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CCME WILDFIRE MITIGATION NEWSLETTER

Current Fuel Moisture Index for Live Spruce in CCME is Extremely Dangerous

By Suzanne Adams

The fuel moisture index is a tool that is widely used to understand the fire potential for locations across the country. Fuel moisture is a measure of the amount of water in a fuel (vegetation) available to a fire, and is expressed as a percent of the dry weight of that specific fuel. For example, if a fuel were totally dry, the fuel moisture content would be zero percent. Fuel moisture is dependent upon both environmental conditions (such as weather, local topography, and length of day) and vegetation characteristics. When fuel moisture content is high, fires do not ignite readily, or at all, because heat energy must be used to evaporate and drive water from the plant before it can burn. When the fuel moisture content is low, fires start easily and will spread rapidly.

The most important factor influencing fuel moisture content is atmospheric moisture (relative humidity and precipitation), as it directly affects the drying and wetting processes of both live and dead fuels, impacting their flammability.

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Following is data related to fuel moisture samples for live spruce trees taken in CCME sent to me by Chief Chris Hawkins from Four Mile Fire:

Date	Fuel moisture	Fire danger rating
4/8/2025	61.7%	High
4/15/2025	22.8%	Extreme

Chief Hawkins told me that this is the lowest live spruce moisture rating recorded in CCME since they began collecting this type of data.

Fire danger ratings for live spruce:

< 80 %	Extreme
80 – 90 %	Very high
50 – 105 %	High
105 – 120 %	Medium
> 120 %	Low

Take a look at this data related to fuel moisture samples for live spruce trees taken in CCME provided by Chief Chris Hawkins from Four Mile Fire

Invitation to Our Next CCME Wildfire Mitigation Committee (WMC) Meeting

By WMC Co-chairs Suzanne Adams and Loren Gollhardt

As reflected in the fuel moisture report by Chief Hawkins, this is a critical time to think about wildfire mitigation in CCME. We are inviting residents of CCME who have an interest in wildfire risk mitigation to join us at our next WMC meeting on May 10, in the Clubhouse right after the Board meeting that day. Please come and give us your input to help us prepare a Wildfire Mitigation Action Plan for 2025. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

Please contact Suzanne Adams if you plan to attend: Suzanne.Adams@ucdenver.edu.

Chipping Days Schedule

Chipping

Dates: May 23 & 24, June 27 & 28, July 25 & 26, Aug 22 & 23, and Sept 26 & 27

Volunteers are needed to help with the chipping and for preparing/ serving the chippers lunch.

Call the office at 719-689-2549 or email us at ccmepoa@ccmepoa.com

MATERIALS GUIDELINES

Accepted materials include trees, logs and branches up to 6 inches in diameter, free of nails and wire. The following restrictions apply:

- No Willows: Willows help to slow the spread of fire, because they have high moisture content. Willows are also very fibrous, so they clog our chipping equipment.
- No cottonwood. Cottonwoods are important native trees that stabilize stream banks, take up storm water and serve as riparian wildlife habitat.
- No construction or building materials, treated lumber, fence posts or signs.
- No shrubs, root wads, stumps, dirt or rocks; these items clog and damage our chipping equipment.
- No grass clippings, trash, weeds, or bags of leaves.

PILE GUIDELINES

Piles must be stacked prior to your neighborhood's designated chipping week (see reverse for schedule). Call your local fire department to get on the schedule so that our chipping crews can plan their routes for that week. Chipping will take place Saturday through Friday of your neighborhood's designated chipping weeks. **Improperly stacked piles may not be identified or chipped.**

- Stack piles neatly (no bags), with the large cut ends of branches facing the road.

  (see photos below)
- **Place piles within 5 feet of the roadway, but not touching the road.**
- Maximum pile size is 5'X5'X5'. There is no limit on the number of piles that you may put out.
- After crews remove your pile, clear away any remaining branches, needles and debris.
- Do not combine piles with neighbors or place piles in other neighborhoods.

PROPERLY STACKED PILE

IMPROPERLY STACKED PILE

DIVIDE SLASH COLLECTION SITE

OPEN SATURDAYS 9AM-4PM

May 3—September 27, 2025

The site will be open until reaching full capacity, and may close without notice.

Consult the CUSP website for updates https://divideslashsite.com

Or call the CUSP office at 719-748-0033

$20 per pick-up load or equivalent

CASH OR CHECK ONLY

FREE MULCH! LOAD YOURSELF

GREAT FOR LANDSCAPING!

East of Hwy 24—Hwy 67 intersection

Hybrook Road south from Hwy 24

Site is on the left past Post Office

PLEASE

Maximum length = 6 feet

Maximum diameter = 8 inches

NO Stumps, Roots, Lumber

NO Weeds, Grass

NO Tires, Dirt, Trash Metal

NO Pinecones, Bark, Pine Needles not on branches

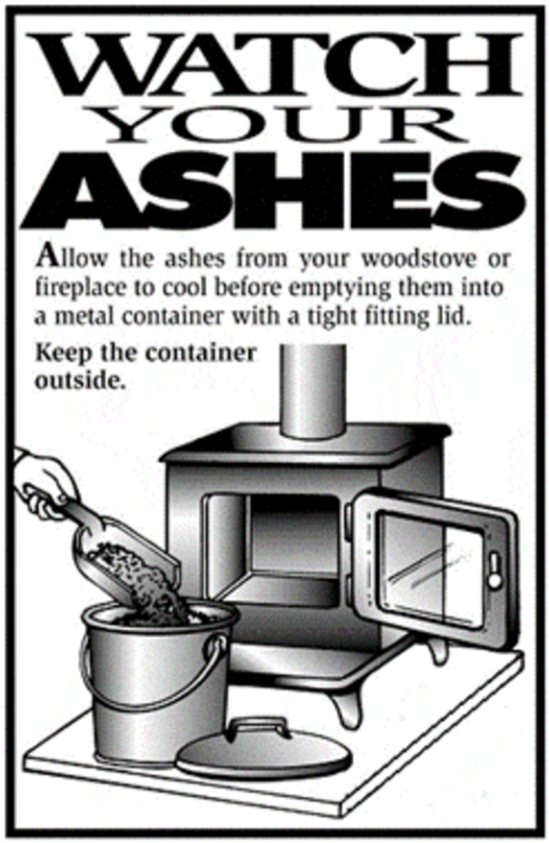
A service of Teller County and Coalition for the Upper South Platte

ILLEGAL DUMPING AT THE DIVIDE SLASH SITE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND MAY RESULT IN THE SITE CLOSING PERMANENTLY.

Disposing of Fireplace or Woodstove Ashes

By Loren Gollhardt

Do you heat your house with a wood stove or occasionally enjoy a crackling fire in the cold winter months? If you do, do you dump your ashes outside? Well, dumping your ashes outside is a no good, bad, terrible, horrible and just rotten idea. Many people believe that the ashes are completely cold and it will do no harm to dump them outside in the snow in the winter. After all, it is cold and fires don't burn very well in the cold so the chances of something happening are low. Right? Even if some ashes were a little warm, as soon as it hits the snow it will fizzle right out. Right?



The truth is, dumping your ashes outside in the snow is deadly. Every year our firefighters put out fires in peoples' yards that are started by the ashes they dumped a few hours ago, or even yesterday or the day before. You could be the guy whose ashes set your house on fire, spread to your neighbor's house, climb into the canopy, and start a catastrophic wildfire.