



CITY OF ASPEN



# Ready and Resilient



CITY OF ASPEN

# Go Bag Basics

Aspen Police

Ginna Gordon

September 22, 2025

**Go Bag-** A portable emergency kit that contains the essential items you will need if you need to evacuate quickly due to a wildfire or other emergency.



# Get A.C.T.I.V.E Aspen

- A** – Access & Identification
- C** – Care & Health
- T** – Tasty & Thirst-Quenching
- I** – Items for Comfort
- V** – Vital Tools
- E** – Extras for Family & Pets



Preparedness Is  
Power!

## ALERTS



A warning signal  
to **be ready**

## WARNING



Guidance to **prepare** for  
an anticipated **incident**

## NOTIFICATIONS



**Information** on event  
and **actions** to take

# Pitkin County Notifications

Chris Breitbach  
Emergency Manager  
Pitkin County

# PitkinAlert

- Register / Opt-In
- Select types of notifications
  - Traffic, hazardous conditions, severe weather, wildfire threat, evacuation notice
  - Settings can be changed and updated in users profile



**PITKIN**ALERT

**Pitkin County  
Emergency  
Notification**

- Wildfire Threat
- Road Closures
- Traffic Delays
- Flooding

...what you need to know

**Sign Up Today**  
**www.PitkinAlert.org**  
**It's Free!**

# Reachwell

- Application (App) which you download
- Search for/select the jurisdiction(s) you want
  - Pitkin, Eagle, Garfield, Carbondale, etc.
- Once selected, you receive **EVERYTHING**
  - No opt in or out
  - Over 150 different languages
  - Greater situational awareness throughout the region (ie: Hwy 70 info)

**Download the Pitkin  
Emergency Alert App!**

 ReachWell

**Get It**

Download the  
FREE  
ReachWell  
app and  
"Allow" push  
notifications

**Set It**

Set your  
language.

**Add It**

Search and  
add Pitkin  
County Alerts.



**In-the-moment  
Translated Emergency Alerts**

 PITKIN  
COUNTY



# REVERSE 911 (telephone based system)

- Communicate with groups in a defined geographic area
- Uses telephone numbers (landlines) associated with addresses
- **NOT** connected to cell phones
- Misses unlisted or recent moves to the area

\*\*In 2023, 76% of adults and 87% of children lived in homes without landline phones\*\*

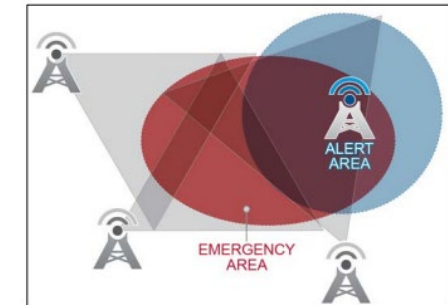
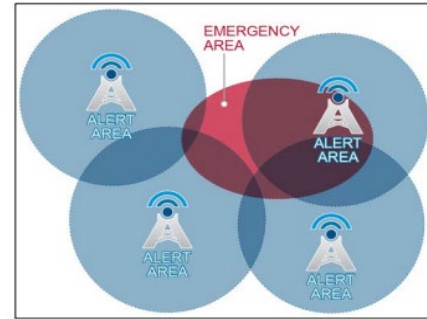
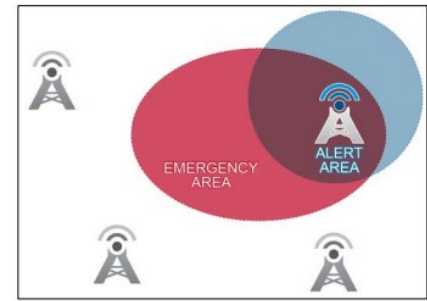
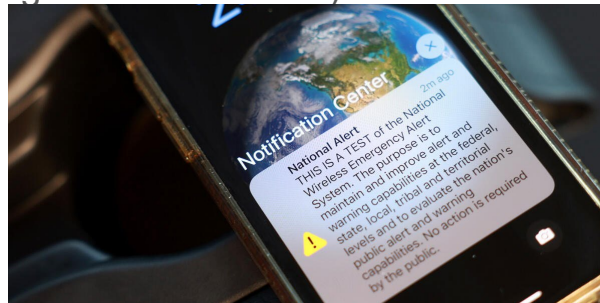
**REVERSE**

**911**



# IPAWS (multiple channel based)

- 3 Pathways (multimedia capability)
  - Integrated Public Alert and Warning System
  - WEA (wireless emergency alerts)
    - Alert the public and provide limited information
    - Uses cellular
    - Reaches visitors/tourists easier
      - AMBER alerts
  - EAS (emergency alert system)
    - Alert the public and provide limited information
    - Radio and TV (scrolling bottom of screen)
  - NOAA weather radios
- Geo-target specific areas
- No sign-up required



# “What do I do living in a rural area with limited access?”

- NOAA weather radio
  - Watches, Warnings and hazard information 24/7
- EAS
  - Received through television and radio
    - Cable TV: Federally required to broadcast EAS messages
    - Streaming Apps (Sling, YouTube TV, Hulu): NOT required, fragmented and inconsistent
      - Some streaming apps will show EAS when you are watching a local live channel through the app
    - On-Demand Streaming Apps (Netflix, Disney+)
      - NO integration to EAS
- Living in a rural area with limited access is a risk!
  - “Emergency Managers have no way of enhancing what is not there.”

# How to join

- PitkinAlerts
  - Google Pitkin Alerts
  - Managed through Everbridge Mass Notification System
- Reachwell
  - Download the App
  - Log in
  - Select county or agency to follow



Now what!?

What actions should you take?

# Prepare

- **Prepared:** Get yourself in a state of readiness for a situation that is likely to happen, or to be willing to do something that may be necessary
- **Threat:** potential source of harm
- **Vulnerability:** a weakness or gap in protection
- **Risk:** likelihood that a threat will exploit a vulnerability, leading to damage or loss
- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)
  - Flooding
  - Wildfires
  - Power Outages
- Build a Kit (Home, Work, Vehicle)
  - Winter or Summer
  - Pets?
  - Food (3 days), Water (1-gallon per person, per day)
- Evacuation Plan
  - “The earlier you go, the more options you have”
  - Know terms: Evacuate, Area of Refuge, Shelter in Place



# Aspen Fire Department

- **Evacuation Procedures/Protocols:**
  - **Alert Types**
    - **Evacuation Warning**
    - **Evacuation Order**
    - **Shelter-in-Place**
  - **Genasys**
    - **County Wide**
    - **Public Facing**
    - **Consistent Messaging**
- The goal of this session is to ensure participants are fully equipped to respond appropriately in the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a wildfire or hazardous materials incident.

# Evacuation – Types

## Warning & Order

- Evacuation Warning
  - Evacuation Warning is a notice for you to start getting ready to evacuate. This is your opportunity to gather your belongings. **YOU CAN LEAVE** if you feel unsafe.
- Evacuation Order
  - Leave the area immediately.
  - Don't use suboptimal evacuation routes unless specifically directed to do so.
  - This might be an Area of Refuge
    - Emergency managers will attempt to provide information on safe evacuation centers if time allows. Plan to drive towards highway 82 down valley. For small-scale local evacuations or disaster recovery and sheltering, local schools, community centers, or large parking lots may be used.



# Evacuation – Area of Refuge

## Area of Refuge

- Intended for temporary shelter to wait out a passing wildfire front if evacuation route is blocked or impassable
- Seek a wide parking lot, irrigated field, or sports field; concrete parking garages or fire-resistant buildings; golf course or irrigated ski run; open areas (streets, intersections, and parks without flammable vegetation) within the City of Aspen core, so long as passing cars do not present a danger to you.
- Parking your car, with windows up, in a location far from vegetation or structures, and waiting for the fire to pass, is often a safe option for temporary refuge.
- Once the fire has passed, areas of burned fuel can also provide a safe, albeit uncomfortable, place to shelter from the remaining fire. Only use burned areas that are free from trees as trees often fall following a wildfire event.





