



**Wildfire Partners is accepting applications for 2015 at [www.WildfirePartners.org](http://www.WildfirePartners.org)**

Wildfire Partners is a voluntary program to help homeowners prepare for wildfire. This program is supported by Boulder County and a \$1.5 million grant from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. We have also applied for a \$1.125 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In 2014, 450 homeowners and 35 partner organizations actively participated in this new, dynamic program. Residents really appreciated the numerous benefits the program offered: 91% said they were very likely or likely to refer Wildfire Partners to a friend or neighbor. We had a waiting list most of last year because interest in the program exceeded available funding. Due to the program's popularity, we expect to allocate all available funding again this year.

Become a Wildfire Partner. Be a positive role model for others. Help create a more resilient community. Receive technical assistance and financial support. Obtain a Wildfire Partners Certificate that is automatically recognized as proof of proper mitigation by select insurance companies. **Apply today!**

### **Why You Should Apply**

The *Fourmile Canyon Fire Findings*<sup>1</sup> concluded "the responsibility for reducing vulnerability to wildfire rests with the homeowner," and "fire disasters cannot be prevented without homeowners actively creating and maintaining Home Ignition Zones with low home ignition potential." Wildfire Partners offers motivated homeowners many benefits:

- **An individual, on-site, wildfire home assessment** – If you are accepted into Wildfire Partners, you will actively participate in your comprehensive assessment with a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. Together, one of your tasks will be to examine the trees and other vegetation in your defensible space zones one and two. The specialist will mark vegetation with blue paint for removal. Valued at \$250, the assessment takes two to four hours to complete and is provided at a charge of \$50.
- **A customized report that identifies the weak links in your home's defenses** – This report will specify precisely what actions you should take to reduce your vulnerability to wildfire. It will include your check list of items to mitigate, annotated photos of your vulnerabilities, and additional information on wildfire mitigation and preparedness.

<sup>1</sup> Russell Graham et al. 2012. *Fourmile Canyon Fire Findings*. Gen Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-289. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.



- **Financial awards starting at \$500 to subsidize the cost of hiring a Wildfire Partners Forestry Contractor<sup>2</sup>** – The exact amount of your financial award will **NOT** be made until after you complete your home assessment and select a Wildfire Partners Forestry Contractor's bid. Most Wildfire Partners Awards will be between \$500 and \$2,000. Wildfire Partners financial awards are paid directly to the forestry contractor who performs your defensible space work. Wildfire Partners awards are not given to the homeowner. Since there is an enormous range in the amount of work to be performed and participants' ability to pay, the amount of these awards will also vary accordingly.
- **Free access to Wildfire Phone Advisors** – For participants in the program, advisors will be available by phone at 303-446-7877 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, to answer questions and help you through the program. This additional assistance proved to be extremely valuable during our first year.
- **A Wildfire Partners Certificate and letter stating that you have mitigated your home** – After you complete your mitigation check list, the Wildfire Mitigation Specialist will return for your follow-up inspection. If you pass this inspection, you will receive your certificate and letter that you can send to your insurance company. Allstate recognizes this certificate as proof of proper mitigation. State Farm recognizes this certificate for renewal business. Farmers and USAA Insurance participate on the program's advisory committee and are currently evaluating our certification process. We expect additional companies to join this list of companies in 2015. We are not aware of any insurance companies who denied coverage for Wildfire Partners certified homes in 2014.
- **Increased peace of mind** – By completing mitigation measures correctly, you will feel good about yourself knowing you have acted responsibly to help protect your family and the first responders who put their lives on the line for your community. At the same time, you will learn about fire behavior and understand that becoming a Wildfire Partner does not guarantee your home will survive a wildfire.



## How to Apply

You must apply and be accepted into the program to take advantage of this opportunity. We hope to accept 400 homeowners in 2015. Strong applications that are not selected will be placed on the program's waiting list.

The Wildfire Partners' application can be completed and submitted online at [www.WildfirePartners.org](http://www.WildfirePartners.org). If you are unable to submit an application online, you may call a Wildfire Advisor at 303-446-7877 and complete your application over the phone. The application can be completed in less than 10 minutes. In addition to contact information, the application contains eligibility requirements and application questions.

<sup>2</sup> To receive a financial award, you must select an approved Wildfire Partners Forestry Contractor. This list of contractors is available on our website at [www.WildfirePartners.org](http://www.WildfirePartners.org).