

WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Start at the home. Work outward. Maintain what you create.

Wildfire mitigation reduces the conditions that allow embers, flames, and radiant heat to ignite a home. The strongest approach combines home hardening with thoughtful fuel management.



Selective fuel reduction can improve wildfire resilience while preserving a healthy, forested setting.

● ZONE 0

0-5 FEET

The highest-priority area. Keep ignition sources away from the structure.

- ✓ Use noncombustible materials next to the home.
- ✓ Remove needles, leaves, firewood, and other debris.
- ✓ Keep branches from overhanging roofs or decks.

● ZONE 1

5-30 FEET

Reduce fuel continuity so fire intensity decreases as it approaches.

- ✓ Separate trees and shrubs based on site conditions.
- ✓ Prune lower limbs and remove ladder fuels.
- ✓ Keep grasses short and remove accumulated dead material.

● ZONE 2

30-100+ FEET

Manage the broader forest for healthier structure and resilience.

- ✓ Thin crowded or declining vegetation selectively.
- ✓ Break up continuous surface and canopy fuels.
- ✓ Retain healthy diversity, habitat, and erosion protection.

✓ START HERE

- ✓ Clean roofs, gutters, decks, and the base of exterior walls.
- ✓ Move firewood and combustible storage away from structures.
- ✓ Inspect vents, siding, windows, decks, and attached fencing.
- ✓ Revisit treated areas every season and after major wind events.

▲ THE RAVEN WORKS PERSPECTIVE

Good mitigation is not simply removing trees. It is a site-specific process that reduces pathways for fire while retaining healthy trees, wildlife habitat, privacy, and the character of the land.

Begin with the structure, address the most consequential risks first, and maintain the work as the forest changes.

Guidance basis: Colorado State Forest Service Home Ignition Zone recommendations.

◎ IN THE FIELD

Three patterns repeatedly shape practical mitigation priorities on Colorado Front Range properties:

START CLOSE

Small ignition sources beside the home can matter more than distant fuels.

BREAK CONTINUITY

Separate surface, ladder, and canopy fuels so fire has fewer connected pathways.

PLAN TO MAINTAIN

Needles return, grasses regrow, and new branches develop; mitigation is ongoing.