In order to recognize the rebuilding and recovery desires of the residents in the area affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire, this guide provides an outline to assist in the efforts to restore the community.

— Waldo Canyon Fire Rebuilding Task Force

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While information regarding rebuilding the Mountain Shadows area has been made available through numerous agencies, organizations and municipalities, this Recovery Resource Guide was thoughtfully assembled by the Task Force to cater specifically to the affected community. The participants on the Task Force stand united in their desire to assist in any way to forward the rebuilding efforts and restore the neighborhoods so cherished by the residents. This Guide will be updated as needed to reflect new or emerging topics.

This guide is available electronically on www.springsgov.com

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Demolition & Restoration

Debris Removal

While the breadth of devastation related to the Waldo Canyon Fire is immense, the overwhelming desire of the residents is to expeditiously restore the community is evident. The need to remove debris from individual lots and stabilize disturbed areas is immediate in order to provide the desired quality of life for those currently living in the area or in the process of rebuilding.

While individual situations may dictate recovery schedules and timelines, the need to restore a healthy environment and mitigate the aesthetic impacts of the fire are critical. Therefore, a deadline for debris removal from individual lots is proposed for Sunday, September 30th. Owners of any destroyed home that have not obtained a demolition permit or completed debris removal by that date will be contacted by City Code Enforcement Officers via letter to enquire as to the delay and to possibly initiate debris removal or stabilization per City Code procedures.

Prior to removing any debris from a damaged or destroyed building, you or your properly licensed contractor (holding a “C” license or above) must obtain a debris removal/demolition permit from the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD). The permit may be obtained online at www.pprbd.org. The debris removal/demolition permit is limited in scope; the permit does not cover removal of trees or other vegetation, nor does it cover the removal of a foundation.

When a debris removal permit is requested, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH), City Stormwater Division and Colorado Springs Utilities will be notified. The debris removal process must comply with the standards set by the EPCPH; a full list of those requirements can be accessed here: http://www.pprbd.org/Notices/WaldoFire/Waldo_EPC-HD_req.pdf.

Prior to calling for a final building inspection, the permit holder must gain acceptance from both the Health Department and Stormwater Division. Please remember, debris removal sites are construction sites and must therefore comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards including, but not limited to, site and fall protection. OSHA may be reached via phone at (303) 844-5285.


Code Complaints

The City of Colorado Springs Code Enforcement Unit is responsible for the inspection of publicly and privately owned residential buildings to assure that they meet the Minimum Housing Standards for the City of Colorado Springs and to ensure safe and sanitary living conditions for all residents within the city limits. If conditions exist in your neighborhood that you feel warrant intervention by a Code Enforcement Officer, please initiate a complaint at http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=1688 or call (719) 444-7891. To initiate complaints about removal of ash/debris contact Public Health at www.healthinfoelpasoco.com or call (719) 578-3199 and ask for the air quality program.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: GUIDANCE FOR SELECTING A CONTRACTOR

With the recent catastrophic fire event, you can be assured that there will be a number of unlicensed ‘contractors’ trying to contact you if your house was damaged or destroyed. Knowing the desire to have your life return to normal as quickly as possible, they often make promises that are not possible to meet, and when you are halfway into the project you may be stuck. Some of you may have never had a house built, so please think about the following items so you can get through the process as smoothly as possible:

- Don’t sign any contract before having it reviewed by an attorney
- Interview at least 3 General Contractors
- Ask for three references and contact all of the references

Access the RBD website at http://www.pprbd.org/publicaccess/licensesearch.aspx to check to see if a contractor is licensed to perform work in El Paso County. If you don’t have access to a computer call 327-2887 to talk with our contractor licensing department. Please be aware that RBD’s authority to license and regulate contractors is limited to building, electrical, HVAC, gas and plumbing trades.

Building a new home can take up to a year to complete depending on the size and finishes put into the home … so please be patient, be smart and don’t let unscrupulous individuals take advantage of you.
**Health and Environment**

All debris and ash should be thoroughly wetted prior to and during the process of removal to minimize dust. Soil under the area where the ash or debris was deposited should be scraped to ensure that all ash and building debris has been removed from the site.

