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### **Jefferson County Parks & Open Space to Conduct Prescribed Pile Burning**

**Jefferson County, Colo.** — Jefferson County Parks & Open Space (JCPOS) will conduct prescribed pile burning in designated park locations this fall and winter, as weather and site conditions allow. The purpose of these burns is to reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health, and promote safer and more resilient natural areas for both visitors and wildlife.

The pile burning process involves igniting and managing stacks of woody debris that were created during forest health management and wildfire mitigation projects. These burns are carefully planned and carried out by trained fire personnel in coordination with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and local fire districts.

"Prescribed fire is a critical tool for keeping our forests healthy and reducing the risk of large, unplanned wildfires," said Steve Murdock, Natural Resources Stewardship Manager at JCPOS. "By reducing excess fuels in a controlled setting, we are creating safer conditions for our community and improving habitat for native plants and animals."

#### **What Residents Can Expect:**

- **Timing:** Pile burns will occur on suitable days between November and March, depending on weather, at least 4 inches of snow cover, and air quality conditions.
- **Location:** Specific parks scheduled for pile burning include Alderfer/Three Sisters, Meyer Ranch, and White Ranch Parks. Signs will be posted at the parks and on variable message signboards.
- **Safety:** Smoke and flames may be visible during burning operations, and residual smoke may linger for a short time afterward. All burns will be monitored until declared fully extinguished.

**Public Health Advisory:**

Smoke from prescribed fire may affect your health. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors; everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

If smoke is thick or becomes thick in your neighborhood, you may need to remain indoors. This is especially true for people with heart disease, respiratory illnesses, the very young, and the elderly. Consider limiting outdoor activity when moderate to heavy smoke is present.

If visibility is less than 5 miles due to smoke in your area, smoke has reached levels that may be unhealthy.

JCPOS works closely with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Jefferson County Wildland Fire Management Program, local fire protection districts, and air quality officials to ensure operations meet strict safety and environmental standards. For more information related to specific burn locations, please follow us on social media, visit the [Jeffco Parks & Open Space website](#), or the individual park pages.

*Jeffco Parks & Open Space was founded as a land conservation organization in 1972. Our mission is to preserve open space and parkland, protect park and natural resources, and provide healthy, nature-based experiences. Funded with a one-half of one percent sales tax, our organization contributes to city and park district projects, has preserved more than 58,000 acres, and manages 27 open space parks, and more than 269 miles of trails in Jefferson County, Colorado. Jeffco Parks & Open Space also works in partnership with cities, districts, and non-profit conservation organizations by assisting with funding for local parks, trails, open spaces, and greenways.*