FIRE ADAPTED
PARK COUNTY

Wildfire Preparedness

Presented by Fire Adapted Park County

formerly Fire Adapted Bailey

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Fire Adapted Park County (FAPCo)

Formerly Fire Adapted Bailey (FAB)

- Fire Adapted Park County (FAPCo) is a nonprofit organization (501c3) focused on promoting wildfire preparedness, awareness and fire adaptation in Park County Colorado.
  - FAPCo operates based on grants and donations to support the local community.
  - FAPCo delivers educational materials, mitigation coordination, help with evacuation route planning and supporting the local fire districts . We also help residents learn about preparations in the event of a wildfire.
- Available on our website, fireadaptedbailey.org, we provide current fire conditions, updates on mitigation efforts, and details about local events.
- FAPCo empowers the community to take proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk.

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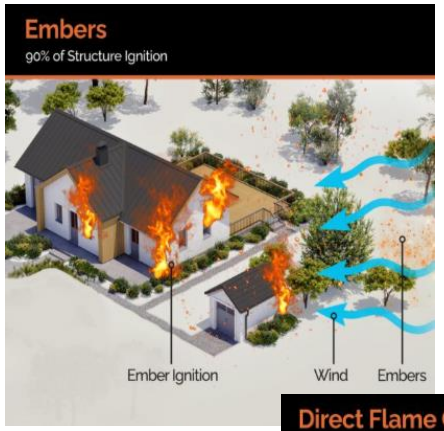
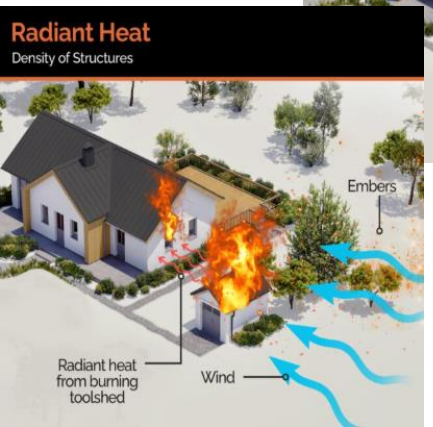
Wildfire Threat

2026 Colorado Drought Increases Wildfire Risk





- **Wildfires are a natural part of Colorado's forests**. Living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in Colorado, where homes and wildland vegetation coexist.
  - Planning ahead and taking action can increase your home survival rate when a wildfire occurs.
- **The EMBER STORM** – the most common method of home ignition in a wildfire
  - Wildfires generate thousands of embers that can be carried more than a mile ahead of the fire. Embers coming into contact with flammable material is the major reason why homes are destroyed during wildfire.
  - By being ember aware and acting ahead of time, a homeowner can substantially reduce the ember threat. Your home CAN survive when the embers arrive.

SURFACE FIRE / DIRECT FLAME CONTACT is the Second method of Home Ignition

- Fuels that are adjacent to the home can ignite if there is direct flame contact. Preparing your house by removing fuels within 5 feet of your home, particularly near windows or under decks, greatly minimizes this possibility.

RADIANT HEAT is the Third method of home ignition is

- Radiant Heat is what you can feel when placing your hands near a campfire. This heat transfer can ignite your home.

Firefighters always do their best to reduce fire damage, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to protect your property from wildfire.