- Materials must be thoroughly wetted to minimize dust and then packaged inside a 6-mil plastic sheeting liner and placed in an end-dump roll-off with the top of the roll-off sealed with the plastic sheeting to secure the contents during transport once the roll-off is loaded.

For more information about health and safety pertaining to the Waldo Canyon fire, visit the El Paso County Department of Health website at [http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/services/waldo-canyon-fire-information](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/services/waldo-canyon-fire-information).

**Asbestos**

If asbestos-containing material is known to be present in ash or debris in amounts greater than the trigger levels, they must be removed in accordance with Colorado Regulation No. 8, Part B, but a permit is not required according to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE). Trigger levels for single-family residential dwellings are 50 linear feet on pipes and 32 square feet on other surfaces, or the volume equivalent of a 55-gallon drum. Concrete debris (foundations) must be disposed of at an approved landfill. If you wish to recycle this material, it must be inspected by a certified asbestos building inspector and found to be free of asbestos-containing materials prior to recycling.

For more information about public health and safety pertaining to the Waldo Canyon fire, visit El Paso County Public Health’s website at [http://www.elpasocountyhealth.com](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.com).

**Foundation Removal (Wrecking Permit)**

A wrecking permit must be issued by PPRBD. A wrecking permit constitutes a higher degree of potential hazard or risk and therefore requires a licensed wrecking contractor. The inspection procedures for the demolition permit apply also to the wrecking permit: Upon application, Springs Utilities’ Customer Contract Administration will be contacted for approval of a Request for Removal of Utility Services, which costs $80. The form for such request may be accessed via Springs Utilities’ website at [http://www.csu.org/business/businesswithus/Documents/removal_demolition_form.pdf](http://www.csu.org/business/businesswithus/Documents/removal_demolition_form.pdf).

Springs Utilities will verify that all services are removed and stubbed a minimum of 10 feet from the foundation excavation area. The contractor is responsible for removing the water and wastewater lines from the excavation area; a Springs Utilities inspector will inspect and approve the removal. Additionally, Springs Utilities will disconnect and remove the gas and electric services safely away from the structure and excavation area. When the work is complete, the Customer Contact Administration will notify the customer.

**Tree Removal**

The City Code requires any tree that is taller than 15 feet be removed by a licensed tree service. For an official list of licensed tree services, click the following link: [http://www.springsgov.com/units/cityclerk/search/Search.aspx?type=TREE](http://www.springsgov.com/units/cityclerk/search/Search.aspx?type=TREE). Trees and vegetation located within preservation areas on private lots are the responsibilities of the individual lot owner.

**Land Restoration—No Plan to Rebuild**

If your schedule does not include rebuilding on your lot within 180 days of removing the foundation, the lot must be returned to its natural state. The foundation hole must be completely backfilled and the lot must be regraded and reseeded. Driveways and other lot improvements, with the exception of public sidewalks, must also be removed with the exception of retaining walls that would cause damage to other properties if removed. Acceptance of soil stabilization by the Stormwater Division and continued maintenance by the permit holder will be required.

Please be advised that if re-building does not occur for 5 years or longer, per City ordinances additional charges are required for the reconnection of inactive water and wastewater utility service lines.

**DUMPSTERS ON THE STREET (REVOCABLE PERMITS)**

Dumpsters and construction materials should be placed on your lot—on a driveway, for example. Where topography, driveway grades or other extenuating circumstances do not allow for placement on private property, the dumpster or materials may be left in the public road right-of-way. The City of Colorado Springs Land Use Review Division must issue a Revocable Permit (with specific conditions) for the temporary location. As a response to the tragedy, the normal Revocable Permit fee of $50 has been waived. Permit applications can be found at [http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=2857](http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=2857) or you may visit Land Use Review at 30 S. Nevada Avenue.
Rebuilding

For all questions relating to the planning process, please contact Erin McCauley, Planner II with the Land Use Review Division at (719) 385-5369 or emcauley@springsgov.com.

