

Fire Mitigation Resources for Mesa View Estates

March 2026

The resources presented below provide important information on actions that homeowners could take to protect their property from the risks of wildfire and recommendations on preparing for an emergency evacuation should that ever become necessary, among other topics. All material included herein has been gathered from published literature, mostly from agencies whose responsibility includes preparation for and response to wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and from research institutions.

During wildland-urban interface fires, homes ignite and are destroyed by two primary mechanisms:

1. Ember intrusion: embers making their way into homes typically through eaves, windows, or vents.
2. Low-intensity fire making direct contact with the home, mulch beds, and unmitigated areas of vegetation.

Contrary to popular belief, high-intensity crown fires are NOT the primary cause of home destruction.

Much of our landscaping was designed and planted when the risks of wildfire were not a major concern. As this dynamic has changed, one thing we can do as a community is recognize that what you do to mitigate risk to your individual home helps reduce the risk for the community.

Key points covered in these resources include the following:

- How to identify the risks to your home from wildfire and the actions that you could take to reduce (that is, mitigate) these risks. The concept of the “Home Ignition Zone” is presented as a series of zones around your home according to how close the zones are to your home. See Resources #1, #3-#6.
- Resource #2 describes the JeffCo emergency alert system and how to sign up for emergency notifications.
- Resource #6 is the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office Wildland Fire Management Program Website.
- Resource #7 describes actions to take in advance to prepare for an emergency evacuation and recommendations for items to have ready to take with you.
- Income tax credits – How to claim income tax credits for actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the homeowner to mitigate risks from wildfire. See Resource #8.

- How to select landscaping materials to reduce the risks of wildfire. Some commonly used landscaping materials, including junipers, are in fact quite flammable. Resources #9 and #10 provide lists of plants and their flammability.
- Resource #11 describes one product for covering vents to the attic to reduce the likelihood that flying embers will enter the attic and ignite a fire from within the building.
- Included also is the City of Lakewood Wildfire Preparedness and Open Space Fire Mitigation plan (#12).
- The resource list concludes with the After Action Report on the Marshall Fire (#13) and some additional information from Cal Fire, the state agency in California that provides fire protection and emergency services for privately-owned wildlands in California (#14), much of which is applicable to Colorado.

1. **West Metro – Ready Set Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan guide** - The fire season is now a year-round reality in many areas, requiring firefighters and residents to be on heightened alert for the threat of wildfire throughout the year. Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property.

Ready, Set, Go! gives you the tips and tools you need to prepare and be successful.

Please use the *Ready, Set, Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan* guide to prepare your own home for wildfire season. This document is a great resource for homeowners to help save lives and property through mitigation and planning.

Press Ctrl + Click to open the link below to access the home page for West Metro Fire.

<https://www.westmetrofire.org/ready-set-go#docaccess-5e1d7c3595d28c5a7ca94cbda1f8a44cc586228bda76813e1bb13e76e28e232c>

Then click on the “Ready, Set, Go! Personal Wildfire Action guide” on the home page for the full guide.

2. **Lookout Alert** – The official emergency notification system for Jefferson County through which emergency responders can provide emergency and public safety messages to residents. You can choose the type(s) of emergencies for which you

would like to be notified and the method(s) by which you would be notified including text, voice and email.

To sign up for this system go to

[Home Page - Jeffcom 911](#)

Scroll down and click on “Lookout Alert Emergency Notification” on the right-hand side of the page to sign up for the emergency notification system.

After signing up and creating an account, select Alerts and choose the type(s) of emergencies for which you would like to be notified and the method(s) by which you would be notified including text, voice and email.

We recommend that each member of the household who would like to be notified about emergencies sign up separately. Additionally, we recommend that other people who may be at the house in the absence of the owner such as pet sitters, babysitters, etc. also sign up as they would be the ones needing to be notified in case of an emergency. If folks rent out their house or even use it as a VBRO, then those folks need to register or have awareness as well. Having each person sign up offers a good layer of protection and notification.

Also, on the banner near the top of the Home Page you can learn about current alerts throughout Jefferson County and Clear Creek County.

- 3. The Home Ignition Zone** - From the Colorado State Forest Service. Excellent presentation on protecting your home.