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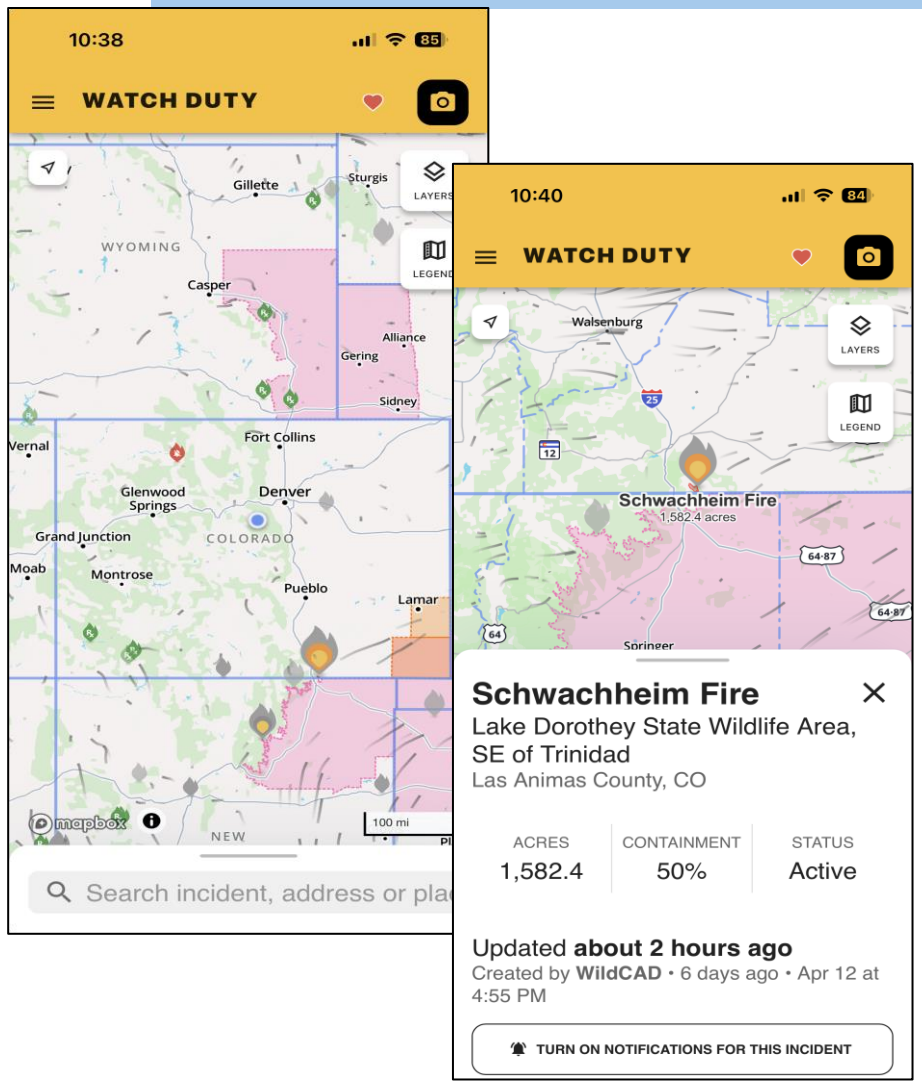
Wildfire Preparation

Be Aware – Be Connected – Be Ready

Be Aware – Be Connected – Be Ready

- Watch Duty Application.
- CodeRed is the way you will be notified if an evacuation is needed for a wildfire.
- Got5 Connects community members needing assistance during an emergency with nearby volunteers that can help.

Watch Duty Application – Be Aware



- Watch Duty provides Real Time updates on wildfire activity in your area.
- Helps you Be Aware of fires as they happen.
- Watch Duty is powered by real people – active and retired **firefighters**, **dispatchers**, and **first responders** (*not crowdsourced*) – who diligently monitor radio scanners and collaborate around the clock to bring you up-to-the-minute life saving information.
- Their reporters undergo extensive training as well as background checks before joining the Watch Duty elite team.