Rebuilding the Same House on the Same Foundation

If the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD) has the original house plans (contact PPRBD at (719) 327-2880 to confirm), the only document you will need to submit to obtain your building permit is a letter from a licensed Engineer stating that the existing foundation is acceptable for rebuild. The shell of the home may be constructed according to the plans on file with the issuance of a new remodel permit (434). The permit cost will be based on the cost of square footage with attachments for Electrical/Mechanical and Plumbing trades at a minimum fee.

The interior portion of the house may not be required to meet all current structural or design criteria of the 2009 IRC, but will be required to meet all life/safety requirements and other design provisions that benefit the owner such as, but not limited to, State Electrical Code, smoke and CO detectors, energy conservation, etc.

For zoning review at the Development Review Enterprise (DRE), you may submit either the original site plan or a less-detailed plan such as an Improvement Location Certificate (ILC) or a FIMS map (available at Colorado Springs Utilities Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Expressway) for approval. Information including building height calculations, contours, and cut/fill analyses which are normally shown on hillside site plans will not be required unless new or additional grading is proposed.

Prior to the issuance of your building permit, you or your contractor will need to visit Springs Utilities’ Customer Contract Administration Office to request new utility services for the home. The requirements and associated fees for the installation of new service lines may be found online at http://www.springsgov.com/files/HSHillsideSitePlan.pdf.

Rebuilding the Same House on a New Foundation

If PPRBD has the original plans, the documentation required will be verification that a wrecking permit has been issued for the address, along with a copy of the set of original plans, and the submittal of a new foundation design for review and approval. A new single-family dwelling permit (101) will be issued based on the cost of square footage and no other trades will need to attach; this will be a universal permit. The construction of the foundation must comply with all applicable provisions of the 2009 IRC. Inspections may be made by the Engineer of Record. The remaining portion of the structure located above the foundation may be constructed according to the procedures outlined in the section above.

For zoning review at the DRE the process is similar to rebuilding the same house on the same foundation, described above. However, setbacks must be accurately shown if the house location is changed or if any part of the structure (including attached decks) are enlarged. For both the first scenario (left) and this scenario, substantially reduced non-hillside review rates will apply. For utilities procedures, consult the following section on building a new home; the procedures are the same for both this and the following scenario.

Building a New Home

Homes with new designs will be processed as new hillside homes and will require full hillside site plan review. A hillside site plan checklist is available at www.springsgov.com/files/HSHillsideSitePlan.pdf.

Prior to requesting a new single-family dwelling building permit, the contractor should visit Springs Utilities’ Customer Contract Administration to request new services for the home and pay applicable fees. The service line process will closely follow the new construction process, with slight variations. The requirements may be found online at http://www.csu.org/residential/environment/Documents/wcfreconstructionprocess.pdf.

If a different home plan or a new location on the lot is proposed, the building permit process through PPRBD will be the same as any new single-family dwelling plan/permit submittal currently in place (http://www.pprbd.org/plancheck/PLCK_RESGuide_2012.pdf). One set of plans, including engineered foundation, site plan, all construction docs and duct design components to comply with the 2009 IRC must be submitted at time of building permit.

GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

The Pikes Peak Regional Building Department has been provided with a list of damaged or destroyed homes that are located in the landslide susceptible area mapped by the Colorado Geologic Survey (CGS). In addition, all the homes in the burn area have been identified by CGS as being in a steeply dipping bedrock zone, and likely have expansive clay soils. City Engineering recommends the owners and builders reconstructing in this area seek the advice of a Professional Engineer and/or Geologist. Visit the following URL for a list of properties with potential hazards: http://www.pprbd.org/Notices/WaldoFire/waldoPOTENTIAL_GEOHAZARD.pdf.
DEALING WITH INSURANCE

Several workshops regarding the insurance process have already been held and others are being scheduled by HBA Cares in partnership with CARe, Inc. Colorado Springs Together is also scheduling workshops. For a list of upcoming dates and additional information, please visit www.cshba.com or www.coloradospringstogether.com.

