



ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PREVENT PREPARE PERFORM

Home Ignition Zone Structure Assessment Guide

Note: The assessment is designed to help determine “how vulnerable the structure” will be during the wildfire and to convey recommendations that should be taken so that the home will have a better chance to survive a wildfire.

Remember, the following assessment items are for prevention/mitigation measures to be done well in an advance of wildfire season.

Date of Assessment:	Property Address:	Resident Name:	Property Owner:
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Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary

Each criterion in the wildfire risk assessment has an attached ‘score’ that corresponds directly with the elements potential to compromise a structure during a wildfire event. In other words, elements that make a structure significantly more vulnerable to wildfire are given more weight when considering the overall wildfire risk. Roofing assembly, proximity to dangerous topography, and defensible space are given the heaviest weighting. However, each theme and individual category, listed above, represent a significant and standalone wildfire risk factor for your home and property. Your property’s wildfire risk rating, at the time that the Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessment was conducted, is identified below.

2018	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme
Your Properties rating:					
Key Actions					

For More Information, contact a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist at prevention@estesvalleyfire.org

Serving the Residents and Visitors of the Estes Valley with Superior Fire and Safety Services

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Assessment Items (page 1 of 4)

1.	Overview of Surroundings			
		Light	Moderate	Heavy
	Fuel Loading	Consists mainly of grasses and/or fuels that are light and flashy	Consist mainly of light brush and/or isolated trees that are available to fire. Fuel loading and distribution will moderately contribute to extreme wildfire behavior.	Consists mainly of dense brush and/or dense trees that are available to fire. Fuel loading and distribution will significantly contribute to extreme wildfire behavior.
	Your Properties rating:			
	Mitigation Recommendations			

Distance to dangerous topography	The proximity of a home to certain topographic features may significantly impact that home's survivability during a wildfire. Such features include over-steepened slopes, chimneys, drainages, gullies, narrow canyons, ridges, etc. These features are areas where wildfires can move quickly, increase in wildfire intensity and impact wildfire behavior. This is as an approximate measure of the proximity of your home to any such topographic feature.		
	Greater than 150'	Between 50' and 150'	Less than 50'
	Your Properties rating:		
	Mitigation Recommendations		

Slope	Generally speaking, wildfire behavior is driven by three factors: weather, fuels and topography. While the "Distance to Dangerous Topography" category characterizes how close a home is to a high risk topographic feature, this Slope category characterizes the average overall slope throughout the area where the home is situated. Homes situated on the steepest slopes (>45%) were given the highest rating.		
	Less Than 20%	Between 20 and 45%	Greater than 45%
	Your Properties rating:		
	Mitigation Recommendations		





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Assessment Items (page 2 of 4)

2.	Building Construction			
	Roofing Materials Noncombustible? Shingles Missing? Shingles Flat?	Roofing assemblies have been shown to have a dramatic impact on the ignitability of a home during a wildfire event. The materials that compose the roof, the design and orientation of the roof line in relation to exterior walls as well as the construction assembly of the roof all impact the roof's overall vulnerability to ignition during a wildfire.		
		Class A Roof	Class B, C, or unrated	
	Your Properties rating:			
Mitigation Recommendations				
	Gutters Present? Non-Combustible? Guards?	Routinely Cleaned	Filled with Flammable Debris	
Your Properties rating:				
Mitigation Recommendations				
	Building Exterior	The design, materials and construction assembly of a structure's exterior walls also have an impact on the ignitability of home during a wildfire event.		
		Non-Combustible	Logs or Heavy Timber	Wood, Vinyl, or other combustible materials. Will they collect litter?
Your Properties rating:				
Mitigation Recommendations				



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Assessment Items (page 3 of 4)

2.	Building Construction (continued)			
	Decks and Fencing	Combustible materials that are in any way attached to the main structure present a significant ignition vulnerability. Decks and fencing present a significant hazard due to the expansive horizontal surfaces that are exposed to both wind driven embers (from above) as well as convective and radiant heat from the side and below.		
		None	Non-combustible deck with a fence attached to the structure	Combustible deck with fence attached to structure
	Your Properties rating:			
Mitigation Recommendations				
	Crawl Space, Attic Vents, Soffits	Unscreened openings into the structures void spaces present significant ignition vulnerability from vertical and horizontal firebrands.		
		None or minimal void space openings	Some void openings with non-combustible screens	Void space openings with no screening or less effective screening
	Your Properties rating:			
	Mitigation Recommendations			
	Other Combustibles	Other combustible materials that are within Zone 1 (0-30 feet) of the defensible space zones of your home present an additional ignition vulnerability. Any material that is combustible is considered during the assessment period. Common examples of combustible materials include wicker patio furniture, ornamental decorations, firewood, kindling, bark mulch.		
		None within 30ft of the structure	Combustibles observed 10'-30' from the structure	Combustibles observed within 10' of the structure
	Your Properties rating:			
	Mitigation Recommendations			



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Assessment Items (page 4 of 4)

3. Landscaped Area Within the Home Ignition Zone				
Defensible Space	To prepare your home for the possibility of wildfire, it is critical that you create defensible space within the Home Ignition Zone. According to the Colorado State Forest Service, defensible space is “the natural and landscaped area around a home or other structure that has been modified to reduce fire hazard. Defensible space gives your home a fighting chance against an approaching wildfire.” This is an approximation of the amount of adequate defensible space surrounding all structures on your property.			
	Greater than 150'	30' to 150'	10' to 30'	Less than 10'
Your Properties rating:				
Mitigation Recommendations				
Emergency Access	The ability for you to evacuate your home and community during a wildfire or other emergency is critical. The ability for emergency responders (police, ambulance, fire department) to identify your residence and safely access your property is equally critical. Access to and from your property is limited by the available road system. Properties with only one point of ingress and egress are given a higher score than properties with more than one point of ingress and egress.			
	Two or More Roads In or Out		One Road In or Out	
Your Properties rating:				
Mitigation Recommendations				
Address Visibility	A metal sign, with 3” tall reflective lettering, is the most visible and durable sign during all conditions, including nighttime and heavy smoke			
	Posted and Reflective	Posted, but not Reflective	Not visible from road	
Your Properties rating:				
Mitigation Recommendations				
Drive Way Clearance	More than 24' of horizontal clearance and 15' of vertical clearance	Between 20' and 24' of horizontal clearance and more than 15' of vertical clearance.	Less than 20' of horizontal clearance and 15' vertical clearance	
	Greater than 24'	Between 20' and 24'	Less than 20'	
Your Properties rating:				
Mitigation Recommendations				

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