

Fire Mitigation

El Paso County / El Paso County Administration / Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management / Fire Mitigation



Wildfire Mitigation and Defensible Space

Wildland Fire Information Workshop

April 8, 2023 09:00 a.m. to Noon

Palmer Ridge High School Auditorium, 19255 Monument Hill Road, Monument

Information fair ongoing from 9:00 to noon: Red Cross, Monument Fire, PeakAlerts, Pikes Peak Community Emergency Response Team, HOPE Animal Assisted Disaster Response, El Paso County Wildland Fire Team, Colorado State Forest Service, PRHS Emergency Preparedness Club

Speaker Presentations:

9:15 a.m. Personal preparedness – Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management

10:00 a.m. What to know about evacuation – El Paso County Sheriff's Office

10:45 a.m. Home hardening and risk assessment – Wildfire Ambassador Program, Tri Lakes-Monument United Methodist Emergency Preparedness Group

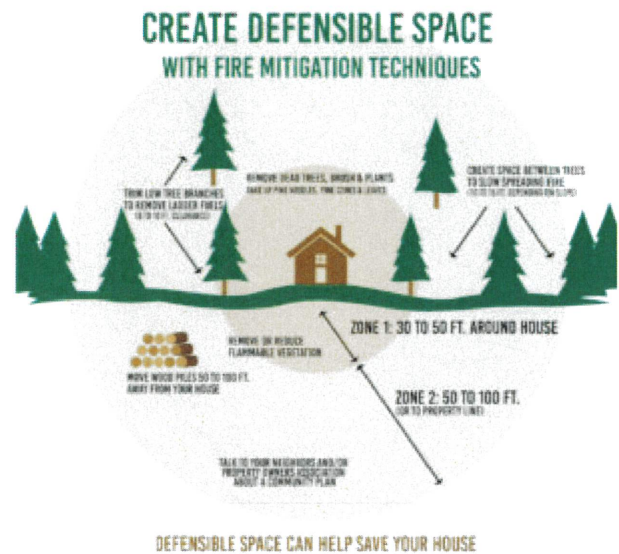
11:30 a.m. Local wildfire concerns – Monument Fire District

What is Defensible Space? It is a buffer around your home, outbuildings, etc. that has been mitigated to reduce the potential to spread a wildfire. Defensible space, being firewise, improves the chance your home and neighborhood can be saved from a wildfire. By cleaning

up and maintaining your property, removing ladder fuels, and other combustible objects, a fire can be slowed or even stopped before it spreads to your home. Defensible Space also helps protect firefighters and provides them a place to work. Creating defensible space around homes is a critical aspect of protecting mountain communities.

Easy Things to Do

- Rake up dead grass, pine needles, leaves, and pine cones and dispose of them
- Remove dead or dying trees and bushes
- Keep the grass yard and fields mowed
- Trim low hanging tree branches, 6-foot clearance to the ground
- Trim any branches that are within 10 feet of your house and building
- Trim any branches that hang over your roof or near your chimney
- Clean out roof gutters
- Clean out under decks and around gardens
- Move wood piles at least 50 feet away from your home
- Remove old junk piles that contain flammable materials



Next Steps

- Select fire-safe landscaping and fire-resistant plants
- Use synthetic fire-resistant materials for decks and fencing
- Purchase fire-resistant patio furniture
- Cut down trees based on spacing and the slope of the property
- Make sure driveways and property are accessible for fire trucks to enter, turn around, and exit

Where to find more resources

- Listen to experts discuss the reasons for having individual home/land-owners and communities actively work together to create a safer and healthier forest in [this video](#)
- Download the [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)
- Fire Evacuation Levels in El Paso County and current fire restrictions may be found at <https://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com/services/fire-information>
- [Sign up to receive notifications](#) of upcoming wildfire risk reduction activities
- Download the Pikes Peak Prepared app on your [Apple](#) or [Android](#) phone for wildfire preparedness information and training notifications

- Scroll down to see materials from previous wildfire risk reduction workshops
- Contact your local fire department for information
- Colorado State Forest Service: [Protect Your Home from Wildfire](#)
- Colorado State Forest Service: [Defensible Space Check List](#)
- CSU Extension: [Wildfire Preparedness for Horse Owners](#)
- CSU Extension: [Fire Resources](#)
- CSU Extension: [Fire-Resistant Landscaping](#) (pdf)
- Firewise: [Prepare Your Home \(English and Spanish\)](#)



Pikes Peak Prepared App available for Apple or Android

Wildfire Workshop

Wildfire Workshop Materials

Wildfire workshops provide training educational and training opportunities for homeowners and community groups to learn to evaluate and improve wildfire risk on individual properties and common spaces, and build and maintain neighborhood wildfire risk reduction plans and projects. Below are links to download materials that were provided at recent workshops.

Materials

- Make your Plan, Pack your Kit: Ready.gov – [How to Prepare for a Wildfire Guide](#)
- Wildfire Assessment Program – [Wildfire Home Assessment Checklist](#)
- Colorado State Forest Service Presentation Slides – [Firewise and Neighborhood Planning](#)
- Colorado State Forest Service – [Community Wildfire Protection Plans](#) (.ppt download)
- Colorado State University Extension – [Firewise Plant Materials](#)

- National Volunteer Fire Council – [Wildland Fire Assessment Program \(WFAP\) – Toolkit](#), third edition (materials download)
- [Additional Information](#) (pdf)

Videos

- Creating Fire Adapted Communities: [A Case Study from Colorado Springs and the Waldo Canyon Fire](#)
- IBHS Research Center [Ember Storm Test Highlights](#)
- [Firewise Series: Wildfire Behavior – Terrain \(slope\)](#)
- Boulder Wildfire Partners, [Cold Springs Fire Success Stories](#)