

**2019-2020 Board of Directors
Dory Lakes Property Owners Association**

Re: Dory Lakes Wildfire Mitigation

Dear Property Owner:

Living in our mountain community and among its wildlife is an enviable opportunity. However, it is not without risks. One of our biggest concerns is wildfire. As of this writing, we are under a Stage 1 Fire Ban and Shooting Restrictions to address the potential danger the coronavirus pandemic has on the ability of emergency operations to prevent, manage, and extinguish forest fires in Gilpin County. Please continue to check the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office website (<https://www.gilpincountysheriff.com>) for updates.

DLPOA has added community maps to the bulletin boards in our neighborhood (located at the entrances via Highway 119 & Highway 46) clearly showing both entrances and exits to our development. We have also added, and will continue to update, a "fire danger level" hazard sign at the Highway 46 entrance.

While we can't eliminate this risk entirely, we can minimize destruction of our property (mainly our biggest investment - our homes) by taking some simple steps. In order to develop a community effort to deal with this issue, the DLPOA Board of Directors has chosen to use the Firewise USA program. The Firewise USA program includes the following items that all residents should consider implementing:

• **Green iridescent property address signs at property entrances.**

These signs allow emergency responders (Fire Fighters, Medical Provider and Law enforcement) to quickly respond to any emergency. Dory Lakes residents that don't currently have these signs will receive a voucher with this newsletter to order one free sign through Mary Mohn with the High Country Auxiliary (primary contact email: mkmohn@icloud.com or secondary contact: 612-702-9852). Homeowners ordering signs need to provide your name, contact information, Dory Lakes residence address and a preference as to vertical (for mounting on a pole/tree) or horizontal sign orientation. Mary will coordinate delivery/pickup of the signs. The installation of these signs is the responsibility of the resident/homeowner. The signs should be located near the driveway entrance, capable of being read when approaching from either direction and mounted about 4 feet above the ground (so they are not covered up by snow plows).

• **Trim all branches on your driveways.**

Fire trucks are big and if they can't get to your house, they can't help you. Timberline Fire Protection District requires 12 ft. wide by 14 ft. high access.

- **Survey your property and remove any unneeded items including construction materials, non-working vehicles, unused fencing, unused barrels, nonworking appliances, trash, etc.** Gilpin County offers residents free collection of recyclable materials, disposal of appliances and hazardous materials for a fee and a free token for 5 cubic yards of waste per year – for details, see: http://www.gilpincounty.org/departments/public_works/trash_slash_recycle_info

- **Remove all needles, leaves and any combustible material from your roof, gutters and adjacent to your house, including outbuildings.**

These can act as kindling -- wildfires spread a lot of glowing embers ahead of the flame-front, which can ignite homes. Treat any attached wooden fencing or outbuildings as you would your house (or install a non-combustible fire break adjacent to your house). Move all combustible materials (including non-garaged vehicles) at least 15 feet from your house.

- **Remove as many conifers adjacent to your house as possible.**

Any favorite trees remaining will need to be treated as you treat your house (see above). Aspen trees aren't nearly as hazardous as conifers but nearby aspen trees will deposit combustible leaves in gutters and around your house.

- **Move all firewood at least 30 feet from your house.**

- **Remove all combustible material at least 10 feet away from propane tanks.**

Keep all barbeque grills indoors when not in use – the propane bottles are a fire hazard and outside barbeques are a bear attractant.

- **Remove dead trees and trim the lower branches on all remaining trees on your property to 8 to 10 feet off the ground to prevent ground fires from moving into the trees.**

Gilpin County provides free slash disposal (no stumps) during the summer.

- **Check to make sure your house has sufficient working smoke alarms, CO monitors and fire extinguishers.**

- **Clean your chimney at least once per year.**

Reduced rates/costs may be available if multiple residents join together to hire a contractor.

VOLUNTEER: Dory Lakes is developing a list of volunteers who are willing to help other residents or property owners with tree removal for the fire wood contained in the removed trees. Contact Dave Sprowls at dsprows10@gmail.com or 720-376-0373 if you would like to be a volunteer or would like some help with tree removal.

Additional resources can be found here:

Gilpin County Wildfire Protection Plan:

<http://www.gilpincounty.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=11103339>

Colorado State Forest Service “Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones”:

https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/FIRE2012_1_DspaceQuickGuide.pdf

While full protection of each home has its own unique challenges, we have attempted to list the basics above which should apply to **all** properties – however, homes located on steep terrain (and other property-specific issues) require additional considerations and efforts - for a free complete property-specific wildfire assignment please contact Ben Pfohl at (303) 823-5774 ext. 3 or via email at **Ben.Pfohl@colstate.edu**.

And, while some homeowners can complete mitigation work themselves, other cannot – helpful resources and recommendations can be found at "List of Local Service Providers" located on the **Gilpin County Community Development website:**

http://gilpincounty.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_9285172/File/Depts/CommunityDevelopment/Local%20Providers%202017.pdf

If there are a number of residents that need similar work performed, we could probably get reduced costs/rates by offering the contractor several similar jobs in the community (e.g. chimney cleaning, hazardous tree removal, etc.) Please reach out to your neighbors and/or the DLPOA Board if you would like to help facilitate or organize group jobs/discounts!

We hope you all enjoy a safe, healthy, and happy warm season. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Board members.

Sincerely,

The 2019-2020 Board of Directors
Dory Lakes Property Owners Association
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