# Evacuation – Shelter in Place

## Shelter in Place

- Stay in your current location. If outside, seek safest nearby building or unburnt area
- Remain calm and keep everyone together.
- Prepare yourself mentally for darkness (even during the day), noise, chaos, and the natural urge to flee the safety of your shelter.
- Take shelter in the nearby place that is best able to withstand the fire. This may be your home, another building made of more resistant materials (brick, concrete) or that is less exposed to burning vegetation, your car, or an open outdoor area like an irrigated playing field or parking lot far from vegetation.
- Stay calm and together while the wildfire passes. When directed, or when the fire outside subsides, move to a safer area.





genasys

## Evacuation Zones

- Overview
- Pitkin Emergency Management
- Sheriff

## Search

Enter an address or Zone ID into the search bar to check the status of the area

Search an address

### MY CURRENT ZONE



Please allow location sharing for us to locate your current zone.

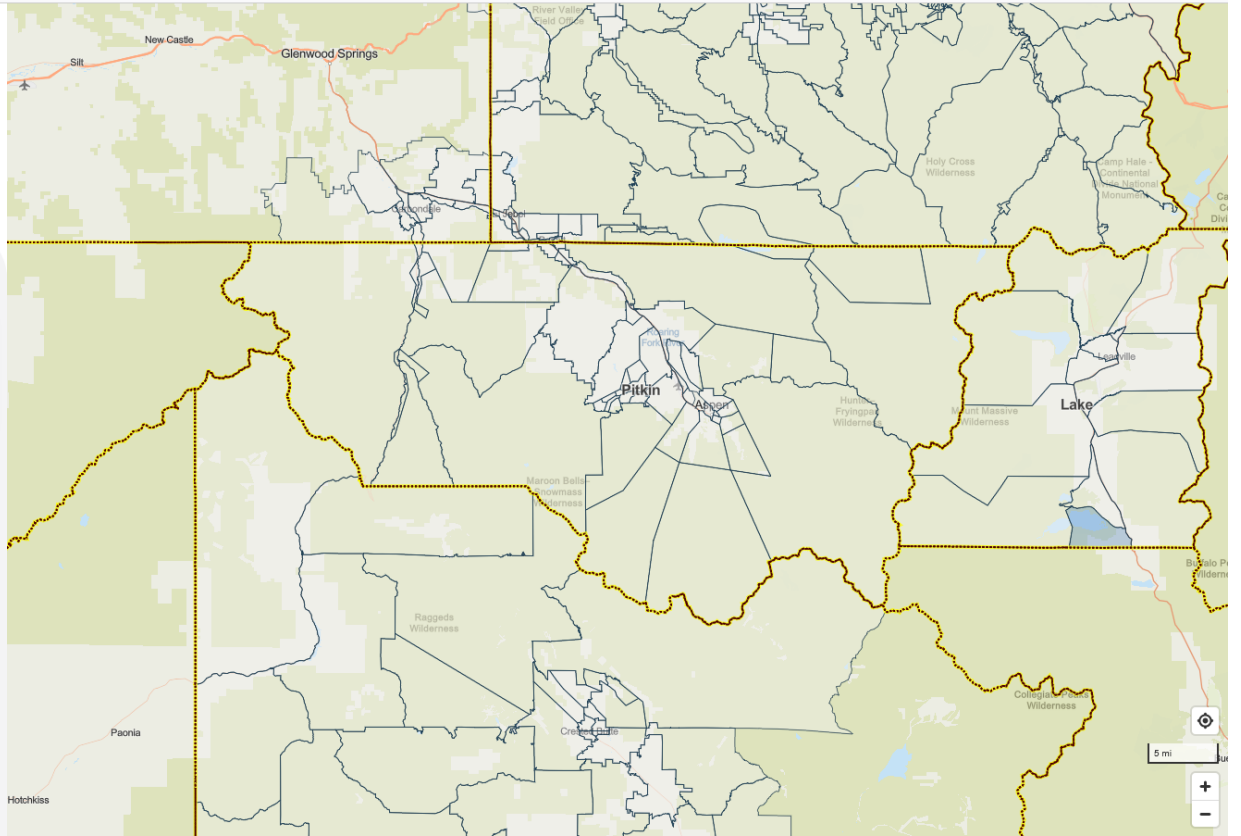
Allow



Or select a zone on the map to see the status



Genasys Protect mobile app is now available to download in the app store!  
[Learn more](#)



## Map

Enter an address or Zone ID into the search bar to check the status of the area

Search an address

### MY CURRENT LOCATION

Vail Rd, Vail, CO, 81657, USA

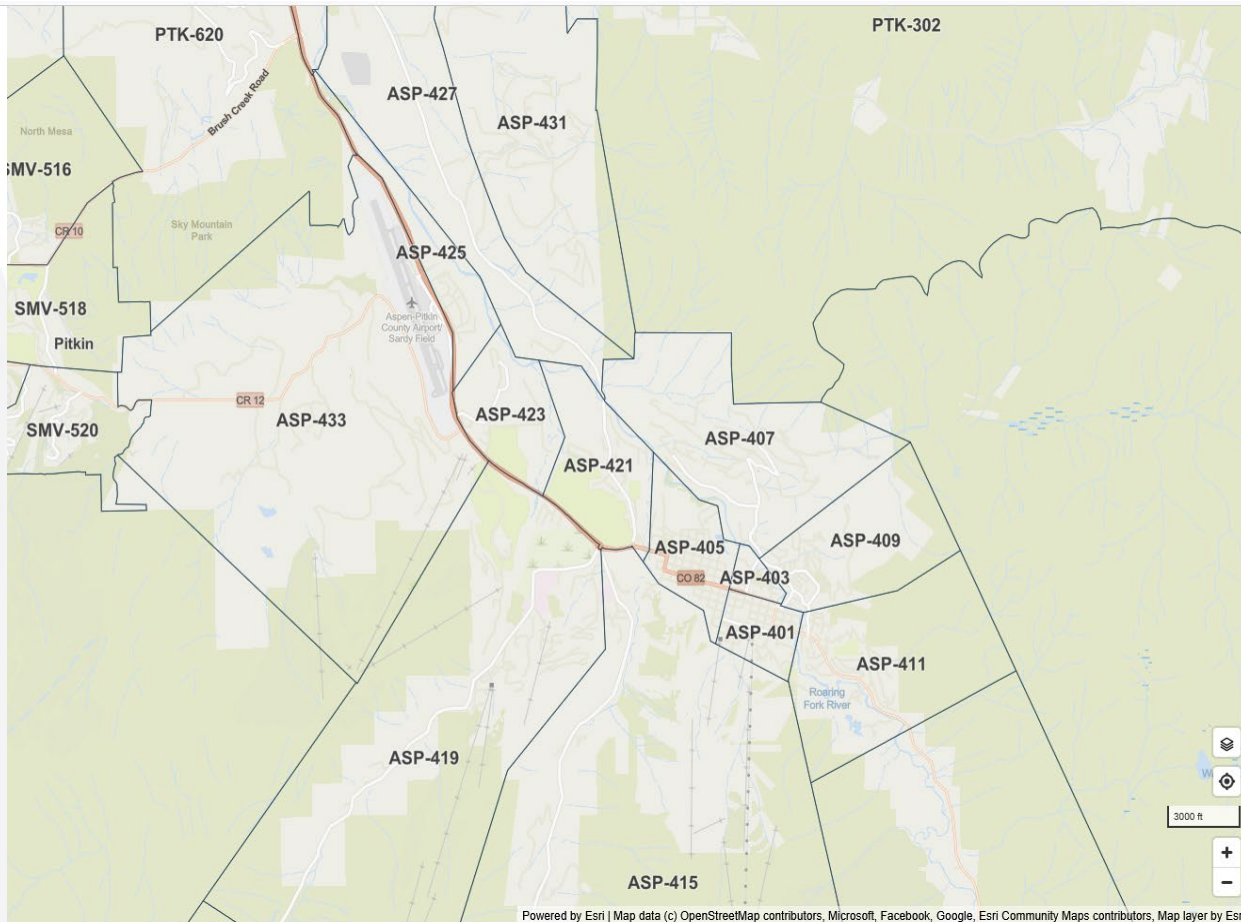
### ENABLE LOCATION ACCESS

We couldn't find your location. Make sure your browser's location services are enabled.

