

Preparedness Tidbits

Wildfire Season is Here

With the melting of the snow and the drier days, Larimer County enters its most dangerous season. Wildfire remains the top hazard countywide and all residents are reminded to be vigilant over the next several months to avoid the dangers that come with wildfire. Below is a short list of actions each homeowner can take to decrease the risk of wildfire at their home or business, while continuing to enjoy the beauty of the area.

- 1) **Remove dead or overhanging branches.** During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames, sparks and firebrands could travel from the tree to the roof of a structure. Trim all branches which extend over roof eaves and remove branches within 15 feet of chimneys.
- 2) **Remove leaf accumulation from your yard.** Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.
- 3) **Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters.** During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof and/or gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
- 4) **Remove tall, dry grasses.** Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house. Mow dry grass and weeds to a height of six inches or less for a distance of 30 feet from all structures.
- 5) **Remove “ladder fuels”.** Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6’ – 10’ from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
- 6) **Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair.** Refuel garden equipment carefully. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly – away from dry, flammable grasses.
- 7) **Prune bushes and shrubs regularly.** Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability, and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.
- 8) **Maintain the defensible space annually** by removing debris, shrubs and other vegetation which has accumulated during the year.



Information about Fire Restrictions in Larimer County can be found at:

www.larimer.org/emergency

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

ARES is a volunteer radio communications service that provides assistance during emergencies and disasters to the citizens and responders in Larimer County. ARES works together with the Office of Emergency Management and Emergency Services agencies to improve emergency communications capabilities.

With the diverse terrain in Larimer County, and the isolated nature of some communities, building a strong ARES network countywide is essential to ensure adequate communications when primary systems are lost. If you are interested in learning more about Amateur Radio, the ARES program, or would like to volunteer, please contact Jeff Ford at (970) 214-4135 or by email at k0jef@arrl.net.

Fireworks Safety

With warm weather and family events, the Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories. But before you light that first sparkler, take some time to learn about fireworks safety at one of the following sites:

<http://www.fireworkssafety.org/>

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/fireworks.html>

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!



How To Prepare For Anything

Larimer has begun a new preparedness program and we would like to bring it to a few more communities throughout the county. The Workshop features:

- Preparation for disturbances, not disasters
- Coping strategies and Solutions
- Short and long-term planning
- Personalized Preparedness Plan and Gap Analysis
- Framework for continued family and neighborhood discussions

Have you been thinking about developing a family plan? Do you not know where to start? If interested in learning how you, your family and your community can prepare for anything that comes your way, please contact the Office of Emergency Management for more information or to schedule a class in your area.

Office of Emergency Management

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