrated on the photo.

### Notes:

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## REQUIRED

### Deck Condition:

Replace all rotten or heavily damaged deck boards with new ones.

### Specialist's Comment:

This is by far the greatest vulnerability to wildfire on your property. As you noted, there is a lot of pine needle accumulation beneath this deck, and the boards are warping, which would allow easy access for embers. At the very minimum, the boards should be replaced. Much better would be to demolish the existing deck section between the house and the timber retaining wall and replace with a hardscape surface or leave as bare soil. This also serves to break up the direct line from those timbers, which are harder to ignite but burn hot, and the house siding.



### Notes:

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## RECOMMENDED

### Items on Deck:

Remove combustible materials from on top of your deck. Tip: Combustibles such as pine needles or leaves are often present between deck boards and/or where your deck meets the wall.

### Specialist's Comment:

There is no issue for day-to-day use, but please remove rugs and mats when traveling and during times of high fire danger.



### Notes:

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## NONCOMBUSTIBLE ZONE 1A ASSESSMENT (0-5 feet)

### REQUIRED

#### Vegetation:

Remove combustible live or dead vegetation from this area and keep it free of anything that can support combustion.

#### Specialist's Comment:

Rake and maintain. This area is *very* important, as windows are vulnerable to thermal shock from heat and this one is right at ground level, meaning tinder fuels could accumulate very close to the glass. This area has also been discussed in the Siding section of this report.



#### Notes:

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### REQUIRED

#### Under Decks:

Remove all combustible material and/or vegetation from under your deck and/or house extension.

#### Specialist's Comment:

Remove the doghouse and weeds beneath the deck. At the time of your deck permit final inspection, the area under and at least 2 feet beyond the drip edge of the decks must be clear down to bare mineral soil or another noncombustible surface.



#### Notes:

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## ZONE 1 ASSESSMENT (5-30 feet)

### REQUIRED

#### Conifers:

Remove all marked trees in Zone 1.

#### Specialist's Comment:

#### Notes:



### REQUIRED

#### Low Limbing:

On all retained trees, remove all branches within 6-10 feet of the ground. Tip: Avoid removing branches from more than 1/3 the height of the tree because it could jeopardize the tree's health.

#### Specialist's Comment:

Lower limbs can be retained on this tree but there must be at least a foot of clearance between the lowest needles and the ground, and the area beneath the tree must be raked down to bare mineral soil.

#### Notes:



### REQUIRED

#### Pine Needles:

Remove all pine needles and dead grasses within the first three feet of the base of all high value tree(s) because they act as ladder fuels. Rake so that bare mineral soil is exposed. Tip: If you are working in areas prone to erosion, use caution so you don't cause issues during future rains.

#### Specialist's Comment:

#### Notes:



## REQUIRED

### **Grasses:**

Mow grasses and weeds to a maximum height of less than 6 inches in all of Zone 1. Tip: Mowing is especially critical in the fall when grasses dry out.

### **Specialist's Comment:**

Within 30 feet of the house, cut the grass down to 6 inches or less. An exception can be made uphill from the house on the very steep road embankment section.

### **Notes:**

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## ZONE 2 ASSESSMENT (30-100+ feet)

### REQUIRED

#### Conifers:

Remove all marked trees in Zone 2.

#### Specialist's Comment:

Below the driveway, two trees are marked with blue flagging. At least one of the two must be removed, but which one is your choice.



#### Notes:

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Marked Trees in Zone 1 and 2:

Approximately 1 to 25 trees were marked for removal  
Tree markings are facing towards home.

#### Specialist's Comment:

Orange flagging marks the boundary of Zone 2. NOTE: please point out to the contractors that there are two small marked trees above the house beyond the fir.

#### Notes:

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### RECOMMENDED

#### Aspen:

When possible promote aspens in Zone 2. Tip: Tree spacing and ladder fuel guidelines do not apply to mature aspens. Generally, no thinning of live aspens is recommended; only remove dead or diseased trees.

#### Specialist's Comment:

#### Notes:

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## REQUIRED

### **Shrubs:**

Remove all marked shrubs. For retained shrubs remove excessive growth, dead stems and accumulated dead leaves.

