



"Knowledge is as powerful as fire. The brighter it burns, the more it devours."

Let's fight fire with fire!

Hi friends and neighbors,

We created the Free Rocky Mountain wildfire mitigation Fire guide to arm you with knowledge. If you are like us in Colorado, you probably have a story or two about house fires or wildfires. But we won't live in fear; instead, we will take action on things within our control.

The **Free Rocky Mountain wildfire mitigation Fire Guide** is written to show options and resources you have available to you *today*. Sharing information with all is critical to the protection of the community. Please share these resources with friends and family! Reach out to us with *your* home fire protection techniques or any fire secrets you'd like us to share with the world on social media.

The guides are arranged in order of increasing Fire stopping power.

Guide #1 "**Hero Acts**" shows ways to protect your home TODAY. These low hanging fruits are mostly free and provide value for **Tier I Fire problems**

Guide #2 "**Environmental Disaster Plan**" contains stronger answers and more robust knowledge for dealing with **Tier II Fire dangers**

Guide #3 "**Defend the house**" provides knowledge for **Tier III Fire Defense**. It explores and demonstrates the technology and secrets behind the strongest fire defense systems

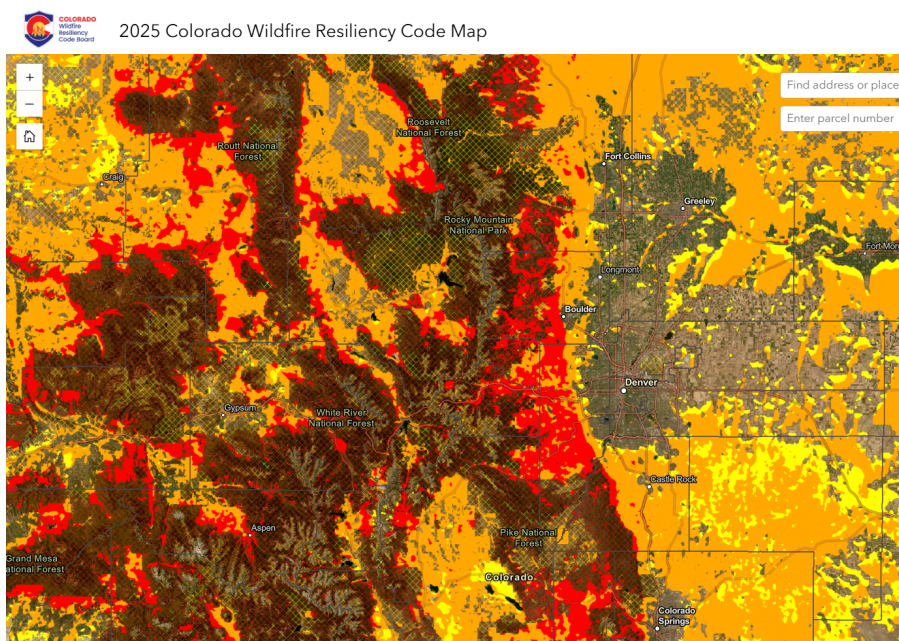
. -Rocky Mountain wildfire mitigation Team

Our Home: the fire zone

This map identifies **high risk fire zones** in Colorado. Bright red, orange and yellow colors indicate higher risk. You can check out this fire risk map

climate.colorado.gov.

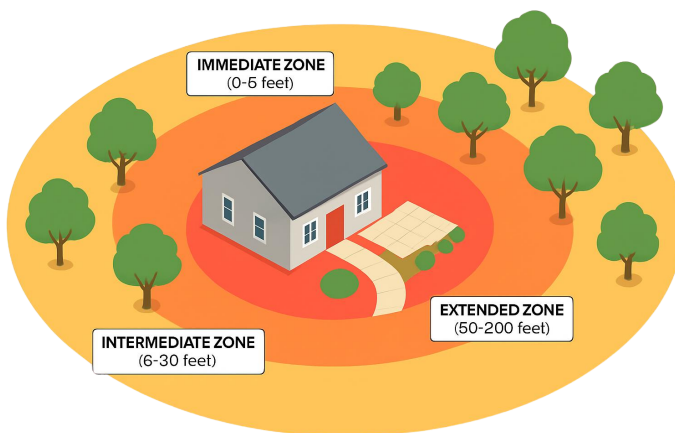
Find out and let us know if



your state has its own designated fire zones!

