



# Genesee

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### Wildfires in Genesee

With the unprecedented wildfires just to the north of us in Colorado, it is not surprising that many Genesee residents are asking “What is our risk? Are we prepared? Are there ways we can reduce our risk?”

**What is our risk?** The entire Genesee Fire Protection District (GFPD) exists in what is known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). There are several publicly available databases for wildfire danger, all of which show that our risk is very high. The USFS site concludes that “populated areas of Genesee have, on average, greater risk than 97% of communities in Colorado.”

- [Colorado Forest Atlas](http://www.coloradoforestatlas.org/) – [www.coloradoforestatlas.org/](http://www.coloradoforestatlas.org/)
- [Defensible App](http://www.defensibleapp.com) - [www.defensibleapp.com](http://www.defensibleapp.com)
- [USFS community risk assessment](https://wildfirerisk.org) - <https://wildfirerisk.org>

**Are we prepared?** Genesee Fire Rescue (GFR) is prepared. We have coordinated with neighboring agencies on communications and preplanning. Our firefighters have wildland firefighting training. Recently, GFR has sent an engine (newly purchased specifically for WUI firefighting capability) and crews to fight the Cameron Peak Fire. To date, there have been three deployments. Seven GFR firefighters have not only helped fight the largest wildfire our state has seen, they have also gained invaluable experience that they bring back to our District. GFPD has funded a comprehensive update to our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that will be completed by early next year. Details can be found at [www.geneseefire.org](http://www.geneseefire.org). This update will include information vital to GFR’s wildfire preplans, model what an evacuation of Genesee might look like in order to identify areas of concern and identify neighborhoods with shared risk profiles and opportunities to mitigate those risks. Importantly, an updated CWPP is a necessary to obtain grant funding to offset the cost of risk mitigation efforts for both residents and the fire protection district. GFR will build on the findings of the CWPP by hiring a wildland specialist who will educate and work with residents to create action plans for them to mitigate their risk.

**Are there ways we can mitigate our risk?** The answer is yes, but many of the community-wide solutions are expensive and many involve reducing our fuel load — selective removal of trees. It is crucial, however, that each of us take personal responsibility for our own safety. This means being ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice and mitigating around our houses so that firefighters have a fighting chance of saving them. Information relevant to all of this can be found on the [www.geneseefire.org](http://www.geneseefire.org).