WATCH DUTY

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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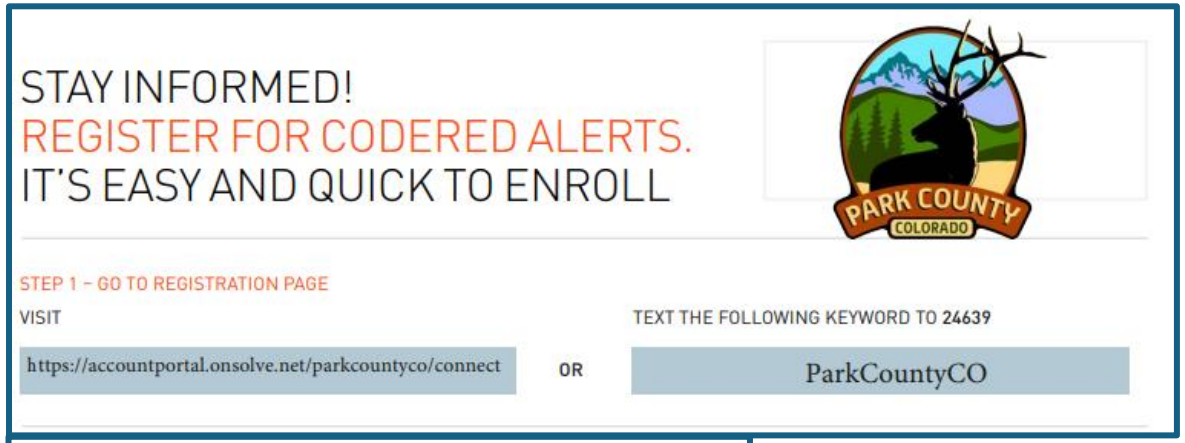
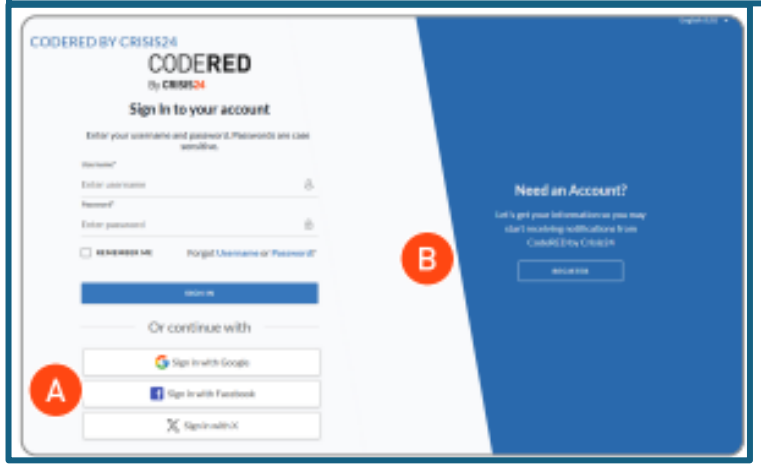
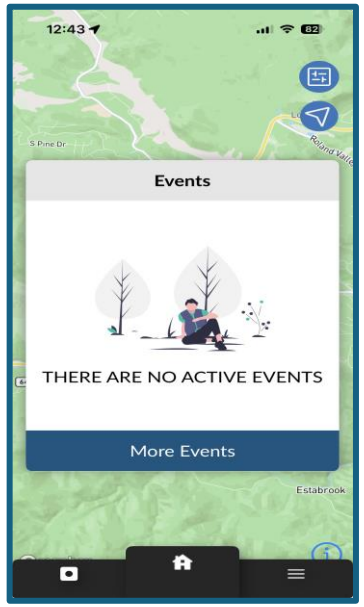
CODE RED – Be Connected

https://accountportal.onsolve.net/parkcountyco/connect







- **CodeRED** is address-driven alerting system used by Park County Dispatch to notify residents for:
  - Red flag warnings
  - Pre-evacuation warnings
  - Evacuation notifications
  - Shelter in place notifications
- Sign up for both the app and the home address registration so you are notified of emergencies that affect both your home address and your real-time location.
- This simple process will sign you up to be notified by:
  - Email
  - Land line
  - Cell phone
- Adding the **CodeRED** phone number to your contacts will make sure you know this is an Emergency notifications from **CodeRED** alert: 866-419-5000

