

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What can I do with the information in this CWPP?*

Platte Canyon residents can utilize the analysis to determine what their neighborhood can improve upon and what their evacuation risk might be. Population centers in Platte Canyon all got a rating for risk to neighborhoods and homes and then a risk for life safety and evacuation. These ratings indicate what should be highest priority to address. The CWPP also contains recommendations for roadway thinning, home hardening, and defensible space.

### *What are the best things to do to protect my home?*

All homes in Platte Canyon are at risk of ignition due to embers, and many homes are at risk due to radiant heat or direct flame. A combination of home hardening and defensible space work will do the most to protect your home, especially in coordination with your neighbors. Home Hardening practices require ember-resistant housing materials and Defensible Space practices remove flammable material near the home and gives firefighters a chance to protect that structure.

### *I don't live in a "wildland", is my home really in danger?*

Yes, all homes in Platte Canyon are at risk of ignition during a wildfire. All homes in this district are currently exposed to embers which can ignite homes up to 1.5 miles away from the main fire.

### *How can I mitigate wildfire risk and keep my trees?*

Defensible space and wildland vegetation mitigation provides firefighters with increased tactical options for defending homes and neighborhoods. The secondary purpose of these treatments is to restore natural conditions and create resilient forests. Mitigated forests retain their structure after a wildfire, while unmitigated forests lose most trees. Some trees may need to be cut to retain trees overall.



**UNMANAGED FOREST** Fire in an unmanaged ponderosa pine forest (where fires have been repeatedly suppressed): Overcrowding can make the forest less healthy and resilient. When such a forest burns, the fire can extend into the crowns, killing large swaths of trees. © Erica Slenikar / TNC



**MANAGED FOREST** Fire in a managed ponderosa pine forest (using controlled burns with or without mechanical thinning): A fire burns low through the understorey maintaining gaps between some trees that help prevent future large crown fires. © Erica Slenikar / TNC

### *How can I plan for my child being home alone during an evacuation?*

Anyone in Platte Canyon that you are responsible for and cannot drive needs a specific evacuation plan if their guardian is away during an evacuation event. Every family will require a different solution, but some options include having a neighbor take responsibility or using a bike to get to a safe area. Whatever the option selected, these dependents need to have CodeRed or Reverse 911 to notify them of an evacuation notice.

### *If a fire starts, won't the fire department put it out?*

Firefighters will respond to the fire as quickly and efficiently as possible, however extreme weather conditions makes wildland fire extremely difficult to control. There is no guarantee that firefighters will be able to defend your home or stop the growth of a wildfire. Even when they are able to contain a wildfire, an ember could ignite another fire beyond their containment lines or could ignite your home.

### ***I am afraid of having to rebuild my home in a moonscape after a wildfire, how can I protect the environment around my home?***

The ecosystems in Platte Canyon burned frequently in low-severity wildland fires. These fires kept the forest structure open and created a landscape resilient to fire. Through wildland vegetation treatments like thinning and prescribed fire, we can return these landscapes to their resilient condition. Defensible space is a great start to creating resilient landscapes near to your home.

### ***How do I make an Evacuation Plan?***

Emergency Planning is a high priority for every resident and can only be made by you for your situation. There are great resources that can point you in the right direction, but all decisions need to be made by you. Ready, Set, Go! is a great resource for starting this process. Locally, Fire Adapted Bailey and Platte Canyon Fire Protection District are great resources to help you think through the different elements your plan needs to have. If you do only one thing related to wildfire preparedness, write this plan.

## RESOURCES

### *Home Hardening and Defensible Space*

**CalFire**

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/>

**Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety**

<https://ibhs.org/guidance/wildfire/>

**National Fire Protection Association (Administers FirewiseUSA)**

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

### *Wildland Fuels Treatments*

**Colorado State Forest Service**

[https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/fuelbreak\\_guidelines.pdf](https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/fuelbreak_guidelines.pdf)

**Rocky Mountain Research Station**

[https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs\\_series/rmrs/gtr/rmrs\\_gtr373.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_series/rmrs/gtr/rmrs_gtr373.pdf)

### *Emergency Notification*

**CodeRed**

<https://www.plattecanyonfire.com/codered>

### *Evacuation Planning*

**Department of Homeland Security**

<https://www.ready.gov/evacuation>

**CalFire**

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan/>

### *Local Implementation Assistance*

**Fire Adapted Bailey**

<https://www.fireadaptedbailey.org/>

**Platte Canyon Wildland Fire Module**

<https://www.plattecanyonfire.com/wildland-module>

**Colorado State Forest Service – Golden Office**

*Large Acre Mitigation Assistance*

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/northeast/>

**Jefferson Conservation District**

<https://sites.google.com/view/jefferson-cons-dist/>

**Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)**

*Small Acre Mitigation Assistance*

<https://cusp.ws/>