

RUBY RANCH FIREWISE

Education | Preparedness | Evacuation Ready

High Fire Alert 2021

Our sparse spring rains gave the western slope of Colorado just enough moisture to tie the driest year in history. If we did not have any sprinkles, 2021 would have marked the lowest precipitation year ever recorded on the western slope!

PICTURES NEEDED

Please remember to take BEFORE and AFTER pictures of your work this year (and all years) as our annual work needs to be documented to maintain our FirewiseUSA® status. Please save and/or send to: LKLewis109@mac.com. Thank you!

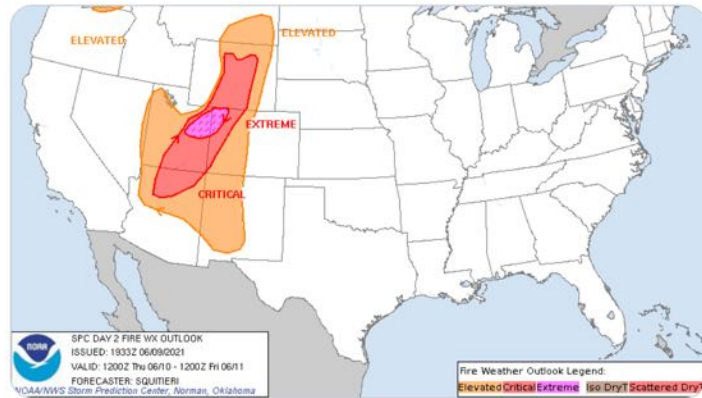
FREE HOME IGNITION ZONE INSPECTION AVAILABLE

Schedule free home ignition zone advice from Steve Lipsher of Summit Fire. He is busy - we are in high fire alert! be patient!

slipsher@summitfire.org



NWS Storm Prediction Center @NWSSPC · Jun 9
2:35pm CDT #SPC Day2 #FireWX Extremely Critical: portions of northeast utah into far northwest colorado go.usa.gov/YWcW



National Weather Service Fire Weather Outlook Legend: bright pink is 'extreme' and orange is 'critical'. <https://www.cpr.org/2021/06/10/forecasters-issue-first-extremely-critical-fire-weather-warning-for-northwest-colorado-in-15-years/>

SUMMIT COUNTY'S FIRST FIRE: STRAIGHT CREEK

Here is a view of the Straight Creek fire along I-70 on June 10, 2021. It closed I-70 Eastbound on and off for a day. A good reminder that evacuating early is a good idea.

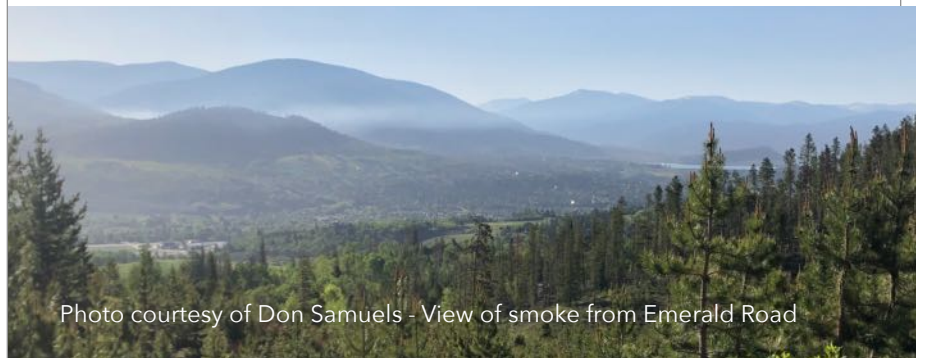


Photo courtesy of Don Samuels - View of smoke from Emerald Road

SUMMIT COUNTY CHIPPING PROGRAM JULY 19-23.

PROPERLY
STACKED
PILE



IMPROPERLY
STACKED
PILE



OUR HOMES CAN SURVIVE A FIRE:

Please watch this 13 minute video - click on the picture to the right (link to video) and see what you can do so your home can survive a wildfire.

Reminders:

- Firefighters will be busy! Do not assume you will have a crew working at your house.
- Your house has to withstand the fire on its own.
- Where pine needles are blown into piles around your house are where embers will pile up, too. Make note of these areas and keep clear.
- Consider fireproof outdoor furniture.
- The first 5 feet around home are critical.



High Park Fire 2012
Rist Canyon, Colorado
294 Homes lost



The Hodeks' home survived

IMMEDIATE (NONCOMBUSTIBLE) ZONE

Why is it important to create and maintain 5 feet of noncombustible space around the exterior of a building?

Wildfire risks are on the rise, but there are ways home and business owners can take control of their vulnerabilities. Changes made to a structure and its surroundings within 100 feet can make a big impact. Research from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) shows that the first 0 to 5 feet around the structure, known as the immediate zone or noncombustible zone, has the greatest impact on your risk. IBHS and the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) recommend keeping this zone well-maintained and clear of combustible materials.

IBHS Research

The main objective of the 0-to-5-foot zone is to reduce the potential that embers landing near a building will ignite fuels and expose the area around a home to a direct flame (Figure 1). Removing anything that can ignite from embers is critically important. To verify how effective a 5-foot noncombustible zone is around a building, more than 180 tests were conducted in 2018 at the IBHS Research Center to evaluate fire behavior and heating of buildings (Figures 2a & 2b).