CodeRED Registration Link

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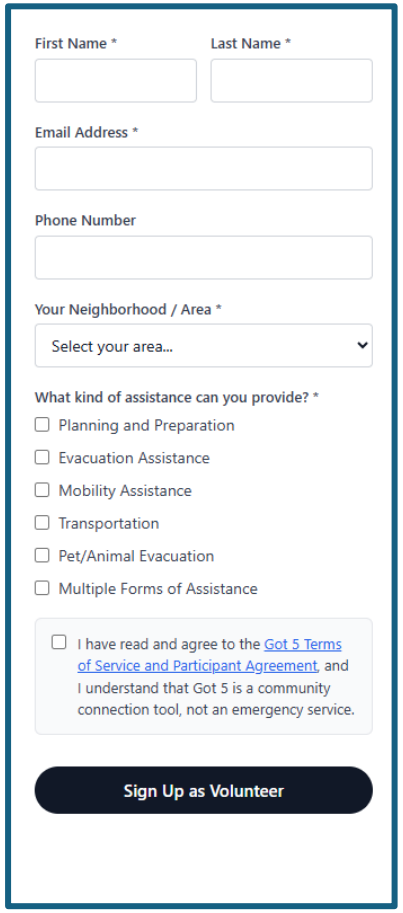
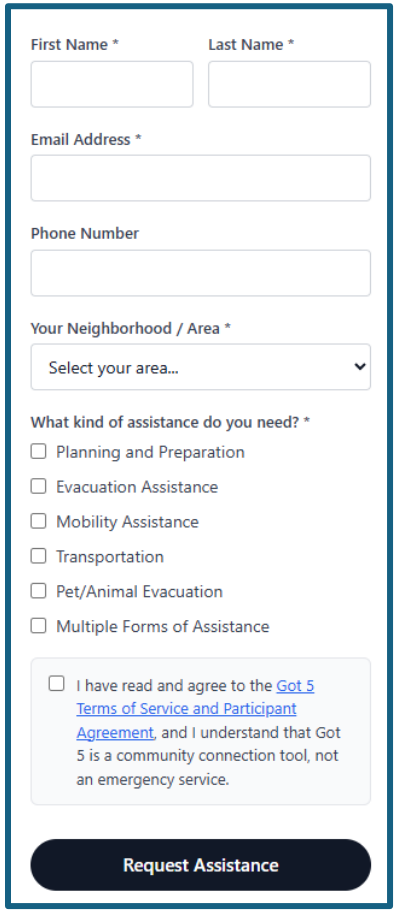
The “Got 5” System – Be Ready





- **The “Got 5” system** is designed to connect people that need help with those that are willing to help.
- Ensure that children, elderly, disabled and pets at home alone during any type of evacuation can have a trusted person help.
- Here’s how Got5 works and is implemented.
  - Got5 identifies up to 5 reliable adults (like neighbors, friends, or relatives) who are readily available to assist if an emergency evacuation is necessary.
  - We introduce these volunteers to neighbors that need help in an emergency.
  - All information is kept private and shared only between the person requesting assistance and the volunteers they select to contact.
- Sign up using the Tool on the Fire Adapted Park County Website - Got 5 Program – FIRE ADAPTED PARK COUNTY

Will be available for all of Park County

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Defending your Home & Property

Home Hardening & The Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)

Reducing Your Risk

Home Hardening & Home Ignition Zones

- Home hardening is a set of measures taken to protect homes from wildfire
  - This is done by proactively addressing the most vulnerable components.
  - Retrofitting materials with fire-resistant building materials.
  - The goal is to reduce the susceptibility of homes to ignition from embers, radiant heat, or direct flames.
- Home Ignition Zones (HIZ) address the areas around your home and your property
  - HIZ's are organized into 3 zones:
    - **Zone 1** covers **0 – 5 feet** from the Home. The area nearest the home requiring the most vigilance work to reduce or eliminate ember and direct flame contact with your house.
    - **Zone 2** covers **5 – 30 feet** from the Home. This area transitioning away from the house where fuels should be reduced.
    - **Zone 3** covers **30 – 100 feet** from the Home. This area is focused on ways to keep the fire on the ground where it will be less intense.

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First Priority – Do This Now

Home Hardening – Protecting Your Home

- Roof Preparation
  - Replace or repair any loose or missing roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
  - Remove plant debris; such as pine needles, leaves and branches from the roof.
  - Fill any gaps where embers can enter your house and ignite like where the roof meets a vertical wall.
  - Use Class A rated materials when building or replacing materials.
- Vents & Chimneys
  - Vents on your home create openings for flying embers.
  - Cover all vents with 1/8” metal mesh - laundry vents should have flapper closures.
  - Install an approved spark arrestor on your chimney.
  - Protect eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers.
  - Tell-tale sign of openings are bugs in light fixtures – if they can get in so can an ember!

