



Wildfire Risk Reduction 101

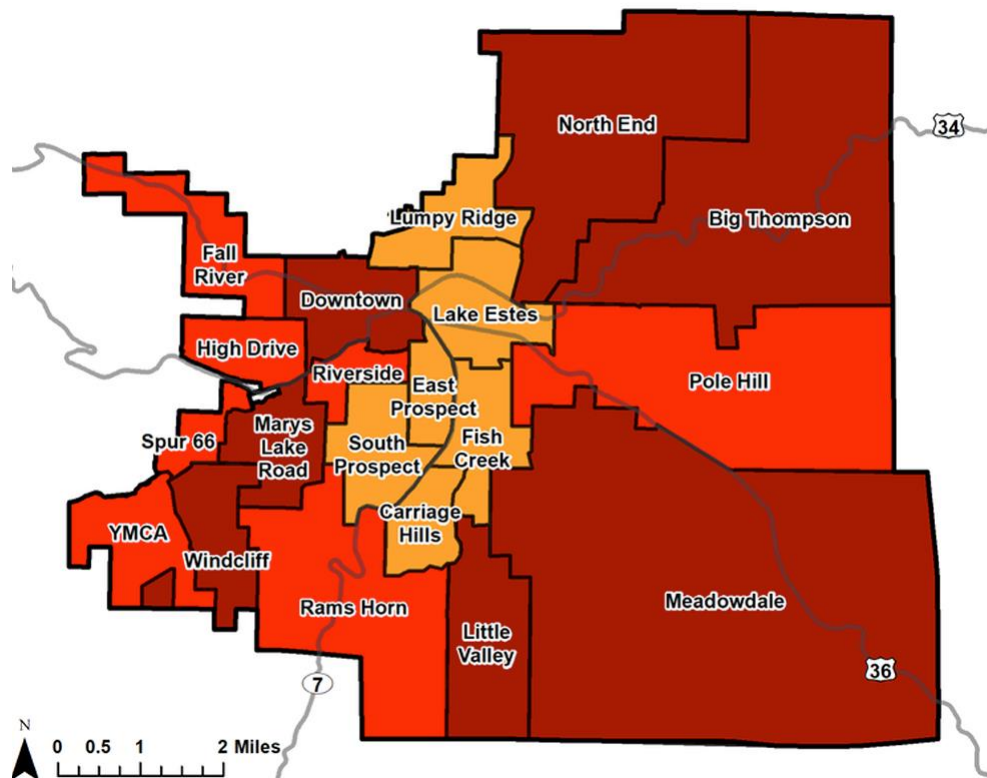
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Wildfire Risk