Share location



Genasys Protect mobile app is now available to download in the app store! [Learn more](#)



## Types of Genasys EVAC Messages

- Advisory
- **Evacuation Warning**
- **Evacuation Order**
- **Evacuation Order Lifted**
- **Shelter in Place**
- Training
- Additional details posted on Genasys Protect
  - Web or App: (<https://protect.genasys.com/>)

- genasys Protect ZONE RIVER AWARE
- Search
- Fires
- About
- Download App

### Search

Enter an address or Zone ID into the search bar to check the status of the area

#### MY CURRENT ZONE



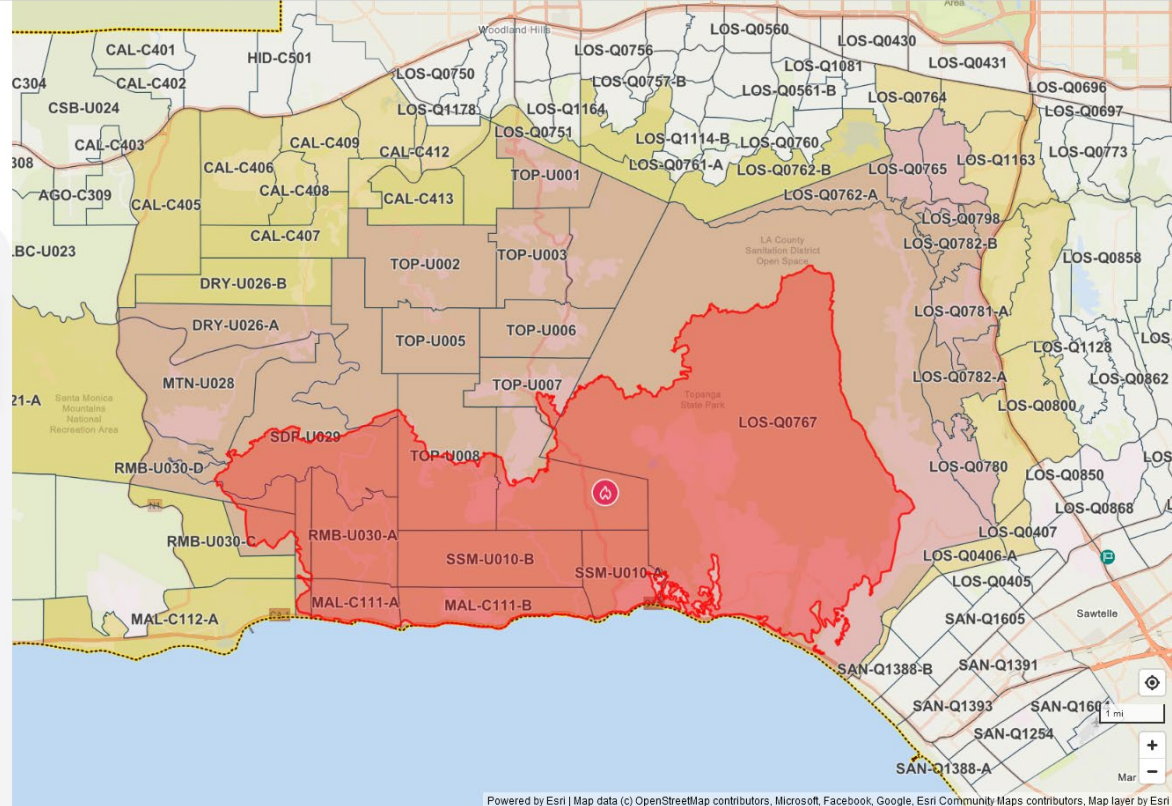
Please allow location sharing for us to locate your current zone.



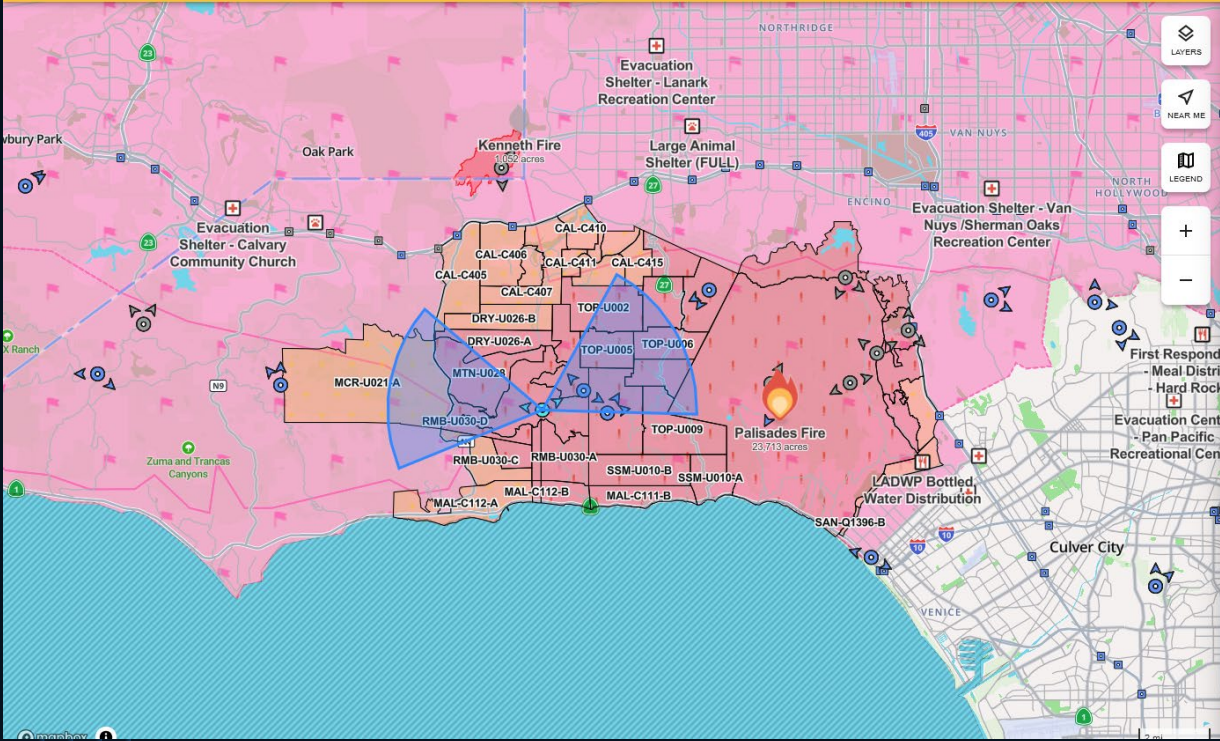
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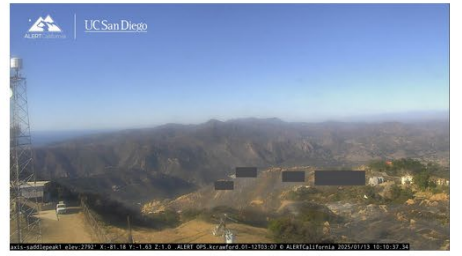
Genasys Protect mobile app is now available to download in the app store! [Learn more](#)



**WATCH DUTY**



**Saddle Peak 1**



Jan 13 11:10 AM • less than a minute ago

15 minutes ▾ [Full Screen Icon]

**Additional Cameras**

1 2

CAMERA OPERATED BY





**WILDFIRE**  
**COLLABORATIVE**  
**ROARING FORK VALLEY**



# AGENDA

1. **WHAT IS OUR WILDFIRE RISK IN ASPEN?**
2. **WHAT IS THE WILDFIRE COLLABORATIVE DOING TO MITIGATE THAT RISK?**
3. **WHAT REALLY BURNS DOWN HOMES?**

