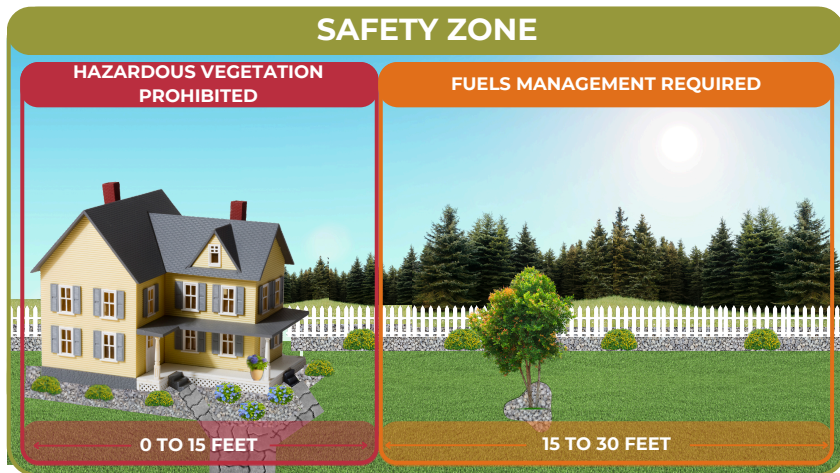


# WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

## APPENDIX K

You live in the Colorado Springs Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where there is a heightened risk to wildfire. The WUI is a geographically defined area where houses and businesses are in or near mixed topographical and geographical features with various timber, brush, and grass species. As a new resident in the community, you have a responsibility to know and follow the codes and ordinances that apply to living in the WUI.



**BE ADVISED!**

**Your construction project must comply with Appendix K of the Colorado Springs Fire Codes and could expand the scope of your project.**

The WUI codes define safe structure hardening and vegetation management techniques to build defensible space and increase home's stand-alone survivability during a wildfire. Newly built and newly modified structures in the WUI must adhere to the latest fuels management codes. Fuels management is required within the **SAFETY ZONE**, which is the first thirty feet (30') immediately surrounding a structure, not to exceed beyond the property line.

### 0-15 Feet Hazardous Vegetation Prohibited

- Hazardous vegetation is prohibited (conifer plants)
- Brush patches and clusters must be separated by at least 10 feet of non-combustible materials, not exceed 15 linear feet, and be smaller 100 square feet
- Grasses must be mowed to 4 inches or less
- Pruning of dead limbs

### 15-30 Feet Fuels Management Required

- Ladder fuel removal
- Brush patches and clusters must be separated by at least 10 feet of non-combustible materials, not exceed 15 linear feet, and be smaller 100 square feet
- Grasses must be mowed to 4 inches or less



**FIRECONSTRUCTIONSERVICES@  
COLORADOSPRINGS.GOV**



**(719)385-5982**



**COSWILDFIREREDY.ORG**



# APPENDIX K WUI CODES

## It is important to remember that mitigation is NOT about CLEAR CUTTING!

To properly create defensible space and mitigate property, it is essential to learn how applying fuels management and a fire-resistant landscape design can reduce the likelihood of a home igniting from a fire. The main focus is the first 30 feet around the structure or the property line. Once the first 30 feet are correctly mitigated, increasing the mitigated space will continue to decrease the area's risk during a wildfire.

All information listed below is referenced from the 2021 International Fire code as Amended in Ordinance No. 23-14 (Appendix K) and must be followed per the Fire Code Official.

<https://coloradosprings.gov/system/files/2023-04/Signed%20Ordinance%20No.%2023-14.pdf>

### BRUSH PATCHES OR CLUSTERS

Brush patches or clusters may be left in the safety zone but shall be separated by clear areas of at least ten feet (10') or more of non-combustible materials and/or grass mowed to not more than four inches (4) in height. Small brush patches should not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in size and no more than fifteen (15) linear feet in any direction.



Separated Oak



Clustered Oak

### CLEARANCE TO THE MAIN STRUCTURE

No hazardous brush or trees (i.e., junipers and conifers) shall be allowed within fifteen feet (15') of the main structure or ancillary building as measured from the drip line of the tree. Conifers or other similarly combustible plants shall not be planted under soffit vents. Approved plants with fire resistant characteristics are allowed within fifteen feet (15') of the main structure or ancillary structure.



