



## BENT TREE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2631, Monument, CO 80132 [www.btpoa.net](http://www.btpoa.net)

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To: All Bent Tree Property Owners  
From: John Anderson, Chair of the BTPOA Forestry Committee  
Date: June 30, 2012

I am sure all of us are aware of the wildfire disasters in Colorado. We must emphasize what has to be done to improve our odds in the event of a wildfire. It is urgent that we promptly create defensible space 30 feet around our homes. Below are suggestions to improve your protection and that of your neighbors.

Immediate things you should address now: Within the defensible area around your home, mow dead grass to a minimum of 2 inches; remove pine needles and leaves from your gutters; remove dead limbs, leaves and ground litter; prune dead branches 6 feet from the ground, and irrigate. Use care when mowing as mowers have been known to start fires. Note that all fireworks and open fires are prohibited in Bent Tree.

Do the following as soon as you can:

1. Thin continuous tree and brush cover within 30 feet of your home. It is suggested that any trees within 30 feet of your home also be removed. In the 30 foot defensible space, adequate thinning is reached when the outer edge of tree crowns are at least 10-12 feet apart. Occasional clumps of 2-3 trees are acceptable if more space surrounds them. Small patches of brush or shrubs may be left if they are separated by at least 10 feet of irrigated grass or noncombustible material. If the home is located on the crest of a steep hill, thin fuels at least 100 feet below the crest.
2. Dispose of all slash and debris left from thinning.
3. Remove dead limbs, leaves, and other ground litter within the defensible space.
4. Store firewood uphill at least 15 feet from your home.
5. Maintain an irrigated greenbelt immediately around your home.
6. Within the defensible space, mow dry grasses and weeds to a height of 2 inches or less and keep well-watered, especially during periods of high fire danger.
7. Prune branches from trees within the defensible space to a minimum of 6-10 feet above the ground. Also remove shrubs, small trees or other potential "ladder fuels" from beneath large trees. Left in place, these can carry a brush fire into the tree crowns.
8. Trim branches that extend over the eaves of your roof. Remove branches within 15 feet of a chimney.
9. Clean roof and gutters of pine needles and leaves to eliminate a fuel source for blown embers.
10. Reduce the density of the surrounding forest at least 100 feet out from your home. It is preferable to thin your entire lot. Thin tree crowns so they do not touch each other.

These 10 points were extracted from the Bent Tree Forest Stewardship Management Plan, which may be viewed in full at [www.btpoa.net/forest/ForestryIntro.htm](http://www.btpoa.net/forest/ForestryIntro.htm). We also recommend that you review additional fire safety tips at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

While the Bent Tree Architectural Control Committee (ACC) is very supportive of fire mitigation, please coordinate with the ACC removal of any live trees of 4 inches diameter or larger. ACC Chair Mark Wester may be contacted at [acc@btpoa.net](mailto:acc@btpoa.net) or 492-7878.

Cutting down or trimming trees can be hazardous. The BTPOA recommends that you hire a professional tree service company.

Due to limited resources, fire crews fighting a wildfire focus on saving those homes where mitigation efforts have been implemented.

With high winds and drought, blown embers can start fires ¼ mile or more from an active wildfire so the BTPOA cannot guarantee that doing all of these things will save your home in the event of a wildfire, however, following these suggestions can improve the odds that your home will one of those that survives.

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