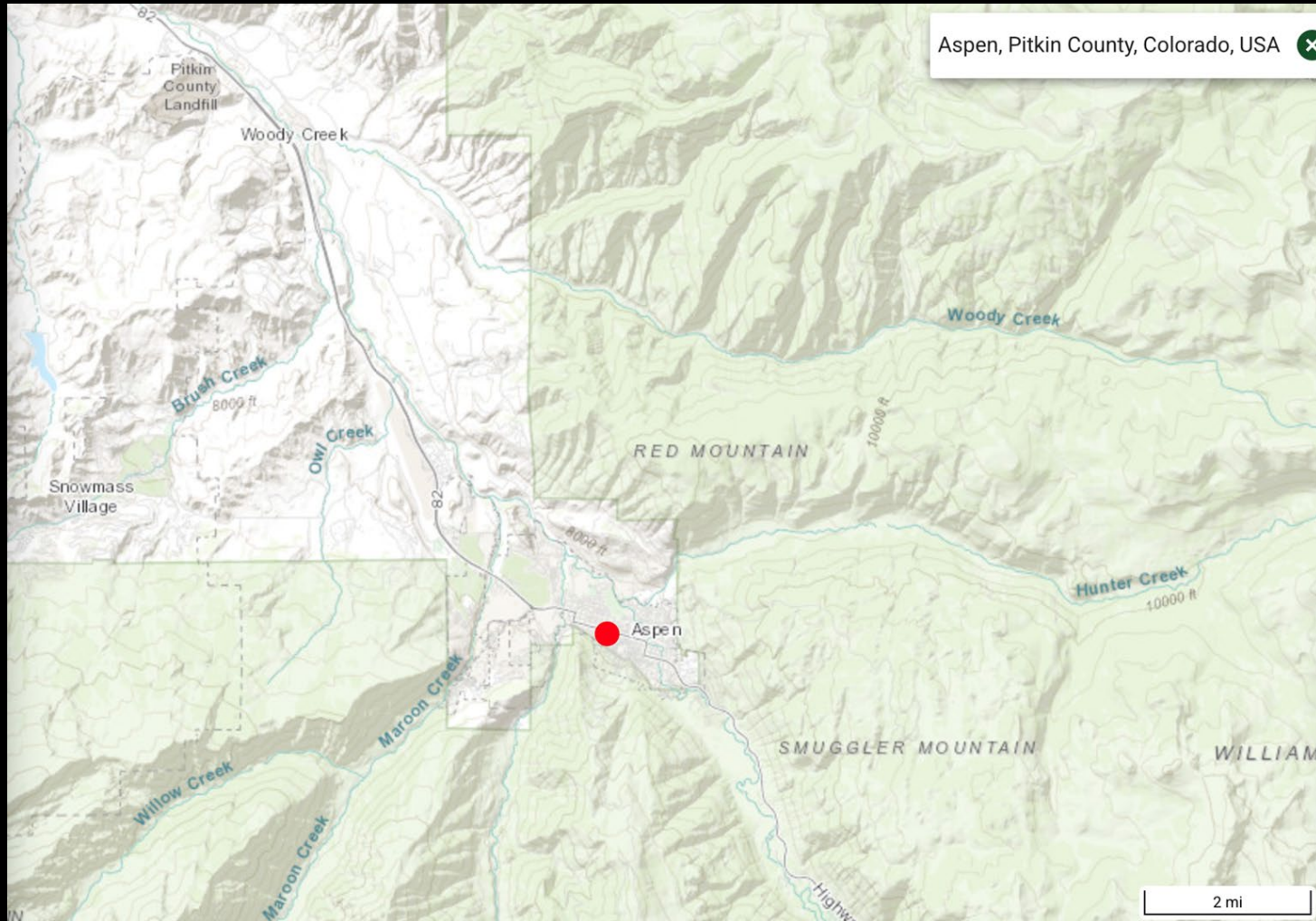
**RESOURCES TO**



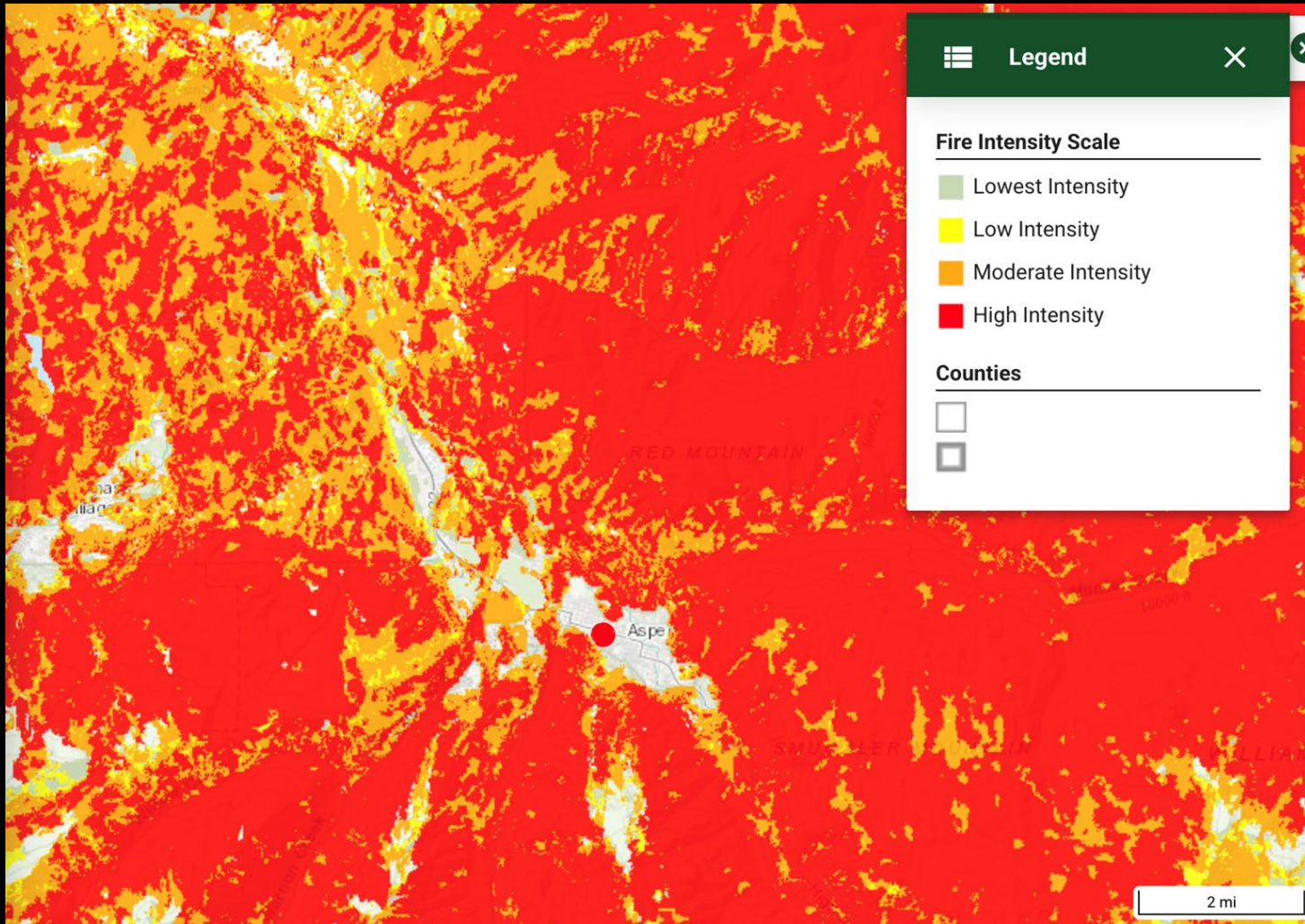
# WILDFIRE RISK IN ASPEN



Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado, USA



2 mi





The Roaring  
Fork Valley is a







facing a  
**critical and  
escalating threat.**

# Wildfire Ready Watersheds









## Statewide Post-Fire Susceptibility Assessment

Average Susceptibility of Values-at-Risk to Hazards

### Legend

-  HUC12 Subwatersheds\*
-  Major Waterbodies
-  Major Rivers
-  Basin Roundtable Delineations
-  Highways
-  Counties