The Colorado Division of Insurance regulates the insurance industry and assists consumers and other stakeholders with insurance issues. It also provides a good resource for questions related to filing claims after a disaster. Visit www.dora.state.co.us/insurance for more information or call (303) 894-7490.

CARe, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides free comprehensive information about disaster recovery and the insurance claim process to disaster survivors so they may effectively reestablish their homes, lives and communities. Contact Lila Hayes at CARe, Inc. at lila@carehelp.org or call (888) 216-8264. You may also visit the CARe, Inc. website at www.carehelp.org.

Flood Insurance
Flood damage is not covered by your homeowner’s insurance policy. You may be at risk of flood and debris flow impacts if you live in or around the areas that burned in the fire. Flood insurance is available only through the federal government (FEMA).

For more information, visit www.floodsmart.gov or contact Norm Ashford at (303) 235-4912 or Erin May at (303) 299-7873.

Repairing an Existing Structure
The building permit process is the same as the process for any remodel of an existing residential structure. Utility requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis due to the amount of damage to utility service lines or meters.

Ignition-Resistant Construction
As a result of the fire investigation and technical research surrounding the Waldo Canyon Fire and its impact on homes in the Mountain Shadows area, slight modifications to the existing Hillside Fire Fuels Management requirements are being made. In addition to those changes, the Fire Department has cited other collaborative requirements for the ignition resistant hardening of homes that are being rebuilt in that area. These items are listed in the Waldo Canyon Rebuild Provision Agreement Letter, which is a collaborative and cooperative effort between the Colorado Springs Fire Department and the local home builders as well as affected homeowners. While tragic, the fire provided tremendous lessons to be learned. Important ignition resistant measures are incorporated in the referenced document. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Construction Services Section of the Fire Department at (719)385-5982.

The Colorado Springs Fire Department has prepared a document to address ignition-resistant construction within the burn area. The document may be accessed at http://www.springsgov.com/SIB/files/Waldo_Canyon_Fire_Rebuild_Provisions_Agreement_Letter%5b1%5d(4).pdf. Prior to being issued a permit, you or your contractor must agree to the terms and sign the document. Attach a copy of the document to building permit plans for CSFD approval.

PARKSIDE AT MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

The reconstruction of Parkside at Mountain Shadows presents unique challenges. The community was initially constructed in phases, predominately by one builder per phase. Rebuilding the community will not be completed in orderly phases, but rather will be undertaken all at once. Anticipating the probability of numerous builders involved in reconstruction and possible changes to building types, lot coverage and setbacks, the City has prepared a comprehensive document to shepherd builders and homeowners through the reconstruction phases. To access this document, visit the Land Use Review website at www.springsgov.com/SectionIndex.aspx?SectionID=25.
Erosion Control & Flooding

As a result of the Waldo Canyon Fire and the increased risk of debris flows and flooding, the City of Colorado Springs has developed erosion and flood resource information that may be helpful to residents in the burn area, as well as property owners who are down hill from there. Please read the information below and visit the following link to review additional information: http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=4488.

Utilizing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to Control Erosion

- Install temporary vehicle tracking construction at entrance.
- Install all BMPs prior to any grading or excavation activities. This includes installing BMPs for storm inlets along the street frontage, perimeter control and protecting adjacent seeded or sodded lots.
- Stabilize stockpiles with BMPs to prevent sediment from reaching the street. Stockpiles may not be located in the street.

Maintenance

The builder/owner is responsible for maintaining and repairing all BMPs on the lot throughout construction, including immediate rock, mud and soil removal resulting from the project from all streets. During final grading, BMPs may be removed in order to complete final grading and sodding of the lot although the builder/owner is still responsible for any discharge leaving the site. If sodding of the lot is delayed, the contractor will be required to install BMPs until the sod can be installed.