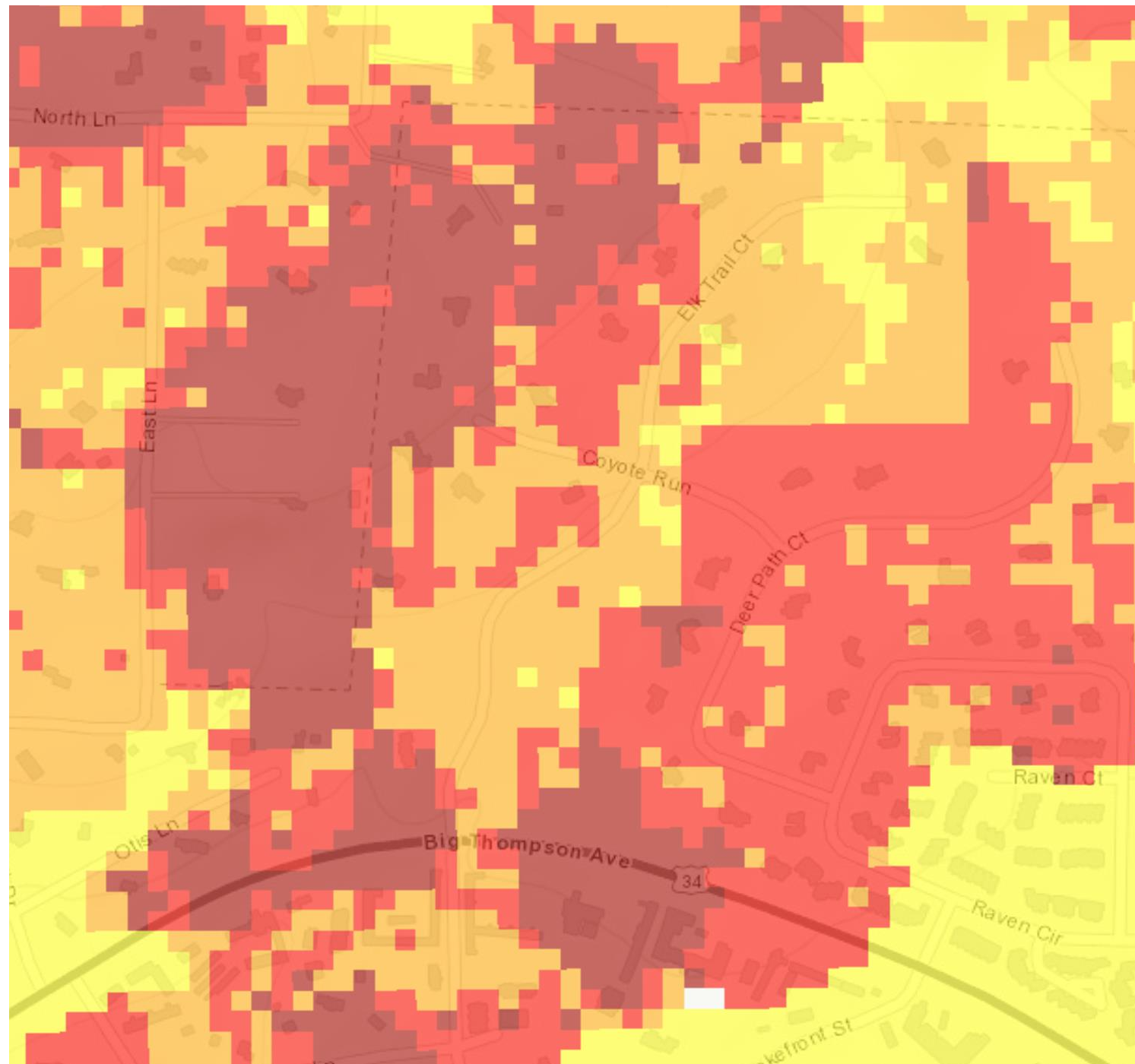
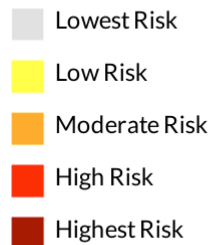


The Estes Valley is at high risk for wildfires that can threaten property, lives, and livelihoods. Some areas of the valley are at higher risk than others, and everyone has different risk factors that affect the ability of their home and property to withstand wildfires. Fire risk was mapped based on community input and scientific modelling. The full CWPP document and interactive maps can be found at estesvalleyfire.org/living-in-the-wui-wildland-urban-interface

What is the first
step in Wildfire
Risk Reduction?

Knowing
your Wildfire
Risk!

Wildland Urban Interface Risk





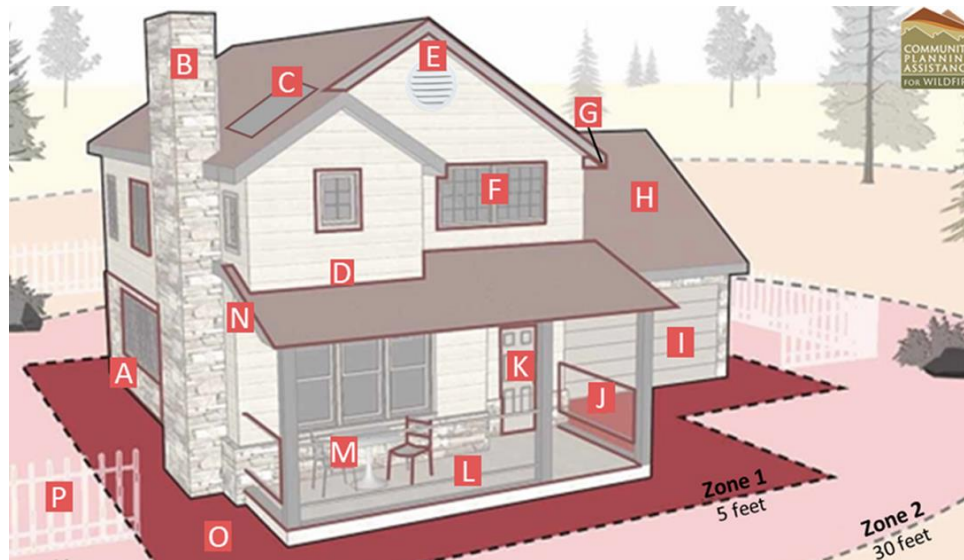
Wildfire Risk Reduction starts at the home and moves outward into the landscape.