### Susceptibility of Values-at-Risk to Hazards

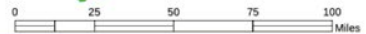
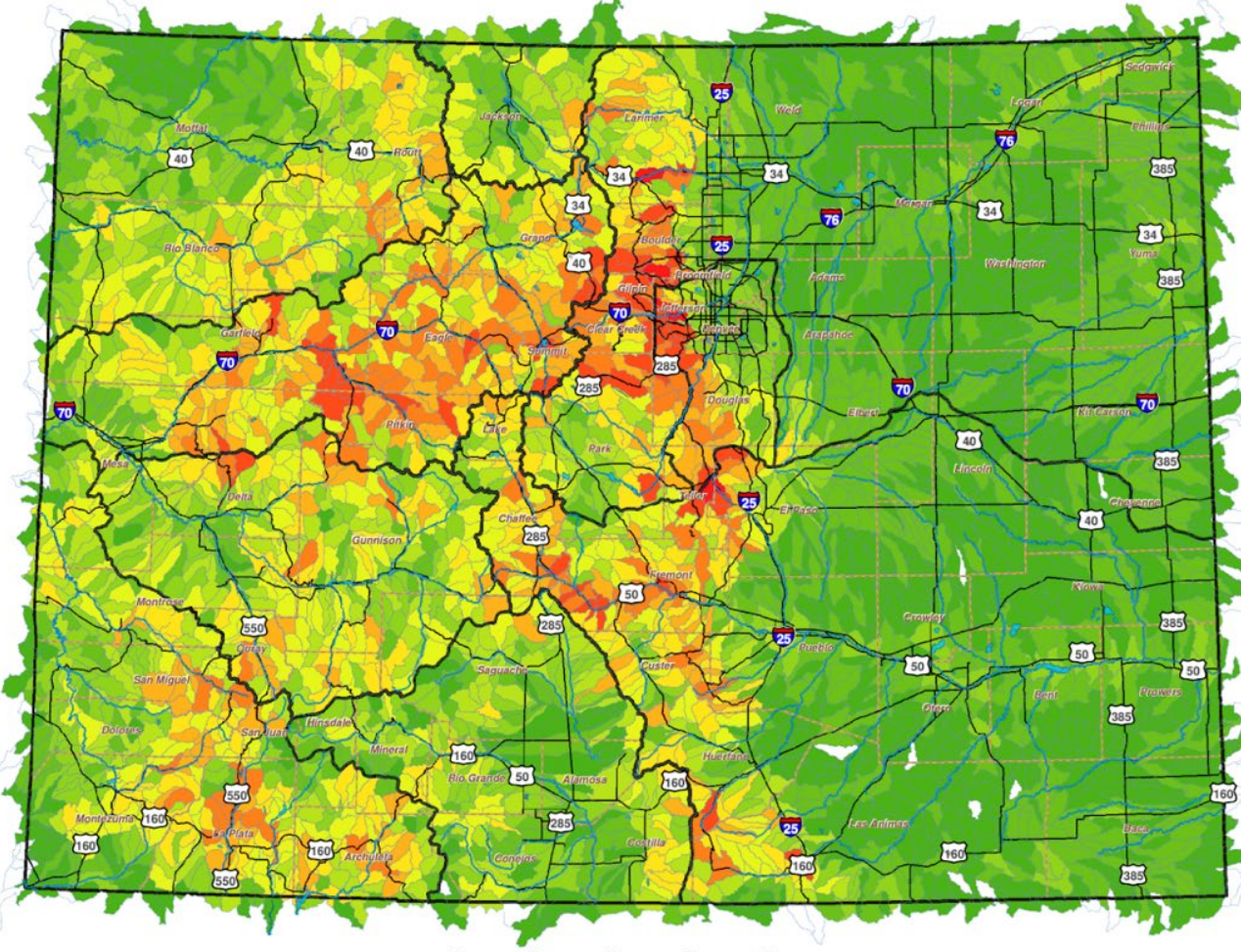
-  1 - 7
-  8 - 13
-  14 - 19
-  20 - 25
-  26 - 31
-  32 - 36
-  37 - 42
-  43 - 48
-  49 - 54
-  55 - 60

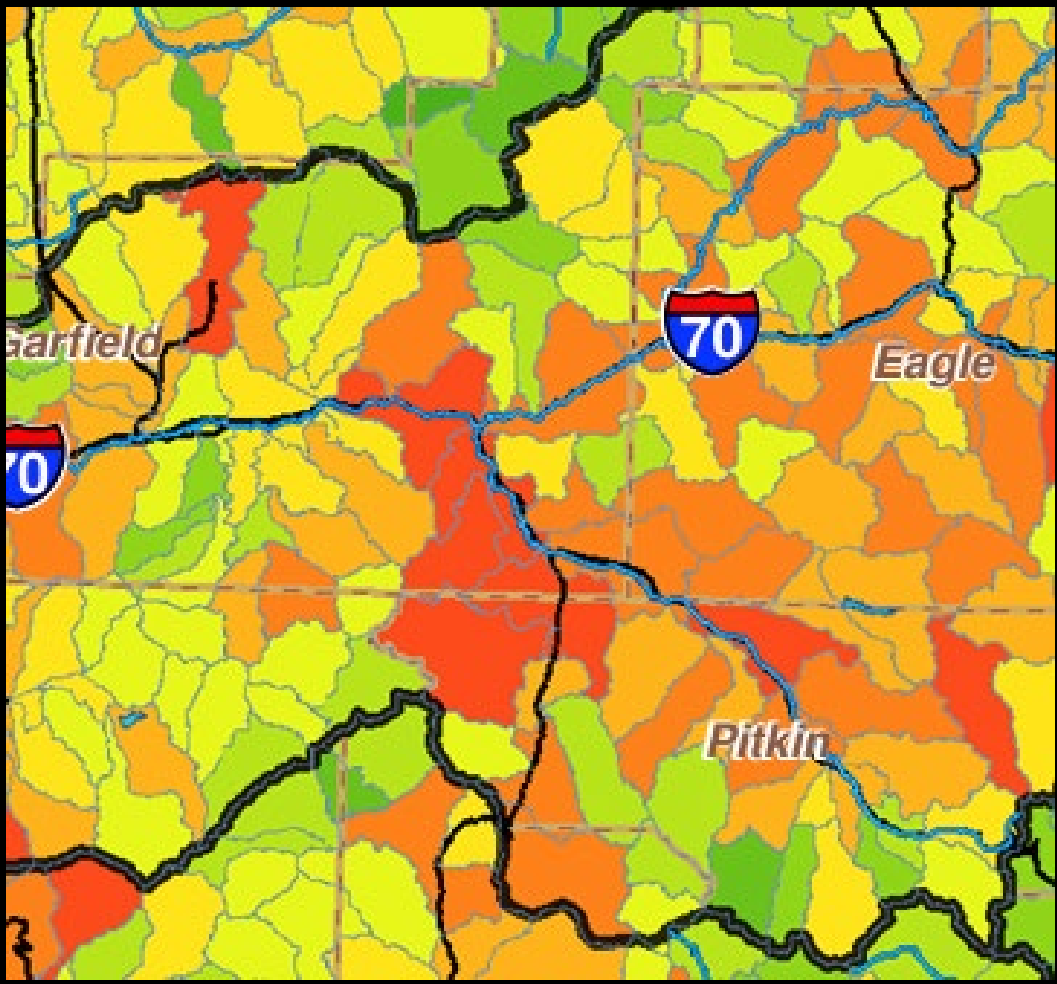
Numeric values above represent progressively increasing relative (watershed by watershed comparison) susceptibility of Values-at-Risk to Post-Fire Hazards. The values shown represent the average of all analyzed values each calculated on a per HUC12 basis. Basins with no estimated risk are shown as blank/empty. The maximum possible value of 100 would represent the highest presence of Values-at-Risk and the highest likelihood of Post-Fire Hazard occurrence.

 Provides a watershed-by-watershed assessment of total post-fire hazard risk against Values-at-Risk (VAR).



\* HUCs are described at: <https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>











## Wildfire Ready Watersheds










Statewide Post-Fire  
Susceptibility Assessment

Average Susceptibility of  
Values-at-Risk to Hazards

### Legend

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-  1 - 7
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-  14 - 19
-  20 - 25
-  26 - 31
-  32 - 36
-  37 - 42
-  43 - 48
-  49 - 54
-  55 - 60

# Mudslide on scenic Colorado highway tests limits of aging infrastructure in era of climate change

Interstate 70 through Glenwood Canyon was built decades before global warming was top of mind.



An aerial image of damage from mudslides to I-70 in Glenwood Canyon in Colorado. Colorado Transportation Department



# Mudslide on scenic Colorado highway tests limits of aging infrastructure change

Interstate 70 through Glenwood Canyon was built d mind.



# Palisades home survived the fire, only to be split in two by a landslide

After wildfires destabilize hillsides, the risk of landslides grows, making episodes like this more likely in the future.



WHOLE FOODS MARKET

gettyimages®

Credit: Chris Council

992362712

**LAKE  
CHRISTINE  
FIRE,  
2018**





Community  
resilience means

**WITH**

and proactively  
reducing its  
destructive  
consequences.