Builder/Owner Responsibilities

The builder/owner is responsible for the installation, adequacy, and ongoing inspection and maintenance of all lot specific erosion and sediment control devices, including inlets affected by their lots, as well as curb inlets along the street frontage. It is critical that sediment not be allowed to discharge to the local storm sewer system or public right-of-way.

Self-monitoring inspections are to be performed on a bi-weekly basis as well as after heavy rain/significant precipitation events to ensure that erosion and sediment control measures are properly functioning. Any problems noted during these inspections shall be corrected immediately. The builder/owner is responsible for actions of all subcontractors, utility crews and delivery personnel at the work site as it relates to storm water and erosion control.

Other specific responsibilities include:

- Establishing appropriate places for staging, portable latrines, and the storage of building materials, including paint. Portable latrines must also be properly installed (staked);
- Providing a washout area for “wet” construction materials such as paint, stucco, and concrete; and
- Ensuring that mud, dirt, rocks and other debris are not allowed to discharge onto streets and sidewalks, nor be tracked onto the streets by construction vehicles. Should any mud or other debris find its way to the street, the contractor shall take immediate steps to have it removed.

City Inspections

It will be the policy of the City of Colorado Springs to encourage and enforce compliance with grading, erosion and stormwater quality control requirements by working with owners, contractors, builders, and developers during the design and implementation phases of a project to incorporate proper construction BMPs.

City Engineering Inspectors will inspect sites for the proper placement, installation, adequacy, and maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures. If the sediment and erosion control measures are not in place or maintained properly and causing impacts on public safety, property or water resources, the City Engineering Inspector will use enforcement methods established by City Code. The City Engineering Inspector will work with the owner, developer, and contractor to bring the erosion and sediment control into compliance.

Sandbags

The City Office of Emergency Management will sponsor “Sandbag Saturdays,” where residents affected by the fire may pick up sandbags to control runoff on their properties. It is important to utilize sandbags and other surface flood control techniques rather than digging trenches and further disturbing the grade in the area and causing long term drainage problems.

Road Maintenance and Erosion Control

The City is actively engaged in helping to mitigate for the increased likelihood of flooding and debris flows in some steep drainages that have been burned.

An engineering review has been performed to identify those areas at greatest risk from flooding and debris flows and measures that may be available to reduce impacts, should they occur. City Engineering staff has been working since the fire with the impacted communities, individual property owners, and the local fire departments to evaluate and locate potential sites that may be appropriate to locate debris flow mitigation measures in the affected areas.

Additionally, the City is monitoring and evaluating the rainfall
conditions to help keep culverts and drainage facilities clear.

On an ongoing basis, City Public Works will be working on several roadway mitigation and preventative measures, including:

- Monitoring of likely problem and high-risk areas before, during, and after storms to identify potential problems, floods and areas for cleanup;
- Following a storm event, crews will initiate a cleanup effort to remove accumulated sediment and debris from roadways or repair damaged infrastructure;
- Evaluating the installation of debris structures to divert high water and debris in areas where culverts are expected to flood and where homes are located in the immediate danger path;
- Evaluating existing access routes and provision of alternative routes for areas that are at most risk in case of flooding or significant mudslides;
- Anticipating and addressing roadway erosion concerns; and
- Evaluating the placement of warning signs to inform the public of risks, which include excess stormwater runoff, possible high water or flash floods and debris.

For additional information on stormwater mitigation in Mountain Shadows, visit the Colorado Springs Together website at http://www.coloradospringstogether.org/resources1/stormwater-mitigation.cfm to watch an educational video.

Flash Flood/Debris Flow

There is increased potential for flooding and debris flows in the area of the fire due to vegetation loss and bare slopes. All residents should be aware of the increased risks. Please read the quick safety notes below and refer to the Colorado Springs Emergency Preparedness and Safety Guide at http://www.springsgov.com/Files/Preparedness%20Guide10_web.pdf for additional preparedness tips and ideas.

