



# Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

## January – March 2026



### Upcoming Dates

- Jan 24 – NEPCO Meeting for General Membership
- Feb 12 – HOA Board & Homeowner Meeting (online)
- Mar 12 – HOA Board & Homeowner Meeting (online)
- Mar 14 – NEPCO Meeting for General Membership

### Dwarf Mistletoe

The Arrowwood III Covenants require the removal or mitigation of all dead brush, downed limbs, ladder fuels on live vegetation, standing or downed dead trees, and infested/diseased trees. This includes those with mistletoe.

Dwarf mistletoes are a parasitic plant that kills by slowly robbing native pines of food and water. Dwarf mistletoe infections can retard growth, reduce seed production, and eventually kill infested trees.



The first symptom of dwarf mistletoe infection is a slight swelling of the bark at the infection site. The parasite is identifiable when the yellow to green or brownish-green segmented shoots protrude from the infected part of the tree, which forms about 2-3 years after the infection. Because dwarf mistletoes are slow killers, long-term management options are effective. Pruning affected branches or removal of infected trees is the best management option. For more Colorado State Forest Service info on mistletoe, visit their website.

### Tax Credits Available

The State of Colorado provides certain tax incentives for performing wildfire mitigation measures on property located in Colorado. For tax years 2023 through 2027, an income tax credit is allowed. To see the qualifications and other details visit: <https://tax.colorado.gov/income-tax-topics-wildfire-mitigation-measures>

### Home Inventory

Make a list of your belongings before disaster strikes! If you ever have to file a claim, the insurance company will likely ask for proof of all items reported on the claim. You should have a comprehensive list of possessions including pictures of your belongings, especially any high end valuables. You can start simple by making a list on paper, but know there are many versions of home inventory checklists available online or as apps for smartphones - and these versions are details and thorough. If you create a physical document be sure to store it in a safe place away from your home, or create an electronic copy and email it to yourself.

### Tracked Time = Money

Did you know that every hour working on fire risk mitigation is worth >\$34? AIA III is a Firewise USA certified community, and in ongoing certification we track the numbers of volunteers and hours worked in mitigation/chipping efforts. We can include the time you spend on your lot- removing pine needles, cutting branches, and installing hard landscaping. These figures are also shared with Monument Fire Dept. so they can apply for grants that provide mitigation and fire-fighting equipment. Please share with us the amount of time you spend on these activities so we can include them in our reporting! Send it to [firewise@arrowwood3.org](mailto:firewise@arrowwood3.org).



### Text Notifications

Join the AIA III text notification system for neighborhood information. Stay in the know about events and emergency situations. Generally, you will receive one text per month. You can unsubscribe at any time. Send name and cell number to [newsletter@arrowwood3.org](mailto:newsletter@arrowwood3.org).

### Home Hardening Grant

This grant helps homeowners retrofit or improve their home or other structure on their property. It does this through structure hardening strategies and technologies in order to make the house or structure more resilient to wildfires.

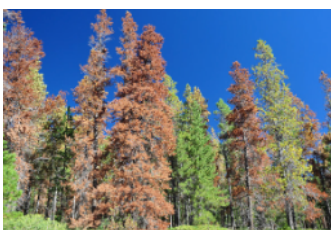
Email: [cdps\\_dfpc\\_homehardeninggrant@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_dfpc_homehardeninggrant@state.co.us)

## Mountain Pine Beetles

Mountain Pine Beetles are the most damaging insect pest of Colorado's pine forests, killing large numbers of trees annually. According to the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), beetles have infected over 3.4 million acres of forests in our state. CSFS has identified outbreaks across El Paso County, including as close as north of Fox Run Park near E Baptist Road and Roller Coaster Road.

These bark beetles infest pine trees by laying eggs under the bark. When the eggs hatch, the larvae mine the area beneath the bark and eventually cut off the tree's supply of nutrients, which kills the tree. Areas of densely packed trees have to fight for sunlight, nutrients, and moisture which leaves them stressed and vulnerable. Beetle-killed trees dry quickly and drop their needles, and fallen trees accumulate as heavy downed fuels that can feed extreme fire behavior. Dead trees that remain standing or pile up on the forest floor also pose hazards for firefighters and alter fire behavior in ways that make suppression more dangerous and less effective.

Thinning dense stands of trees to reduce competition and promote tree health is the most successful forest management strategy, and should be prioritized. Under epidemic conditions enough beetles can emerge from one infested tree to kill two or more trees the following season. The next generation of beetles emerges typically in late spring or early summer, so tree inspections should occur in winter or early spring. Once a tree is infested there is no practical way to save that tree. Removal of infested trees and the slash from them will prevent beetles from spreading to new trees. **Small infestations can be eliminated through quick action.** Felling infested trees, stacking the cut logs off the ground in an area with full sun, and covering them with clear plastic is a solar treatment method that creates conditions unsuitable for the survival of the beetle's larvae. Other disposal methods involve chipping the tree into small pieces, under 1-inch. Do not transport infected logs, firewood, or slash unless taken to a secure disposal site, as this spreads beetles. For assistance with multiple tree infestations or high-risk tree removal, contact your local State Forest Service or a certified arborist.



Residents should look for these tell-tale signs and symptoms of mountain pine beetle infestation:

- Popcorn-shaped masses of resin, called pitch tubes, on the trunk that may be brown, pink, or white
- Boring dust in bark crevices and on the ground immediately adjacent to the tree's base
- Woodpecker damage, where the birds have stripped portions of the bark in search of larvae, leaving accumulations of bark at the base of the tree
- Presence of live mountain pine beetles (eggs, larvae, pupae and/or adults)
- Exit holes on the bark's surface where adult beetles have emerged
- Needles turning rust colored after a short period of yellowish-red coloring

## NEPCO News

The Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Organizations (NEPCO) hosted District County Commissioners at the November general membership meeting. Participating HOAs were invited to bring questions and hear plans. Among the issues discussed was:

- The noise and heavy traffic on Furrow Rd. A study has been funded to address complaints around semis using this route.
- Highway 105 road expansion has been funded to expand the highway from Lake Woodmoor Drive up to Martingale Road.
- HOA input was encouraged regarding the proposed Buc-ee's gas/travel center.

AIA III is a member of NEPCO so all homeowners are welcome to attend the general meetings. Dates listed above.