

## August Newsletter

### Smoke in the Air, Fire in the News, SR4 Mitigation

As you know, our HOA has been working with Boulder Fire-Rescue Department (BFRD) to make our Silver Plume community more wildfire resilient. We have completed the Phase 1 work outlined at the neighborhood meeting with BFRD last fall — limbing up conifers in our open space common areas and strategically weed-whacking field grasses in proximity to any ladder fuels.

Phase 2 consists of removing large junipers growing in our parking islands. Why is that important?

— Most of these junipers are in close proximity to, in some cases even touching, large ponderosa pines. We've been told that these pines are most likely to ignite from fuel burning below them, not from wind-driven ember strikes.

— Unfortunately, the pitch-rich junipers are very likely to be ignited by an ember strike. Since flame length can be up to four times fuel height, a six-foot juniper could become a 24-foot inferno, easily lighting up adjacent ponderosas. If that were to happen, many homes could be lost.

— In addition, fire-engulfed parking islands could block BFRD's access to our cul-de-sacs, making it impossible for them to protect our homes.

We'd like to begin the process of removing our overgrown junipers, but first we'd like to hear neighbors' thoughts on the junipers closest to them. **Please share your thoughts on juniper removal with us by email: [president@shanahanridge4.org](mailto:president@shanahanridge4.org).** Thank you!

### What Else Can We Do?

Making our common areas more fire resilient is only one part of neighborhood wildfire safety. The rest is up to individual homeowners. Think wood piles, pine needles, shredded bark mulch, junipers and pinyons, barbecues, and deck furniture.

For more detailed information, consult the *City of Boulder Fire-Rescue Wildland Fire Preparedness Guide*:

[https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Boulder\\_Fire-Rescue\\_Wildland\\_Fire\\_Preparedness\\_Guide-1-201602241609.pdf?\\_ga=2.157137339.1036633049.1597598297-2111640401.1597344993](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Boulder_Fire-Rescue_Wildland_Fire_Preparedness_Guide-1-201602241609.pdf?_ga=2.157137339.1036633049.1597598297-2111640401.1597344993)

And we urge you to take advantage of the free, detailed, individual fire-risk assessment service offered by BFRD:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/fire-rescue/detailed-wildfire-home-assessment-request>.

Several of our homeowners have had this done and it's incredibly helpful.

### **Utility Damage in Our Open Space Common Areas**

To follow up on our earlier message about Xfinity's trenching operation in our common area open space, be advised that we are in touch with Xfinity about this damage and with City of Boulder experts on the best ways to remediate it. The good news is that while this looks very bad at the moment, nature is amazingly resilient. Our entire open space is a City of Boulder utility easement, and we've had such activity here before. In those cases, the grasses have regrown within a season and the scars have disappeared very quickly. We will do everything we can to assist that process.