NuBilt Restoration & Construction

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Colorado Wildfire Preparedness Plan

Your complete guide to staying safe before, during, and after a wildfire. Simple. Fast. Fair. — 24/7 emergency response.

Colorado ranks among the most wildfire-prone states in the nation. With over 24 million acres of forest and grassland, high winds, dry conditions, and rapidly growing wildland-urban-interface communities, wildfires can ignite and spread with terrifying speed. NuBilt has served the Denver metro for over 30 years, responding to fire, water, and storm disasters 24/7. This guide helps you prepare before a fire threatens, act quickly when one does, and recover safely after.

1. Warning Signs — Know Before the Fire Starts

Wildfires rarely arrive without warning. Recognizing early indicators gives you critical time to prepare or evacuate.

Environmental & weather conditions

- Prolonged drought and below-normal precipitation — especially after a wet year that grew heavy vegetation (fuel load).
- Red Flag Warnings from the National Weather Service — low humidity (<15%), winds over 25 mph, and dry fuels.
- Gusty Chinook or Foehn winds off the Rockies, which rapidly dry vegetation and drive extreme fire spread.
- Lightning storms in dry conditions with little to no rainfall.
- Extended temperatures above 90°F combined with single-digit humidity.
- Unusual smoke smell — even faint, distant smoke signals fire somewhere upwind.

Visual indicators

- Visible smoke plumes on the horizon, especially billowing or dark columns.
- Orange or red sky at dawn or dusk — heavy smoke in the atmosphere.
- Ash falling from the sky or coating cars and outdoor surfaces.
- Wildlife (deer, elk, birds) fleeing an area in large numbers.
- Embers (firebrands) landing on your property — a major ignition source miles ahead of the fire front.

Community & official alerts

- FEMA Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your phone — keep it charged.
- Local sheriff / emergency-management notifications — sign up for your county's alert system.
- Evacuation Pre-Set (READY), Warning (SET), or Order (GO) levels posted by authorities.
- Fire engines or law enforcement staging in your neighborhood.
- Neighbors beginning to load vehicles — take this as a serious signal and act.

Colorado’s three evacuation levels — know them now

READY (Level 1): Fire is in the area. Be ready to leave at any moment — pack your go-bag now. SET (Level 2): Danger is imminent. Prepare to leave immediately; vulnerable persons should leave now. GO! (Level 3): Leave IMMEDIATELY. Do not delay for belongings. Your life is at risk. Call NuBilt after you are safe.

2. Your Go-Bag — Be Ready to Leave in Minutes

A go-bag (72-hour kit) should be packed and ready before any threat exists. Keep one bag per person, plus a separate bag for pets, near your exit door or in your vehicle during peak fire season (June–September).

Essential Documents (waterproof bag + cloud backups)

- Government IDs — driver's license, passport, birth certificates
- Social Security cards
- Insurance policies (home, auto, health, life) with policy numbers + agent contacts
- Property deed / mortgage documents and vehicle titles
- Recent photos/video of home interior and valuables
- Medical records, vaccination history, prescription information
- Bank account and financial records
- Printed emergency contact list
- USB drive with digital copies of all of the above

Medical & Health

- Prescription medications (7+ day supply)
- First-aid kit with printed manual
- Extra eyeglasses / contact lenses
- Hearing aids and extra batteries
- N95 or KN95 masks (smoke filtration)
- EpiPen or allergy medications
- Medical equipment (CPAP, nebulizer) and mental-health medications
- Hand sanitizer and antiseptic wipes

Water & Food

- 3+ gallons of water per person
- Portable water filter (e.g., LifeStraw)
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Manual can opener; utensils and reusable cups
- Energy bars, trail mix, electrolyte packets
- Infant formula / baby food if needed
- Pet food and collapsible water bowl
- Small camp stove and fuel tablets

Tools & Safety

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio; NOAA weather radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries; glow sticks
- Multi-tool or Swiss Army knife
- Duct tape and leather work gloves

- Emergency whistle; rope or paracord (50 ft)
- Emergency Mylar blankets
- Waterproof matches and lighter
- Emergency cash ($200–$500 in small bills)

Communications & Navigation

- Fully charged portable battery pack and phone charger cables
- Paper maps of your county and region
- Pre-planned evacuation routes (printed)
- Two-way radios (walkie-talkies) and local emergency frequency list
- Family reunification plan card
- Out-of-state contact person info