How do I defend my home?

You don't need a contractor to start your defense. Here are "Hero Acts" you can perform this weekend for the cost of roughly \$0-\$100:



Your house is a castle. We need to create “moats” of protection where the fire can’t travel. Quite simply, let's do this by removing things that burn.

Your house has three “moats” or “zones”

Grab sturdy garden boots and gloves, and let's go!

5-Foot "Immediate Zone"

Take care of the moat surrounding your home first and then work your way out. We need a smart defense because fire is FAST. On a dry, windy day, an ember can birth an inferno in less than 30 seconds. A home can be burned away in 5-10 mins.

Remember: Different types of material in the fire's path can either speed up, slow down or stop the fire. Let's put that into action with the following.

Spring Clearing: Clear all vegetation, dead leaves, and mulch within 5 feet of your home. Replace them with non-combustible stone or gravel.

Remove Ladder Fuel: Prune all branches and trees near the house and ground. This prevents a small grass fire from climbing into the canopy and becoming a crown fire.

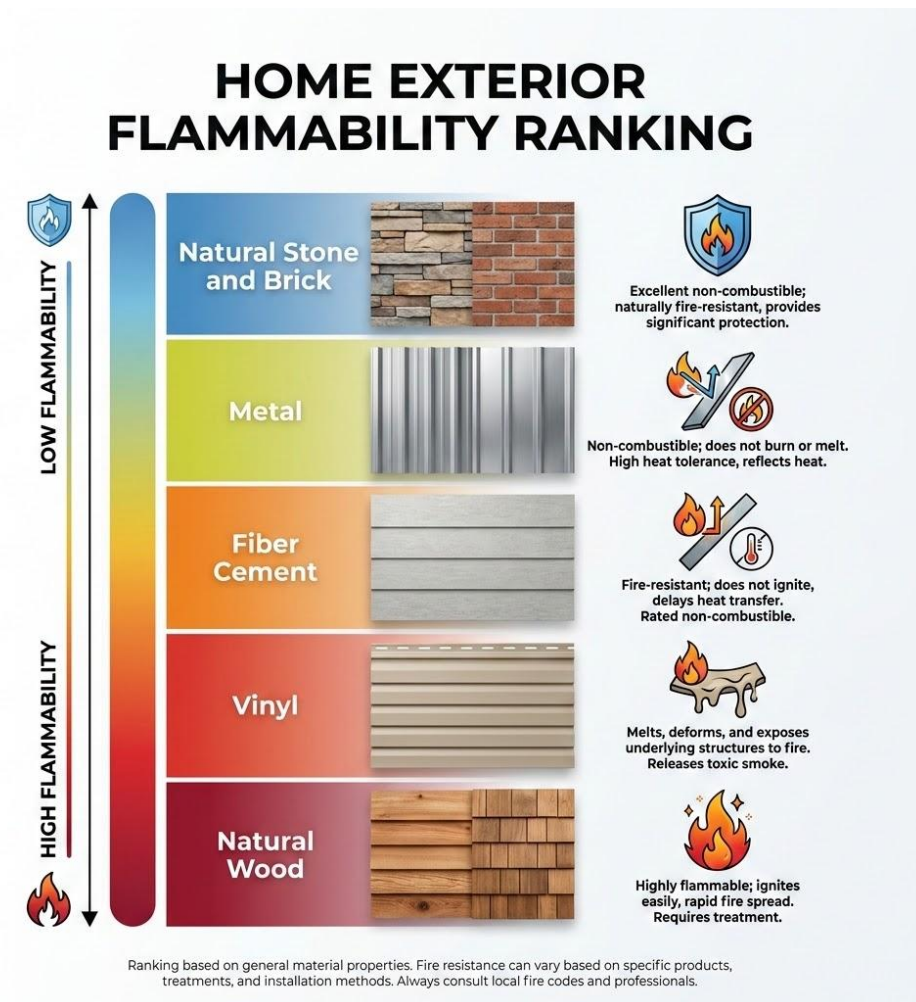
Remove The Fence Gap: If your wooden fence is attached to your house, it's a direct highway for fire. Be prepared to remove the gate or the last 5 feet of fencing near the house during Red Flag fire days.