# WHAT IS THE WILDFIRE COLLABORATIVE DOING TO REDUCE RISK?



To create fire adapted communities and resilient landscapes, we need:

LANDSCAPE-SCALE  
MITIGATION



Cross-boundary,  
landscape scale  
strategic mitigation  
to reduce fuels

EMBER-PROOFING  
HOMES



Intentional,  
inclusive,  
responsive  
community  
education and  
engagement

RAPID DETECTION  
& RESPONSE



Investing in  
technology to  
improve our ability  
to detect wildfires  
and respond swiftly

CROSS-SECTOR  
PARTNERSHIP



Long-term,  
strategic, cross-  
sector coordination  
across partners





# PROJECTS IN THE FOREST

**It's fire speed, not size, that destroys homes.**

**New research shows that “fast fires” cause**

**90  
%**

**of fire-related damage, despite making up only 3% of all  
fires.**





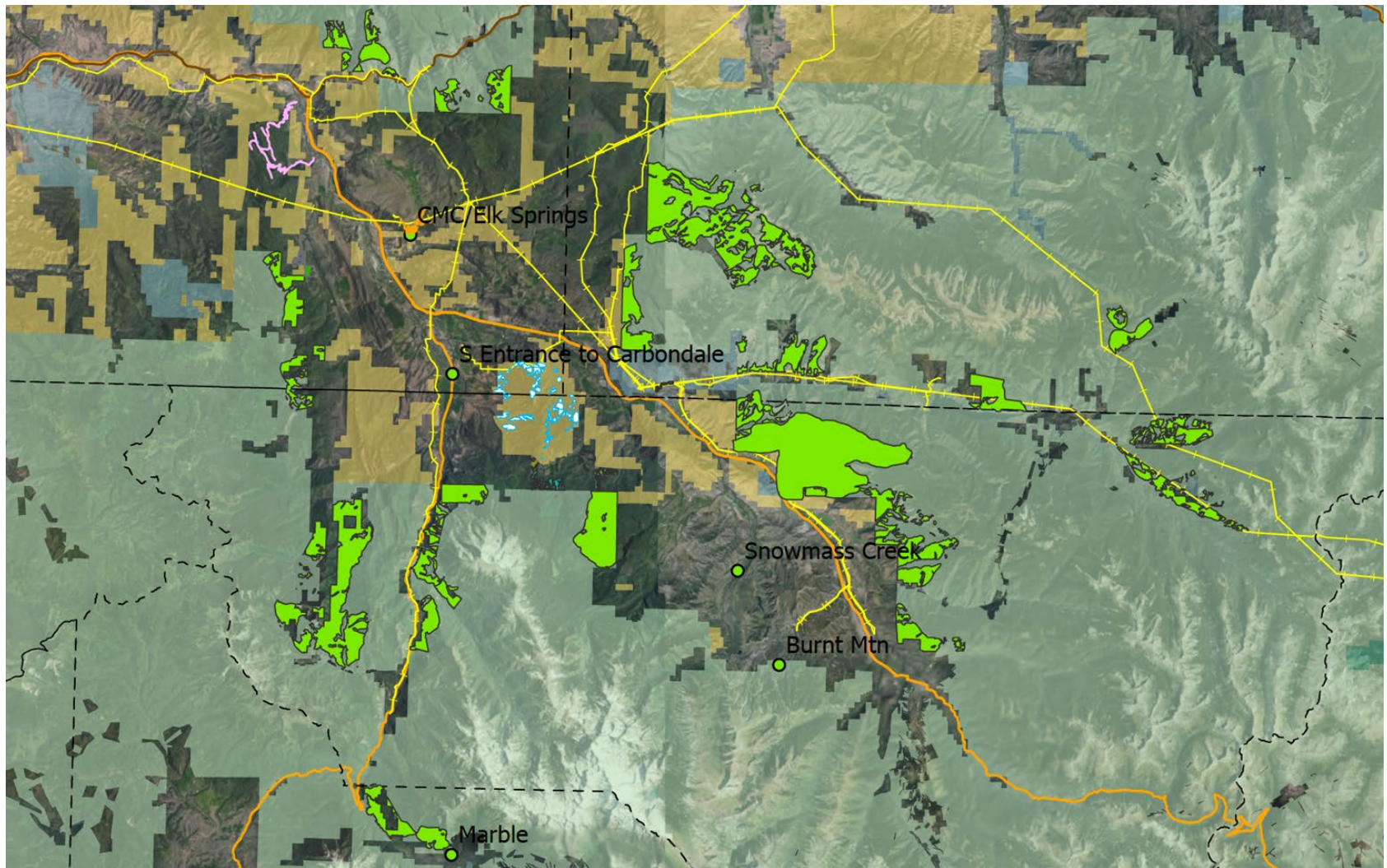


**“FUELS REDUCTION,” NOT “CLEAR-CUTTING”**

# EXAMPLE: SUNNYSIDE

- **PREP WORK: FIRE LINES**
- **900-ACRE RX BURN**
- **EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



