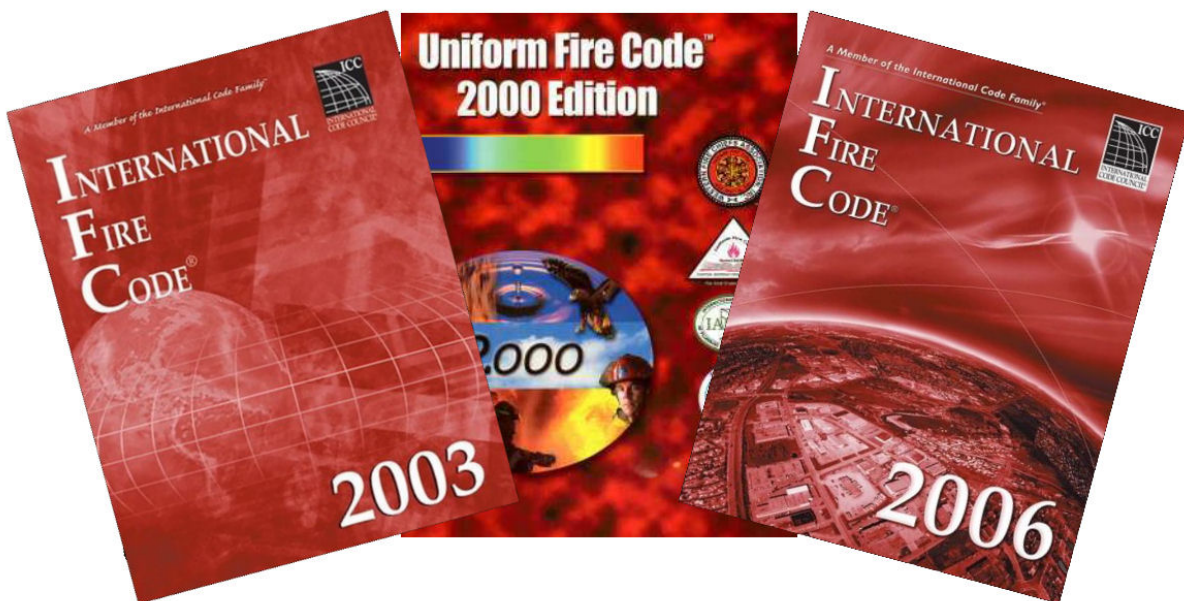




*"Serving the Chief Fire  
Officers of Colorado  
since 1968"*

# FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO



## A Survey of Colorado Fire Departments

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**March 26, 2007**

## **Introduction & Background**

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association (CSFCA) conducted a survey of Colorado fire departments from 12/18/2006 – 2/6/2007. Among other things, this survey was designed to collect information on the current status of fire code, urban wildland interface code, and wildland fire mitigation plan adoption in the state.

A total of 107 fire departments responded to the survey out of approximately 398 fire departments in the state, for a response rate of 26.8%.

This report presents the compiled results of the survey. Copies of sample fire code adoption resolutions, ordinances, and amendments can be found on the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association website at: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/library.htm>.

Questions concerning this report may be directed to Paul L. Cooke, CSFCA Executive Director at 720-874-8116 or [paul@coloradofirechiefs.org](mailto:paul@coloradofirechiefs.org).

## **Part 1 Fire Code Adoption**

### **Has your governing body adopted a fire code for your jurisdiction?**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Yes	69	67.6%
No	33	32.4%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 102	<hr/> 100.0%
(skipped this question)	5	

Note: See Appendix A for a list of those fire departments that reported they have adopted a fire code.

### **Demographics of fire departments that have adopted a fire code**

<u><b>Type of Department</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Fire Protection District	43	62.3%
Municipal Fire Department	19	27.5%
Fire Authority	3	4.3%
Department of Defense Fire Department	1	1.4%
Metropolitan District	1	1.4%
Other	2	2.9%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 100.0%

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**FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO – A SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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<u>Department Classification</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Career	14	20.3%
Volunteer	15	21.7%
Combination - Mostly Volunteer (1 to 50% career firefighters)	26	37.7%
Combination - Mostly Career (51 to 99% career firefighters)	14	20.3%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 100.0%

