

Hello Champions,

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Andrew Notbohm, Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator for the Colorado Springs Fire Dept. And although it is only February, we are gearing up for another busy year of neighborhood chipping and wildfire mitigation in Colorado Springs. As we look back on 2010, we are impressed by all the chipping accomplishments due to Champions like you and the neighbors in your community. Our hope is that we will continue to surpass previous participation levels and that 2011 will be our biggest year yet.

New and Familiar Faces

The CSFD Wildfire Mitigation Division welcomes back Roger Mounts, recently promoted to Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator after a 3 year hiatus. A retired Lieutenant with the CSFD, Roger brings a wealth of knowledge to our Division. He is an experienced contract administrator who was instrumental in establishing initial mitigation efforts in Colorado Springs. Expect to see Roger at *Wildfire Mitigation* meetings, administering contracts and conducting on-site consultations this summer. Christina Randall has been busy working on a new strategic vision for the *Wildfire Mitigation Division* and putting the finishing touches on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the City of Colorado Springs to update our 10 year old Wildfire Mitigation Plan. We're also in the process of hiring two lead positions for our Fuels and Chipping crews to join returning crew members, Aaron Schanel, Jay Houghton and Jeremy Taylor, for the field season.

Wildfire Mitigation Meetings

Now is the perfect time to schedule *Wildfire Mitigation* presentations for your community. In addition to a dedicated *Wildfire Mitigation* meeting, 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. Please let me know what you would like to cover and I'll do my best to cater to your needs.

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. The winter time, 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 or evenings by appointment. Please *call* 719-385-7342 to set up an on-site consultation.

Neighborhood Chipping

Like in past years, we're asking 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. This helps with crew scheduling and is consistent with our tag line, ***Sharing the Responsibility***. 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 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. My hope is to have our chipping sign-up available electronically sometime in 2011, so stay tuned. ☺

2011 Chipping Schedule

Week of: Neighborhood

5/30/2011 Raven Hills (Start 5/31)

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!

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