

Family and Fire Safety

The Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners maintains a web site with very good information about preparing your home for the possibility of wildfire. Their site is www.ppwpp.org, or you may contact them directly:

Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners

P.O. Box 62819

Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2819

(719) 575-8400

Your local fire department will happily come to your home and walk your property with you, making helpful suggestions about actions you can take to improve your chances of survival in the event of a wildfire. They do NOT issue citations, or even take notes about your property – they are only interested in giving you helpful information. Below are some of their suggestions, and additional information contact:

If you must leave your home due to a fire – leave your doors unlocked. Fire personnel may need to shelter in your home, or may need to borrow tools from your garage or storage shed for fighting the fire. Remember, they are doing their best to save your home, and they promise not to steal anything! Also remember, they have a “Universal Key” (fire axe) and they will use it if necessary.

Keep grasses near your house trimmed to less than 6” high, and keep the pine duff and tree litter to less than 3”. For suggestions about good plants to grow near the house, go to www.firewise.org.

Keep your gutters and roof clean of debris, and keep trees limbed up to discourage “laddering” – the spread of fire from the ground into the trees. Dead limbs and slash covering the ground are invitations to losing your home.

Make sure your home address is clearly visible.

Make sure your fire extinguishers have metal heads.

Smoke alarms are only good for about 10 years. Change batteries when you change your clocks in the spring and fall – it is very cheap insurance.