<u>Estimated Resident Population Protected</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Under 2,500	9	13.0%
2,500 - 4,999	4	5.8%
5,000 - 9,999	10	14.5%
10,000 - 24,999	21	30.4%
25,000 - 49,000	11	15.9%
50,000 - 99,999	6	8.7%
100,000 - 249,999	6	8.7%
250,000 or more	2	2.9%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 100.0%

**Which fire code have you adopted?**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1994 Uniform Fire Code	1	1.4%
1997 Uniform Fire Code	12	17.4%
2000 Uniform Fire Code	6	8.7%
2003 International Fire Code	34	49.3%
2006 International Fire Code	16	23.2%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 100.0%

**If a special district, has the county (counties) you serve ratified the code?**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Yes	32	65.3%
No	11	22.4%
Don't Know	6	12.2%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 100.0%

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**FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO – A SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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**For those departments which have not adopted a fire code, what is/are the reasons for not adopting a fire code?**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Lack of political will/Governing body does not believe a fire code is necessary	10	21.7%
Local citizenry does not support the adoption of a fire code	11	23.9%
Lack of local resources to administer/enforce the code	20	43.5%
Working on adopting a fire code in 2007	2	4.3%
Other	3	6.5%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 100.0%

**Demographics of fire departments that have not adopted a fire code**

<u><b>Type of Department</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Fire Protection District	28	84.8%
Municipal Fire Department	2	6.1%
Industrial/Private Fire Department	1	3.0%
Non-Governmental Vol. Fire Dept.	2	6.1%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 100.0%

<u><b>Department Classification</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Career	0	0.0%
Volunteer	25	75.8%
Combination - Mostly Volunteer (1 to 50% career firefighters)	7	21.2%
Combination - Mostly Career (51 to 99% career firefighters)	1	3.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 100.0%

<u><b>Estimated Resident Population Protected</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Under 2,500	17	51.5%
2,500 - 4,999	11	33.3%
5,000 - 9,999	3	9.1%
10,000 - 24,999	2	6.1%
25,000 - 49,000	0	0.0%
50,000 - 99,999	0	0.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 100.0%

**Part 2  
Urban Wildland Interface Code Adoption**

**Has your governing body adopted a Urban Wildland Interface Code for your jurisdiction?**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Yes	10	9.9%
No	91	90.1%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 101	<hr/> 100.0%
(skipped this question)	6	

**Demographics of fire departments that have adopted a Urban Wildland Interface Code**

<u><b>Type of Department</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Fire Protection District	8	80.0%
Municipal Fire Department	0	0.0%
Fire Authority	1	10.0%
Department of Defense Fire Department	0	0.0%
Metropolitan District	1	10.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 100.0%

<u><b>Department Classification</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Career	1	10.0%
Volunteer	2	20.0%
Combination - Mostly Volunteer (1 to 50% career firefighters)	6	60.0%
Combination - Mostly Career (51 to 99% career firefighters)	1	10.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 100.0%

<u><b>Estimated Resident Population Protected</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Under 2,500	0	0.0%
2,500 - 4,999	2	20.0%
5,000 - 9,999	1	10.0%
10,000 - 24,999	4	40.0%
25,000 - 49,000	3	30.0%
50,000 - 99,999	0	0.0%
100,000 - 249,999	0	0.0%
250,000 or more	0	0.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 100.0%

**FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO – A SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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**Which Urban Wildland Interface Code have you adopted?**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
2000 Urban Wildland Interface Code	1	10.0%
2003 International Urban Wildland interface Code	2	20.0%
2006 International Urban Wildland Interface Code	2	20.0%
Other (See below)	5	50.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 100.0%

**Description of "other" from above**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>
Combination 2003 IUWI and NFPA	1
Local Amendment to 2003 IBC	1
NFPA 1144	1
Portions of the 2003 IUWIC was added as an Appendix to our amendments when adopting the 2003 IFC	1
Summit County Building Code Amendment - Wildfire Mitigation	1

**For those departments which have not adopted a Urban Wildland Interface Code, what is/are the reasons for not adopting a Code?**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Lack of political will/Governing body does not believe a Urban Wildland Interface Code is necessary	25	27.2%
Local citizenry does not support the adoption of a Urban Wildland Interface Code	11	12.0%
Lack of local resources to administer/enforce the code	30	32.6%
Not an issue/No interface area	10	10.9%
WUI Code adoption is in process or is being considered	5	5.4%
Other (please specify)	11	12.0%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 92	<hr/> 100.0%

