



# RESIDENTIAL DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION FORM

The key to improving the odds of your house surviving a wildfire is the defensibility of the house itself.



## CHECKLIST

See back for explanation on each checklist item

	YES	NO		YES	NO
1 All combustible materials removed from beneath decks, stairways and overhangs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
2 All dry, flammable vegetation within 30 to 100 feet of structure removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
3 All branches, bark chunks, slash and scrap lumber removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4 All green trees limbed 10 feet from the ground or one-third of tree height?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
5 All limbs within 10 feet of chimney removed? Spark arrester in place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
6 All dead trees removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
7 All leaves and pine needles removed from roof and gutter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
8 Weeds and dead grasses cut six inches or shorter within 10 feet of structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
9 Firewood and wood materials removed at least 10 feet from structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
10 Is your address clearly visible to emergency-response personnel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
11 All dry, flammable vegetation within 10 feet of propane tank removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
12 Dense tree cover removed? Small clusters or single trees with 10 feet between crowns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

COMMENTS:

On \_\_\_\_\_, Summit Fire & EMS conducted a defensible space fire-safety inspection of your property. The purpose was to help your home survive a wildfire and help your property meet local fire-safety standards. The results of this voluntary inspection are merely recommendations intended to give your home the best likelihood of withstanding a fire. If you have further questions, please call Summit Fire & EMS at (970) 262-5100 or visit [summitfire.org](http://summitfire.org).

## CHECKLIST EXPLANATIONS

1. Homes often are destroyed by flames that ignite combustible materials under or adjacent to decks and stairways. Do not store combustible materials under decks and stairs. Keep areas under and adjacent to decks and stairways free of pine needles, leaves and other debris. A thin layer of gravel, rock, stone or aggregate should be applied under decks and stairways.
2. Fire spreads from the forests to homes and other buildings by traveling along the fuel bed (plants, trees, brush) until it is close enough to ignite the structure. Current fire-safety standards recommend the removal of all dead and dry flammable vegetation within 30 to 100 feet of any structure, depending on the slope of the surrounding terrain. Summit Fire & EMS allows for thinning of vegetation. If you decide to allow some flammable brush to remain, it should be thinned. A good rule of thumb is a space between shrubs two times the height of the shrub. If your lot is flat, clearing vegetation to 30 feet may be sufficient. On a steep slope, the distance may need to be increased to 100 feet. If the property line is closer, collaborate with neighboring property owners.
3. Please remove all combustible debris, including branches, bark chunks and scrap lumber from your yard within 30 feet of any structure. This will help reduce the chance of fire spreading from the forest to your buildings. When removing debris, rake to bare dirt within two feet of structures and apply a thin layer of gravel or rock.
4. Limbs should be removed from green trees to a height of at least six feet from the ground. If the tree is small, no more than one-third of the live green limbs should be removed.
5. Please remove all tree limbs, whether live or dead, within 10 feet of any chimney. To prevent sparks, embers or flames from a chimney from spreading to the forest, equip all chimneys with spark arresters.
6. Dead trees are hazardous because they will fall in time and could damage property or kill or injure a person. In addition, the dry wood of a dead tree is a tremendous fire hazard. In most parts of Summit County, no permit is required for removing dead trees, although local ordinances and homeowner association rules may vary. Contact Summit Fire & EMS or visit [summitfire.org](http://summitfire.org) for information on tree removal in your area.
7. Airborne firebrands account for the majority of homes burned by wildfire. The part of the house most vulnerable to firebrands is the roof. You can minimize the problem by keeping the roof and gutters free of debris. Routinely remove pine needles, leaves and litter.
8. Please ensure that all dry weeds and grasses are cut to a height of no more than six inches within 30 feet of structures. Fire travels extremely fast in tall grass or weeds.
9. Firewood, lumber or other large, woody material should not be stored within 30 feet of any structure. They can act as a fuel source to spread fire to the structures. Lumber and other large woody material can be covered with any material durable enough to withstand sun and wind that can prevent embers and firebrands from becoming lodged in the wood, igniting the pile.
10. The proper address to your property should be displayed so that the numbers can be read easily from the street, both day and night, to assist firefighters and emergency personnel. The numbers should be reflective and in a color that contrasts with the background. Do not use wood for number signs.
11. Please remove all dry, flammable vegetation within 10 feet of any propane tank. In the event of a fire, this will help reduce the amount of heat to which the tank is exposed.
12. Excessively dense tree cover allows fire to spread from the forest onto your property, threatening your home and other structures. Thinning trees — possibly including leaving some of them in small clusters that remain separate from the continuous forest — may be recommended to best protect your home from a wildfire.

### Summit Fire & EMS is proud to serve its community with:

- Free wildfire assessments of existing homes
- Free community presentations on wildfire preparedness
- Up-to-date wildfire conditions and information at [www.summitfire.org](http://www.summitfire.org)

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