

Neighbors,

Let's talk about evacuation routes.

The next time you leave your property, take a good look from your driveway all the way to Highway 285.

Ask yourself one simple question:

Would I be comfortable spending 2–3 hours in front of any section of this route while a wildfire is approaching?

Most of us would probably answer "no" to at least a few locations.

During a large wildfire, evacuation routes can become congested with residents, emergency vehicles, trailers, and equipment. If a wildfire reaches the roadway, thick smoke, intense heat, falling trees, and flying embers can quickly turn an evacuation route into a dangerous place to be. Check out the [video from the Camp Fire](#), which shows what evacuation during a fast-moving wildfire can look like.

One of the best ways to improve evacuation safety is to create a more survivable roadway by reducing vegetation near roads, removing ladder fuels, and increasing spacing between trees and brush. See the attached flyers for more information.

As your Community Ambassador and as part of our Firewise efforts, we are exploring community mitigation evenings focused on improving evacuation routes throughout Woodside Park - followed by food, conversation, and an opportunity to connect with neighbors.

At this point, we are simply trying to gauge community interest.

If you are interested in:

- Volunteering to help with mitigation projects or provide food/water
- Allowing volunteers access to mitigate vegetation along the roadside portion of your property

Please reply to this email. No commitment is required at this time; we are simply assessing interest.

What can you do today?

- Mitigate vegetation along your driveway and roadside
- Talk with your neighbors about the importance of evacuation route mitigation
- Ask for help by replying to this email

As a mountain community, we rely on each other. The actions we take on our own properties can help improve safety for the entire neighborhood. Together, we can help make Woodside Park safer for residents, visitors, and emergency responders.

Woodside Park Evacuation Route Survivability

Small actions by many neighbors can make a big difference.



In Woodside Park, roads are our lifeline for residents, horses, livestock trailers, neighbors, and emergency responders. Safer roadsides can improve visibility, reduce fire intensity, and help keep evacuation routes passable during a wildfire.

Before

Dense trees, juniper, brush, and ladder fuels close to the road can reduce visibility and increase fire intensity.



After

A modified shaded fuel break keeps healthy trees while reducing fuels and improving access.

Tree spacing:
about 10–20 ft
where feasible



Focus first

- Intersections and blind curves
- Downhill / lower side of roads
- Places where traffic may slow or queue
- About 30 ft from the road centerline, or as much as each landowner is comfortable allowing



Reduce or remove

- Juniper near roads
- Standing dead or dying trees
- Trees leaning toward the road
- Brush, slash, and crowded small trees
- Ladder fuels under tree canopies
- Vegetation in ditches that creates continuous fuel beds

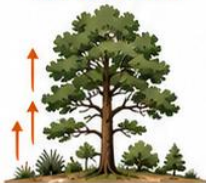


What good looks like

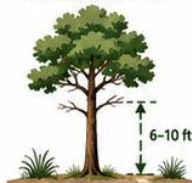
- Healthy trees spaced where feasible
- Lower branches pruned 6–10 ft from the ground, or about 1/3 tree height
- Grass and fine fuels kept short
- Cleaner sight lines
- Better emergency responder access

Stop fire from climbing

RISKY LADDER FUELS



CLEANER SEPARATION



Removing ladder fuels helps keep fire on the ground and reduces the chance it reaches tree crowns.



Driveways matter too

- Clear 5–10 ft from driveways where feasible
- Avoid the 'tunnel of love' effect
- Keep address signs visible from the road
- If evacuating, keep gates open or unlocked if safe to do so



Evacuation reminders

- Know more than one route
- Drive your routes in the day and at night
- Leave early when you feel unsafe
- Prepare people, pets, and livestock



How residents can help



Mitigate your roadside vegetation



Allow volunteer help if you are interested



Join an upcoming community mitigation work day



Donate time, tools, equipment, or refreshments



Help a neighbor who may need assistance



Together, we can keep Woodside Park safer, healthier, and more prepared — one roadside, one driveway, and one neighbor at a time.



Becky Canterbury

President, [Woodside Park Units 1-4](#) HOA

Woodside Park Community Ambassador, Conifer Wildland Division

Conifer and Elk Creek Fire Protection Districts

NEW EMAIL: president@woodside1-2-3-4hoa.org

Join us on Facebook: [Woodside Park - Units 1, 2, 3, 4](#)

Sign up for emergency alerts for both Park and Jefferson counties:

- Park County CodeRED: www.parkcountyco.gov/97/CodeRED
- Jefferson County LookoutAlert: www.jeffco.us/473/Emergency-Notifications
- Watch Duty is a free desktop and mobile app that provides real time wildfire activity and alerts in our area. <https://app.watchduty.org/>