

# SELF SUFFICIENCY IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



## FIRE

## PREVENTING WILDFIRES

If your home borders wild-land take steps to reduce the risk of fire losses by creating a Safety Zone around your home:

- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home.
- Clear combustible material within 20 feet of your home and mow grass regularly.
- Clear all flammable vegetation, including leaves and twigs.
- Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns, and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- Remove dead tree branches that extend over the roof.
- Prune vegetation within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.

## WHAT TO DO ...

Although half of the wildfires in Colorado are lightning-caused, the rest have some human connection. Here are some tips to keep fires from starting:

Don't let junk accumulate. Clean out attics, basements, closets and garages often.

Check electrical wiring and appliances. Replace worn or frayed cords. Don't operate too many appliances on one circuit. Don't string extension wires all over the house, and never under rugs. Use irons or other heating appliances with caution.

Store explosive or flammable materials carefully outside. Never use gasoline, benzene, naphtha, or similar fluids indoors or near a flame: they will ignite readily from any kind of spark. Rags soaked with oil or turpentine sometimes catch fire by themselves, and therefore should never be left lying around.

Check heating devices. Many home fires are started by faulty furnaces and stoves, cracked or rusted furnace pipes, and soot chimneys.

Don't place papers or magazines on radiators or near stoves or fireplaces. Don't allow lamp shades to touch electric bulbs.

Be prepared before a fire occurs in your home by developing a safe route for your family and conducting regular fire drills. Decide upon two different exit paths from your home in case the first exit is blocked by fire and smoke. Select a specific place outside where everyone will meet. If your family meets in one place you can quickly tell firefighters if anyone is missing.

Make sure to clean your smoke detectors at least once a year because dust can damage the units. Also, test the detec-

tor periodically by pushing the test button. This should be done at least once a month. Check and replace batteries every six months.

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

**STAY LOW.** Don't stand up. If you are in bed, roll to the floor under the smoke.

**CRAWL** to the door, using the wall as a guide. Check the door for heat with the back of your hand before opening.

If the **DOOR IS COOL** open it only a crack so it can be shut quickly if there are flames or smoke on the other side. If the **DOOR IS HOT** or smoke is seeping underneath, **Do Not Open The Door**. Push a blanket, towel, robe or other heavy cloth in the crack.

Using the wall as a guide, **CRAWL TO A WINDOW AND OPEN IT**. Wave a sheet or large piece of fabric out the window and shout for help. Or if the window is low to the ground climb out of it.

Take **SHORT BREATHS** to avoid breathing in fumes and smoke, do not move towards smoke or fire.

When you escape a burning building, **NEVER RETURN** for something you forgot or to look for other people or a pet.

If firefighters are not on scene, call or tell someone to call 911. Do Not call from within your house, **ESCAPE FIRST**.