

Wildfire Preparation

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Agenda

- Preparedness
- Fire Outlook
- Fire Triangle
- Creating defensible space and managing vegetation
- Home Hardening Techniques
- Q and A!



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Evacuation Preparedness

- Wildfire Evacuation Checklist
- Metal, Reflective Address Markers on Homes



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Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

	People and Pets
	Papers and Important Documents
	Prescriptions/Meds and Eyeglasses
	Pictures and Irreplaceable Mementos
	Personal computers and cell phones
	Plastic (credit cards), wallet and cash



Create a Go-Bag for Evacuations

- People
- Pets
- Necessary prescriptions or medications
- Pictures
- Passports
- Priceless items (art work, external hard drives, family heirlooms)

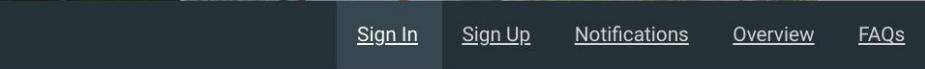


Panic Packing



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- Review your information and select "Finish"

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sites.google.com/eaglecounty.us/ecemerGENCY/home?authuser=0

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ECEmergency Home

ecemerGENCY.org



Eagle County Public Safety Information

TRAFFIC & CLOSURES, WILDFIRES, FLOODS, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AND MORE.

[HAGA CLIC AQUÍ PARA ESPAÑOL](#)

Active Incidents

Emergency incidents develop and change rapidly. This site will be updated as new information becomes available. Please check back often for the latest updates.

- [The Duck Pond Fire](#)
- [Eagle County COVID Information](#)
- [Current Local Emergency & Traffic Alerts](#)

Info icon 

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 Sign out 3 11:58

PREPARED NOT SCARED



Stay Informed
ECEmergency.org



Get Notified
ECAalert.org

From your Eagle County Safety Partners



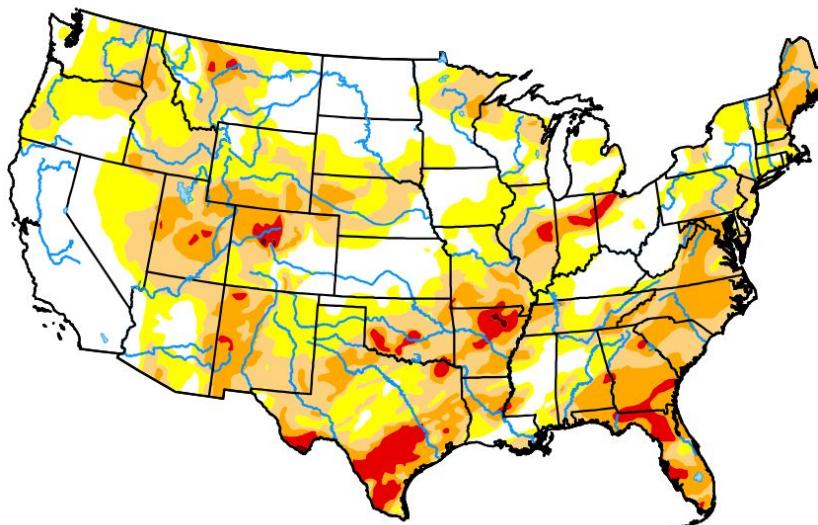


The West is Dry

Map released: Thurs. February 5, 2026

Data valid: February 3, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Lindsay Johnson](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

And Getting Drier

Worst “megadrought” in 1,200 years

July 2024 was the hottest July on record

This megadrought may persist through 2030

Colorado River Basin below 50% of average



LARGEST WILDFIRES IN COLORADO HISTORY

FIRE	ACRES
CAMERON PEAK FIRE (2020)	208,913
EAST TROUBLESOME FIRE (2020)	193,812
PINE GULCH FIRE (2020)	139,007
HAYMAN FIRE (2002)	137,760
LEE FIRE (2025)	116,859*
SPRING CREEK FIRE (2018)	108,045
HIGH PARK FIRE (2012)	87,284
MISSIONARY RIDGE FIRE (2002)	70,285
WEST FORK FIRE (2013)	58,570
416 FIRE (2018)	54,129

