

# WILDFIRE PREVENTION

## CIRSA SAFETY QUIZ RESOURCE



*The risk of wildfires in Colorado is significant. Most wildfires are preventable and are caused by human activity; however, wildfires can be started in a number of ways. In many cases, injuries and property damage caused by fire may be limited by adhering to good loss control practices before, during, and after a wildfire occurs. The following information discusses how to prevent or reduce wildfire related claims in your entity and the surrounding communities.*

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## Wildfire Causes and Prevention Strategies:

### **Campfires/Campsites:**

Follow any state and federal restrictions. Restrict open fires (including outdoor grills/barbecues) to permit-only or ban open flames altogether; install fire breaks (roads and paths) in and around campgrounds; clear debris, grass, or leaves; conduct routine patrols; establish ordinances and penalties.

### **Smoking:**

Grade and/or mow grass and weeds on shoulders along roads to prepare for improper disposal of lit cigarettes, matches, etc.; remove the accumulation of natural fuels and debris from ditches; install fire breaks; install warning signs indicating fire danger along road sides; and install signs advising of penalties for causing a wildfire.

### **Trash, Debris, Landscape Burning:**

Restrict to permit-only or ban the activity via ordinance. Have the local fire department monitor permitted burns.

### **Arson:**

Increase security patrols; secure abandoned facilities; remove accumulation of natural fuels and debris; mow grass and weeds; establish a neighborhood

watch program; post signs and communicate the penalties for violations.

### **Vehicles and equipment:**

Inspect and maintain vehicles and equipment; do not stop or park running or hot vehicles in tall grass/weeds; install adequate size and class of fire extinguishers in all vehicles; remove the accumulation of natural fuels and debris near liquid fueling stations; install and maintain spark arrestors on equipment; communicate the need for equipment maintenance and use of spark arrestors to citizens.

### **Railroads:**

Remove the accumulation of natural fuels and debris near tracks; install fire breaks (roads and paths) in and along high hazard areas.

### **Fireworks:**

Follow any state and federal restrictions. Consider banning or restricting the use of fireworks; communicate penalties for non-compliance; conduct patrols; establish ordinances. Contract out firework displays and include hold harmless and indemnification language in the contract.

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**Airports:**

Remove the accumulation of natural fuels and debris near runways, ramps, and buildings; keep grass/weeds mowed near runways and fueling stations. Require proper grounding and bonding procedures when fueling.

**Structural Fires:**

Communicate the need for property owners to remove the accumulation of natural fuels and debris around structures and keep weeds/grass mowed short; install fire breaks in wooded areas.

In addition to these proactive measures, it's important to provide training and education to personnel working in and around these conditions so that they are able to fight fire in its infancy stages. Supply staff with the necessary equipment and personal protective equipment to extinguish small fires and prevent the spread of wildfire. Items to consider providing:

- Dust mask
- Hard hat
- Flame resistant clothing
- Gloves
- Hearing protection for use of motorized equipment
- Rakes
- Heavy footwear
- Shovels
- Eye protection
- Fire extinguishers

**SAFERTOGETHER**

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