**Cedar Mesa Ranches Wildfire Mitigation**

Cedar Mesa Ranches is located in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), where homes are in close proximity to tree and shrubby vegetation subject to wildfire. Response times by local fire departments to a wildland fire are easily 30 minutes or more. Therefore, the subdivision covenants and common sense encourage homeowners to construct homes and manage the vegetation around their homes to make them resistant to wildfire. Home construction with metal roofing, soffits and fascias combined with flame-resistant siding and decks are less susceptible to ember showers and heat from wildfires. Landscaping with no shrubbery within five feet of the house, no overhanging trees, pruning up tree branches five to eight feet within 35 feet of the house and keeping firewood piles at least 50 feet from the house can keep flame fronts away from the house itself. Specific recommendations can be found at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA> .

**Wildfire Mitigation**

Wildfire mitigation actions are on-the-ground treatments of forested or wooded properties implemented to reduce the threat of wildfire. These actions can take place before, during or after a wildfire has occurred. Defensible space is the area around a home or other structure that has been modified to reduce fire hazard. In the area, natural and manmade fuels are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire. Creating defensible space also works in the reverse, and reduces the chance of a structure fire spreading to neighboring homes or the surrounding woodlands. Defensible space gives your home a fighting chance against an approaching wildfire. – *Colorado State Forest Service*

**Evacuation Alerts & Notifications:**

**Pre-Evacuation** – Gather your important documents and prepare for mandatory evacuation. Prepare your family & animals to quickly leave the residence. Load your belongings into your vehicle and ensure readiness of transportation.

**Mandatory Evacuation** – Leave your residence immediately and report to the designated shelter location. Once you leave, you will not be permitted to reenter until the evacuation is lifted.

**To receive emergency notifications from local agencies in Montezuma County:** https://local.nixle.com/register/