Home Hardening

Home hardening is reducing the risk that your home will ignite during a wildfire also known as structural ignitability. Steps to reduce the ignitability of an existing home are:

- B. Cover chimneys and stovepipe outlets with ½ inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh.
- C. Minimize debris accumulation under and next to solar panels.
- E. Cover vent openings with 1/16 inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh. Install dryer vents with metal flappers and keep closed unless in use.
- G. Clear debris from roof and gutters regularly.
- I. Install metal flashing around garage doors that goes up at least 6 inches on the door.
- J. Use noncombustible lattice, trellis, or other decorative features.
- K. Install weather stripping around and under doors.
- L. Remove combustible materials from underneath, on top of, or within 5 feet of deck.
- M. Use noncombustible patio furniture.
- N. Cover all eaves with screened vents.
- O. Establish and maintain a 5-foot noncombustible buffer around the home.

← Low Cost Actions



Actions to Plan & Save for →

- A. Use noncombustible siding and trim at least 2 feet up around the base of your home.
- C. Use multipaned glass for skylights, not materials that can melt, and use metal flashing.
- D. Install a 6-inch vertical noncombustible surface on all gables above roofs.
- F. Install multi-pane windows and metal mesh screens. Use noncombustible window frames.
- G. Install noncombustible gutters, gutter covers, and downspouts.
- H. Install ignition-resistant or noncombustible roofs.
- I. Install 1-hour fire rated garage doors.
- K. Install a 1-hour fire rated front and back doors.
- L. Use ignition-resistant or noncombustible decking. Enclose crawl spaces.
- N. Use noncombustible eaves.
- P. Replace wooden fences with noncombustible materials

Why is Home Hardening so Important?

*According to research 60-90% of home ignition is from embers.

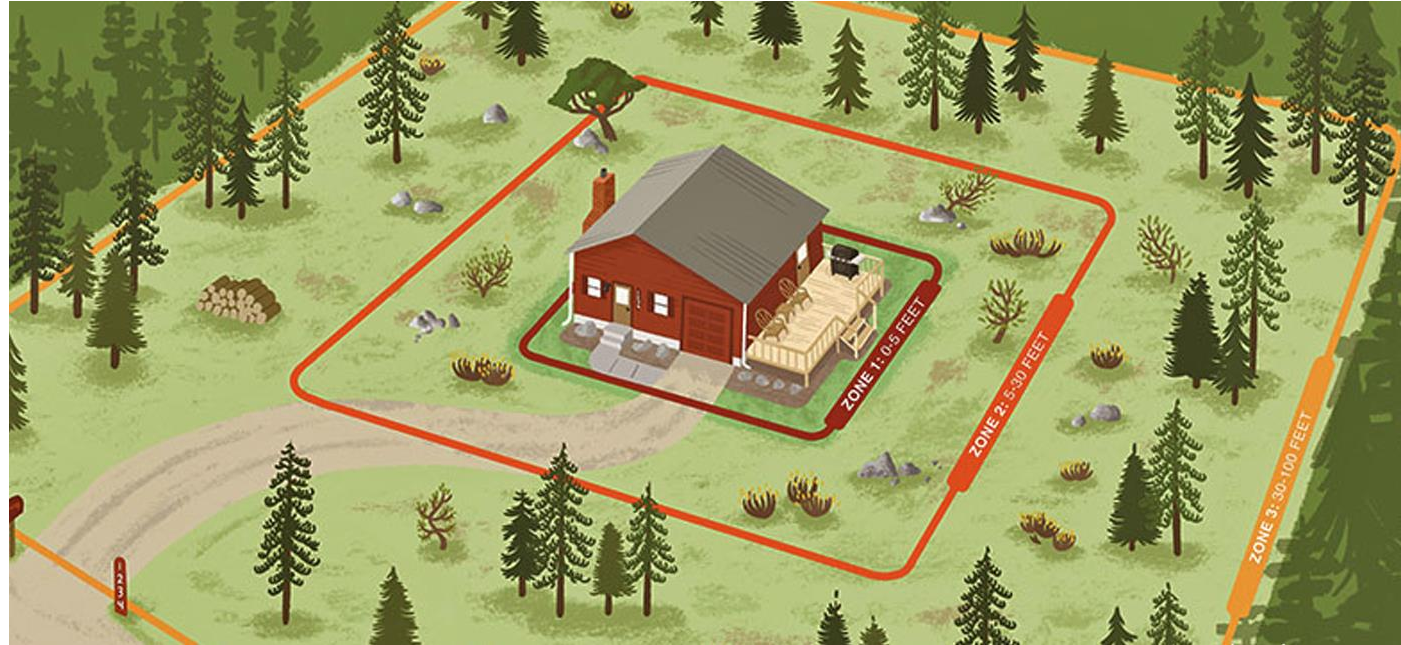
*Embers can travel 1-5 miles downwind from the fire front.