Conifer Trees 15' From Structure



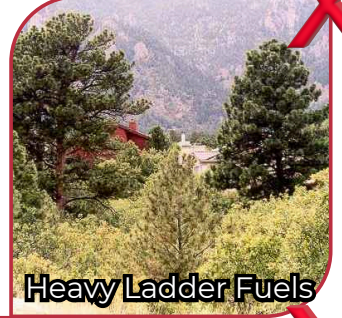
Conifer Tree Within 15' of the Structure

### PRUNING OF DEAD LIMBS

Large trees shall not be allowed to have limbs overlap another tree and shall be pruned of dead limbs to a height of up to ten feet (10') above the ground or no more than one-third the height of the tree. Tree clusters may be allowed if sufficient clear area is provided and approved. Removing the lower 30% and retaining 70% of the plant will reduce fuel continuity throughout the safety zone.



Ladder Fuels Cleared



Heavy Ladder Fuels

### CLEARANCE OF TREE BRANCHES TO STRUCTURE

Tree branches, with the exception of character trees and deciduous trees, shall not extend over or under the roof or eaves and shall not be within fifteen feet (15') of a deck or similar combustible projection, wood burning appliance, or chimney.



Properly Limbed

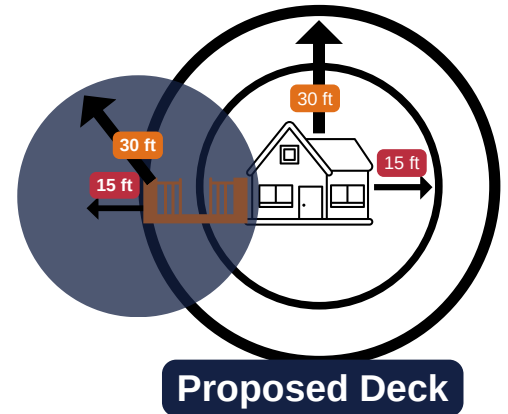


Conifer Tree Extending Over Roof



# APPENDIX K WUI CODES

When viewing the WUI codes, you should reference the edition in place when your home was built. All new construction must apply to the current version of the code to include fuels management. If you are modifying, adding, or reconstructing exterior cladding, decks or ancillary structures, those changes are considered new construction. Fuels management requirements will apply within the scope of work and require that the 30 feet safety zone radius be properly mitigated or up to the property line.



## DECKING MATERIALS

As of June 30th, 2023, the updated code designates that if a deck is added, modified, altered or reconstructed, the replacement materials should be ignition resistant and should adhere to Appendix K. Therefore, any reconstruction on already established decks must be rebuilt with ignition resistant materials, like composite or metal and be designed with proper fuels management.



## EXTERIOR CLADDING

All lots within the wildland urban interface with dwelling units and ancillary buildings in which are completely rebuilt or receive 50% net or more exterior siding/covering/material replacement on or after June 30th, 2023, will be constructed with ignition resistant materials. The siding on a structure has the largest surface area which receives the most heat from a wildfire.



## ANCILLARY STRUCTURES

As of June 30th, 2023, the new WUI codes contain updated scope that specifies that dwelling units AND ancillary buildings constructed or reconstructed on or after January 15, 2013 must comply with Appendix K. Ancillary buildings are structures constructed for non-residential occupancy that provide support to the primary activities or use of the lot.



# CONSTRUCTION IN THE WUI

Visit [coswildfireready.org](http://coswildfireready.org) to learn about the latest codes and ordinances for living in the WUI.

Scope of Work:     Siding     Decking     Ancillary Structures

As a homeowner in the Colorado Springs' WUI, I acknowledge that I have a responsibility to know and follow the WUI codes and ordinances and the Colorado Springs Fire Department has provided resources and education to better understand my homeowner responsibility in reducing risk to wildfire.

<b>Occupant</b>	<b>Printed</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Line 1</b>	<b>Line 2</b>
	<b>City</b>	<b>State / Zip</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>CSFD Representative</b>	<b>Printed</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Date</b>		