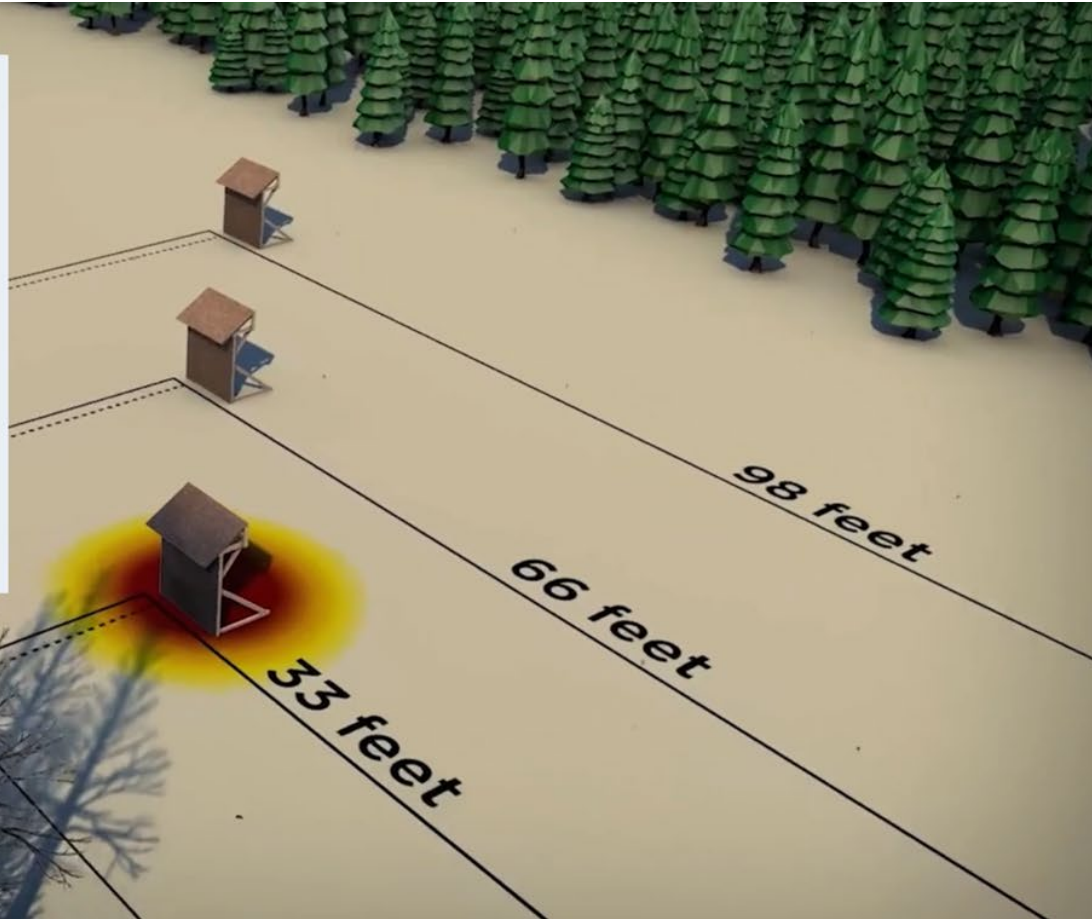


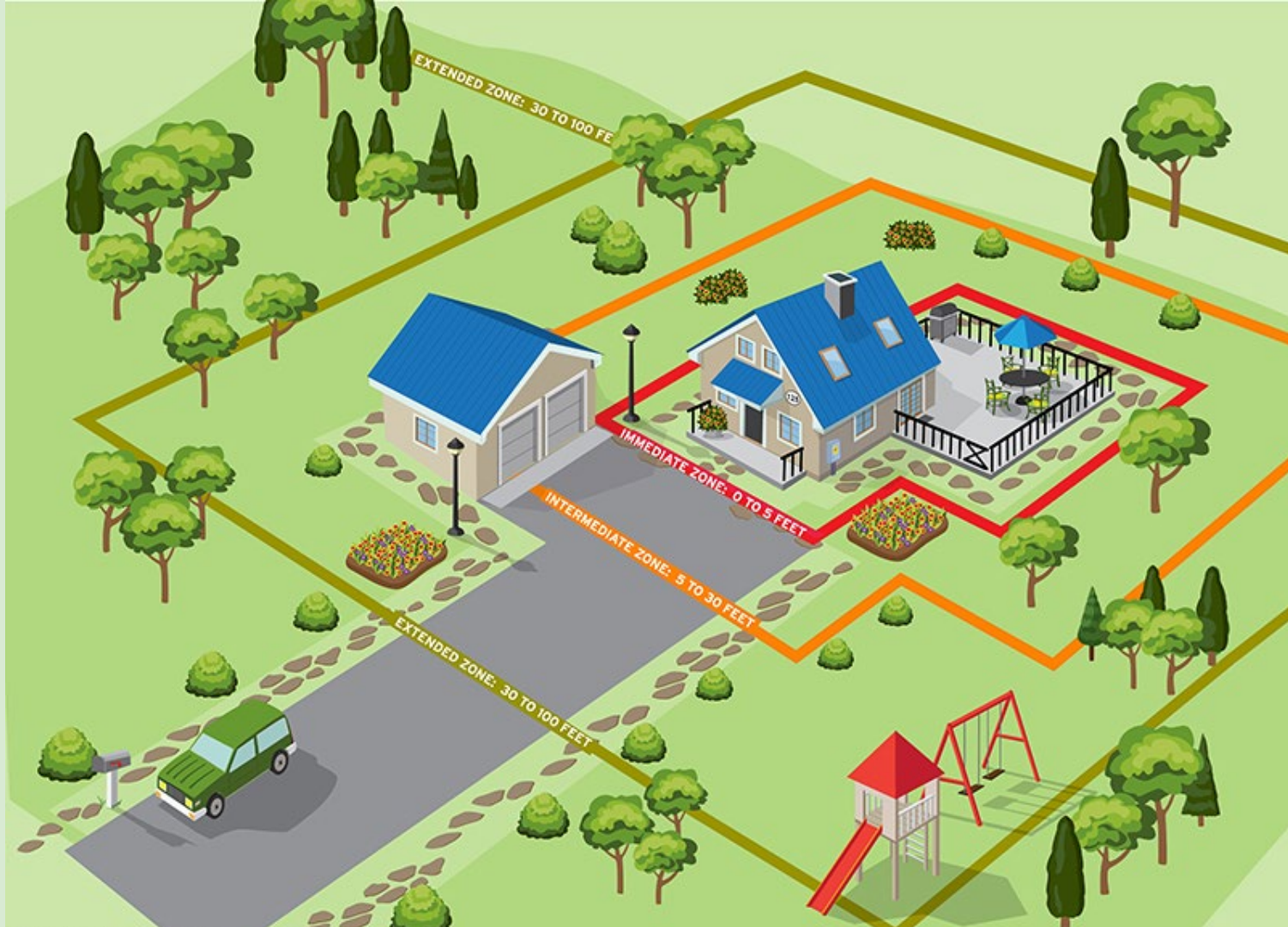
**WHAT REALLY  
BURNS DOWN HOMES  
IN A WILDFIRE?**



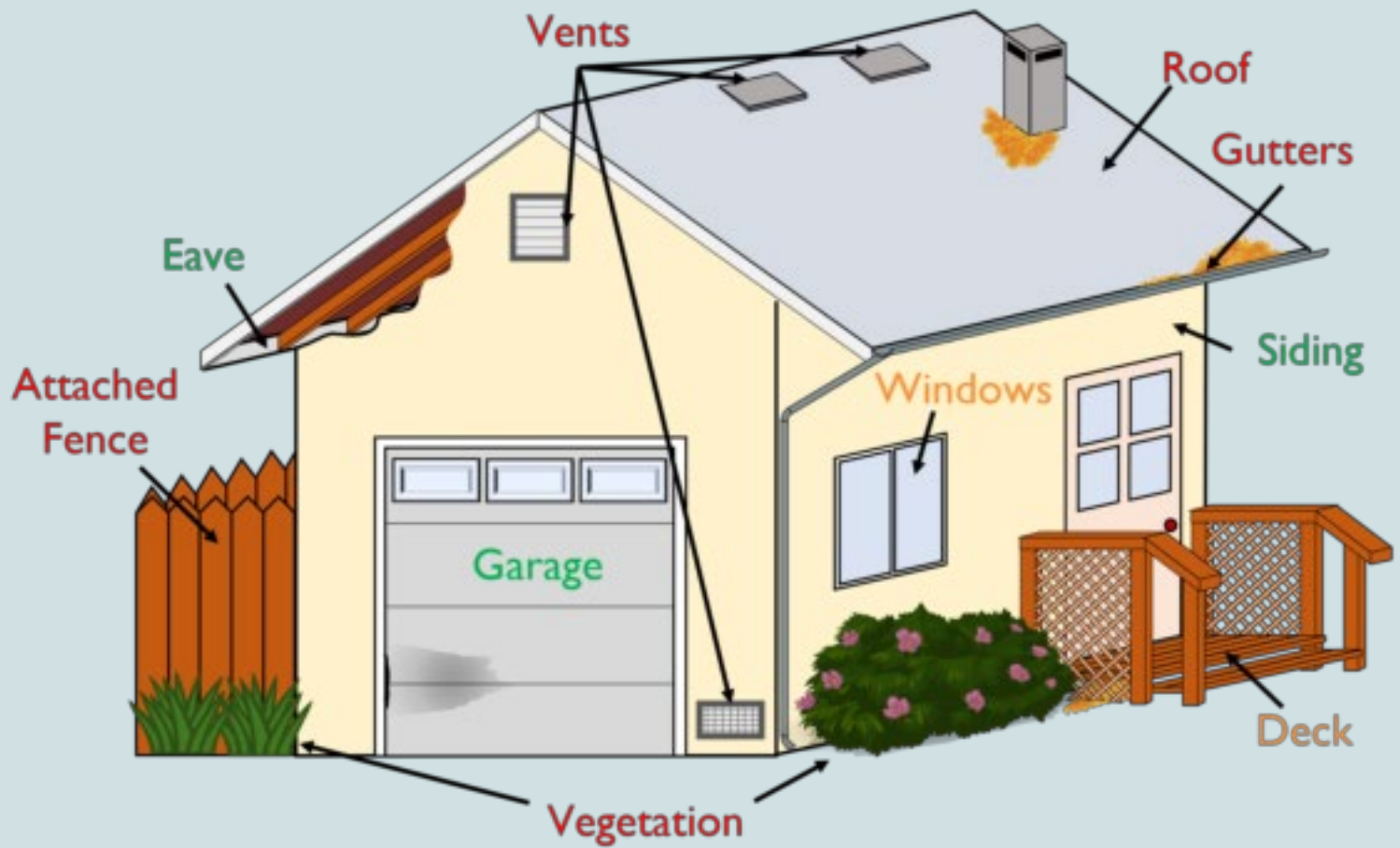


Jack's work shows that thinning vegetation on a gradient starting as little as 100 feet away from a home is enough to significantly reduce the risk of ignition.