### **Specialist's Comment:**

I marked one currant near the hammock.

### **Notes:**

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## ACCESSORY STRUCTURES & PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

### REQUIRED

#### **Detached Accessory Structures:**

Your detached structure is not adequately mitigated. Remove all marked trees and apply the mitigation measures identified by your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist.

#### **Specialist's Comment:**

In the garden area, lower the grade to create space beneath the lattice, add flashing to the base, or both. This will help prevent embers from catching the lightweight wood, which could ignite the platform and then the trees.

Rake down to bare mineral soil under and around the garden and hot tub platforms out to 3 feet or more.



#### **Notes:**

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## HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

To determine if you are adequately insured, start by evaluating your Homeowners Insurance Coverage A policy limit. You will need to know the size of your home and the cost of rebuilding it. To determine the cost of rebuilding, obtain an estimate from a local contractor who is familiar with the current costs of rebuilding a comparable home in your location in Boulder County. The cost of rebuilding your home is different than its current value. Many home owners who lost their home in a wildfire found they are underinsured.

To determine if your Coverage A is adequate, multiply the square footage of your home by your rebuilding cost per square foot. If this number is greater than your Coverage A limit, consider increasing this limit.

There are a number of other items in your insurance policy that you should review. Boulder County produced a video to help residents with insurance. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/MMNtlzITsbg>. For more information, visit The Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association at [www.rmiiia.org](http://www.rmiiia.org) and United Policy Holders at [www.uphelp.org](http://www.uphelp.org).

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**Home Inventory:** Create an inventory of your personal property now. If you lose everything you own in a fire, it will be difficult to remember what you lost. Your home inventory should include both photos and a written list and should be saved to a secure location. For more information, please visit: <https://www.uphelp.org/pubs/how-create-home-inventory>

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# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Evacuation:** You and your family should plan for and practice how you will evacuate during a wildfire. The ideal plan should allow you to evacuate within 15 minutes. The fire season is now a reality throughout the year in Colorado, which means that both firefighters and residents have to be on alert for the threat of wildfire at all times.

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**Belongings:** Prepare a written list of items to take with you as well as evacuation bags with necessary items. You can prepare a checklist including easy to forget items such as prescription medication, family heirlooms, important documents, and valuables. For more information on evacuation plans, visit: [www.readyforwildfire.org/Pre-Evacuation-Preparation/](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Pre-Evacuation-Preparation/)

Your evacuation kit should be individually tailored to meet the basic survival needs of your family for three days to a week. Store your emergency supplies in one location that is relatively safe, yet easily accessible if evacuation is required. Some items to consider include water, food, first aid kit, flashlight, medications, cash, tools, and sanitation items.

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**Notification:** Sign-up to receive free emergency alerts (reverse 911) from the Boulder Office of Emergency Management. The emergency alert program allows residents to be notified by cell phone, email, home and work phones, and text messaging. Register for free at <https://www.boulderoem.com> under “**Sign Up for Emergency Messages.**”

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**Communications:** Plan for how you and your family will stay in contact and where you would meet if separated during a wildfire. Do not rely on conventional forms of communication during an emergency. Having redundant forms of communication can help assure that your family will be able to quickly reunite should the unexpected occur. Some tips include using text messages to communicate during times with high call-volumes, establishing a meeting location where your family can reconvene, and assigning an out-of-town contact to serve as a liaison between family members.

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**Pets:** Plan for caring and evacuating your pets during an emergency. Be sure your pet has identification tags securely fastened to the collar, and keep a pet carrier and leash to secure your pet. Bring supplies such as food, medications, food bowls, and litter boxes with you. For more information on pet preparedness, please visit: [https://www.aspca.org/sites/default/files/preparedness\\_for\\_pets\\_sep\\_2015.pdf](https://www.aspca.org/sites/default/files/preparedness_for_pets_sep_2015.pdf)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Neighbors:** We encourage you to talk to your neighbors about linking your mitigation efforts. The success of your mitigation efforts may depend upon it. A community with active and engaged neighborhoods can create defensible communities.

