



PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM WILDFIRE

The City and area around Manitou Springs is in a high wildfire risk area. By taking some simple steps, you can reduce the fire risk to your residence or business, as well as neighborhood. Learn about and apply wildfire mitigation approaches to reduce fire risk. Some structures and neighborhoods are at higher risk due to location, building construction, and vegetation. Take some time to review this guidance, and contact the Manitou Springs Fire Department with any questions!

AM I AT RISK?

1. Is there vegetation close to the building? (within 5 to 6 feet from foundation and/or within 30 feet of the structure)
2. Is the building located on top of a hill? Is there steep topography on or adjacent to your property?
3. Does the property have wood shake siding or shingles?
4. Do you have a deck or porch?
5. Is the property adjacent to the region's large natural open spaces?

If you answered **YES** to the questions above, **you can apply wildfire mitigation strategies** to keep you, your property, and the community safer.



HISTORIC PROPERTIES MERIT SPECIAL ATTENTION!

Many historic properties use construction methods that make the structure more vulnerable to wildfire. Property owners can apply mitigation strategies to historic buildings in a way that maintains the historic integrity of the building.

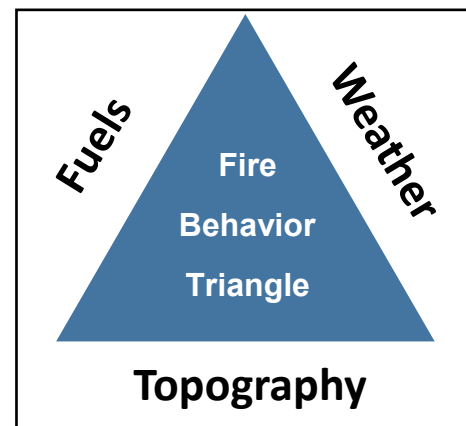
When applying mitigation strategies to historic buildings, consider the following:

- 1) What architectural elements are important to the property's historic identity?
- 2) What is the greatest natural hazard risk? What are the possible damaging effects?
- 3) Manitou Springs Historic Preservation Commission, City Planning staff, Fire Department staff, and even the State Historic Preservation Officer can help at no cost!



TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY

1. Maintain your lot and building. Clear gutters, eaves and roof of debris. Rake leaves. Check siding for cracks. Keep lawn hydrated and well-maintained. Move flammable materials and wood away from structures.
2. Repair broken windows. Replace windows with energy-efficient windows.
3. Replace shingles with Class A shingles—check with your insurance agent.
4. Install a sprinkler system that can be set up outside in the event of a fire.
5. Talk to and collaborate with your neighbors to reduce hazardous fuels.
6. Contact the Fire Department for a consultation on your property's specific vulnerabilities.
7. Consult a certified wildfire mitigation professional.



Three factors affect wildfire behavior: fuels, weather, and topography. Fuels include vegetation and the building itself. The building owner or occupant only has control over the fuels factor.

This summer Manitou Springs Fire Department will conduct a "windshield survey" of neighborhoods to understand our fire risk and identify areas of concern.



WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

For those living, working, or owning property in Manitou Springs

These suggestions provide solutions you can apply to mitigate fire hazards, whether you live, work, play, or own property in the area. (NOTE: This is a not an extensive list of wildfire mitigation strategies. Some strategies may not be suitable for every property. Speak with a certified professional before making any alterations to your building.)

Learn about the READY, SET, GO! program:
Be fire-adapted and ready for fire, and prepare for emergency with a wildland fire action plan.
Learn more at: <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/Resident>

VEGETATION

- Replace vegetation within 5-6 feet of the foundation with hardscape materials (crushed rock, pavers or concrete)
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes



If your lot has sufficient area, create 10 foot and 30 foot “defensible space” zones where vegetation has been modified to slow the spread of wildfire.

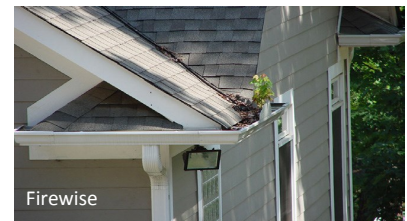
STRUCTURAL

- Install a chimney spark arrestor
- Apply sealants to openings or gaps that are larger than 1/8th inch
- Add screens to roof and attic vents
- Update structure with fire-resistant materials, such as a metal roof, stucco, and stone patio/edging, except when Historic District Guidelines apply

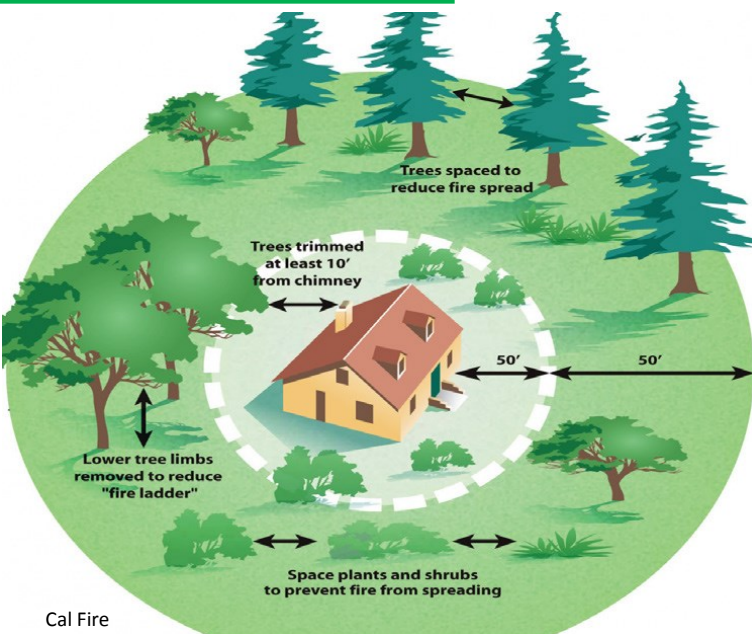


MAINTENANCE

- Maintain trees, shrubs, and other vegetation on your lot
- Keep areas around decks, sheds, fences and swing sets clear of debris and vegetation
- Trim branches that overhang structures and chimneys
- Remove debris from roof and gutters
- Remove dead leaves and pine needles on your lot and from under decks/porches and between deck board joints, or create piles away from trees and structures



If a wasp, varmint or debris can enter, so can an ember!



- Suggested resources for more information:**
- Colorado State Forest Service: *Protecting Your Home from Wildfire: Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones* (2012).
 - Colorado State Forest Service: *FireWise Construction: Site Design & Building Materials* (2012)
 - Visit www.Firewise.com for extensive wildfire mitigation guidance
 - Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
 - FEMA—Wildfire Mitigation FAQs and resources: <https://www.fema.gov/wildfire-mitigation-faqs-and-resources>