*This means the fire does not even have to be in your neighborhood for your home to ignite.

Here is a video from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Research Facility Ember Storm Test. ➡



Defensible Space



Defensible space is the area around a home or other structure that has been modified to reduce fire hazards. In this area, natural and manmade fuels are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire.

Establishing defensible space reduces the likelihood of a home igniting by direct contact with flame or by exposure to the radiant heat of the fire. It also helps limit local production of embers and reduces the chance a structure fire will spread to neighboring homes or surrounding vegetation.

ZONE 1

The non combustible zone 0-5 feet from your home

Remove ALL flammable material from 5 feet around your whole house. Mulch, wood fences, wood furniture, firewood, and plants should be removed. Everything in this area should not be flammable.



ZONE 2

The lean, clean, green zone 5-30 feet from your home

Keep grass and vegetation adequately watered and mowed. Remove all dead plants and woody materials. Any trees or shrubs should be healthy and spaced at least 10 ft apart. Prune trees up 6-10 ft and remove all material below the tree. Remove all junipers.



ZONE 3

The fuel reduction zone 30-100 feet from your home

Trees should be spaced 10 ft apart, measured at the closest branches. All material below trees like limbs and shrubs should be removed. Slash and flammable debris should be removed or relocated. This is a safe distance to store propane tanks and firewood piles.



Action Plan

The guiding goal is for the Estes Valley Fire Protection District to become a fire-adapted community, which is a community consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire.



Individual Action

Homeowners, residents, and landowners within the valley create defensible space around their homes, harden their homes, and plan for wildfire evacuations.

Neighborhood Action

Neighborhoods and HOAs pool resources to educate neighbors, mitigate privately maintained roads, increase firefighter accessibility, and plan connected defensible space and landscape treatments.

Agency Action

Major landowners, government agencies, and local organizations work with residents and each other to complete landscape scale forest health and fuel mitigation projects that protect the community.

