

Mesa Cortina Fire Mitigation owner information

CPOA Fire Mitigation Walk thru September 3, 2013

Steve Lipsher, LDFR; Dave Matthews, Gene Bygd CPOA

In response to the concerns at our August 17, 2013 HOA annual meeting, I contacted Deputy Chief Jeff Berino, LDFR for advice regarding wildfire mitigation. I said that “our HOA is at a point where we again need your guidance and help in warning those owners who pose serious risks not only to their own property but also to their neighbor’s property as well. After the tragic fire in the Black Forest area where 500 homes were lost, we all need to be most vigilant and take proper precautions. Usually our owners take action when problems are identified on their properties; however, some still chose to not heed the warnings.”

Jeff asked Steve Lipsher to meet with us and do a walk thru to identify problems. Steve, Gene Bygd, and I met today and walked down Springbeauty drive noting various risks. We quickly noted many recurring items, so decided to identify them and provide this information to owners for their action. We as an HOA and community are all in this together and need to proceed with that in mind. If one home catches fire many others may become involved.

Steve noted that there are no guarantees that our homes will survive a wild fire; however, each of us can assess the risks and proceed to minimize those risks that are not acceptable to us. Recurring items are: tall grasses within 10 feet of homes, trees adjacent to decks and homes, combustible flower bedding mulches/slash adjacent to wood siding, clusters of trees within 30 ft of homes, slash and fire wood piled within 30 ft of homes or on /under decks, combustible deck furniture on or under decks, tall dead pine trees near homes, over grown aspen clusters near homes, tall grasses along streets (cigarettes) are often tossed from cars), grasses, leaves, combustibles adjacent to wood siding (a 2 to 6 ft stone or gravel buffer is safer), log piles and slash on vacant lots beneath healthy trees, unclear house numbers.

The house number is a critical problem to identify your home for emergency responders including Fire, Rescue, and Medical personnel. Many homes are not readily identified from the street. Problems include unclear contrasts between numbers and backgrounds, numbers should be large and reflective, so that they are visible at night in dark, unlit conditions. Homes with good numbers, often have numbers that are not readily seen by headlights. Seconds are often critical to emergency responders, hence the need to have clearly identified homes.

For more information you may contact the local Lake Dillon Fire – Rescue experts. Steve Lipsher, Public Affairs Coordinator, will conduct individual inspections upon request (970 262 5209 or slipsher@ldfr.org). Their web site: www.ldfr.org has much critical information regarding fire mitigation and emergency evacuation preparations and procedures. Summit County also has

excellent information at: <http://summitnet.com/countygov/> and <http://www.co.summit.co.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/507>

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

www.csfs.colostate.edu

Some Examples of Hazards:

Furniture storage below deck and house number hidden from road:



Woody flowerbed cover combustible; good stone perimeter to house:



Low contrast numbers and small tree hidden numbers:



Tall grasses and thick new growth aspen:



Thick aspen and pine between houses, low contrast numbers away from street:



Thick trees with log and slash piles on ground:



Well kept defensible yard, wood > 30 ft from home, low grasses, thin trees; power-line tree problem (need to request that XCEL Energy remove trees):

