

Call for Leaders on the CCME Wildfire Mitigation Committee

Currently, the Wildfire Mitigation Committee (WMC) consists of 2 members—co-chairs Suzanne Adams and Loren Gollhardt, who have taken the responsibility to plan and organize wildfire mitigation activities here in CCME for the last 4 years.

We have had excellent response from CCME residents who volunteer for chipping days, prepare lunches for chipping crews, donate food for events, and donate money or supplies for events.

What we are lacking is volunteers to join the Wildfire Mitigation Committee and take on leadership roles—to provide organizational support for continued wildfire mitigation efforts in CCME. Except for help formatting our *Wildfire Mitigation Newsletter* by Emmett Skiles and help from the CCME office staff to coordinate chipping days, Suzanne and Loren have done all the planning and organizing. Two people to plan, organize, and lead all wildfire mitigation efforts within CCME is not sustainable.

We have a vision of a Wildfire Mitigation Committee that meets 2 or 3 times a year to create and evaluate an annual CCME Wildfire Mitigation Action Plan.

We would like to conduct 2 -3 small wildfire mitigation projects per year in addition to chipping days. Essentially, these would be “work days” conducted by CCME wildfire mitigation volunteer crews to help our CCME neighbors mitigate their own property and to mitigate critical CCME common area.

We envision WMC members who take a leadership role for important wildfire mitigation activities. Suzanne and Loren will provide any assistance needed for volunteers to assume these coordinator roles. Free online training classes are available.

- Wildfire Mitigation Volunteer Crew Coordinator
- Firewood Exchange Program Coordinator
- Home Wildfire Risk Assessment Coordinator
- Community Information Session Coordinator
- Wildfire Mitigation Newsletter Coordinator

Four Mile Fire and the Teller County Office of Emergency Management have identified CCME as a high-risk subdivision with dangerous fuel conditions both inside and around the subdivision boundaries. The relationships we have developed with these organizations and others over the past four years are important to the ongoing success of our efforts.

CCME residents are becoming increasingly aware that wildfire mitigation is important. Besides reducing risk to homes from wildfire damage, wildfire mitigation increases our ability to acquire home insurance. Some insurance companies are denying policies to owners whose property has not been mitigated. In general wildfire mitigation makes our CCME community safer and enhances property values.

Without leadership support from other CCME residents, wildfire mitigation activities in CCME will be limited if not completely lacking in the future.

Wildfire mitigation is the responsibility of each individual property owner in our community, but the effort will not happen without active organization efforts by a committed group of those individuals. Please consider joining and being an active member of the Wildfire Mitigation Committee.

To get more information or to volunteer to help, contact Suzanne Adams at 719-689-2715 or Suzanne.Adams@ucdenver.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Adams and Loren Gollhardt