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Community Chipping Program – Frequently Asked Questions

***For specific logistical concerns or questions, your Chipping Event Contractor will have the final decision (and the best advice!)**

NEW for 2025 FAQ Sheet

Q: What's new for the 2025 Chipping Program FAQ?

A: Not much! The 2025 program will run very similarly to the 2024 program. We have made a couple updates internally at Boulder County regarding registration software. However, people who have participated in previous years may hardly notice a difference.

Q: I see on the 2025 application form it asks for 5 properties. But, I have more than 5 homes that want to participate. Can I add additional participants?

A: Yes! You need to list only 4 additional addresses to apply, but after you've been approved, you'll be emailed a link for each participant to register themselves to your event! All participants must register through the link to be included in your event!

Q: Sounds a little complicated. Do you have any documents that can help guide me through the whole process?

A: Yes! You'll receive a step-by-step Host Checklist document that will guide you on how to best host your chipping event from start to finish.

Q: I'm an acting Property Manager- can I sign up multiple properties without coordinating with the tenants, owners, or residents?

A: No! We expect full participation from the Host and their participants. Wildfire Partners has a separate application for events where a Host wants to manage all slash piles or drop-off events.

Q: Who schedules the chip event date with the Contractor?

A: You do! This will be the first thing you do after getting approved for a chipping event. We find it's best that the Host schedules the date with the Contractor first and then tells participants of the chipping date. We also

recommend scheduling a date that's at least three weeks away so that your neighbors have adequate time to build their slash piles.

Q: Do the participants from my initial application still need to register themselves through the special link I receive, after I've been approved?

A: Yes! All participants (not including you as the Host) will need to sign up to your event through the special link you'll be forwarding directly to them.

Q: I'm a Property Manager- can I sign up multiple properties without coordinating with the tenants, owners, or residents? Even if I'm the sole person responsible for all of their slash piles?

A: No! We're expecting full participation from the Host and their participants. Each resident must manage their own participation and slash pile. If you are coordinating for multiple homes and will be doing 100% slash pile work by yourself, then please email the Chipping Coordinator to see if this program can still be of service to your community.

Q: Do I have to follow the step-by-step process to Host or can I just email you a list of properties like previous years through Boulder County? Why the change?

A: You must follow all steps listed on the WildfirePartners.org website and in the supporting emails for 2025. This is to ensure that all communications between the Host, Coordinator, Contractor, and Event Participants remain effective as the program scales to support all of Boulder County.

Q: Is there a maximum size or number of slash piles?

A: Yes, each participant is allowed to have up to one 80ft x 5 x 5 pile OR two 40ft x 5 x 5 piles maximum (do not exceed these measurements or number of piles). Our contractors will only chip up to TWO piles per property within these dimensions. Slash piles should be a minimum size of 5x5x5-feet.

Q: Where should my slash come from?

A: Wildfire Partners is using the Community Chipping Program to mitigate slash from the Home Ignition Zone (aka the "HIZ"). We recommend to chip any slash that comes from within a 100-foot radius of your home structure. If this area has clearly been mitigated already, you may produce slash piles that come from beyond 100-feet of your home, however the piles must still be located along a safe access point of the road for our contractors.

Q: Are there date restrictions (end date to achieve)?

A: While there are no date restrictions at this time, chipping operations will likely not occur during inclement weather or snow. Applications for Community Chipping Events will likely be available from April 1st to November 30th.

Q: Can I host or participate in more than one event per year?

A: Yes! Hosts and participants may organize multiple events throughout the year as long as they continue to agree to meet slash pile requirements. There is no limit for number of events a community can have.

*Each event will need a separate application (there is no “renewal” application or process planned for 2025).

Q: Last year I stacked my slash pile in an unsafe location, or along a blind curve, but the Contractors still picked it up and chipped it. Can I put the slash pile in the same location as last year?

A: NO! Some of our Contractors expressed safety concerns from the 2023 and 2024 season, and all slash piles need to be in a safe location for vehicle/chipper access. Slash piles left in unsafe areas will be left unchipped. If you are unsure if a pile location is safe, please contact your Chipping Contractor directly before the chipping event.

Q: How long will it take before I know if we’re approved for a chipping event? How long will it take to schedule with a Contractor?

A: For 2024, most applications took 0-2 days for approval, and most Hosts were able to schedule with a Contractor within a few days of being approved. Some Hosts even applied on a Monday, were approved and scheduled with a Contractor on Tuesday, and chipped that Friday! Scheduling is entirely dependent on the Host’s efforts and Contractor’s availability.

2024 FAQ (still valid 2025)

Q: Do I need to be a current Wildfire Partner to participate in the Community Chipping Program? And are there participant restrictions by address location?

A: Nope! The Community Chipping Program is open to all Boulder County Residents.

Q: What does a Chipping Event cost me?

A: Nothing! Contractor costs and payment are provided by the Boulder County's Wildfire Partners Wildfire Mitigation Tax Fund (formerly known as the 1A ballot initiative).

Q: Are there specific chipping contractors eligible for participation?

A: Yes- all contractors that are involved with the Community Chipping Program are specifically approved by Boulder County and Wildfire Partners.

Q: What is the cost to the homeowner for participation?

A: There is no cost to the homeowner for participation in the Wildfire Partners Community Chipping Program.

Q: Will the Chipping Contractors chip from each property or do we have to stack slash in a central location?

A: Contractors will travel from address-to-address to chip each slash pile. You should not combine slash piles into one central location unless specifically told by your approved Contractor.

Q: Can I assume the contractor's trucks can come down my long driveway if there is room to turn around?

A: No. In general, all slash should be staged 2-5 ft from a public road in a safe location. If this is not common for your property or if staging this way creates a hazard for the public or the homeowner, the participant and Chipping Event Host need to communicate directly with the Contractor, prior to the Chipping Event, to determine if the Contractor can access the slash pile safely.

Q: I have been trying to think of 4 other properties near me that chip. Can you keep me on a list for others in my area that need a 5th property?

A: Wildfire Partners will not be organizing lists at this time.

Q: How close do we need to be to each other? Do we have to share a property border?

A: Properties need to be reasonably close together and in the same neighborhood. Properties do not need to share a border.

Q: Will your chipping program include fungal inoculation as part of speeding up decomposition of the wood chips?

A: While this process is currently being researched with Boulder County partners, this will not be an option for the 2025 Community Chipping Program.

Q: I own five or more properties that are all in the same neighborhood. Can I apply for the Community Chipping Program, or do I need to find additional property owners?

A: You can apply for the Community Chipping Program if each property has its own unique street address.

Q: Can the Chipping Event Host arrange to keep the chips on site for mulching?

A: No, not at this time.

Q: Does the chipping program include cutting trees?

A: Nope! The Chipping Program's purpose is to reduce slash (fire fuel) into woodchips, and then relocate the woodchips to a donation site.

Q: Does it take a lot of work to be a chipping Event Host?

A: The Chipping Event Host plays a very important role in the producing an Event. The Host applies to the program, communicates directly with the Wildfire Partners Chipping Coordinator, the Chipping Contractor, and the local participants. So, the host will need to have a positive interest in communicating and organizing.

Q: Are there any requirements to be an Event Host?

A: Nope! There are no requirements to be a Host, but the Host should be fire-minded and have a positive attitude towards communicating with their neighbors!