

Preparing Mesa Cortina for Wildfire



FIRE & EMS

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Fire Risk and Fire Mitigation

- **FIRST: HOW DO HOMES CATCH ON FIRE?** (HINT: EMBERS VS. FLAMES)
- **HOME HARDENING VS. HOME IGNITION ZONES**
 - Home hardening: how resistant the infrastructure of your home is to flaming front and ember cast
 - The home ignition zones: the first 100 feet around a home (and sometimes more; think slope, volatile fuels, etc). Defensible space is the area around a home that has been modified to reduce risk of structure loss by removing and reducing woody fuels.



Wildfire preparedness: Structure Hardening

https://youtu.be/QQIHtMQ_y5k

Roof Material:
Class A (Asphalt
shingles, concrete
or clay tiles, metal)

Exterior Vents &
chimneys:
Enclosed with 1/8"
mesh

Gutters, patios &
decks maintained
clear of
combustibles

Windows: Double
pane tempered
glass

Siding: Wood vs
Vinyl vs cement or
metal

Fences: Separate
from home,
material



Wildfire preparedness: Home Ignition Zones (HIZ)

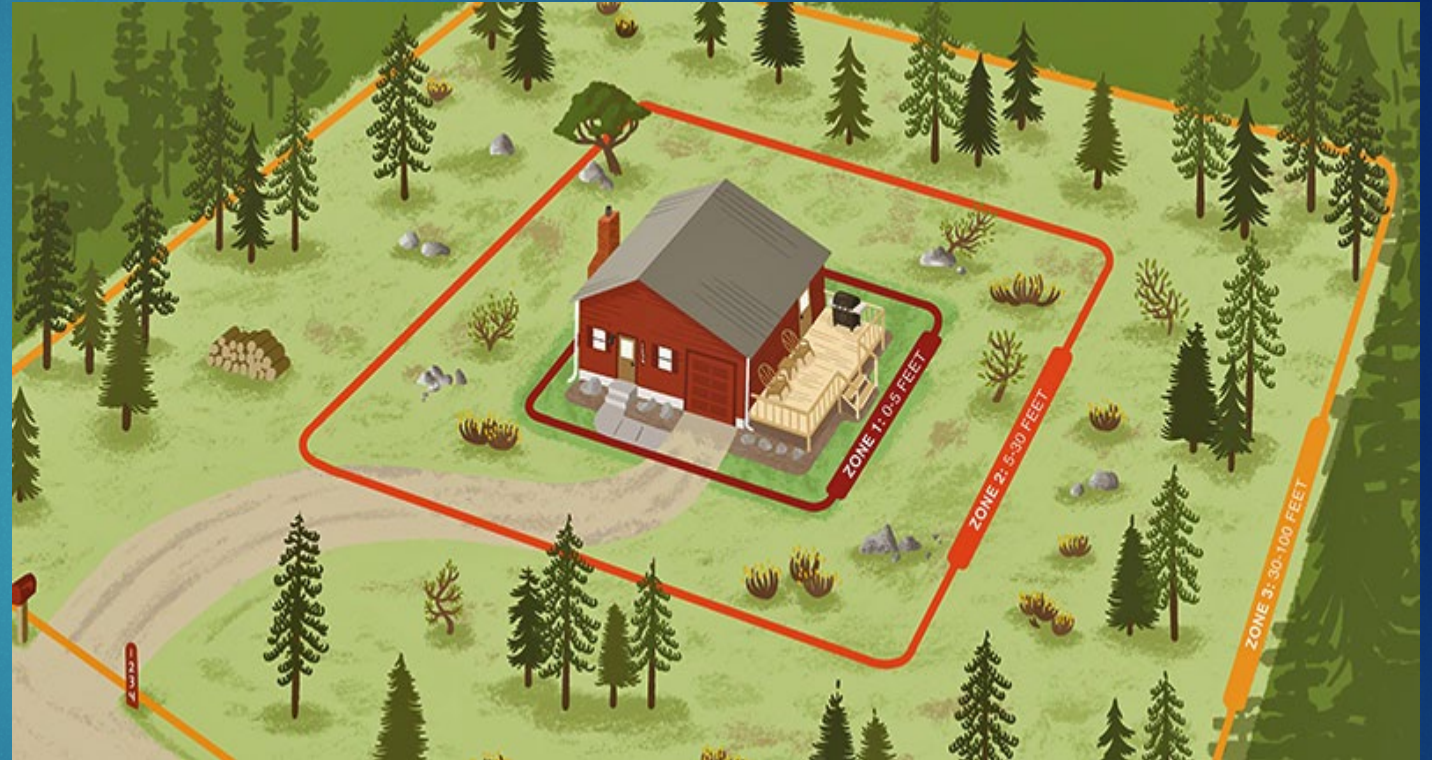
First 5 feet: Non-combustible or maintained mowed very short

