



COLORADO WILDFIRE RESILIENCY CODE (CWRC)

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

March 2026 Update

The Code – Senate Bill 23-166



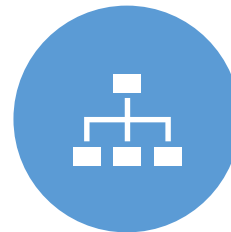
Statewide wildfire-resistant construction code created by the Wildfire Resiliency Code Board



Wildfire Resiliency Code Board is under the Colorado Department of Public Safety



Required all governing bodies to adopt a minimum.



Set deadlines for development, rulemaking, and implementation.

What the Code Addresses



Applies to new construction and major exterior work

- All New construction
- Adding 500+ sq ft or modifying 25%+ of exterior

Two major wildfire risks:

- Fuels and vegetation near buildings (0–100 ft)
- Weak points for fire/ember entry into a building
 - Zone 1 (0–5 ft): Noncombustible materials only; remove shrubs/mulch; no new trees
 - Zone 2 (5–30 ft): Reduce dead fuels; space trees & shrubs
 - Zone 3 (30–100 ft): Thin trees for 6–10 ft spacing

Why the Code Matters



MAJOR LOSSES OFTEN CAUSED BY
EMBERS, RADIANT HEAT, AND
STRUCTURE-TO-STRUCTURE IGNITION

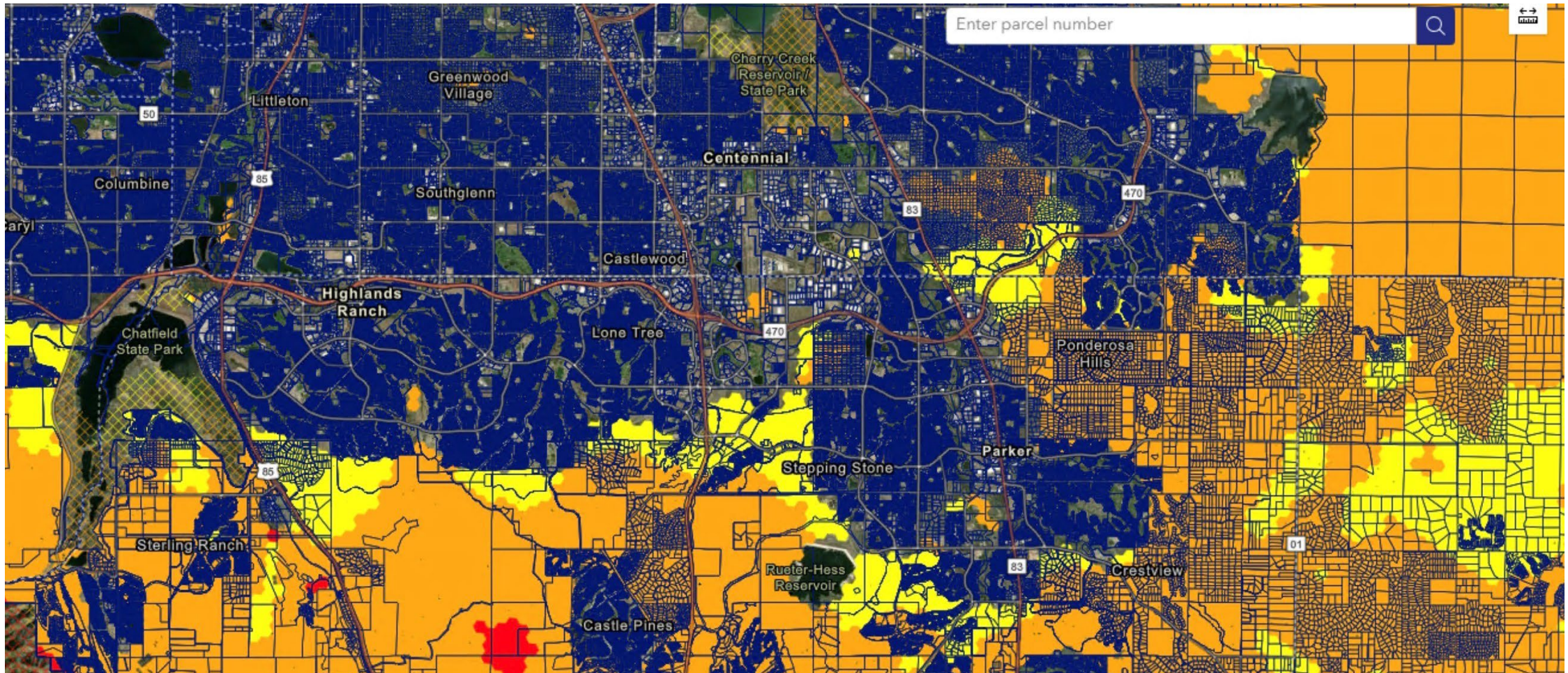


STRUCTURE HARDENING
SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES THE
LIKELIHOOD OF HOME IGNITION



FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE ROOFING,
VENTS, SIDING, WINDOWS, DECKS,
AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE

The Map: [Link Here](#)



The Map Explained



● Yellow (Low Intensity): Lower fire behavior; embers still a risk.

Requires Class 1 protections (Class A roof, metal gutters, ember-resistant vents)

● Orange (Moderate Intensity): Stronger fire behavior with more fuels.

Requires Full Class 2 protections.

● Red (High Intensity): Highest fire behavior, long flame lengths potential, fast spread.

Requires Full Class 2 protections + strongest defensible space

What Changes for the Community?



- Not as much as some may think.
- Many things are already being addressed under current building, energy, and planning codes.
 - Class A fire-rated roofing materials
 - Ember-resistant attic and foundation vents
 - Multi-pane windows to help protect radiant transfer
 - Ignition-resistant siding and exterior materials
 - Reducing combustible materials in the first 0–5 feet around structures.

Colorado CWRC Adoption Timeline



State adopts the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code

April 1, 2026 – Local governments required to adopt the code or equivalent

July 1, 2026 – Jurisdictions expected to be implementing the adopted code

Applies to mapped Wildland Urban Interface areas

Local jurisdictions maintain authority for adoption and enforcement and local ground truthing.

Ground Truthing



- Process through which property can be locally verified and either added to or removed from WUI (regardless of map).
- Can occur at the parcel level or development level.
- Must be based on principles used to create the map (density, topography, vegetation, historic weather and fire data).
- Some of our jurisdictions may seek SMFR expertise in evaluating technical reports for ground truthing.

Jurisdiction CWRC Status



- Adopting the State Code and Map
 - City of Centennial
 - Town of Parker
 - City of Lone Tree
 - Arapahoe County
 - Douglas County (possible IGA)
 - City of Castle Pines
 - Town of Foxfield
 - SMFR (Title 32 Limits Enforcement)
- Alternative Approaches
 - Jefferson County – adopting a more stringent code created with FD input and public comment – resolution to follow.
 - City of Littleton – already adopted the IWUIC (may need state approval).
 - City of Cherry Hills Village – still evaluating options.
 - City of Greenwood Village – evaluated options and chose not to adopt.
 - Other AHJs – No WUI on state map, so no adoption needed.

Questions

