

# Wildfire Safety for Subdivisions



**Subdivisions are at an increased risk to wildfire** because of the density of homes located in a wildland urban interface subdivisions. Limited access affects fire escape routes and creates difficulties for emergency vehicles. Sometimes—there is only one road in and out of a subdivision. Firefighting capabilities are stretched thin during a wildfire event.

## What to do

- ⇒ Form a fire prevention committee for the subdivision. Invite the State Forest Service or Fire Ready to assess the wildfire danger on individual lots and in areas of common space.
- ⇒ Launch an awareness campaign for subdivision residents about the wildfire risks and how to mitigate the hazards.
- ⇒ Develop a wildfire evacuation plan for the subdivision and distribute to residents, also identify residents who need assistance evacuating.
- ⇒ Install and maintain all street signs for easy identification by emergency vehicles. Encourage residents to install visible house numbers.
- ⇒ Evaluate subdivision roads for evacuation & emergency vehicle access.
- ⇒ Clear a 3-foot area around hydrants for Fire Protection District access.
- ⇒ Install a fire danger sign at entrance and update the risk (low, medium, high, extreme).
- ⇒ Reduce fuel under utility lines and around base of poles; install strategic fuel breaks; and reduce fuel in common areas.
- ⇒ Hold an annual “Defensible Space Maintenance” day. Find out what maintenance is required every year.
- ⇒ Continue education efforts year-round, before the crisis of fire season arrives.

Contact your local Fire Ready office for more information on specific services available to subdivisions—including group discounts, chipping events, educational presentations and open-house events, and assistance with grant-writing.

**FIRE  READY**

[www.fireready.com](http://www.fireready.com)

*“You can create defensible space on your one acre and provide a better chance of your home surviving a wildfire. But when multiple landowners adjacent to you are all committed to doing that, it provides a much greater fuel break to allow a fire to pass. It needs to be a concentrated, community effort.”*

- Dan Ochocki, Colorado State Forest Service