NuBilt Restoration & Construction

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Wildfire Prep Checklist

A practical, step-by-step guide for Colorado homeowners to harden their property, build a go-bag, and create an evacuation plan before wildfire season.

Start now — not when you smell smoke.

Wildfires move fast and embers can travel more than a mile ahead of a fire front. The work you do this weekend dramatically improves your home's chance of surviving and your family's chance of getting out safely. Aim to complete the Defensible Space and Home Hardening sections at least 60 days before peak fire season.

ZONE 0 — 0 TO 5 FEET FROM THE HOME (EMBER-RESISTANT ZONE)

- [ ] Remove all dead vegetation, leaves, and pine needles from roof, gutters, and the ground.
- [ ] Replace flammable mulch (bark, wood chips) with gravel, decomposed granite, or stone.
- [ ] Trim back tree branches so none overhang the roof or come within 10 feet of the chimney.
- [ ] Move firewood, lumber, propane tanks, and patio cushions at least 30 feet from structures.
- [ ] Clear under decks, stairs, and porches — no stored items, no vegetation.
- [ ] Install 1/8-inch metal mesh over attic vents, foundation vents, and dryer vents.

ZONE 1 — 5 TO 30 FEET (LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN)

- [ ] Mow grass and weeds to 4 inches or shorter.
- [ ] Space trees and shrubs so canopies are at least 10 feet apart.
- [ ] Remove "ladder fuels" — low branches and shrubs that let fire climb into tree canopies.
- [ ] Keep irrigation in this zone in good repair; consider drought-tolerant, fire-resistant plantings.
- [ ] Move RVs, boats, and trailers out of this zone during fire season if possible.

ZONE 2 — 30 TO 100 FEET (REDUCE FUEL)

- [ ] Thin trees so canopies are 10 to 20 feet apart (more on slopes).
- [ ] Remove dead trees, fallen branches, and accumulated needle litter.
- [ ] Cut grass to 4 inches or shorter; create fuel breaks with gravel paths or driveways.
- [ ] Stack firewood uphill and downwind of the home with at least 10 feet of clearance.

HOME HARDENING (STRUCTURE)

- [ ] Inspect the roof — replace missing, loose, or wood shake shingles. Class A roofing is the gold standard.
- [ ] Box in eaves and soffits with non-combustible or ignition-resistant material.
- [ ] Replace single-pane windows with dual-pane tempered glass where possible.
- [ ] Seal gaps around windows, doors, and roof-to-wall junctions with fire-rated caulk.
- [ ] Install metal flashing where decks meet the home; replace combustible decking near the house with composite or non-combustible boards.
- [ ] Confirm your address is visible from the street with reflective, non-combustible numbers (4 inches or larger).

GO-BAG — ONE PER PERSON, READY BY THE DOOR

- [ ] Three days of water (1 gallon per person per day) and non-perishable food.
- [ ] Prescription medications (7-day supply) and a copy of prescriptions.
- [ ] N95 masks, hand sanitizer, basic first-aid kit.
- [ ] Phone chargers, a portable battery, and a battery- or hand-crank radio.
- [ ] Flashlight with extra batteries.
- [ ] Cash in small bills, a credit card, and a copy of your ID.
- [ ] A change of clothes, sturdy shoes, gloves, and goggles.
- [ ] Pet carrier, leash, food, water bowl, and vaccination records.
- [ ] Copies of insurance policies, deed/lease, and emergency contacts in a waterproof bag.
- [ ] A USB drive or cloud backup of important photos and documents.

FAMILY EVACUATION PLAN

- [ ] Identify two evacuation routes out of your neighborhood and practice both.
- [ ] Choose an out-of-area contact every family member can check in with.
- [ ] Sign up for local emergency alerts (e.g., LookoutAlert, ReadyColorado, county Code Red).
- [ ] Pre-stage cars facing out of the driveway with keys in a known location during red flag warnings.
- [ ] Designate a meeting point outside the evacuation zone.
- [ ] Walk through the plan with every household member, including kids and elderly relatives.
- [ ] Identify needs for pets, livestock, and anyone with medical equipment that requires power.

INSURANCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [ ] Photograph or video every room, closet, and the exterior of your home — store in the cloud.
- [ ] Confirm your homeowners policy includes adequate dwelling and contents coverage at today's rebuild costs.
- [ ] Verify "loss of use" / additional living expense (ALE) coverage in your policy.
- [ ] Save your policy number, agent contact, and claims phone in your go-bag and your phone.

- [ ] Keep receipts for any pre-evacuation expenses (lodging, fuel, supplies) — many are reimbursable.

WHEN EVACUATION IS ORDERED

- [ ] Leave when told to leave. Do not wait to see the fire.
- [ ] Close all windows and exterior doors; leave them unlocked for firefighters.
- [ ] Turn off natural gas at the meter and propane at the tank.
- [ ] Move flammable furniture to the center of rooms, away from windows.
- [ ] Leave exterior and interior lights on so the home is visible in smoke.
- [ ] Take your go-bag, pets, medications, and the documents you set aside.
- [ ] Drive with headlights on, follow designated routes, and keep your phone charged.

After a fire — Call NuBilt before you sign anything.

If your home is damaged by fire, smoke, or soot, NuBilt Restoration & Construction responds 24/7 across the Denver metro and Front Range. We handle smoke and soot cleanup, structural drying, content pack-out, and full reconstruction — and we work directly with your insurance carrier. Call (303) 368-4688 or email info@nubilt.com.