

FIREWISE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORT DATA SUBMISSION

Dear University Park Resident,

University Park HOA (UPHOA) is located within a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), which is an area where structures meet or intermix with natural fuels and topographical features. This places our neighborhood at high risk for wildfire. Recognizing this, our community works closely with the Colorado Springs Fire Dept. (CSFD) to maintain an active, coordinated, and sustained wildfire mitigation program involving UP private, HOA and adjacent city properties. As a result, we have been designated a “**Firewise USA Community**” by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) since 2014. The Firewise USA Community designation is part of the **Firewise USA** program administered by NFPA and cosponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Firewise USA provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors organize, find direction and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and reduce wildfire risk. In addition to receiving valuable educational and organizational resources, Firewise USA member communities sometimes receive preference when wildfire mitigation grants are allocated. **Moreover, current proof of Firewise USA status (available on the UPHOA website) may qualify residents for reduced rates on their homeowners insurance.**

Part of our wildfire mitigation efforts involves reporting and tracking our mitigation efforts. This is not only important information requested by the CSFD in their efforts to manage the City’s WUI areas but is required to maintain our designation as a Firewise USA Community. Data from the annual chipping event and any UPHOA or joint UPHOA and City mitigation projects is collected by the City and UPHOA. **However, we ask individual homeowners to report any mitigation and wildfire risk-reduction projects they have completed on their own outside of these community activities.** Items to report include but are not limited to: new fire resistant roofing, replacing wood decks with more fire resistant composite materials, replacing mulch with stone/gravel, removal of trees/shrubs to provide more defensible space around the house and break up large clusters, tree trimming/limbing to reduce crown fire potential, cleaning leaves/needles from gutters, leaf, needle and debris cleanup, etc.

Please report mitigation/risk reduction work by November 1 of each year in one of the following ways:

- Directly to CSFD through the following Firewise Tracking Form Link.
<https://www.coswildfireready.org/firewise-usa>
- to Melissa Hoffman, Program Coordinator, Division of the Fire Marshal,
melissa.hoffman@coloradosprings.gov
- to Lloyd Nordhausen, UPHOA Wildfire Mitigation Committee Chair, lloydnbarb@gmail.com

Please provide:

- Description of work done
- Date(s) the work was done
- Approximate quantity of material removed if a cleanup or mitigation project
- Manhours involved if work done by homeowner
- Total cost and copies of receipts for work done by others

For further information or questions regarding wildfire mitigation and risk reduction or reporting, please feel free to contact Lloyd Nordhausen, UPHOA Wildfire Mitigation Committee Chairman at 719-482-6254 or lloydnbarb@gmail.com