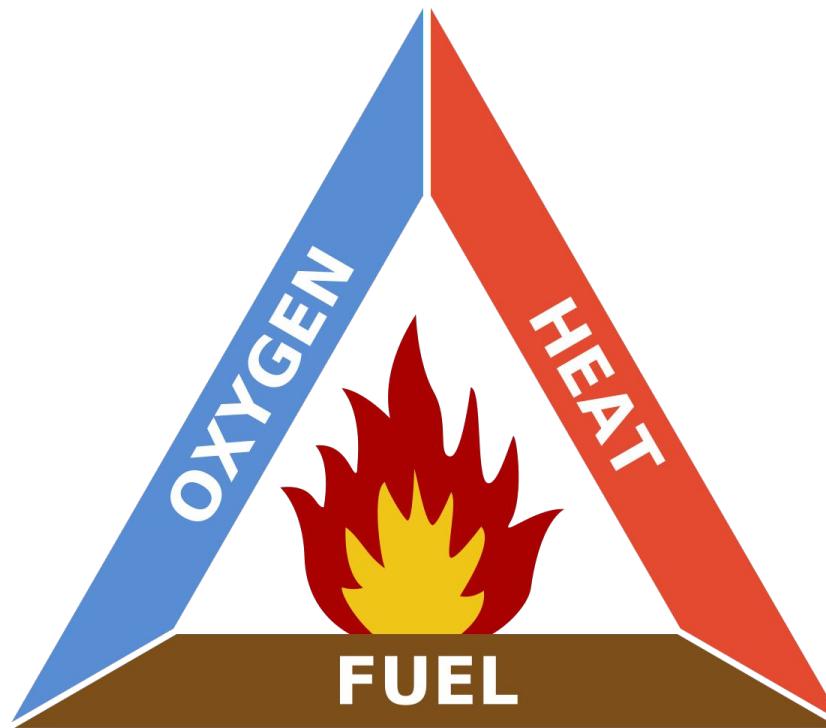
**active wildfire, acreage as of the morning of Aug. 12, 2025*



What is a wildfire?

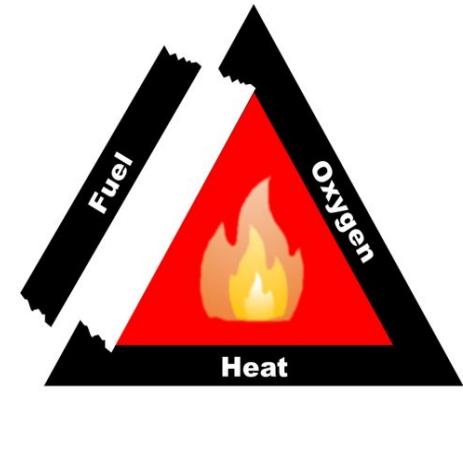
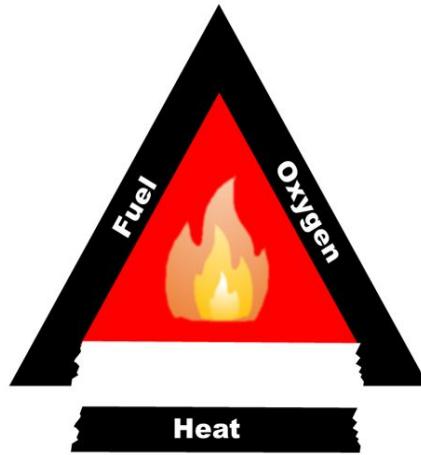
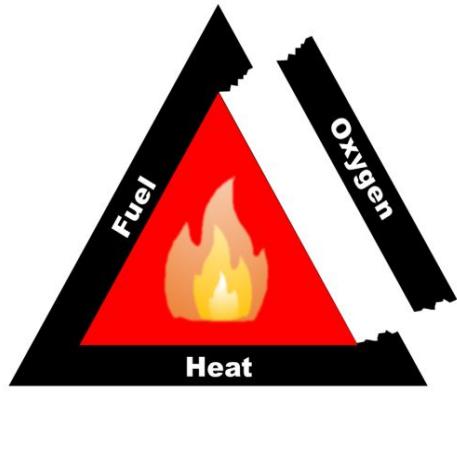


How Do Wildfires Keep Burning?