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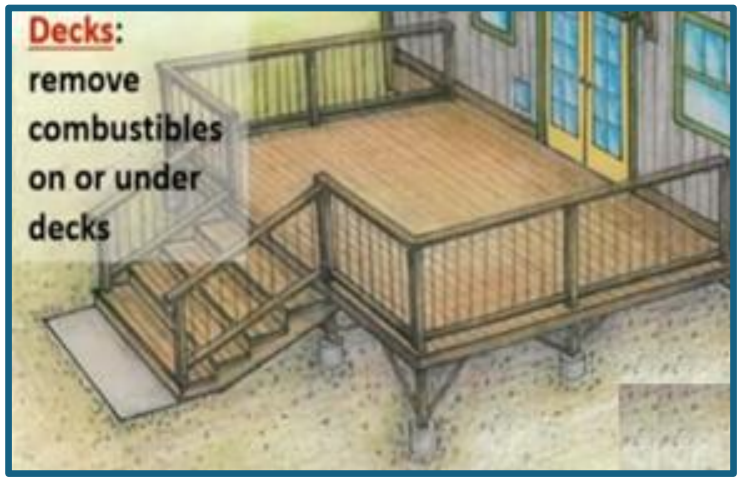
First Priority – Do This Now

Home Hardening – Protecting Your Home



- Decks – Above & Below
  - Ideally, decks should be built with non-combustible materials.
  - Regularly clear away debris and ensure good ventilation to prevent a buildup of flammable material.
  - Remove flammable materials (such as firewood, furniture & debris) stored underneath your deck.
  - If a wildfire threatens, place combustible patio furniture and cushions inside your house or garage.
- Gutters
  - Debris in your gutters is a key source of ignition in an ember fire.
  - Routinely remove debris from your gutters.
  - Screen or enclose gutters to prevent any accumulation.
  - Use metal gutters, not plastic.

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First Priority – Do This Now

Zone 1 (or) Immediate Zone: 0 – 5 feet from your home

- Non-Combustible Zone
  - This zone is designed to prevent flames from coming in direct contact with the structure.
  - Remove flammable materials and replace with gravel, rock mulch or other nonflammable materials.
  - Remove all flammable vegetation, pine needles, dead leaves, mulch and organic debris within 5 feet of decks and structures.
  - Do not store firewood or combustible materials in this zone
  - Remove tree branches overhanging roof or within 10ft of chimney.
  - Remove pine needles or dead leaves.
  - Do not use space under decks for storage

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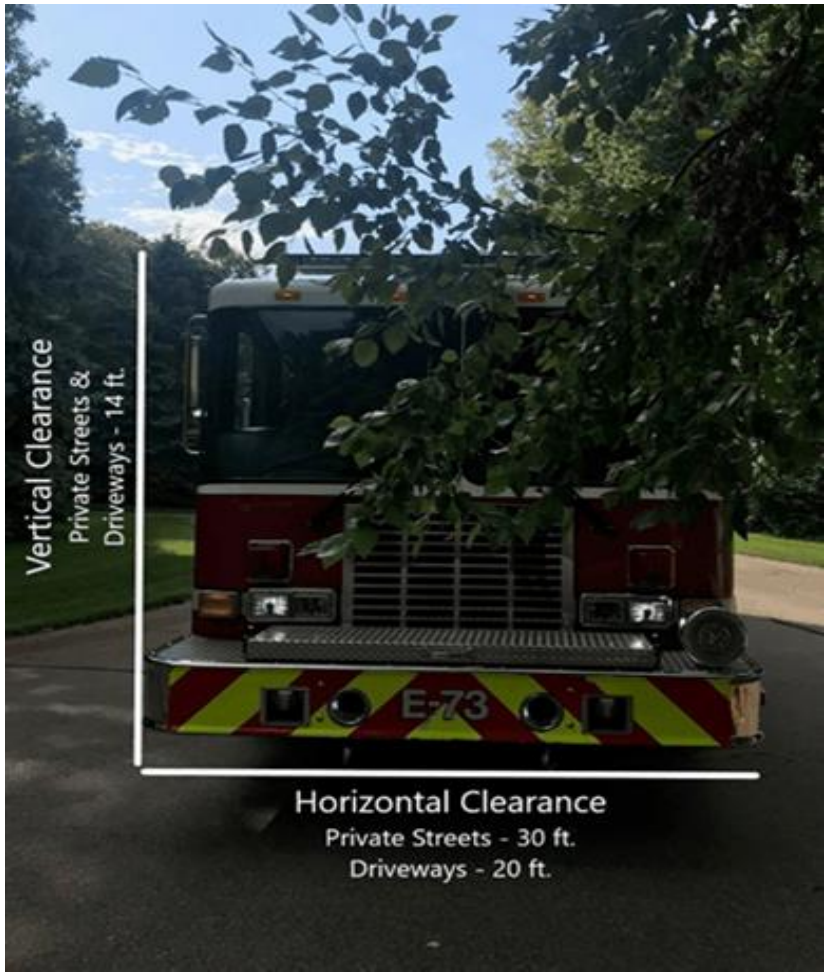
First Priority – Do This Now