[2021 CSFS HIZGuide Web.pdf \(colostate.edu\)](#)

- 4. Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones** - From the Colorado State Forest Service. Quick Guide Series on Protecting Your Home. Guide number: Includes a detailed checklist on creating defensible space around your house and on being prepared for emergencies, including evacuation.

<https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/13530/CSU-Extension-Fact-Sheet-6302-Standards-required-by-the-Zoning-Resolution-PDF?bidId=>

- 5. Colorado State Forest Service Combined Resource List** - Protect Your Home & Property from Wildfire

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/protect-your-home-property-from-wildfire/>

- 6. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Wildland Fire Management Program** - The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Wildland Fire Management Program provides leadership, coordination, and implementation support to mitigate wildland fire risk across Jefferson County. It is the lead agency for evacuation of citizens in unincorporated areas during natural or human-made disasters, including wildland fire. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) works with your local fire departments to provide as many resources as possible during a wildfire event and to safely get people out of harm's way.

[Wildfire season is year-round in Jeffco — Learn how to prepare](#)

- 7. Emergency Go Bag** – This site describes the actions you should take to prepare for an emergency evacuation including the items you should have ready to take with you.

[Wildfire Home Protection: Emergency "Go Bag" | Rotary Wildfire Ready - Rotary Wildfire Ready](#)

- 8. Income Tax Topics: Wildfire Mitigation Measures** - This document describes how "A landowner may claim an income tax subtraction for actual out-of-pocket expenses they incur for wildfire mitigation measures performed in that tax year on their real property located within a wildland-urban interface area in Colorado. A wildland-urban interface area is an area where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with wildland vegetation."

<https://tax.colorado.gov/income-tax-topics-wildfire-mitigation-measures>

- 9. Fire Resistant Landscaping** - From the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. Fact Sheet 6.303. Lots of excellent advice on what plants to plant in different zones around your house and how to maintain them.

https://emergencymanagement.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/6.303_Fire-Resistant-Landscaping.pdf

- 10. Low Flammability Landscape Plants** - From the Colorado State University Extension. Fact Sheet 6.305 in the Wildfire Mitigation Series, Landscaping and

Planting. This document states that planting the right plants around structures is important for wildfire safety. It describes the attributes of plants that affect plant flammability. It includes a lengthy list of low-flammability plants that are recommended for planting in Zone 1: 0-5 feet and Zone 2: 3-30 feet.

https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/CSFS_CSU-Ext_Fact-Sheets_LFLP_FINAL_web.pdf?_gl=1*1t6kdab*_ga*MzE1NTk1NjluMTc2MDQ2NDA

11. Guidance on How to Install Wildfire Defense Mesh Screening Over Vents to the Attic – As noted above in Resource #1, intrusion of windblown embers through eaves, windows and vents is one of the primary ways that homes are ignited. This site describes one product for covering vents to the attic. A large percentage of houses that burn in wildfires ignite by embers entering the attic through access points to the attic such as gable vents, soffit vents and ridge vents.

NB: The Homeowners Association for Mesa View Estates does not endorse any commercial product. Homeowners are responsible for selecting commercial products for their use and for arranging for installation.

[How to Install Wildfire Defense Mesh over Vents | Blog](#)

12. City of Lakewood Wildfire Preparedness and Open Space Fire Mitigation - This website provides information on Wildfire Preparedness from the City of Lakewood, including Resources and Information from the City of Lakewood, Resources and Information from West Metro Fire Rescue, and the City's Open Space Fire Mitigation Plan:

[Wildfire Preparedness - City of Lakewood](#)

[Microsoft Word - City of Lakewood Open Space Fire Mitigation Plan \[49\].docx.](#)

13. Marshall Fire After Action Report - This is a lengthy, detailed report prepared in response to the Marshall Fire about what happened, the response to the fire, and recommendations for an improved response.

<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/marshall-fire-operational-after-action-report-003.pdf>

14. CalFire Defensible Space – Covers much of the material included in the above links but provides some additional information. Of course, any information pertaining to California laws and regulations is not applicable to Mesa View Estates.

<https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/defensible-space/>