

Dear Champions,

For those of you I don't know my name is Andrew Notbohm and I will be taking over Chris Barth's duties (formally known as FireWise) coordinating the CSFD neighborhood chipping program. As I look back on 2009, I am impressed by all the chipping accomplishments due to the participation of Champions like you and the neighbors in your community. And although it is only February, we are gearing up for another busy year of neighborhood chipping and wildfire mitigation in Colorado Springs. My hope is we will continue to surpass past participation levels and that 2010 will be our biggest year yet.

Wildfire Mitigation (formerly know as FireWise)

As many of you are aware, we have changed our program name from *FireWise* to *Wildfire Mitigation*. This change has been in the works for awhile to avoid confusion with "Firewise Communities USA" and to better encompass the change in our program to include fuels management. We have produced new brochures and should have new CSFD "Wildfire Mitigation" folders ready to distribute by the end of the month.

2010 City Budget

The City of Colorado Springs is experiencing significant economic hardship. At this time, it is unclear what the specific impacts mean for the CSFD in 2010 and beyond. We are committed, however, to offering *Wildfire Mitigation* presentations and on-site consultations throughout the year, as well as scheduled neighborhood chipping events (see below). We will continue to monitor the situation and continually explore ways to offer a consistent level of services with fewer resources.

Wildfire Mitigation Meetings

Now is the perfect time to schedule *Wildfire Mitigation* presentations for your community. In addition to a dedicated *Wildfire Mitigation* meeting with revised presentation, we would be happy to offer a brief update during one of your regularly scheduled meetings. *Wildfire Mitigation* meetings are a great way to get informed about wildfire mitigation, wildfire evacuation, our chipping program and the latest information about fuels reduction activity in your area.

On-Site Consultations

While the *Wildfire Mitigation* presentation is a great way to learn about the broad features of our program, the on-site consultation is the best way to determine what specific actions **you** can take on your property to reduce your wildfire risk. Often the winter, when vegetation is dormant, is a good time to have an on-site consultation and plan your wildfire mitigation activities as it can be easier to get into the trees and do work. On-site consultations can be scheduled Monday through Thursday between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm. Please **call** to set up an on-site consultation.

Neighborhood Chipping

Last year, we asked each of you to supply us with a list of those participating in chipping at least one week prior to the beginning of chipping in your neighborhood. Due to our loss of staff, it is essential that we maintain this status quo. Our tag line ***Sharing the Responsibility*** is more pertinent now than ever. Thank you for your diligence in making this happen, and please let me know if there is anything I can do to help facilitate this request. As always, we ask you to help educate homeowners about our chipping guidelines (electronic copy upon request).

What's Acceptable:

- Woody limbs and branches only – up to 9" diameter.
- No construction or building materials. Must be clear of nails or wire.
- No grass clippings or bags of leaves
- No Trash, weeds or yuccas
- No root wads, dirt or rocks.
- Piles only. No bags.

Pile Guidelines:

- Piles must be stacked with cut ends facing the road.
- Piles must be within 5' of the roadway.
- Limit pile size to 5'x5'x5'. No limit as to the number of piles
- Slash mulch will be hauled away for recycling or a full load can be left on-site for mulch when requested.
- Do not combine piles with neighbors or haul in material from other neighborhoods.

We are continuing this year to schedule neighborhood chipping events regionally throughout the city. This change has allowed us to improve coordination and efficiency, but means if you share a week with another community you may not see us in your neighborhood until mid week. However, the expectation remains that piles will be curbside Monday morning of the week scheduled. Please be patient with our crew and know we will get to the piles in your community the week scheduled.

2010 Chipping Schedule

Week of:	Neighborhood	Notes
5/3/2010	Mountain Shadows	
5/10/2010	Pleasant Valley/Panorama	
5/17/2010	Greencrest	
5/24/2010	Raven Hills	
5/31/2010	Skyway/ Skyway Heights	Will begin on 6/1
6/7/2010	Stratton/ TOSHOA/ Gold Camp	
6/14/2010	Hunters Point/ Oak Valley	
6/21/2010	Discovery/ Pine Cliff	
6/28/2010	Eagle Rock/ University Park/ Craigmoor Village	
7/5/2010	N. Cheyenne Canyon	Will begin on 7/6
7/12/2010	Cedar Heights	
7/19/2010	Erindale Heights/ Erindale Park/ Valley @ Erindale	

7/26/2010 Woodman Oaks/ Golden Hills
8/2/2010 Sanctuary @ Peregrine/ Village @ Peregrine
8/30/2010 Broadmoor Bluffs/ Mt. Oaks/ Point @ Cheyenne Mt Ranch
9/6/2010 Country Broadmoor Will begin on 9/7
9/13/2010 Broadmoor Resort Community
9/20/2010 Broadmoor Vista/ The Spires
10/4/2010 Mesa/ Friendship Crescent
10/18/2010 Comstock Village

Other News

Keep an eye out late spring/ early summer for updates to the *Wildfire Mitigation* web site.

As always, I appreciate your ongoing commitment and dedication to Sharing the Responsibility of living in the wildland urban interface and reducing your wildfire risk!

Thanks,

Andrew Notbohm

Wildland Fuel Program Coordinator

Colorado Springs Fire Department