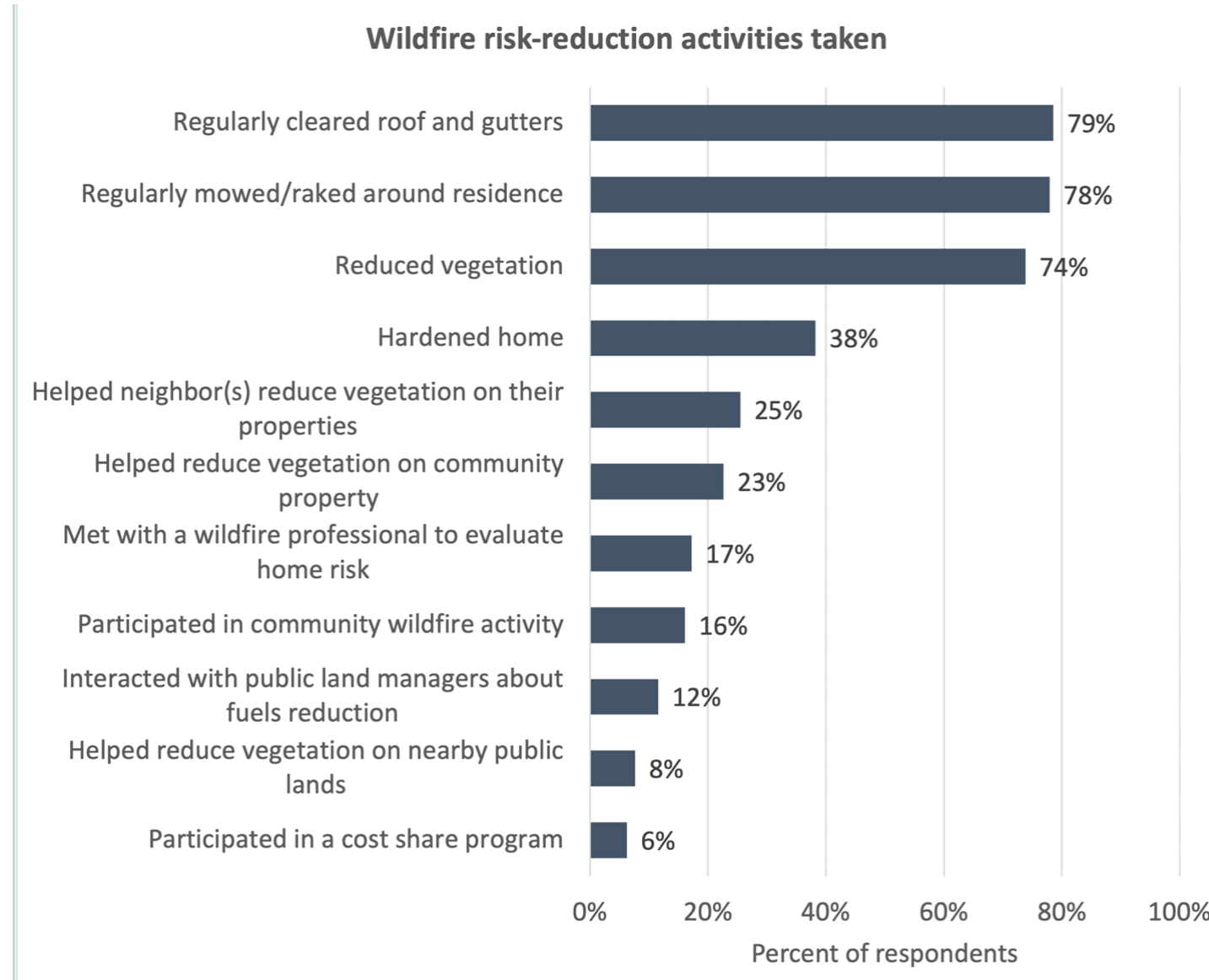


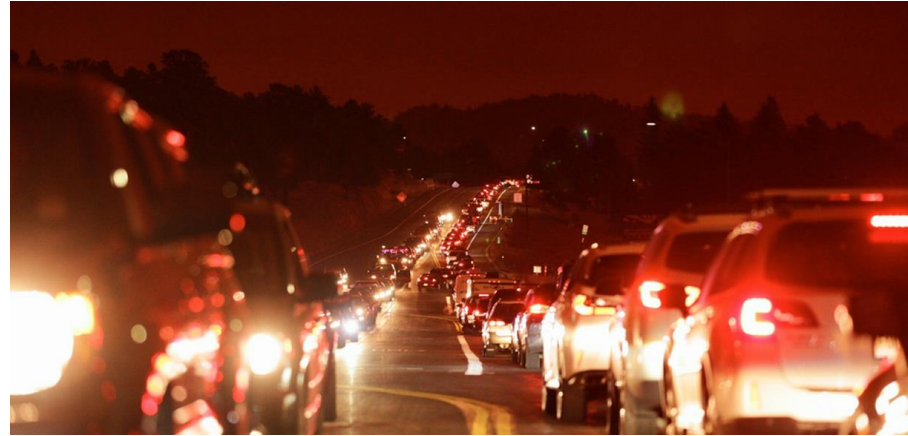
Figure 34—Percent of respondents who reported doing the above wildfire risk mitigation activities, as reported in 2023 by respondents residing in the Estes Valley Fire Protection District, Larimer County, Colorado, study area. N = 535–543 respondents for each of the above activity statements.

Evacuation Prep:

Be ready to leave when needed, safely, and with confidence!

PLAN

- Create an evacuation and emergency plan with your family. Discuss what will happen with kids, elderly family, and neighbors that may need assistance evacuating.
- Talk to the school, assisted living facility, or other places where family may be to see what their protocols are.
- Plan for evacuating pets and livestock. If you need extra time, always begin evacuating when you receive a voluntary evacuation notice.



GET NOTIFIED

- Sign your family up for emergency alerts at [NoCoAlert.org](https://www.nocalert.org)
- Sign guests and visitors up for temporary alerts by having them text GO EPALERTS to 888-777

PACK & PREPARE

- Prepare a go-bag with essentials - clothes, snacks, water, emergency contact information, phone chargers, flashlight, etc.
- Include a printed checklist of necessary items around the house to take (medicines, essential documents, urgent pet supplies) and include their locations.
- Update the bag annually based on family needs - extra pet food, infant formula, a few kids games, toiletries, batteries, masks, etc.



Estes Valley Watershed Coalition

Website: evwatershed.org

Phone: (970) 290-1829

Email: EVWatershed@evwatershed.org



Colorado State Forest Service

Website: csfs.colostate.edu

Phone: (970) 491-8660, (303) 823-5774

Email: CSFS_FortCollins@mail.colostate.edu,
CSFS_Boulder@mail.colostate.edu

Resources

You must take action, but you do not
have to do it alone



Larimer County Office of Emergency Management

Website: larimer.org/emergency

Phone: (970) 619-4903

Email: josh.roberts@larimer.gov



Estes Valley Fire Protection District

Website: estesvalleyfire.org

Phone: (970) 577-0900

Email: prevention@estesvalleyfire.org



Larimer Conservation District

Website: larimercd.org

Phone: (970) 599-0640

Email: matt@larimercd.org

Questions?