For debris flow or flooding concerns or questions pertaining to the Waldo Canyon fire outside of the City of Colorado Springs, contact the El Paso County Regional Recovery Coordinator at (719) 439-6087 or DaveLethbridge@elpasoco.com, or the Public Services Department Customer Services number at (719) 520-6460 or dotweb@elpasoco.com.

Spring/Summer Thunderstorms produce highest risk for flooding

- Flooding and debris flows can block roads and leave you stranded.
- Power outages and loss of phone service are possible, resulting in isolation.
- Flash flooding can occur at any time, including at night.

Get Ready

- Gather emergency supplies to take with you if you need to leave quickly. If your home is located on high ground and is NOT in danger from debris flows, you may choose to shelter-in-place.
- Plan to be on your own without water, gas, and electricity for at least three days. See complete list of supplies in the Emergency Preparedness and Safety Guide.

During a Flash Flood

- Move to high ground immediately. Stay out of floodwaters. Swiftly-moving water and debris can be deadly.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.
- Leaving the area can pose significant dangers, as road washouts and landslides can occur along escape routes. If you plan to try to leave the area, give yourself as much time as possible, and know that it still may not be enough.

Safety Routes and Locations

- Plan to go to a safe location and practice moving along your safety routes.
- Talk with family members and neighbors and plan where you will meet and how you will check in with each other at your safety locations.
- Have a plan for your pets so you won’t be delayed in reaching high ground.

Stay informed

- Stay informed through local radio, television alerts, and your own observations. Monitor a NOAA Weather Radio (with S.A.M.E. and back-up battery).
- Sign up to receive free emergency alerts on home, work and cell phones, text messages and email. Go to http://www.elpasoteller911.org/?page_id=44 to register your phone number(s) and/or email address(es).

Vehicle Safety

- Never try to drive your vehicle through flood water. Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are auto-related. As little as 18 inches of water will float most vehicles.

For assistance in emergency planning, or if you have questions please contact the City Office of Emergency Management at (719) 385-5957 or via email at oem@springsgov.com.

In the event of an emergency situation outside the city limits, contact the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management at (719) 575-8400, or 911.
The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will be conducting ongoing flood and stormwater mitigation efforts, as well as debris cleanup in the affected burn areas in the Blodgett Peak and Mountain Shadows Open Spaces. Stormwater mitigation projects are also planned for stretches of the Camp Creek drainage through Garden of the Gods Park. These projects will be transitioning to re-vegetation and reforestation efforts as the mitigation and cleanup are completed. This will all be an ongoing effort over the next several years. Periodic opportunities for the community to pitch in and volunteer will arise as the process progresses. Visit the following address for updates: http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Colorado-Springs-Regional-Parks-Trails-and-Open-Space/447202511975092

The State of Colorado offers an income tax credit for wildfire mitigation up to $2,500. For income tax years 2009 through 2013 individuals, estates, and trusts may subtract from federal taxable income 50% of the costs incurred in performing wildfire mitigation measures. For more information, visit the Colorado Springs Fire Department at http://www.springsgov.com/units/fire/wildfire/wildfire_mitigation_measures_subtraction.pdf

Colorado Springs Utilities offers rebates on certain appliances, cooling and heating upgrades, duct sealing, insulation and air sealing, irrigation, renewable energy, WaterSense toilets, and windows. For more information, visit CSU’s website at http://www.csu.org/residential/rebates/Pages/rebates.aspx or contact Customer Service at (719) 448-4800.

The team members are distinguished citizens and business professionals in the community facilitating and coordinating a quick and effective rebuilding process for the neighborhoods devastated on June 26th by the fire. Numerous resources including videos, pamphlets and on-line updates are available at: www.coloradospringstogether.org.

You can also visit Colorado Springs Together at:
6840 Centennial Boulevard
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
(719) 385-2000

“Serve as the primary community organization to bring the community spirit and substantial resources of the businesses and citizens of the Pikes Peak Region to restore the lives, homes and neighborhoods impacted by the Waldo Canyon Fire. We will restore these quickly and effectively.”