



Black Forest Together News Flash #83 April 23, 2015

Watch for key insurance deadlines before the two-year anniversary arrives

As the two-year anniversary of the Black Forest Fire approaches, United Policyholders has emailed a reminder that there are important deadlines in insurance policies and Colorado law that may come up at the two-year mark that will affect your claims and your rights. Some of these deadlines may include:

- The expiration of your additional living expense/loss of use benefits
- A firm deadline for suing your agent, broker or insurance company
- A deadline for collecting full replacement value on contents or dwelling
- A deadline for submitting proofs of loss, inventories, receipts and estimates

If you have not reached an acceptable insurance settlement, United Policyholders recommends that you communicate with your insurer as soon as possible. [Click here to read the entire email from United Policyholders](#), which includes many details, and links to helpful resources such as sample letters. [Click here](#) to go to the United Policyholders web site.

New help is available for fire-affected businesses

New grant funding is available to help businesses and non-profits that were impacted by the Black Forest Fire, or by the floods of September 2013. The Recover Colorado Business Grant and Loan program has received a second round of funding to meet needs that have not been addressed through other sources of public and private assistance (such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration).

Applications for this program are now available. The application deadline is July 31, 2015.

If business owners were not able to qualify for earlier help from this program, they may qualify now. Here's how to get more information:

- Visit <http://dola.colorado.gov/cdbg-dr/content/recover-colorado-business-grant-and-loan-program>
- Contact Liz Hershberger, SBDC Disaster Relief Program Coordinator, at 719-667-3803, 719-667-3812 or disasterrelief@cssbdc.org

Seedling tree pickup instructions

If you have already reserved seedlings, here's when and where to pick them up:

- Date: Saturday, May 9, 2015
- Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Place: Black Forest Fire Station 2 on Ridge Run Road (at the corner of Hodgen Road).

Trees MUST be picked up at that time. If you cannot pick up your trees during those hours, you must make arrangements for someone else to pick them up for you. We do not have facilities to store the trees. **Seedling orders not picked up by 3:00 pm will be considered abandoned. All abandoned trees will be given away from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.** This is a first-come, first-served giveaway, but each household is limited to 50 trees.

This tree giveaway has been made possible by generous support from the Arbor Day Foundation, FedEx, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Colorado State Forest Service. A total of 10,000 free tree seedlings, in five species, has been donated to restore land that was burned by the Black Forest Fire of 2013. These trees have been grown by the Colorado State Forest Service, and are well suited to our area.

Easy Firewise tip: Stack wood in safe places

As residents continue to mitigate unburned areas and remove burned timber, we're seeing an increasing amount of cut wood being stacked in piles. Woodpiles are very susceptible to ember ignition and burn with a great deal of energy once ignited. When stacked near trees, these piles become "ladder fuel" that carries fire to the crowns of the trees. When stacked near a structure, a woodpile can feed a slow-burning fire that will threaten that building. But it's easy to position your woodpile so it presents little additional risk in a wildfire. Here are some basic rules to follow when creating woodpiles:

- Stack wood at least 30 feet from any structure, on a level even with the structure or on the uphill

side. Never stack wood on the downhill side of a structure.

- Stack wood in an open area at least 15 feet away from the outermost edge of any nearby tree crowns (also called the drip edge).
- Build several smaller woodpiles to limit the amount of available fuel and reduce fire activity.

Grant funds can cut your mitigation cost in half

You have a rare opportunity to reduce the cost of wildfire mitigation by 50%, through a grant that Black Forest Together has received from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. [Click here to get more details on our web site](#), or contact Scott MacDonald, our Program Director for Forest Recovery and Restoration, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday-Friday: (719) 495-2630, (719) 321-2359 or scottmacd.bft@gmail.com

Need help? Want information? Contact the Resource Center:

Resource Center Hours

Mon - Fri: 9 am - 1 pm

1st and 3rd Saturdays by appointment

Appointments must be made by the preceding Thursday at noon. To make an appointment, call 495-2445 or [send us an email](#).

Summer hours will start May 1:

- Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri: 9 am - 1 pm
- Wednesday: 3 pm - 6 pm
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays by appointment

Weather Delays or Closures:

The Resource Center will follow [School District 20's delay or closure policies](#).

Closing soon: Case Management for Unmet Needs

The [Lutheran Family Services Disaster Response](#) office has been grateful to serve the survivors of the Black Forest Fire. After 18 months of providing individual case management support, including financial assistance, **LFS Disaster Response will be closing on Friday, May 1, 2015**. The last day for new client appointments was Monday, March 1, 2015. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Denise Dawson at 719-495-2554 or ordenise.dawson@lfsrm.org as soon as possible.

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Black Forest Together Resource Center

(719) 495-2445

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In the Forest Center, just west of Subway - [\[MAP\]](#)

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Black Forest Together is a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt charitable organization.

Mission Statement

To help the people of the Black Forest region to recover, rebuild and restore their lives, protect the Forest's water quality and ecological health with an emphasis placed on community values, economic stability and the richness of our natural environment today and in the future.