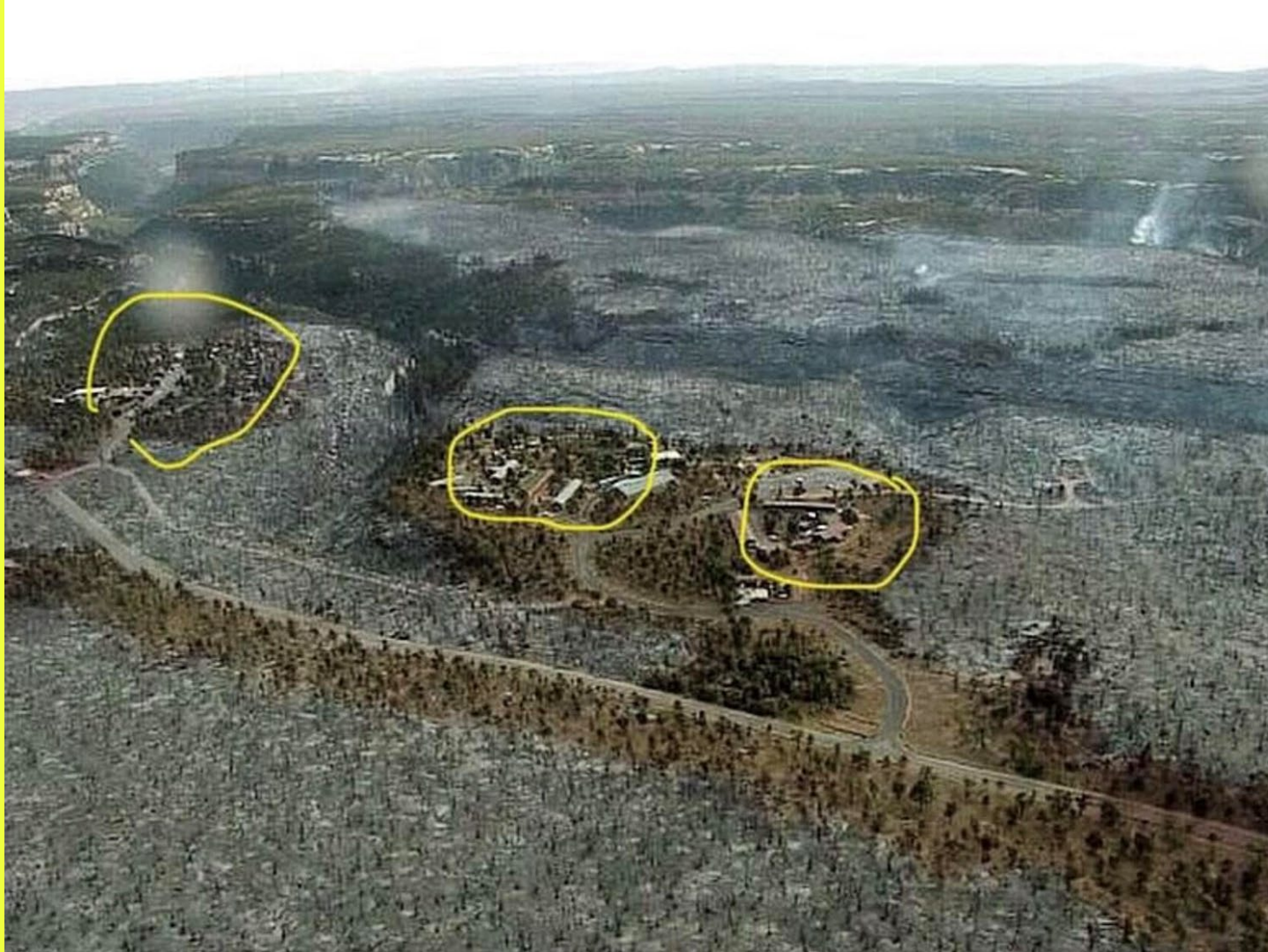
**Recent studies show that as many as**

**90  
%**

**of homes lost to wildland fire *may have been saved*  
if the homes were ember-proofed.**



# LONG MESA FIRE, 2002



**WALDO  
CANYON  
FIRE,  
2012**



**WALDO  
CANYON  
FIRE,  
2012**



# LAHAINA FIRE, 2023



# **PALISADES FIRE, 2025**

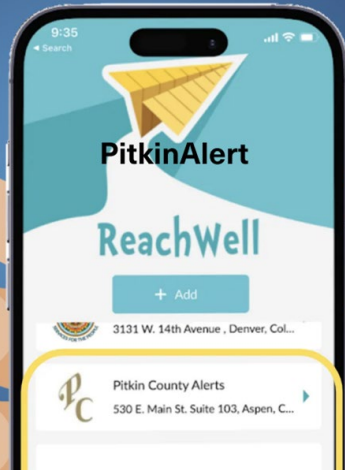


**WHAT CAN  
YOU DO?**

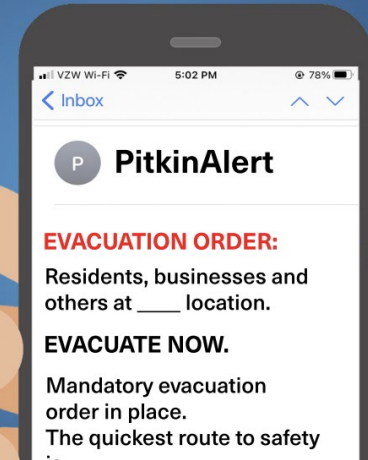


# SIGN UP FOR **PITKIN EMERGENCY ALERTS**

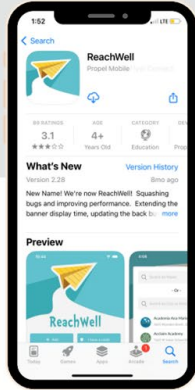
Download the free ReachWell App to receive emergency alerts in Spanish and other languages.



Sign up to receive emergency notification in English at **PITKINALERT.ORG**



# SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS



## Get It

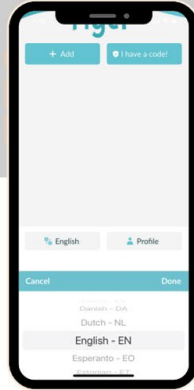


Download ReachWell app and "Allow" push notifications



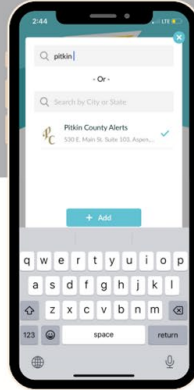
## Set It

Set your language.



## Add It

Search and add Carbondale Fire Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin County Alerts.

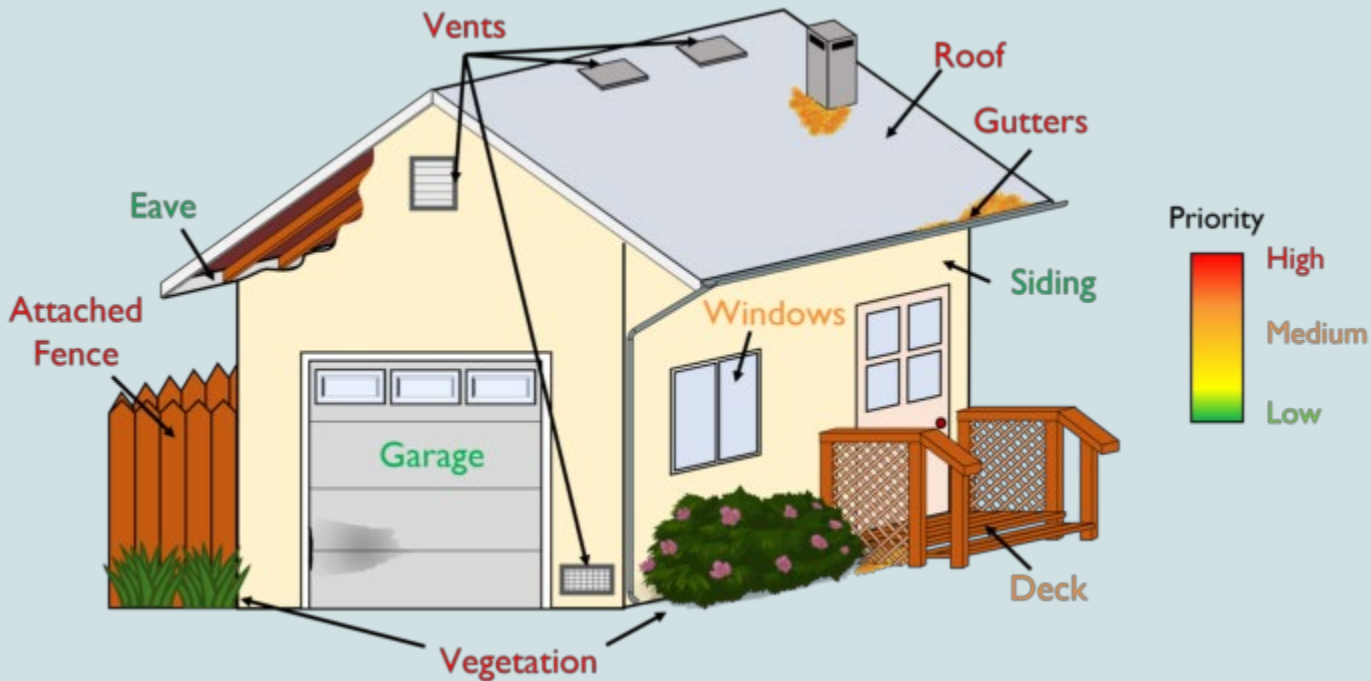


# SIGN UP FOR A **FREE** RISK ASSESSMENT



[www.aspenfire.com/schedule-an-assessment](http://www.aspenfire.com/schedule-an-assessment)

# FOLLOW THROUGH ON RECOMMENDED HOME HARDENING ACTIONS



# WE CAN HELP!



WILDFIRE MITIGATION ASSISTANCE APPLICATION