Clothing, Shelter & Pets

- Change of clothing per person (3 days); sturdy closed-toe shoes/boots
- Rain jacket/poncho; warm layer/fleece (CO temps drop fast)
- Hat with brim and bandana (doubles as smoke filter)
- Sleeping bag rated to 20°F; tarp or emergency tent
- Pet carrier/crate (one per animal), leash, and harness
- Pet vaccination/vet records, ID tags, and medications
- Recent photo of each pet; familiar toy or blanket; muzzle if pet may bite when stressed

> **Pro tips for your go-bag**
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> Keep bags in your car during high-risk months. Rotate food and water every 6–12 months. Keep $200–$500 cash in small bills — ATMs may be down. Pre-load your local emergency radio frequency. Label every bag with name, address, and emergency contact. Do a timed drill — can you be out the door in under 10 minutes?

3. Preparing Your Home Before & During Evacuation

Whether you have hours or minutes, these steps dramatically reduce fire damage and help firefighters protect your home in your absence.

Zone 0–5 ft: the home ignition zone (most critical)

- Replace wood mulch near the foundation with gravel, rock, or bare soil.
- Remove dead leaves, pine needles, and debris from gutters and roof.
- Install ember-resistant vent covers (1/8-inch metal mesh minimum).
- Replace wooden deck boards and railings with composite or metal.
- Move propane tanks, firewood, and combustibles away from the house.
- Clear dead vegetation and debris from under decks and porches.

Zone 0–30 ft: the lean, clean & green zone

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds from around the home.
- Mow grass to no higher than 4 inches during fire season.
- Space trees so canopies are at least 10 feet apart.
- Remove lower limbs of trees up to 6–10 feet from the ground.
- Keep plants well-watered and green; create separation between shrubs.

Zone 30–100 ft: the reduce-fuel zone

- Create wider spacing between trees — up to 30 feet apart.
- Remove ladder fuels (brush that lets ground fire climb into canopies).
- Cut or clear shrubs in irregular islands to disrupt fire spread.
- Remove all dying, diseased, or beetle-killed trees immediately.

> **When you get an evacuation order — do these before you leave**
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> Close all windows, doors, vents, and pet doors (leave UNLOCKED for firefighters). Remove flammable window coverings. Shut off natural gas at the meter and propane at the valve. Move patio furniture and wood piles into the garage. Leave exterior lights on. Close interior doors to slow spread. Connect garden hoses to outdoor faucets. Park one vehicle outside facing the exit. Leave a note that you have evacuated (and whether pets remain). Take a quick video walkthrough for your insurance claim. Place a ladder against the house for roof access.

During evacuation: on the road

- Follow your pre-planned route — do not improvise in chaotic conditions.
- Listen to local emergency radio: 850 AM KOA (statewide) or your county station.
- Never drive through smoke — visibility drops to near zero and fire can overtake vehicles.
- Keep headlights on at all times in smoke.
- If trapped: park away from vegetation, turn off the engine, hazards and interior lights on, vents closed, stay low under a wool blanket.
- Text family rather than calling — texts get through when voice calls can’t.

- Never return home until officials declare it safe.

4. Home Hardening — Long-Term Fire Resistance

Beyond seasonal maintenance, structural improvements make your home significantly more fire-resistant. NuBilt's construction team specializes in fire-resilient building and restoration.

System	Recommended Upgrades
Roofing	Class A fire-rated roofing (metal, tile, or Class A asphalt); box gutters with metal guards; enclosed non-combustible soffits; seal roof-to-wall intersections; remove branches within 10 ft of roof.
Windows & Vents	Double/triple-pane tempered glass; metal window frames (vinyl melts); 1/16" corrosion-resistant mesh on all vents; enclosed or boxed eave vents; exterior metal shutters for ember protection.
Walls & Doors	Fire-resistant siding (stucco, fiber cement, brick, stone); solid-core or metal exterior doors; weatherstripping on all doors; fire-rated door between garage and home; multi-pane glass in door windows.
Decks & Garages	Composite or metal decking (avoid wood); enclosed deck undersides; fire-resistant deck hardware; insulate garage walls; metal garage door (wood ignites quickly).