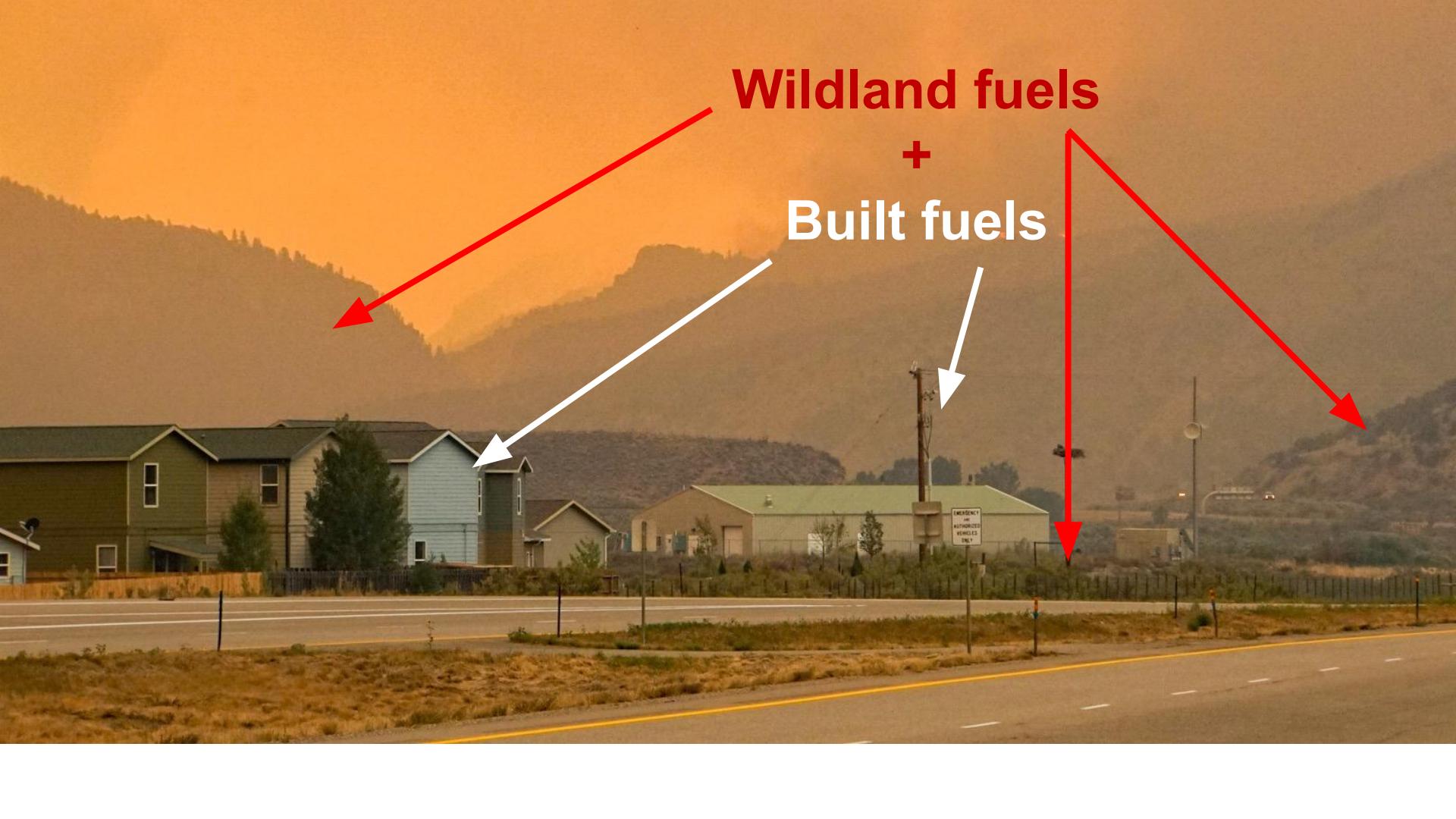
The Fire Triangle

Altering the Fire Triangle









Wildland fuels

+

Built fuels

What Are The Fuels?



Landscaped
fuels

Built Fuels



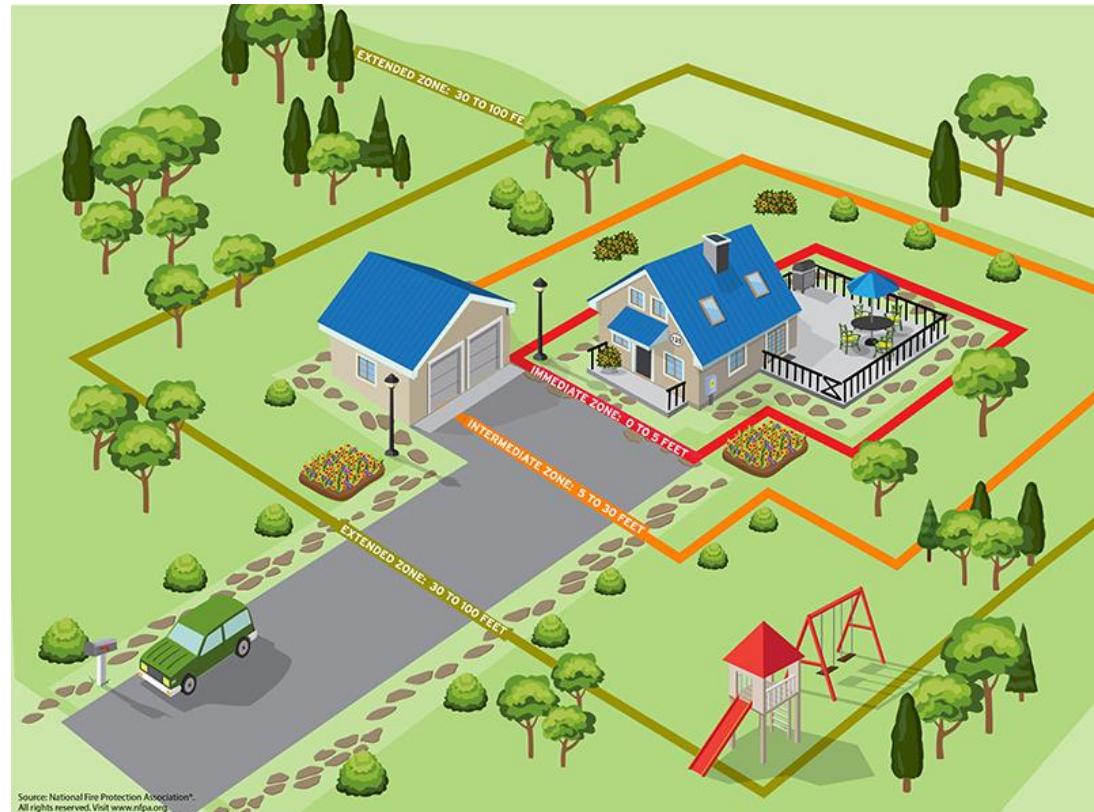
Fire can spread to structures in 3 ways

- **Direct Flame Contact**
 - Combustible trees and vegetation connected to other fuels and to structure
- **Radiant Heat**
 - Nearby flames heat up combustible components and vegetation to the point of ignition
- **Embers**
- You can alter the way that fire interacts with your home by being cognizant of what you're planting and maintaining what already exists



