

**ORDINANCE NO. 1913
SERIES 2026**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FIRE HARDENING CODE FOR
STRUCTURES IN CHAPTER 15.70 OF THE LOUISVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the City of Louisville (the “City”) is a home-rule city and municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and pursuant to Article XX of the Colorado Constitution and Charter of the City; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 1884, Series 2024, adopted on November 4, 2024, the City Council enacted a Fire Hardening Code for Structures, which is set forth in Chapter 15.70 of the Louisville Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City and surrounding areas have recently experienced high fire danger conditions, resulting in implementation of Stage 1 Fire Restrictions by the City and Boulder County; and

WHEREAS, junipers are considered a significant fire hazard in Colorado because they contain highly flammable, volatile oils, accumulate large amounts of dry, dead fuel in the form of needles and branches within their dense structure, and burn intensely, fast and hot, easily igniting homes and spreading wildfires, especially when overgrown or planted too close to structures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified certain amendments to the Fire Hardening Code intended to further decrease threats from wildfires and the spread of fire between structures as set forth herein, including adding a prohibition on planting junipers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to ensure that certain building materials required by the Fire Hardening Code for Structures meet the highest level of fire resistance standards, including requiring Class A rated materials verified through ASTM E84 or US 723 testing or demonstration of materials meeting or exceeding this standard; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that an emergency exists because, given the extreme fire conditions recently experienced in the City and surrounding areas, the preservation of public property, health, safety, and welfare requires the City to take immediate action to minimize fire risk within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO:

Section 1. Chapter 15.70 of the Louisville Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows, including by the addition of a new Section 15.70.040 (words to be deleted ~~stricken~~; words to be added underlined):

CHAPTER 15.70 – FIRE HARDENING CODE FOR STRUCTURES

Sec. 15.70.010 *Applicability.*

This chapter provides minimum City-wide building and construction standards for residential and commercial structures in order to decrease threats from wildfires and the spread of fire between structures. ~~The requirements set forth in this chapter shall apply to all new construction, additions, and replacement of building materials, except as set forth in section 15.70.030~~

Sec. 15.70.020 *Construction standards.*

The requirements set forth in this Section shall apply to all new construction, additions, and replacement of building materials, except as set forth in Section 15.70.030.

A. *Class A roof coverings* tested with ASTM E108 or UL 790 are required on all new structures, additions and replacement roofs where the replaced roof is 50 percent or greater. Examples of class A roof coverings include metal, membrane, asphalt, tile, clay, concrete, stone and slate shingles.

B. *Fire resistant siding and eaves* are required on all new structures, additions and where 50 percent or more of the siding or eave is replaced. Siding and eaves shall be fire and ignition resistant with a ~~maximum flame spread rating of 25 or less~~ Class A rating (ASTM E84 or UL 723). Treated building materials will not be allowed unless the treatment is rated to maintain its Class A rating for the life of the material without reapplication. Heavy timber and log construction is also acceptable.

C. *Fire and ignition resistant deck surface, steps and guardrails* are required on all new decks and all replacement decks, steps and guardrails. The deck surface, step surface and guardrails shall be fire and ignition resistant with a ~~maximum flame spread rating of 25~~ Class A rating (ASTM E84 or UL 723). Treated building materials will not be allowed unless the treatment is rated to maintain its Class A rating for the life of the material

without reapplication. For decks six feet or lower to the ground, the surface below the deck shall be gravel placed over a sheet of six millimeter plastic or concrete slab to prevent vegetation growth under the deck.

D. *Fire and ignition resistant fencing within five feet of a structure.* New construction and all replacement fences within five feet of the structure must be fire and ignition resistant with a ~~maximum flame spread index of 25~~ Class A rating (ASTM E84 or UL 723). Treated building materials will not be allowed unless the treatment is rated to maintain its Class A rating for the life of the material without reapplication.

E. *Roof/attic vents, crawlspace vents and solar panel screens.* New structures and all replacement vents shall have the following:

1. One-eighth-inch metal mesh for attic vents, roof vents, eave vents and foundation vents. Mechanical and plumbing vents do not need to be screened.
2. If solar panels on the roof are screened with metal mesh, then the screen must be removable to clean out debris from under panels.

F. *Metal gutters with gutter guards.* New structures and replacement gutters shall be made of metal and shall have an approved ignition resistant means to prevent accumulation of debris in gutters

Sec. 15.70.030 Exemptions to construction standards.

Exemptions from the requirements of ~~this chapter 15.70~~ Section 15.70.020 are as follows:

A. *Historic home exemption.* Historic homes and buildings may be exempted by the building official from roofing or siding requirements, or both, of this chapter if the building official finds there is no practical means to meet the intent of the chapter while maintaining historic features.

B. Commercial structures that are fully sprinklered and are in compliance with NFPA-13 and are located greater than 35 feet from the property line are exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

C. *Temporary structures.* Permitted temporary structures, such as tents and membrane structures, are exempt for a period of time not to exceed 180 days.

D. The building official may approve alternative methods demonstrating or materials in which the material does not ignite (e.g. metal, concrete, or stone) or it is demonstrated that a method or material has the equivalent of a Class A rating (ASTM E84 or UL 723) or a flame spread of 25 or less in lieu of the requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 15.70.040 Prohibition on planting, relocating, or replacing junipers

A. Planting or installation of any species of juniper (Juniperus spp) is prohibited.

B. Any existing species of juniper that have been planted or installed prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be maintained but may not be replanted, relocated, or replaced with another juniper species.

Section 2. Effective Date This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the affirmative vote of at least five (5) Councilmembers.

Section 3. If any portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each part hereof irrespective of the fact that any one part be declared invalid.

Section 4. The repeal or modification of any provision of the Municipal Code of the City of Louisville by this ordinance shall not release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, forfeiture, or liability, either civil or criminal, which shall have been incurred under such provision, and each provision shall be treated and held as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings, and prosecutions for the enforcement of the penalty, forfeiture, or liability, as well as for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree, or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits, proceedings, or prosecutions.

Section 5. All other ordinances or portions thereof inconsistent or conflicting with this ordinance or any portion hereof are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict.

Section 6. The City Council herewith finds, determines and declares that this ordinance is genuinely and urgently necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare because of the extreme fire conditions recently experienced in the City and surrounding area.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY
ORDINANCE BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE ENTIRE CITY COUNCIL, AND ORDERED
PUBLISHED this 20th day of January 2026.



Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:



Genny Kline, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Kelly PC



Kathleen M. Kelly, City Attorney

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF BOULDER

I, Genny Kline, City Clerk for Louisville, Colorado, do solemnly swear and affirm that
on January 21, 2026, I published in full a true and correct copy of:

Ordinance No. 1913, Series 2026,

was duly adopted by a two-thirds vote and is not subject to a second reading.

on the City of Louisville's website:

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/public-notices>

Witness my hand and seal this 21st day of January 2026.

G. Kline

Genny Kline
City Clerk

