



FIREWISE ACTION PLAN

Defensible space is the most important action a homeowner can do to protect their home from wildfire. While some homes in the community have good defensible space, and others are making progress, some homes do not. Creating and maintaining defensible space around all of the homes in the community is a top priority.

ACTIONS

1. The Forestry Committee and Game Trail Association Board will develop a Game Trail-specific evacuation preparation and evacuation execution plan. The plan will be developed in coordination with the local sheriff, fire and emergency planning agencies. The plan will include both individual preparation and execution steps as well as community steps. Once the plan is complete, a variety of approaches will be used to educate Game Trail owners and to provide appropriate assistance.
2. The Forestry Committee will continue to identify and apply for grants to support Game Trail's efforts in reducing wildfire risk through building defensible space.
3. In the fall of 2021, Game Trail Forestry Committee members will be trained in defensible space methods by the Colorado State Forest Service – Salida office. The premise of the training will be based on the Colorado State Forest Service "The Home Ignition Zone" guide.

Once Trained, Game Trail Forestry Committee will educate homeowners on defensible space methods based on "The Home Ignition Zone" guide. A variety of approaches will be used including a) small group educational programs, b) small and large group projects, c) one-on-one property evaluations, d) community newsletters and community-wide email communications.

The committee will strive to have at least two group educational programs and two projects each year. Every newsletter (spring and fall) will include defensible space educational information.

- a. The Forestry Committee will develop a neighbor-helping-neighbor volunteer crew to assist owners who are unable to perform wildfire mitigation activities like slash collection/disposal and small-scale tree thinning. The volunteer crew will focus on projects that build defensible space and will strive to complete at least two projects a year. (*small group project*)
- b. When requested, Forestry Committee members trained in defensible space will meet with owners one-on-one to evaluate their properties and to point out recommended actions based on "The Home Ignition Zone" guide to create defensible space. (*one-on-one property evaluation*)

- c. To address the defensible space recommendations listed in Game Trail's Firewise Assessment:
- i. The Forestry and Architectural Control Committees will educate owners preparing to build a new home on construction materials and techniques that better defend against fire. These methods are already referenced in the Game Trail Architectural Control Policies and on the new home construction application. This includes, where above-ground propane tanks are present, advising that they should be parallel (on same slope) and more than 30 feet away from structures and that all flammable vegetation growing within 10 feet of propane tanks be removed and replaced with nonflammable ground cover, such as gravel or rocks. *(one-on-one property evaluation)*
 - ii. Where newer construction techniques and materials are not present, the Forestry Committee will educate owners of older homes on the risks inherent with their structures and recommend actions to replace materials and/or correct deficiencies. *(one-on-one property evaluation, group educational programs, newsletters and emails)*
 - iii. Regarding structures surrounded by forests, the Forestry Committee will educate homeowners about the constant vigilance required to remove debris accumulation on roofs and in gutters as well as debris accumulations next to foundations and underneath decks. Actions such as placing firewood and combustible outdoor furniture an appropriate distance from structures will also be encouraged. *(one-on-one property evaluation, group educational programs, newsletters and emails)*
 - iv. In areas where only grass surrounds a structure, the Forestry Committee will educate owners about the importance of mowing regularly to reduce the height and amount of grass and other easily ignited forms of vegetation. *(one-on-one property evaluation, group educational programs, newsletters and emails)*
 - v. At the upper elevations where heavier forest fuels predominate, the Forestry and Roads Committees will recommend that vegetation be removed alongside of all roads as much as possible. *(group educational programs, newsletters and emails)*