The Home Ignition Zone

Home Hardening
+
“Defensible Space”
Immediate Zone
Intermediate Zone
Extended Zone



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The Little Things Are Important

- Why did this house survive?
- Not luck, it's science



Lahaina, HI 2023



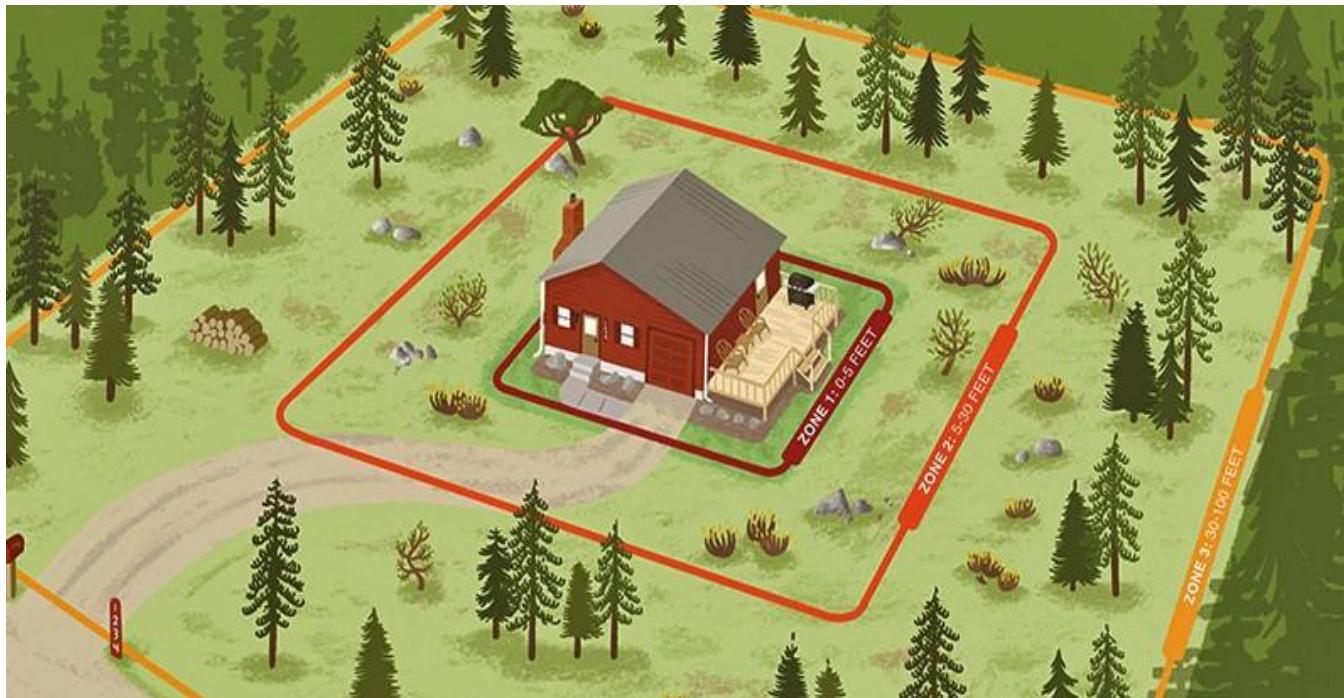
Stone Canyon Fire, 2024

Home Ignition Zones

Zone 1A (0-5ft)

Zone 1 (5-30ft)

Zone 2/3 (30-100+)



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Zone 1A (0-5ft)

- **Nothing combustible within 5ft of siding, deck and other combustible features**
- **Low-growing/ground cover plants and perennials only**
- **Use non-combustible mulch**
- **Colorado State Forest Service Low-Flammability Landscape Plants document**