Key Observations

- For combustible landscaping, such as wood mulch, the thickness of the mulch bed, wind speed, and location of the flame and building all impact the potential of mulch to ignite and how quickly fire can spread to the building.
- Burning mulch generates embers that can ignite nearby mulch, increasing the chances of direct flame contact spreading to the building.
- When flames are 5 feet away, a building's surface temperature is below temperatures that could cause ignition. However, corners of a building (45-degree angles) experience a higher temperature when exposed to flames, even when a 5-foot space is present. Testing showed that corners can be more vulnerable due to fire spread through fuel (such as mulch) on the ground, because at the same wind speed, wind blowing directly at a wall (90-degree angle) will result in taller flames and more radiant heat, while wind on a corner (45-degree angle) will result in longer flames that are closer to the ground.

Recommendations

- Keep the corner areas of a building clear of combustible materials due to the higher probability of having direct flame touching the surrounding ground.
- Keep gutters free of debris and use metal gutters.
- Install hard surfaces, such as a concrete walkway, or use noncombustible mulch products, such as rock.
- Keep the lawn well irrigated and use low-growing herbaceous (non-woody) plants. Shrubs and trees are not recommended in the 5-foot zone.
- Remove dead vegetation and implement a maintenance strategy to keep the 5-foot zone clear of dead plant materials.
- Mitigating home ignition zones shouldn't stop at 5 feet from the building. It should be combined with the footprint of an attached deck and area that extends away from the building up to 100 feet or to the property line.



Figure 1 – Creating and maintaining home ignition zones (defensible space) around your property are proven ways to reduce risks of property damage during a wildfire, as tests at the IBHS Research Center have shown.



Figure 2a Experiments conducted at the IBHS Research Center to study the effectiveness of creating a noncombustible space around buildings.



Figure 2b Embers impacting a building: left side with combustible (wood) and the right side with noncombustible (rock) mulch.

© Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Learn More

- ▶ For online training and other resources, see nffa.org/firewise.
- ▶ Access the latest research from IBHS at ibhs.org.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

EVACUATE EARLY



Traffic southbound on Centennial Boulevard near 30th Street at a near standstill as people evacuate Mountain Shadows because of the Waldo Canyon Fire Tuesday, June 26, 2012. Photo by Mark Reis, The Gazette

MARK REIS

Don't get caught in a traffic jam on highway 9! Your "GO KIT" Checklist:

- READ THE RUBY RANCH EVACUATION PLAN (see next page)
- Have "go bag" instructions, evacuation plan, and map available for your short term renters.
- Cell phone, cell phone charger: YOU MAY LOSE SIGNAL. Have Family Communication plan!
- Computers, computer charger
- Snacks and water: consider a Grayl water bottle - it purifies water instantly (grayl.com). Grayl bottles are sold at Murdocks, too.
- Pet food and pet bed/toys
- DOCUMENTS: insurance, medical, etc.
- KEEP YOUR GAS TANK FULL!

Wildfires are KILLERS.

Safety should be your first and foremost concern

Wildfires can strike and spread quickly, sometimes with little warning, and can change direction with the wind.

1. **If a wildfire is in the area: BE ALERT.** Obtain up-to-date information about the fire. Watch and listen for emergency information and alerts.
 - Subscribe to the Summit County Alert System: www.SCAAlert.org
 - Listen to Krystal FM Radio 93.9 in emergencies
 - Consult Summit County's website: www.co.summit.co.us/emergencyblog
 - Follow directives issued by the authorities

2. **Prepare for evacuation.**
 - Know your escape route from your home down the mountain to Highway 9 by car and by foot. In many cases, there is only one road down. If that road becomes blocked or impassable, you must evacuate by foot. Choose a route away from the fire and watch for changes in the fire's direction. (See map on reverse side.)
 - Prepare a "go bag" and keep it in your vehicle during wildfire season with essentials such as medicines, toiletries, backup power/chargers for your communication devices, important phone numbers, insurance policy numbers (in case cell phones don't work or your battery dies), and a change of clothing, etc.
 - If evacuation is a possibility, keep pets within your control. Bring them inside. Pack food, medicine and a toy.
 - If you have a horse on property near the forest, bring the horse to the stable and meadows or another location with lower risk before the animal gets stressed.
 - If you have time, close all windows and doors (interior doors, too).
 - If you know how, shut off pilot lights, propane and natural gas.
 - Pack irreplaceable items in your vehicle: such as computers, important papers, one-of-a-kind or sentimental items. If you have more than one vehicle, consider moving the vehicle containing the irreplaceable items to a less at-risk location (like the Target parking lot) before an evacuation becomes necessary.

3. **Evacuate early. If a wildfire is nearby,** do not wait for an evacuation order, pack up, take you pet(s), and drive down the mountain to a safer location.
 - **If you are under a wildfire warning or evacuation order: get to safety right away. Do not delay. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Keep calm and do not drive recklessly.**
 - **If possible, post a note on your front door informing firefighters that you have evacuated.**
 - **If you are trapped, call 9-1-1 and give your location. Be forewarned: emergency response could take time or be impossible. Survival tips are enumerated on page 9 of Ready, Set, Go! (see next paragraph)**
 - **For a detailed discussion, see: <https://summitfire.org/205/Wildfire-Planning-Tips> and <https://summitfire.org/DocumentCenter/View/401/Ready-Set-Go---Your-Personal-Wildfire-Action-Plan-PDF>**

Of course, the best time to prepare for a wildfire is when there is no emergency. Always maintain the defensible space around your home and clear the remainder of your property of deadwood. Make digital copies of important papers and irreplaceable photographs and, if possible, store them off site. Prepare and maintain a list of those things that you'd want to take with you in an evacuation.

Prevent Forest Fires. Comply with fire restrictions at all times. Be aware of forest fire warning levels and fire restrictions posted along Highway 9. Smokers, take care with lighted cigarettes/cigars, even when the area looks safe.