Clear Patio and Porch Items On high-wind days, move all flammable cushions and wicker furniture into the garage or at least 30 feet away from the house. (For all us

grill-people remember to not leave your propane tanks out on the deck or on the side of the house)

The Gutter Sweep: Clear the "powder keg" of pine needles and leaves from your gutters. One ember in a dry gutter is all it takes to lose a roof.

Are you tired from all that yard work in the first zone? I hope not.... because we have more manual labor to do in the second zone.



Before we go to the **second zone**, take a moment and think about what type of materials are on the exterior outside of your house.

Is your castle made of 100% **Brick and Stone**? If it is: Awesome!!!

It's going to be much harder for fire to steal your treasures.

Does your house have any **wood or vinyl** on the side? Does it have any **wood on the windows**? If it does, your house is at risk and you should consider extra protection.

Do you have fire resistant mesh covers on your **roof vents, attic gables, soffit vents**? Mesh screen covers will prevent fiery embers from jumping inside a house and starting a fire.

You might not be able to take care of these harder problems today but if you are aware of them solutions may present themselves in the future. Now back to the low hanging fruit of Zone Two. Just needs a little more backbreaking physical labor.....

5-30 Feet the Intermediate Zone

The house meets the yard.



What yards are most fire resistant?

Yards with fire-resistant plants

Lavender: Drought-tolerant and aromatic, it resists flames well. [If its good for the bees its good for me]

Sage: A hardy herb that thrives in dry conditions and has low flammability. [Food and Medicinal applications]

Yarrow: This perennial has a high moisture content, making it less likely to ignite. [Food and

medical applications]

Aloe Vera: Succulent with high water content, reducing fire risk. [Can help with sunburn]

Agave: A drought-resistant plant with thick leaves that are less flammable. [Tequila and Mescal]

For trees and Shrubs

Aspen: Deciduous and fire-resistant

Creeping Mahonia Low-growing, evergreen native.

Bearberry: Low-growing, fire-resistant shrub.

Sand Cherry: Native, drought-tolerant shrub.

5-30 Feet the Intermediate Zone (continued)



In zone two, stay vigilant by keeping your yard clean! A clean yard creates a comfortable and fire safe home.

Tree Spacing: Remove "ladder fuels" (vegetation under trees) and prune branches 6–10 feet from the ground to prevent ground fires from climbing. Maintain 10 feet of space between tree crowns.

Landscaping: Keep lawns/grasses mowed to a height of 4 inches or less. Remove dead plants, leaf's, and pine needles.

Plant Selection: Replace highly flammable vegetation (like junipers) with fire-resistant, high-moisture plants.

Fuel Breaks: Utilize hardscaping such as patios, driveways, and gravel paths to break up fuel continuity.

Propane Tanks/Structures: Clear all flammable vegetation from around large propane tanks and outbuildings.

Perimeter Fire Risk Assessment



Before we leave zone two, again, take note of the material at the edge of the property line.

Is it a **brick or Iron fence?**
Outstanding!

Is it a **wooden-fence** or **vegetation wall of heavy-brush**? Warning: Fire Risk

90% of homes lost to wildfires are ignited by embers, not the main wall of fire. A wooden fence attached to your house is not a boundary, it is a 50-foot fuse leading directly to your attic!

Independent research (UC Berkeley/IBHS) shows that homes with hardened perimeters and a 5-foot "non-combustible zone" have a **survival rate of nearly 50%**, compared to just **20%** for unmitigated homes. That is a **2.5x higher chance of your house still standing** when the smoke clears.

I know you've spent all day raking leaves and clearing flammable plants, but if your **wooden fence** is still touching your house, you've left a trail of gasoline for the fire to follow! In order to **break the fuse** we must create a non-combustible barrier, like a **masonry brick wall** or a paint coating of **intumescent coating that forms a char barrier**.

These options can save your house. If you are interested in learning more . Check out our website www.Rockymountainwm.com for information about protecting any wood or vegetation heavy parts of your property. Now.... back to the Rocky Mountain wildfire mitigation Fire Guide.

“Extended Zone” 30 feet and Beyond!

This is where your castle meets your kingdom.

Fire safety wisdom will advise you to repeat what was done in zones one and two; **Clean the vegetation** and **remove flammable materials** as far out as you can. Most of us don't have access to much land after about 30 feet outside of our home so we need to think strategically about this Zone.