**"Other" responses from above include:**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>
Adoption would occur if fire code is adopted	2
Done at the county level, Need county support	2
Have adopted Firewise	1
No authority	1
Just not ready quite yet, resistance is fading with the red trees.	1
Hasn't been brought up yet	1
Very poorly structured code. Difficult to enforce or interpret.	1
We use NPFA 1411 as out standard and are in the process of working with other county departments in implementing a county wide code.	1

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**FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO – A SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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**Do you have a wildland fire mitigation plan for your community?**

	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
Yes	17	36.2%
No	18	38.3%
Developing a CWPP, Work in progress	8	17.0%
Other	4	8.5%
Total Respondents	<hr/> 47	<hr/> 100.0%
(skipped this question)	60	

**Appendix A**  
**Jurisdictions That Have Adopted a Fire Code**

<b><u>Fire Department Name</u></b>	<b><u>Fire Code</u></b>
Alamosa Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
Arvada Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Aspen Fire Protection District	2006 International Fire Code
Bennett Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Berthoud Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Black Forest Fire Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
Boulder Fire/Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
Boulder Rural FPD	2003 International Fire Code
Buckley Fire and Emergency Services	2006 International Fire Code
Canon City Area Fire District	2000 Uniform Fire Code
Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Chaffee County Fire District	2003 International Fire Code
Cimarron Hills Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
City of Golden Fire Department	2006 International Fire Code
Clifton Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Colorado Sierra Fire Protection District	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Colorado Springs Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
Cortez Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Cunningham FPD	2003 International Fire Code
Durango Fire and Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
East Grand Fire District #4	2000 Uniform Fire Code
Eaton Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Elizabeth Fire Protection District	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Elk Creek Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Englewood Fire Division	2000 Uniform Fire Code
Falcon Fire Prot. Dist.	2003 International Fire Code
Federal Heights Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
Florissant Fire Protection	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Fort Lupton Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Golden Fire Department	2006 International Fire Code
High Country Fire Prot. Dist.	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Jackson 105 Fire Dept	2003 International Fire Code
La Junta Rural Fire Protection Dist.	2003 International Fire Code
Lafayette Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
Lake Dillon Fire Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
Leadville/Lake County Fire Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
Littleton Fire Rescue	2000 Uniform Fire Code
Longmont Fire Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
Loveland Fire Rescue	2006 International Fire Code
Lower Valley Fire Protection District	2006 International Fire Code
Montrose Fire Protection District	2006 International Fire Code
North Metro Fire Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
North Washington Fire Protection District	2006 International Fire Code
Norwood-Redvale Fire Rescue	2000 Uniform Fire Code
Oak Creek Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code

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## FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO – A SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Parker Fire District	2006 International Fire Code
Pueblo Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
Pueblo West Fire Department	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Red, White and Blue Fire District	2003 International Fire Code
Rocky Ford Fire department	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Sable Altura Fire Prot. Dist.	2006 International Fire Code
Salida Fire Department	2000 Uniform Fire Code
Sheridan Fire Department	2003 International Fire Code
Silverton San Juan Volunteer Fire Dept.	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Southeast Weld Fire Prot. District	2006 International Fire Code
Southwest Adams County Fire	2006 International Fire Code
Spanish Peaks/Bon Carbo Fire Prot. Dist.	2006 International Fire Code
Steamboat springs Fire Rescue	2003 International Fire Code
Telluride Fire Protection District	2003 International Fire Code
Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Authority	2003 International Fire Code
Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority	2006 International Fire Code
Victor Fire Department	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Wellington Fire Protection District	1997 Uniform Fire Code
West Metro Fire Rescue	2006 International Fire Code
West Routt Fire Prot. Dist.	1997 Uniform Fire Code
Westminster Fire Department	2006 International Fire Code
Yuma Volunteer Fire Dept.	1994 Uniform Fire Code