Zone 1 (or) Immediate Zone: 0 – 5 feet from your home

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS



- Emergency Access Improvements
  - Ensure your home and address are easily identifiable by emergency personnel, even during poor visibility, like Wildfire Smoke.
- Reflective address numbers at the Street.
- Check that driveways and access gates are wide enough for emergency vehicles to enter without difficulty.
  - The International Fire Code (IFC) recommends the minimum driveway width should be 20 feet.
  - The driveway should have a minimum vertical clearance of 14 feet.
- If the Fire Department cannot get to your House; they cannot try to save it!

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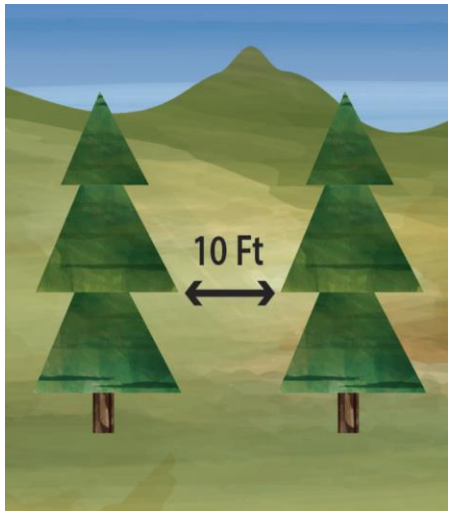
Second Priority – Do This After Zone 1

Zone 2 (or) Intermediate Zone: 5 – 30 feet from your home

Goal: Reduce flammable materials near home

- Mow native grasses to 6” or irrigated turf grasses to 3-4”.
- Remove surface fuels such as mulch, branches, slash or logs.
- Thin trees to 10 ft spacing between crowns (or more on a slope).
- Thin small groups of trees to 30 ft between each clump.
- Remove ladder fuels under remaining trees and prune them up 6-10 ft.
- Take out ground juniper and oak, leaving space between other shrubs equal to 2.5 times their mature height.



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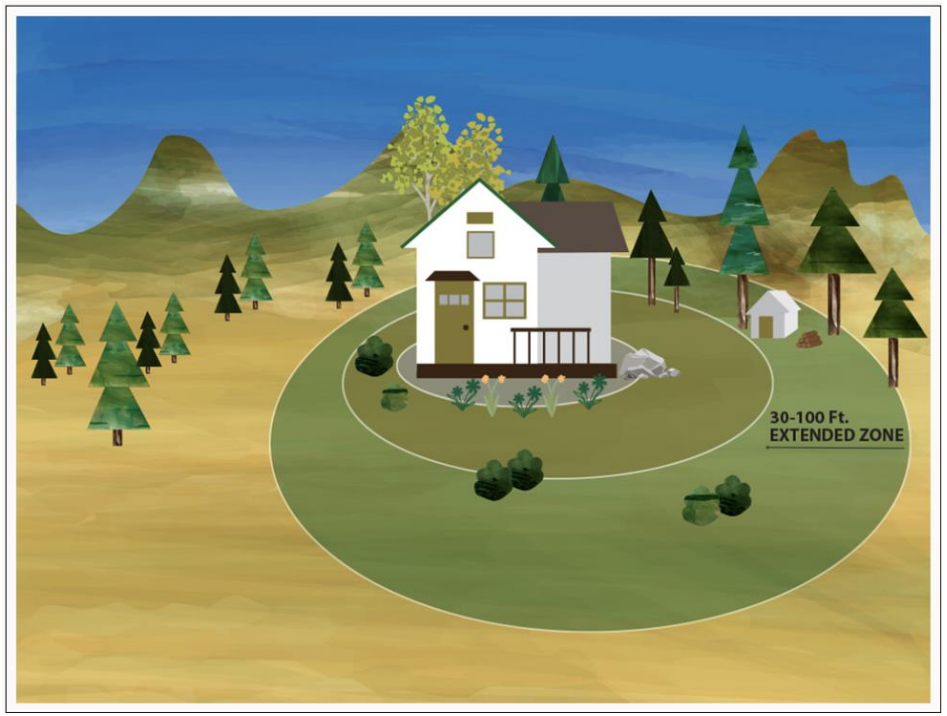
Third Priority – Do This After Zone 2