5-30 feet: Canopy spacing*, nothing dead

*10-18 feet in conifers, less in deciduous

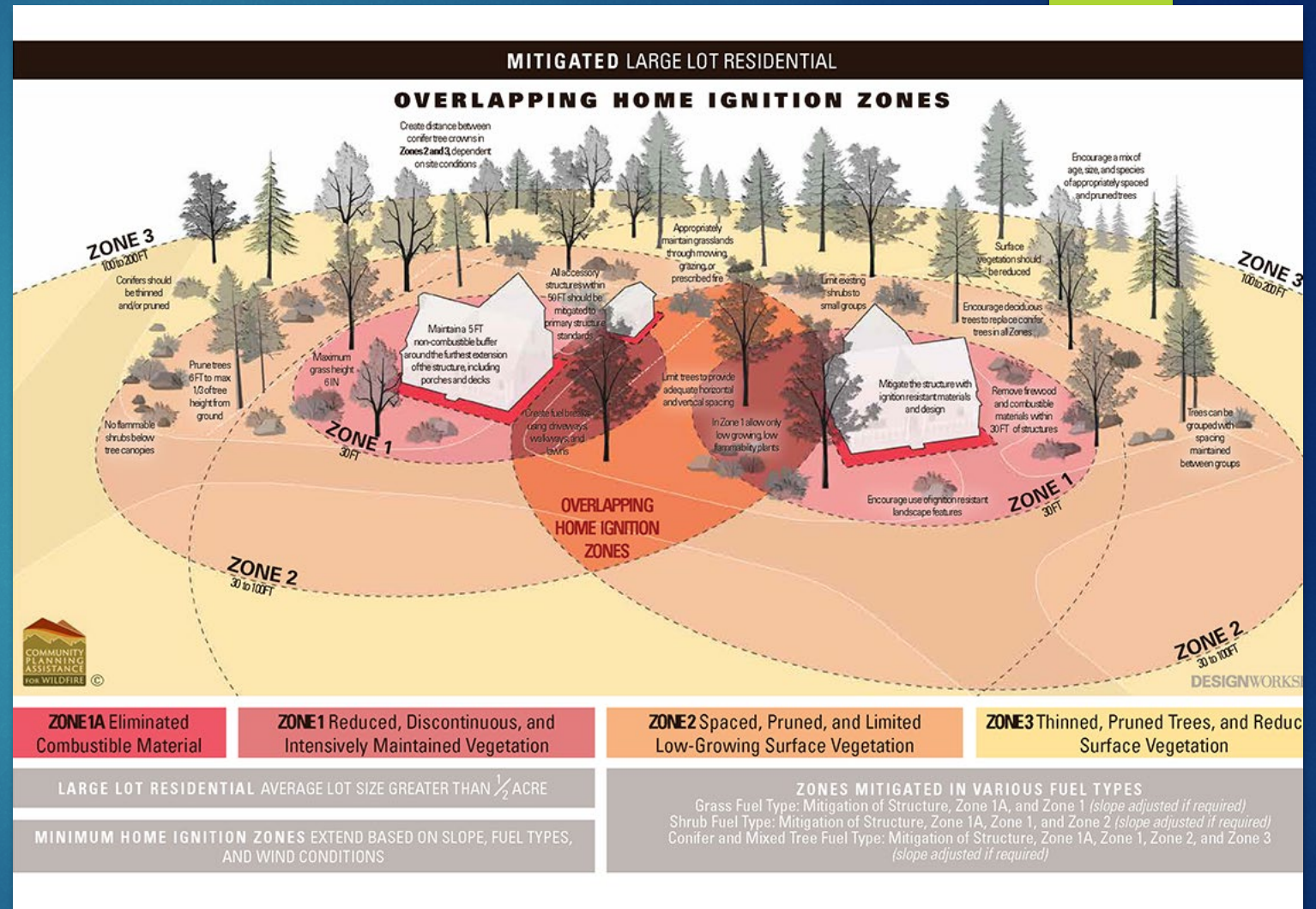
30-100 feet: Less canopy spacing*, nothing dead

*6-12 feet depending on species & slope



When Home Ignition Zones overlap

- ▶ Wildfire mitigation requires care and regard for the entire neighborhood; even if your personal risk tolerance is high, your neighbor's might not be.
- ▶ Structure-to-structure spread can be prevented through mitigation between homes.



Structure Triage 101: How firefighters make decisions to defend homes during a wildfire

- ▶ Firefighters assess structure survivability in a triage process and sort homes into categories:
 - ▶ Defensible – Prep & Hold
 - ▶ Defensible – Standalone
 - ▶ Non-Defensible – Prep and Leave
 - ▶ Non-Defensible – Rescue Drive-by
- ▶ Sorting depends on the home, terrain, ingress/egress, adjacent fuels, LCES, fire conditions, resources

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Type 1 Engine Access?

Address or Location

W Water Source? define below	100 Feet Defensible Space?	+ Civilians Present?
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Special Notes or Hazards: **+1**

**WATER TANK
LIVESTOCK
SOLAR PANELS ON HILLSIDE
WOOD SIDING/COMP. ROOF**

Date _____ Resource ID **E1560**
Time **9/27/16 @ 22:52**

The final decision to defend a structure is always up to the assigned resource

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Type 1 Engine Access?