5. Family Emergency Communication Plan

Chaos during evacuation separates families. A written plan — decided and practiced in advance — keeps everyone safe and together.

- Designate two meeting places: one near home (e.g., mailbox), one outside the neighborhood.
- Assign an out-of-state contact everyone can reach — local lines often overload.
- Ensure all family members memorize at least 3 phone numbers.
- Assign roles: who grabs go-bags, who gets pets, who does the quick home check.
- Plan for children at school — know the reunification policy.
- Plan for elderly or disabled family members — arrange assistance now.
- Know two exit routes from your neighborhood.
- Identify a pre-arranged destination: hotel, friend's home, or Red Cross shelter.
- Create a home inventory list with photos for insurance.
- Practice your evacuation plan annually, especially with young children.

6. Colorado-Specific Resources & Information

Highest-risk counties in Colorado

- Boulder County — Marshall Fire (2021) destroyed 1,000+ homes in suburban neighborhoods.
- Larimer County — Cameron Peak Fire (2020) burned 208,913 acres, Colorado's largest recorded fire.
- Grand County — East Troublesome Fire (2020) spread 100,000 acres in a single day.
- Jefferson County — dense wildland-urban-interface communities in the foothills.
- El Paso County — Black Forest Fire (2013), Colorado's most destructive fire at that time.
- Mesa & Garfield Counties — high fuel loads and persistent drought on the western slope.
- Douglas & Teller Counties — rapid residential growth in heavily forested WUI areas.

Key phone numbers & websites

Resource	Contact / Website
NuBilt Restoration & Construction	(303) 368-4688 | nubilt.com
CO Div. of Fire Prevention & Control	dfpc.colorado.gov
CO State Forest Service (Defensible Space)	csfs.colostate.edu
Colorado Emergency Management	dhsem.state.co.us
CO Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal	coloradowrap.com
National Interagency Fire Center	nifc.gov
Red Cross Shelter Locator	redcross.org/shelter
Ready.gov Wildfire Preparedness	ready.gov/wildfires
Emergency: Police, Fire, Medical	9-1-1

Colorado fire-season calendar

- Spring (March–May): dry winds and cured grasses fuel fast-moving fires on the plains and foothills.
- Summer (June–September): peak season — lightning, high heat, low humidity, and drought.
- Year-round risk: the Marshall Fire (Dec 30, 2021) was driven by 100+ mph Chinook winds — risk is no longer seasonal.

After the Fire — Recovery Steps

- Do not return home until officially cleared — structural hazards, toxic ash, and flare-ups remain dangerous.
- Wear N95 masks and gloves when re-entering — wildfire ash contains toxic heavy metals and carcinogens.
- Document all damage with photos and video before touching or cleaning anything.
- Contact your insurance company immediately to begin the claims process.
- Do not use tap water until confirmed safe — fire can contaminate pipes.
- Apply for FEMA disaster assistance at disasterassistance.gov if a federal declaration is issued.
- Contact NuBilt immediately — we work directly with your insurer to minimize out-of-pocket costs.
- Seek mental-health support — wildfire trauma affects survivors and first responders alike.

7. How NuBilt Helps After a Wildfire

When disaster strikes, our 24/7 emergency response team is ready to assess your property, work with your insurance company, and restore your home or business to better-than-before condition.

Service Area	What We Do
Fire Damage Restoration	24/7 emergency response; complete smoke and soot removal; structural assessment and stabilization; content restoration and cleaning; odor elimination; board-up and tarping.
Reconstruction & Rebuild	Property reconstruction after total or partial loss; fire-resistant materials and home hardening; roofing repair and replacement; full rebuild from cleanup to reconstruction (typical 10–22 weeks).
Additional Services	Water and flood damage restoration; mold removal and remediation; sewage and hazardous cleanup; asbestos abatement; storm damage restoration; contents restoration.
The NuBilt Process	1) 24/7 emergency call 2) thorough assessment & precise estimate 3) insurance coordination 4) swift mitigation 5) full restoration and rebuild 6) final walk-through & satisfaction guarantee.

A+ BBB rated · 500+ five-star Google reviews

Family-owned and operated since 1994. NuBilt Restoration & Construction, 2134 S Valentia St, Denver, CO 80231. When you are safe, call (303) 368-4688 — we will be there.

Wildfire damaged your property? Call NuBilt 24/7 — we'll be there.

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