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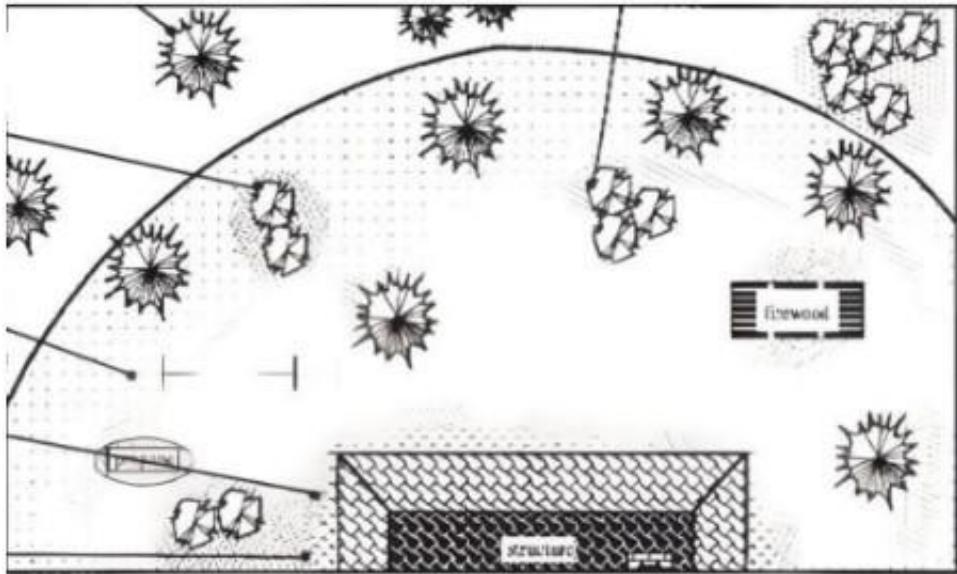
PREPARED



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Zone 1 (5-30ft)

- **Keep it clean and green**
- **Separate shrubs and trees**
- **Keep grasses low**
- **Reduce fire intensity and spread by thinning existing vegetation**
- **Thinning promotes a healthier forest by reducing overcrowding**
- **Incorporate ignition resistant plants**
- **If you have combustible vegetation (ie. coniferous trees, shrubs etc), think about management plans for those**





Zone 2/3 (30-100+ft)

- This zone has the opportunity to slow the speed of a wildfire towards zone 1
- Manage for a healthy ecosystem and forest
- Focus on thinning excessive growth to re-create historically accurate "open tree canopy"
- Remove dead vegetation



Discontinuous Fuels

Before



After



Crown spacing: The distance between the canopy of the trees.

- Reduces the possibility that a “crown fire” will spread from tree to tree.





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But...what species can I plant?

Attributes that decrease flammability

- Low oil or resin content
- High moisture content
- Soap, latex or pectin content
- Compact growth form
- Green stems
- Drought tolerant

Attributes that increase flammability

- High oil or resin content
- Low moisture content
- Tall growth
- Open form
- Fine wood (twiggy) stems
- High water need



High Ignition Potential

- Shrubs
 - **Potentilla**
 - **Mountain Mahogany**
 - **Rabbit Brush**
 - **Sage Brush**
 - **Gambel Oak**
- Conifers
 - **Spruces, pines, furs, junipers**
 - **Cedar, Cypress**





During a visit to the area of northern B.C. burned by the Shovel Lake wildfire the summer of 2018, James Steidle documented aspen trees that were left standing even though surrounding conifers were incinerated. (Photo: James Steidle)



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Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- **Embers can blow up to 5 miles from the point of origin, and sometimes 10 miles**
- **Land on roof**
- **Accumulate at the base of walls**
- **Enter through vents**
- **90% of structure loss is through ember exposure**



Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- Roof



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Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- Roofs and Siding



