

## 2012 Colorado Fire Pictures

### **Link & Commentary below shared by Pat Shreffler**

The site below has many good shots of what happens to structures in wildland fires with no defensive space and no green belts etc.

Most of the homes built today - "new construction" includes current codes, stucco, dual pane windows, tile roofs etc. Construction is no substitute for Hazard Reduction (HR) and fuel modification.

When viewing the pictures, note the topography in much of the area, with hazard reduction most of those homes would have been fairly defensible with 100 foot and probably even 30 foot of brush clearance.

When our Type 1 team was at Hayman Fire in Colorado in the same area in 2000, new subdivisions were going up in the brush and hazard reduction laws were being debated. Many of our team, including myself, did TV & newspaper interviews about HR and fuels reduction. We showed where we saved homes with HR and stopped fire in areas that had fuels modification done by logging or prescribed fire.

We also showed them the areas that did not have fuels modification or HR where we tried but could not stop the fire or loss of homes. Some meetings included local politicians, congressmen and congresswomen and state legislatures. They must not have listened.

Also talking to some local folks there was mistakes in fire behavior expectations the first days of the fire and its potential was greatly underestimated.

Remember you have to make accurate predictions to "Base all Actions on Current and predicted Fire Behavior". If you cannot do that, all of your planning and safety is a wild guess.

**To view the 79 photos, go to:**

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2012/06/27/colorado-wildfires-waldo-canyon-fire-colorado-springs/5732/#more-5732>