Zone 3 (or) Extended Zone: 30 – 100 feet from your home

Goal: Reduce heat and keep fire on the ground



- Store firewood here
- Remove excess surface fuels and treat slash appropriately.
- No need to mow grass.
- Remove ladder fuels and prune up trees where possible.
- Tree crown spacing of 6-10ft recommended.
- Extend this zone and tree spacing if on a slope below the home.

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Evacuation Preparation

Be Aware – Be Connected – Be Ready

Be Ready To Go
Don't Wait to Evacuate

- In the face of a wildfire emergency, time is of the essence. A well-prepared go-bag can make all the difference, allowing for a swift and efficient evacuation.
- Your go bag should be stored in an area that is easily accessed and close to the exit you will take to evacuate.
- Create a Detailed Checklist for each family member, use this to update your go bag at least quarterly. Older children can carry a go bag of their own.
- Don't forget a go bag and carriers for your pets.

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Go Bag Contents

Your checklist will be specific to your family and situation. Here are some ideas to consider when creating your checklist.

- **Important documents** - Scan as many of these documents as possible and store on a thumb drive or on the cloud to protect your documents and reduce the weight of what you will have to carry.
- **Clothing**, grab your dirty laundry basket to take as this will be what you have been wearing recently so it will be seasonally appropriate. This will save time packing.
- **Consider having to evacuate on foot** in the event of traffic backups pack lightweight items that you can carry easily. You could possibly be traveling through ember storms consider protection for your eyes and skin. Wear natural fibers (cotton, wool) as these are ember resistant and won't melt
- **Backup Power and Light**, heavy smoke blocks the sun, consider headlamps to leave your hands free if you forced to evacuate on foot.
- **Communication Tools**, cell towers will be overloaded, texting may or may not work. Consider alternatives.

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Smoke Awareness

- **Visibility:** You may not be able to see because of thick smoke and ash.
- **Health Risks**: Wildfire smoke contains harmful substances like fine particles (PM2.5) and toxins that can damage your respiratory system, worsen chronic diseases like asthma or heart condition.
- **Sensitive groups**, like children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing health issues, are particularly at risk.
- **Protect** your eyes and your lungs.

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Masks for Wildfire Smoke Protection

P100 Masks Offer even higher filtration effectiveness than N95, capturing 99.97% of particles. They are heavier and often come with replaceable filters, making them more durable for prolonged use.

N95 Masks These are particulate respirator masks certified to filter out 95% of airborne particles, including fine PM2.5 particles in wildfire smoke. They do not protect against hazardous gases but are highly effective against smoke particulates.

Cloth Masks while cloth masks might provide minimal comfort by blocking large ash particles in a smoky environment, they do little to prevent inhalation of the hazardous fine particles found in wildfire smoke

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Recirculate The Air In Your Vehicle

- Set your vehicle's climate control system to recirculate the air inside the car to reduce the amount of smoke.

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Know and Practice Your Escape

- Plan your primary and backup evacuation routes
  - Your normal route may be blocked, or you may be redirected by Law Enforcement.
  - Know your area of refuge & have a meeting place for family.
- Make sure your vehicle is prepared and has fuel
  - You may have to sit in traffic to get out to safety.
- Prepare your evacuation so you are ready to go if you are told to pre-evacuate
  - Have your Go Bag, Personal Items and Pets in the vehicle so you are ready.
  - Prepare your house (if you can) – turn off gas, close windows & doors.

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Resources for Residents

- https://www.fireadaptedbailey.org
- Videos
  - Wildfire Evacuation Planning
  - Smoke Ready
  - Red Flag Warnings and Burn Bans
  - Mountain Pine Beetle
- Media / Publications
  - Evacuation Plan Templates
  - Articles
  - Wildfire Videos
  - Brochures
    - CSFS Home Ignition Zone
    - Home Hardening

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Additional Materials – available here and on website

https://www.fireadaptedbailey.org

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Questions & Discussions

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