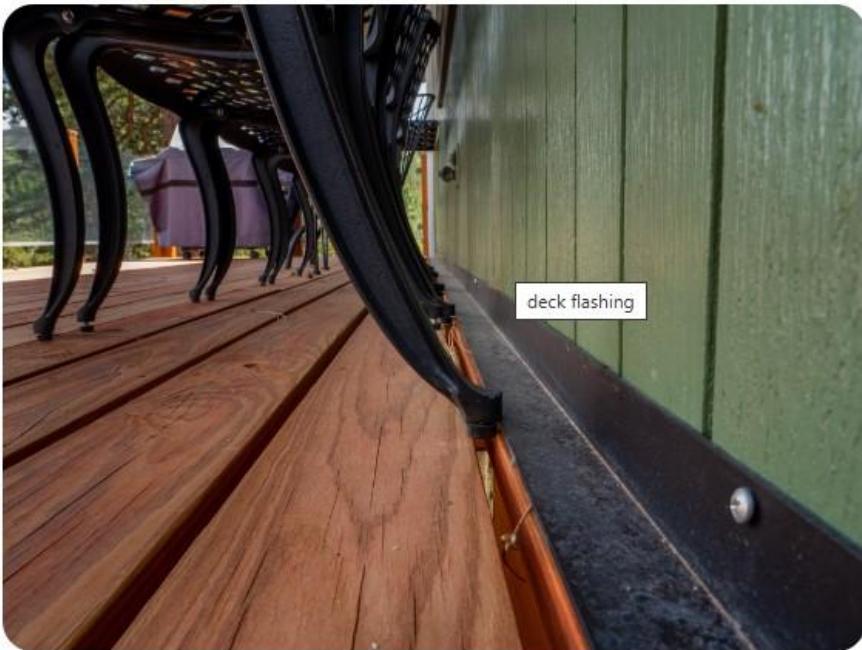
Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- Vents



Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- Decks



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Deck

Needs Maintenance or Replacement



Intersection of Deck & Siding



Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- Wooden Fences



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Home Hardening for Ember Exposure

- **Siding**



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IBHS





- REALFire Property Assessments
 - Voluntary property assessment program
 - Promotes education and action
 - Implemented at a local level
 - Individual or Community level
 - Customized and comprehensive report
 - Certificate to recognize achievements
- Visit realfire.net to sign up for an assessment OR reach out to Vail Fire



Cost-share Assistance Program

- Began in 2019
- \$1000 per household to complete targeted mitigation work
 - Junkin' junipers
 - The First Five Feet
 - Fences Are Fuses
 - Screening / Replacing Vents
- Up to \$5000 for HOA-level projects
- 25% match from property/homeowner





COMMUNITY SLASH REMOVAL/ CHIPPING PROGRAM

JULY 2025



COMMUNITIES SERVED:

Red Hill/Sky Legend

6/29

Town of Gypsum

6/29

Eagle Ranch/Frost Creek

7/6

Town of Eagle/Eby Creek

7/6

Edwards Metro/Red Sky Ranch

7/13

Cordillera Valley Club/Singletree

7/13

Wildridge/Wildwood

7/13

Eagle-Vail

7/20

Minturn

7/20

Red Cliff

7/20

PILES MUST BE STACKED BY:



What we DO want:

- Trees, logs and branches up to 15 inches in diameter.
- All materials must be free from wire or nails.
- HIGH, neatly stacked piles.
- Piles must be clear of vehicles.
- Piles within 5 feet of roadway (not on road or sidewalk).
- Piles smaller than 2 cubic yards should be combined with neighboring piles if practical.



What we DON'T want:

- No construction materials or treated lumber.
- No rotten wood, root wads, stumps, dirt or rocks.
- No grass clippings, trash, weeds, or bags of leaves.
- No piles on the road or any paved surface.
- No piles in ditches or depressions.
- Do not place piles directly under power lines, near gas meters, phone/utility pedestals or mailboxes.



NON-CHIPPABLE ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP

Neighborhood Ambassador Program

- Current Ambassador Projects
- 22 ambassadors acting at various levels
- Join today!



Questions?



Sign up for an assessment