

# FREE SLASH DISPOSAL!



April 15 through September 30, 2013,  
FOR CLEAR CREEK COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY.

Clean slash only – no rocks, dirt or trash

Please separate pine needles and grass clippings

No construction debris

4" or less in diameter

Please cover all loads

Stumps and logs larger than 4" = \$16/cu. yd

(sorry, we can't accept stumps larger than 3' circumference)

Vermeer Chipper Rental = \$125/day

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1531 Soda Creek Road, Idaho Springs • 303-679-2482

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday – 8 AM – 5 PM

Web: [www.co.clear-creek.co.us/Depts/waste.htm](http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/Depts/waste.htm)

## **Defensible Space Information**

Along with offering this program as a free service to the county's residents, we hope to raise compliance with our Defensible Space requirements for safe homes. The purpose of this is to ensure that your home and family will be as protected as possible from wildfires.

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### **FAQ's**

***“What is a defensible space and why do I need this?”*** According to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, it is defined as “a fuel break adjacent to improvements, in which you can safely defend the improvements.” In order for a structure to survive a wildfire, radiated heat and fire intensity must be kept to a minimum. This is accomplished by a combination of clearing and thinning of trees and other vegetation around the proposed or existing structures and along the driveway. Our defensible space requirements are designed to minimize the impact to the property while still providing safety for the structures, the inhabitants, and the firefighters.

***“How are the trees selected?”*** The trees are selected by considering the crown spacing, the types of trees and topographical characteristics of the property. As a fire grows in intensity, it can move into the crowns of trees and by a heat transfer mechanism known as convection, it will rapidly move up slope and down wind. A crown fire can outrun the surface fire and cause ground fires to start as it passes. The crown spacing must then be wider and closer to the home and can be narrower as the distance from the home increases. Smaller trees and diseased trees will be selected first. The homeowners' selection of “special” trees, for screening and aesthetics, will be considered and worked around whenever possible.

***“Do I have to clear cut everything from around my home?”*** This is a common misconception of the defensible space program. The area immediately adjacent to the home is 3 - 5 feet wide. If the home is sided with flammable material, it is advised not to plant any trees, shrubs or flammable ground cover in this area. If non-combustible siding is used, widely spaced shrubs are acceptable but should not be planted under windows or next to vents. From this zone, extending out away from the home, crown spacing decreases gradually and additional lower branches are allowed to remain.

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The county recommends that you dispose of slash removed from your trees and shrubs by chipping, or by piling and burning (contact the Clear Creek County Fire Authority first). The county's slash program is a great opportunity to make your home safer, and you can receive FREE chipper mulch for your landscaping needs in the process!