



SPRING 2008

Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue

Wildfire Report

Serving with Integrity, Loyalty & Respect

Summit County's Wildfire Mitigation Officer is Patti Maguire. The Summit County Wildfire Mitigation Program was developed to work closely with local, state and federal agencies to coordinate wildfire prevention efforts and enforce the county's wildfire mitigation requirements for building construction. The Mitigation Officer is available to present wildfire prevention workshops, conduct hazard assessments and perform defensible space inspections. Burn permits are also issued by the Mitigation Program.

Summit County's current Mountain Pine Beetle infestation has affected forest health throughout our communities and across the forest boundaries. The Mitigation Officer works closely with the Summit County Wildfire Council to obtain grant funding and implement fuel reduction projects to enhance forest health in our country.

The Wildfire Mitigation office is located in Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue's Frisco Fire Station on 301 South 8th Avenue. You may contact Patti Maguire at (970) 513-4237 or at pmaguire@ldfr.org to schedule an inspection, request a burn permit or get an answer to your wildfire questions.

Wildfire Season is Fast Approaching...

The winter of 2007-2008 has certainly been a white one. Summit County has experienced much more than average snowfall. While this abundant snowpack may prevent the early onset of wildfire season, weather predictions for the coming spring and summer are calling for below average rainfall and above average temperatures.

As we all know, when temperatures rise, vegetation dries out and our wildfire dan-

ger increases.

While there's certainly no need for alarm as we approach the summer months, we do need to re-familiarize ourselves with the proper procedures and steps to take in case a wildland fire develops here in Summit County. In particular, it is prudent to think about what steps to take around our properties and what information might be useful in case the need arises to let people know where we

are and what is important in the event an evacuation becomes necessary.

As we look forward to this fire season, this flyer is designed to get us to start thinking actively about how we can prepare "now" for the rare event that a fire comes our way!!! For further information or questions about wildfire and evacuations, contact Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue at (970) 418-0562 or at pio@ldfr.org.

When Wildfire Threatens!

Do not jeopardize your life!!! No material item is worth a life. Conditions in a wildfire can change very quickly.

If time allows:

- Place combustible items 50 feet away from the house. This includes lawn furniture, umbrellas and tarp coverings.
- Close or cover outside attic, eaves, basement vents, and deck crawl spaces. This will reduce the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house. Close window shutters.
- Connect a garden hose to an outside faucet so it can reach any place in the house. Place the hose so that it is visible from the road.
- Place a ladder against the roof of the house opposite the side of the approaching fire.
- Shut off gas at meter or at propane tank.
- Park your car in the garage, facing out. Close the windows, but do not lock the doors.
- Close garage door but leave unlocked. Disconnect the automatic garage door opener.
- Close all windows and doors, but do not lock them.
- Close all doors inside the house to block circulation of air and movement of fire.
- Turn on all exterior lights. This will make the house visible in heavy smoke or at night.
- Take down light weight curtains and close heavy weight drapes. Move overstuffed furniture away from windows and glass doors. If not removed, these items are easy to ignite by radiant heat exposure.



For more detailed information, check out LDFR's "Wildfire Info" link on www.ldfr.org

Summit County Wildfire Notification System

Wildfire Watch - A “Wildfire Watch” is the first and general message to the public and media that a potential public safety issue exists. The “Wildfire Watch” places citizens on notice that a wildfire exists and may evolve into a greater threat to the community. At this level, citizens should take steps to prepare for evacuation or to “shelter in place” by gathering evacuation kits and plans in to one place. In the case of a wildfire, the specific notice will provide the media and the public with the location of the incident, direction of travel, and areas potentially threatened.

Wildfire Warning - A “Wildfire Warning” is a specific notice for residents and communities in the direct line of a progressing wildfire. The “Wildfire Warning” will contain instructions for the public to finalize evacuation preparations by assembling family members and pets, placing kits, important documents and medications in vehicles, will notify the public about the location of Community Information Centers (CICs) and will advise the public to continue monitoring media and maintain contacts with authorities to understand any geographic and incident-specific instructions such as “shelter in place” or directions for an “Evacuation Notice”. In the case of a wildfire, the specific notice will provide the media and public with the location of the incident, direction of travel, and areas primarily and secondarily threatened.

Evacuation Notice - An “Evacuation Notice” is issued for a specific geographic area and should be issued following a “Wildfire Warning” to the public. While the “Wildfire Warning” notifies the public that a specific threat to the public exists, instructs the public to finalize evacuation preparations and informs the public of the location of safe zones and CICs, an “Evacuation Notice” is the signal to a specific geographic location that a mandatory evacuation instruction has been issued by authorities. This is a mandatory “move” command and will be executed by organizations in accordance with the “Summit County Emergency Policies - Evacuation Policy”. It will only be issued in instances where public safety authorities determine that an immediate threat to life safety exists in a specific area. In the case of a wildfire, the specific notice will provide the media and public with the location of the incident, direction of travel and primary and secondary areas threatened.

Evacuation Preparation Considerations - *What can I do in advance?*

Family Communication Plan - Generate a communication plan for your family that includes out-of-town contact phone numbers and emails, plus a list of all family members with date of births, social security numbers and any medical conditions. Also, keep a list of where family members spend time (e.g., school, work or other locations) that lists the location address and contact information. Lastly, establish a common neighborhood and regional meeting place for your family. Ensure all family members know out-of-town contacts and the meeting place to assist in getting together in the event of an emergency.

Important Contacts - Maintain a list of all important contacts for your family, including friends, Doctors, Pharmacists, Insurance contacts, and Vet/Kennel info, as well as out-of-town contacts.

Important Documents - In the event of an emergency, you may need important documents to file insurance claims, pay bills, take care of injured family members or manage other responsibilities. Suggested documents to locate, copy and store in a fire proof box or out of town with a relative include: birth certificates, marriage certificates, wills, power of attorney, living wills, trust documents, social security records, military records, medical records (including prescriptions), insurance policies, banking documents, investment statements, pay/tax records, car titles and registrations, mortgage and property deeds or lease information, credit card receipts, loan records and safe deposit box info.

Evacuation Kit Considerations - *What can I pack now?*

Water - Two quarts of water, per day, per person for a minimum of three days. Water should be sanitized and changed every six months.

Food - Pack enough food for three meals, per person for a minimum of three days. Canned food and dry mixes are easy to store and prepare. Ready-to-eat meals (beef jerky, canned ham), canned fruits and vegetables, boxed juices, boxed or powdered milk, canned soup, trail mix, vitamins are good choices. Special needs for children and special diets should also be considered (e.g., infant formula, low sodium or gluten-free). Replace items every six months and date each food item with a marker.

First Aid Supplies - Ensure prescription medicines, eye wear and other first aid essentials are part of your evacuation kit. A first aid manual, assorted bandages and cleansing/antibiotic agents are essential.

Clothes, Bedding and Specialty Items - One complete change of clothing and footwear for each household member is recommended. Keep in mind the varied weather conditions you may encounter. Appropriate considerations include sturdy boots, rain gear, cold weather jackets, gloves, extra socks and underwear, blankets and pillows. Any special items for children and the elderly should also be included.

Tools and Supplies - Some tools and other items to make life more comfortable in the event of an evacuation or shelter-in-place without power include battery-powered radios, flashlights, shovels, plastic sheeting, tent, work gloves, paper, pens, needles and thread. Kitchen items such as can openers, mess kits, knives, and plastic bags and sanitation items such as towels, soaps, and disinfectant.