

What should I do during a Red Flag Warning

During a Red Flag Warning in Park County, Colorado, residents should take immediate precautions to prevent wildfires and protect their communities. These warnings signal critical fire weather conditions—typically high winds, low humidity, and dry fuels—that make fire ignition and rapid spread extremely likely.

Here's what you should do:

Fire Prevention

- **No open flames:** Avoid campfires, burn piles, charcoal grills, or outdoor welding.
- **Postpone yard work:** Don't use chainsaws, lawnmowers, or anything that could spark.
- **Secure trailer chains:** Dragging chains can cause sparks—double-check before driving.
- **Avoid smoking outdoors:** If you must, use extreme caution and dispose of butts properly.

Follow Local Restrictions

- **Respect burn bans:** Park County often enforces fire restrictions during Red Flag Warnings. These may prohibit all open burning, including recreational fires and fireworks.
- **Check for updates:** Visit [Park County Emergency Management](#) or follow their social media for real-time alerts and restrictions.

Be Prepared

- **Review evacuation plans:** Know your routes and have a go-bag ready with essentials.
- **Stay informed:** Monitor weather apps, NOAA radio, or local news for updates.
- **Protect vulnerable neighbors:** Check in on those who may need help preparing or evacuating.

Defensible Space

- **Clear debris:** Remove dry leaves, pine needles, and flammable materials near your home.
- **Hydrate your landscape:** If allowed, water vegetation to reduce fire risk.
- **Propane tanks:** Move portable tanks (like those for grills or patio heaters) at least 10 feet from structures and vegetation. Ensure valves are tightly closed.
- **Cushions and pillows:** Store fabric items indoors or in a fire-resistant container. These can ignite from embers or radiant heat.
- **Welcome mats and doormats:** Remove rubber or coir mats, they're highly flammable. Replace with non-combustible options or leave the area bare.
- **Furniture and décor:** Relocate lightweight or flammable items like wicker chairs, plastic planters, or seasonal decorations.

Red Flag Warnings are serious. Fires that start under these conditions can become uncontrollable in minutes. Your vigilance helps protect not just your home, but the entire community.

How to Know If There's a Red Flag Warning

- **National Weather Service (NWS):** Visit weather.gov and enter your location. Red Flag Warnings will be listed under alerts.
- **Weather Apps:** Enable push notifications for fire weather alerts in apps like WeatherBug, AccuWeather, or your phone's native weather app.
- **NOAA Weather Radio:** A reliable source for real-time alerts, especially in areas with limited cell service.
- **Community Boards or Text Alerts:** Some local fire departments and emergency services offer SMS alerts or post warnings on bulletin boards and websites.
- **Park County Emergency Management:** Follow their website or social media for local updates and restrictions. - CodeRed

CodeRED can notify you of Red Flag Warnings, because Park County Emergency Management chooses to include that type of alert in their system and you've opted in correctly.

Here's how to make sure you're covered:

What to Do

- **Sign up or update your info:** Go to Park County's CodeRED page and register your phone number(s), email, and address. This ensures you receive location-specific alerts.
- **Enable Weather Warnings:** When signing up, check the box for *CodeRED Weather Warning Alerts*. These include severe weather, and in some counties, fire weather like Red Flag Warnings.
- **Check your preferences:** Make sure your cell provider info is current so you can receive texts. You can also choose voice calls or emails.
- **Save these numbers:** Add these to your contacts so you recognize CodeRED alerts:
 -  866-419-5000 (Emergency Notifications)
 -  800-566-9780 (Weather Warning Alerts)