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**Wildfire Partners Tour of Homes:** As a participant in the program, we encourage you to take part in the Wildfire Partners Tour of Homes. Visiting homes and talking with neighbors is an ideal way for residents to learn about mitigation. Some homeowners are reluctant to perform mitigation and join Wildfire Partners because they are worried how mitigation will look or because they think they will be required to cut all their trees. Existing participants can see how others in the program have completed select projects or what a contractor's finished product looks like. The tour is an opportunity for everyone to see wildfire mitigation in action and be inspired by all the amazing work that is taking place. On the day of the tour, homeowners who volunteer to be part of the tour agree to 1) invite visitors onto their property, 2) be available during the tour to talk with visitors (often a member of the Wildfire Partners team will be available to talk with guests as well), 3) encourage friends and neighbors to stop by for a visit, 4) put up yard signs provided by the program to help advertise the event, and 5) agree to have pictures posted of their mitigation on our website for the Virtual Wildfire Partners Tour of Homes. Ideally, all participants will have received their Wildfire Partners Certificate.

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**Boulder County Community Chipping Program:** Boulder County Community Chipping Program: Boulder County supports community chipping programs to encourage foothills and mountain residents to perform mitigation. The county has helped fund chipping events since 1993. Communities must submit an application to be considered for funding. Information on the 2019 program will be available by the end of April. To learn more, visit: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/forest-health/community-chipping-reimbursement/> or call Jim Webster at 720-564-2600.

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**Saws and Slaws:** Saws and Slaws is a community work group that performs fire mitigation using volunteers. Short for chainsaws and coleslaws, this group mitigates fire risk around a group of neighborhood homes and then share a meal together as neighbors. Saws and Slaws is much more than a catchy name for mitigation activities. It's more like an old fashioned barn raising where friends and neighbors pool their efforts to help a fellow community member and then end their time together with good food. Saws and Slaws can be easily replicated anywhere. They charge \$1000 per event to cover costs of insurance, tools and administrative expenses. For more information, visit <http://www.sawsandslaws.org>.

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**Community Wildfire Protection Plans:** Boulder County and 13 local fire districts have produced Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). These plans contain a wealth of information on wildfire mitigation and have resulted in an enormous amount of work on the ground. If you have not read your district's or the county's plan, visit <http://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/community-wildfire-protection-plans/>.

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**Firewise Communities USA:** The Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program is a process that empowers neighbors to work together to reduce their wildfire risk. Using a five-step process, communities develop an action plan that guides their activities, while engaging and encouraging their neighbors to become active participants. Visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA> to learn more. Firewise Communities in Boulder County include: Big Elk Meadows, Foothills Ranch Homeowners Association, Lake of the Pines, Lefthand Fire Protection District, Town of Nederland, and Sunshine Fire Protection District.

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**Boulder County Community Forestry Sort Yards:** Boulder County has established two community forestry sort yards – Allenspark and Nederland - to collect wood and slash from county residents. Area residents can drop off logs (6 inches or less in diameter) and slash from private land for no charge at either site from May through October. For more information, please visit this website: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/forest-health/community-forestry-sort-yards/>.

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**May Wildfire Awareness Month:** The month of May has been designated as Wildfire Awareness Month. Activities during the month teach residents about wildfires and wildfire mitigation and encourage homeowners to take action. Events in past years have included tours, hikes, training sessions, volunteer projects, chipping days, contests, wildfire mitigation challenges, and keynote addresses by the nation's leading wildfire scientists.

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**Boulder County Parks and Open Space Volunteer Projects:** Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department offers many volunteer forestry projects throughout the year. To view these projects, visit <https://www.bouldercounty.org/volunteer/parks-and-open-space/>.

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## DISCLAIMER - THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES

While the purpose of the Wildfire Mitigation Assessment is to reduce the risk of fire damage to your home or property, following the recommendations in this assessment does not guarantee prevention of such damage. Wildfire mitigation work around your home can give firefighters the best chance to defend and protect your property from wildfires, while substantially increasing your safety and reducing the risk to life and property. However, wildfire is unpredictable and can be impossible to stop or control, regardless of what mitigation efforts you have taken. Wildfire Partners makes no guarantees or representations of any kind with respect to the effectiveness of any mitigation efforts you undertake in connection with your participation in the Wildfire Partners program.

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