Address or Location

W Water Source? define below	100 Feet Defensible Space?	+ Civilians Present?
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Special Notes or Hazards:

NO ADDRESS FOUND

Date **9/27/16** Resource ID **E1560**
Time **1316**

The final decision to defend a structure is always up to the assigned resource

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Insurance Considerations

- ▶ Annually: update policy, check in with agent, verify sufficient coverage.
- ▶ Regularly: Inventory and record your home's contents. Photograph and digitally store photos of rooms, home contents and important documents. Make note of especially valuable items, keep receipts and consider professional appraisal.
- ▶ In this era of insurance difficulties: Inquire with insurer about mitigation steps, shop around, understand your policy. Some insurance companies value mitigation work and others don't, but it never hurts to do it.

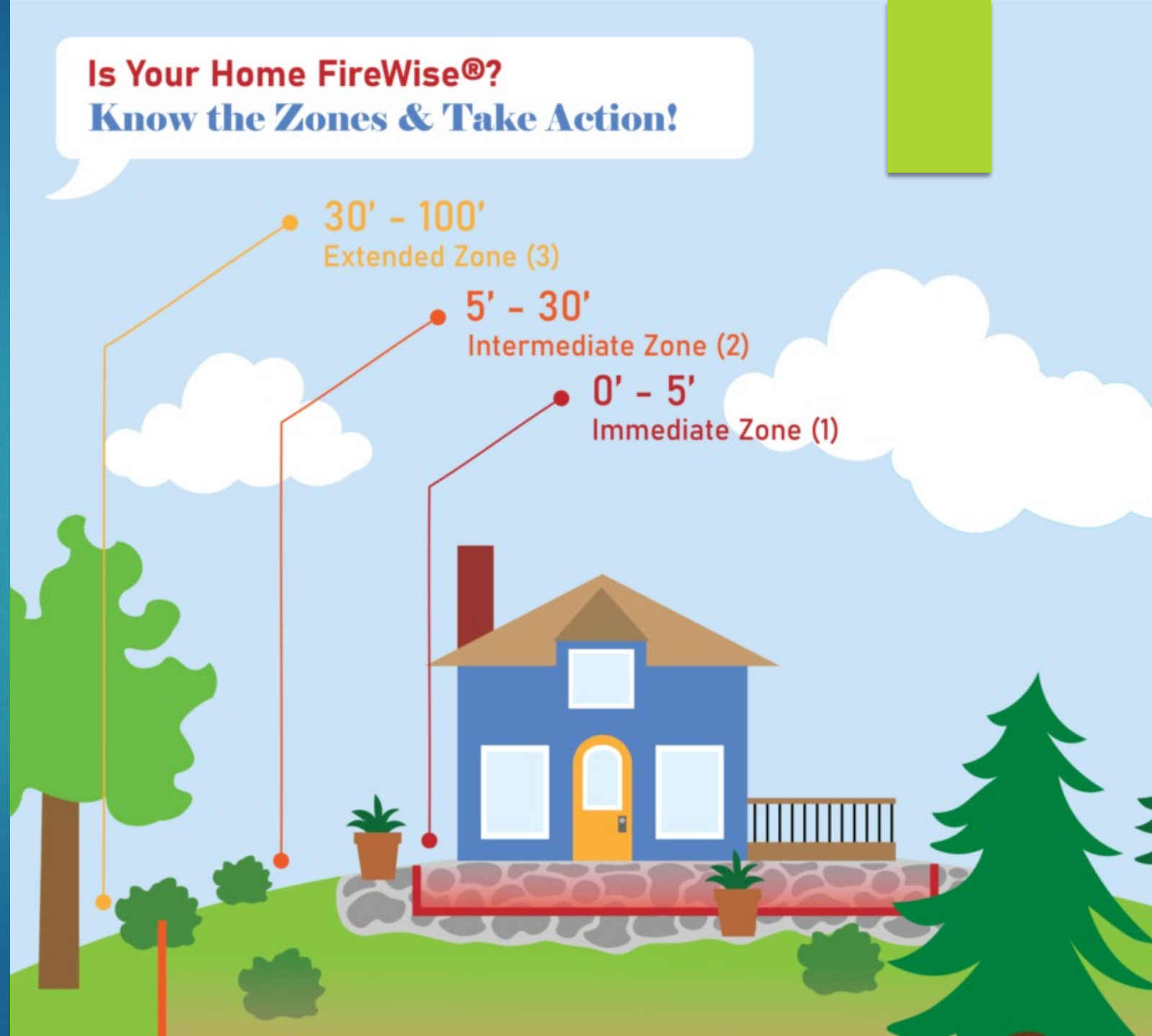
How the work gets done in Summit County

- ▶ Homeowners do work in Home Ignition Zones & on their acreage with RX help from fire districts
- ▶ Summit County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grants & County chipping program
- ▶ County, Towns, Colorado State FS & USFS ongoing mitigation work
- ▶ Prescribed fire



The Wildfire Preparedness Take-Away:

- Prepare your property to survive a wildfire by performing home hardening and fuels reduction.
- Prepare yourself by making sure you're aware of wildfire risk and alerted of evacuations.
- Get your neighborhood involved.
- Share the information, make a plan, have community work days, prepare for wildfire together.





Thank you!

Questions?