### Jurisdictions That Have Adopted a Urban Wildland Code

Black Forest Fire Rescue	Combination 2003 IUWI and NFPA
Chaffee County Fire District	NFPA 1144
Cotopaxi Fire Rescue / DMFPD Sta 3	2006 International UWI Code
Elk Creek Fire Protection District	2003 International UWI Code
Falcon Fire Protection District	Portions of the 2003 IUWIC was added as an Appendix to our amendments when adopting the 2003 IFC
Lake Dillon Fire Rescue	Local Amendment to 2003 IBC
Pueblo West Fire Department	2000 Urban Wildland Interface Code
Red, White and Blue Fire District	Summit County Building Code Amendment - Wildfire Mitigation
Spanish Peaks/Bon Carbo Fire Protection Dist.	2006 International UWI Code
Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Authority	2003 International UWI Code

**Appendix B  
Survey Respondents**

Alamosa Fire Department	Lakeside Fire Dept
Arvada Fire Protection District	Leadville/Lake County Fire Rescue
Aspen Fire Protection District	Littleton Fire Rescue
Bennett Fire Protection District	Log Hill Fire Protection District
Berthoud Fire Protection District	Longmont Fire Rescue
Black Forest Fire Rescue	Los Pinos Fire Protection District
Boulder Fire/Rescue	Loveland Fire Rescue
Boulder Rural FPD	Lower Valley Fire Protection District
Brush Volunteer Fire Department	Mancos Fire Protection District
Buckley Fire and Emergency Services	Meeker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Canon City Area Fire District	Montrose Fire Protection District
Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District	New Raymer- Stoneham Fire Prot. Dist.
Chaffee County Fire District	North Metro Fire Rescue
Cimarron Hills Fire Department	North Routt Fire Protection District
City of Golden Fire Department	North Washington Fire Protection District
Clifton Fire Protection District	Norwood-Redvale Fire Rescue
Coaldale Fire Department	Oak Creek Fire Protection District
Colorado Sierra Fire Protection District	Otis Volunteer Fire Department
Colorado Springs Fire Department	Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Cortez Fire Protection District	Parker Fire District
Cotopaxi Fire Rescue / DMFPD Sta 3	Plateau Valley Fire Protection District
Craig Fire Rescue	Platte Valley Fire Protection District
Cunningham FPD	Pleasant View Fire Dept.
Durango Fire and Rescue	Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District
East Grand Fire District #4	Pueblo Fire Department
Eaton Fire Protection District	Pueblo West Fire Department
Egnar-Slick Rock Fire Protection District	Red, White and Blue Fire District
Elizabeth Fire Protection District	Rico Fire Protection District
Elk Creek Fire Protection District	Rist Canyon Vol. Fire Department, Inc
Ellicott Fire Protection District	Rocky Ford Fire Department
Englewood Fire Division	Sable Altura Fire Protection Dist.
Estes Park Fire Department	Salida Fire Department
Falcon Fire Protection Dist.	Sheridan Fire Department
Federal Heights Fire Department	Silverton San Juan Volunteer Fire Dept.
Florissant Fire Protection	Southeast Weld Fire Prot. District
Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District	Southwest Adams County Fire Dist.
Fort Lupton Fire Protection District	Spanish Peaks/Bon Carbo Fire Prot. Dist.
Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District	Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue
Gold Hill Fire Protection District	Stratmoor Hills Fire Prot. Dist.
Golden Fire Department	Stratton Volunteer Fire Dept.
Golden Gate FD	Suncor Energy, (USA) Inc
Grand Lake Fire Protection District	Telluride Fire Protection District
Green Mountain Falls/Chipita Park F.D.	Tri County Fire District
Haxtun Vol. Fire Dept.	Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Authority
High Country Fire Protection District	Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority
Hillrose / Snyder Fire Dept.	Upper Huerfano Fire Protection District
Holyoke Vol Fire Dept	VFD of Big Elk

## **FIRE CODE ADOPTION IN COLORADO – A SURVEY OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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Horsefly Fire Protection Assn.  
Hygiene Fire Department  
Jackson 105 Fire Dept  
Kirk Fire Dept  
La Junta Rural Fire Protection Dist.  
Lafayette Fire Department  
Lake Dillon Fire Rescue

Victor Fire Department  
Wellington Fire Prot. Dist.  
West Metro Fire Rescue  
West Routt Fire Prot. Dist.  
Westminster Fire Department  
Yuma Volunteer Fire Department