



Higby Estates Mitigation Guidelines



Create Defensible Space Management Zones around your home.

Zone 1 = 0-30' from the house footprint [which includes attached decks, fences, etc.]

- Remove most flammable vegetative fuels within 15' of house, to create a buffer from fuels.
 - Ok to keep a few large trees and shrubs near house as part of the footprint, but with no fuel sources close enough to carry fire to them. Aspen trees near the house are ok.
 - Remove all ladder fuels [18" – 6' tall] that help convert ground fires to crown fires.
 - Prune branches up about 10' above ground, but leave about 60% of green on the tree.
 - Thin to 10-15' spacing between the tips of the longest branch tips of neighboring trees.
 - Trim branches which extend over roof eaves. Remove branches within 15' of chimney.
 - Remove combustible landscaping within 3-5' of house--ground cover, mulch, etc.
 - Remove all juniper shrubs next to the house – if ignited by embers, it burns like a torch.
 - Deciduous shrubs next to the house are ok, but plant away from windows, and keep pruned.
 - Remove all flammable debris, leaves, pine needles from within 15' of the house.
 - Keep pine needles off of roof, gutters, decks, and 'catch' areas on or next to the house.
 - Remove all scrub oak within 30' of house.
 - Remove anything combustible stored under decks & porches or against the home.
 - replace combustible fence posts next to the house with metal, if possible.
 - Mow dry grass and weeds to height of 6" or less within 30' of house.
 - Place woodpiles beyond the 30' zone, with no flammable vegetation within 10'.
 - Place spare LPG tanks beyond the 30' zone, with no flammable vegetation within 10'.
- Driveways - mitigate for safe fire department access/egress.
 - Create clearance of about 12' along each side and at least 13' of vertical clearance.

Zone 2 = 30-100' from the house footprint.

- Remove all dead trees and dead branches.
- Remove all ladder fuels.
- Prune branches up about 10' above ground, but leave about 60% of green on the tree.
- Thin out skinny, small, weak, mis-shaped trees to create space for larger, healthy trees.
- Thin to 10-15' spacing between the tips of the longest branch tips of neighboring trees.
- OK to leave trees in clumps – remove least healthy and smaller trees from the clump, and leave 10-15' min between the clump and neighboring trees.
- No need to remove pine needles. They help retain moisture and prevent erosion.

Zone 3 = 100' and beyond from the house footprint.

- Reduce the density of the forest – thin, prune-up, remove ladder fuels.
- Create gaps in the forest canopy by keeping clumps of trees with large open spaces between the clumps. The spacing between clumps does not have to be equal.
- In each clump, keep 5-6 tall, strong, healthy trees—ok to have crowns touching.
- Remove thinner, smaller, weaker, mis-shaped, damaged, mistletoe trees to help improve the health of the larger trees.
- No need to remove pine needles. They help retain moisture and prevent erosion.