



Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department

#496 Palmer Trail, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Community Safety Bulletin #7



Spring Landscaping Tips.

Defensible space around your Home Ignition Zone doesn't have to be unnatural and sterile looking!

Landscaping Defensible Space

Colorado has great diversity in climate, geology and vegetation. Home and cabin sites can be found from the foothills through 10,000-foot elevations. Such extremes present a challenge in recommending plants. While native plant materials generally are best, a wide range of species can be grown successfully in Colorado. Many plant species are suitable for landscaping in defensible space. Use restraint and common sense, and pay attention to plant arrangement and maintenance. It has often been said that how and where you plant are more important than what you plant. While this is indeed true, given a choice among plants, choose those that are more resistant to wildfire.

Consider the following factors when planning, designing and planting the FireWise landscape within your home's defensible space:

- Landscape according to the recommended defensible-space zones. That is, the plants near your home should be more widely spaced and lower growing than those farther away.
 - Do not plant in large masses. Instead, plant in small, irregular clusters or islands.
 - Use decorative rock, gravel and stepping stone pathways to break up the continuity of the vegetation and fuels. This can modify fire behavior and slow the spread of fire across your property.
 - Incorporate a diversity of plant types and species in your landscape. Not only will this be visually satisfying, but it should help keep pests and diseases from causing problems within the whole landscape.
 - In the event of drought and water rationing, prioritize plants to be saved. Provide available supplemental water to plants closest to your house.
 - Use mulches to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. Mulch can be organic or inorganic. Do not use pine bark, thick layers of pine needles or other mulches that readily carry fire.
- Be creative! Further vary your landscape by including bulbs, Garden art and containers for added color.

Colorado Child Passenger Safety Law

- It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that child passengers are properly buckled up in the appropriate restraints on every trip.
- The child restraint must have a label that states it meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) 213. (FMVSS set forth in Section 49 C.F.R. 571.213, as amended).

Requirements:

- * The law requires infants to ride in a rear-facing child safety seat until they are at least one year old and weigh at least 20 lbs.



- * The law requires that children ages one to four years who weigh 20 lbs. up to 40 lbs. be restrained in a forward-facing child safety seat.

- * The law requires that children who weigh over 40 lbs. or who are at least four years old but less than six years old be properly restrained in a child booster seat or with a child safety belt positioning device, unless they are 55" tall.

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- * The law requires that a child who is at least six years old or is at least 55" tall, must be properly restrained with the motor vehicle's safety belt.



For More Information Contact:

www.carseatscolorado.com
(303) 239-4625 or 1-877-LUV-TOTS

Crystal Park now has an Insurance rating of "9"

Since its creation, Crystal Park has had the highest ISO rating of 10 (lower is better). ISO ratings are used by insurance companies to assess the level of risk your property is exposed to danger of Fire.

Last fall, the CPVFD met with the ISO evaluation representative and demonstrated the manning, training, and equipment necessary to show that we are a protected community.

This can translate into big savings with your annual insurance premium. If you're current rating is "10", contact your insurance agent and tell them to check the ISO database. We are now a 9!

How to contact us: If it's an emergency – **Dial 911**
Visit our Website at: Crystalparkvfd.org

Email the CPVFD Officers

Chief – John Hennessey ~ jhennessey@crystalparkvfd.org
DChief – Paul Welsch ~ pwelsch@crystalparkvfd.org

Put Fire Safety First, This Spring!

This year, while doing your spring cleaning, make it a priority to also conduct a spring fire safety check of your home to ensure that you and your home are as safe as possible. Unfortunately, home fires kill more than 4,000 people in America each year. However, you can reduce the likelihood of a fire in your home, and protect you, your family and your property from devastation by following these easy tips.

As you make your way from room to room with your feather duster, your vacuum and mop, pay special attention to the following "Hotspots," and correct any potentially dangerous situation with the "Quick Fixes" below.

CONCERN: ELECTRICAL WIRING & OUTLETS

Overloaded circuits and extension cords pose a real fire threat. Misusing electrical cords (such as running them under rugs, or putting them in high traffic areas) can result in electrical fires, which account for thousands of fires each year.

QUICK FIX:

Replace frayed wires or cords immediately. If you see overloaded wall sockets, remove some of the items and find a new outlet for them. Remove any cords running under carpeting or rugs. Do a quick scout of all rooms in your home to make sure no cords are trapped against walls (where heat can build up.)

ADD SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE TO YOUR SPRING CLEANING LIST.

Smoke alarms are very easy to care for. They require only two minor scheduled tasks:

1. Replace the batteries once a year. You may opt to schedule this yearly change to coincide with your spring cleaning, or perhaps schedule the change for an easily remembered day, such as your birthday or anniversary.
2. Keep them Clean. Just as you dust your bookshelves, make sure that your smoke alarm is free from dust and debris, as it may interfere with proper functioning. A quick vacuum around the smoke alarm regularly will do the trick.

CPVFD FIRE STATION

The New...Multi-Use building is almost done. Not only does this serve as the "Shelter in Place" for the Crystal Park CWPP, and a maintenance area to work on the Park's largest equipment; it also serves as the "station" for the CPVFD. Crystal Park volunteers have put in many hours of labor to build this structure at a cost-savings to the community and to maximize each dollar spent on its finishing.



CONCERN: ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Most often the electrical appliances which cause electrical fires are electric stoves, ovens, dryers, heating units, stereos and televisions.

QUICK FIX:

Always unplug electric appliances when not in use. Confirm that no flammable materials are within three feet of an electrical heater. Pay particular attention to stored items in basements and attics, by making sure they are far away from heaters.

CONCERN: KIDS AND MATCHES/LIGHTERS

Children playing with matches or lighters are responsible for more than 35,000 fires annually in the United States.

QUICK FIX:

You may learn of your children's curiosity with fire while you're spring cleaning. Look under all beds, and in "secret places" such as closets or basements, where your children may leave evidence that they have played with matches or lighters. Lock up all lighters or matches and reiterate to your children that fire is absolutely not a toy.

Did You Know?

- Sparky the Fire Dog was "born" in 1954. He has become the symbol of fire-safe practices everywhere.
- Smokey the Bear first appeared in 1944 to create an awareness for the need for fire prevention...Remember ONLY YOU can prevent forest fires.
- Fire Prevention week is always the full week – Sunday through Saturday – that includes the date of October 9th. The 9th marks the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that was reportedly started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicking over a lantern.
- Throughout the history of the United States, especially in the 18th & 19th centuries, most political & military leaders were members of volunteer fire departments. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Benedict Arnold and hundreds of other famous persons in history served as volunteer fire fighters.