

URGENT NOTICE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: BEETLE THREAT FROM STORM-DAMAGED TREES

From John Benson, BMFPD Fire Chief

The recent heavy snowfall resulted in many broken tree branches, mature trees snapped in half, and entire trees uprooted, especially in the higher elevations of our neighborhoods. **Experience shows that these downed branches and trees are excellent breeding grounds for the Ips beetle.** Following the Routt Divide Blowdown in 1997 the Ips beetle population rose to an epidemic level. This type of explosion of Ips beetles kills trees over vast acreages. **All our hard work in containing the bark beetle epidemic will be for nothing if we allow this to happen.**

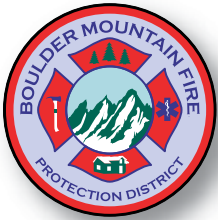
IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU DISPOSE OF DOWNED TREES AND BRANCHES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO RIGHT NOW?

1. **Check your ENTIRE property for downed trees and branches.** Get as much downed material as possible to the street. The BMFPD will chip it at minimal cost. For more information on cost and chipping schedule, call Steve Lynn, Mitigation Coordinator, at 303-440-0235. If you are physically challenged, call the Fire Department and we will try to find volunteers to help you bring the slash to the street.
2. **For downed trees too far from the street to transport, if possible cut the trees into two-foot lengths.** Split logs larger than 8 inches in diameter to facilitate drying. Again, call Steve Lynn, Mitigation Coordinator, at 303-440-0235 if you need help.
3. **For downed trees too far from the street and that can't be cut into two-foot lengths, check all wood for frass every month from now until July.** Frass is the sawdust-like boring debris that indicates beetle infestation. If you see frass, you need to treat the downed wood.
 - **Best way:** Strip the bark from the trunk.
 - **Not so good, but better than nothing:** Use solar or diesel treatment to treat beetle infestation. Get advice from the Beetle Busters or the Colorado State Forest Service since these approaches must be done right to be effective.

This storm came at the worst possible time in terms of our fight against beetles. Only by eliminating attractive breeding materials can we keep the beetle population low. For more information, see the Beetlebusters Resource Page on the BMFPD website: www.bouldermountainfire.org.

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**A MESSAGE FROM
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