You must be aware of what direction the danger is going to come in. Wherever you live, understand and research geography in regards to fire. In Colorado, know that mountain areas are more susceptible to fires. Also know that fires love to run uphill!



Keep track of when the wildfires are near and always follow evacuation orders.

Subscribe to your local alert system. We live in Colorado and we are subscribed to the following.

Douglas County Residents: Sign up for the new [DougCoAlert](#) system. If you were on the old CodeRED, you MUST re-register for 2026 and 2027.

Boulder County Residents: Use BoCoAlert.org for real-time GPS-targeted emergency warnings.

Jefferson County Residents: Join

[LookoutAlert](#) to stay ahead of the "mountain-to-plains" fire transitions.

Statewide Updates: Bookmark [CO-Emergency](#) for major highway closures and evacuation center locations.

Have a good alert system in the state or country you live in? Let us know and we will spread the word.

Once the Fire Evacuation alert comes in what do you do?



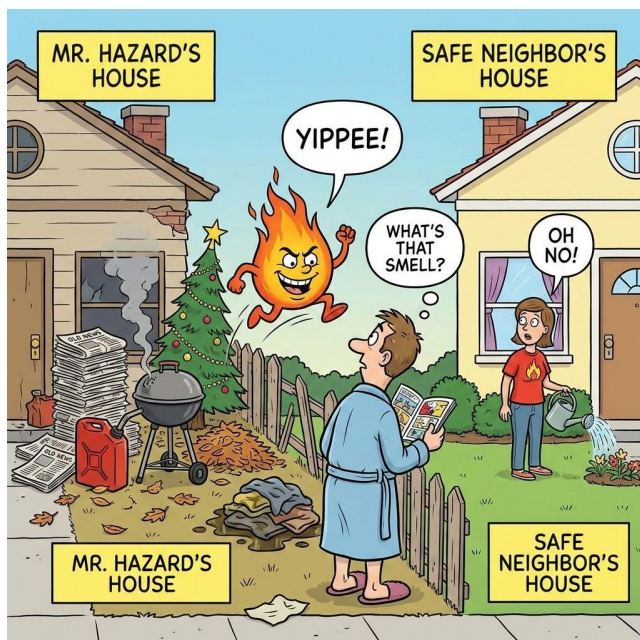
Do you have a fire evacuation plan?

Check out our website www.Rockymountainwm.com under education for a fire evacuation plan. It includes a list of items to have ready in your "Go bag" for when the alert comes in.

Now about the neighbors....

Time to have your neighbor over for a cookout and fire lesson.

"In a wildfire, your neighbor's home is either your first line of defense or your house's primary fuel source. Helping a neighbor harden their perimeter isn't just being a good friend, it's building a firebreak for your own front door."



The "Structural Domino" Effect Fire doesn't see property lines; it sees a continuous path of fuel. Your neighbor's wooden fence and overgrown juniper bushes is mathematically your risk.

When you encourage a neighbor to prepare their homes with the same techniques you learned you aren't just saving their house, you're ensuring that if their property ignites, it doesn't become a 2,000-degree furnace that melts your siding.

Firefighter's Choice Firefighters are trained in 'Triage.' If a cul-de-sac has five houses and four of them have cleared brush and hardened exteriors, but one is a tinderbox, the crew has to make a split-second choice. By **helping your neighbor mitigate**, you ensure the fire department stays on your street to defend it, rather than abandoning the block because one 'un-hardened' house makes the entire area too dangerous to stand in.

The Insurance Power-Play (HB25-1182) "Under the new 2026 Colorado laws, insurance companies are looking at **Community Risk**. If you harden your home but your neighbor doesn't, your premium might stay high because of the 'External Exposure.' Helping your neighbor get a **Turn Key Certification** actually puts money back in your pocket by lowering the overall risk rating of your specific zip code."

Your neighbors, you gotta love them.....

We hope you found Part #1 of this guide useful and are looking forward to Part#2 of your Free Rocky Mountain wildfire mitigation Fire guide.

If it doesn't arrive in your email within 24-48 hours. Please reach out to us at operations@fireflycoatings.com Our computer hamster probably was asleep at the wheel. We also love fire tips or tricks and alerts.

Thanks for reading and stay safe out there!

