



Colorado River Fire Rescue

1850 Railroad Avenue • Rifle, Colorado 81650
Telephone: (970) 625-1243 • Fax: (970) 625-2963 • www.crfr.us

Town of New Castle Town Council
Reference Ordinance NO. 2026-5
Adoption of Colorado Resiliency Code

May 26, 2026

Council Members

Colorado River Fire Rescue has been working with New Castle in the past years to address wildfire hazards that exist in the area surrounding town limits and property inside town limits. We have worked together to build an evacuation plan for the town, reviewed and mitigated wildland fire areas of concern, and assisted staff with adopting new ignition resistant construction building codes.

The Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code was established and mandated by the state for municipalities to adopt. This Wildfire Resiliency Code Map shows the Town of New Castle being divided into two different wildfire zones. The Wildfire Map shows most of the town not being in a wildfire zone and the Lakota Canyon Ranch and area south past County Road 335 being in a being in Moderate Intensity Class 2 Wildfire Zone. The Wildfire Map also shows the Town of New Castle being surrounded by either Class 2 Moderate Intensity Federal Land or Class 2 Moderate Intensity Private land. On the south side of town, the wildfire map shows the area as unclassified along the hogback on private land. This unclassified area is particularly concerning given its similarity to the region affected by the Coal Seam Fire in June 2002. During that event, wind-driven embers crossed the river and interstate highway, igniting buildings and vegetation and allowing the fire to reach West Glenwood Springs. This area should be classified as Moderate Class 2 in future mapping.

The Town is susceptible to afternoon and evening winds from the West and Northwest, which funnel into one valley in and around the Town of New Castle. With the town surrounded by wildfire-prone areas, Colorado River Fire Rescue warns that embers could spread into town limits. This could result in a wind-driven ember storm, potentially causing loss of life and property.

Since the town has already adopted ignition resistant building materials and building codes to lessen the chance of home ignition in a possible ember storm, we believe that the town should adopt the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code and make the entire town limits a Class 2 Moderate Intensity Wildfire zone. This would not only allow the town to work with one building code, but

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all new homes would be built to the new ignition resistant standards of the Wildfire Resiliency code.

New Castle Staff and Council are very aware of wildfire concerns in New Castle and have always been very proactive in mitigating some of the hazards that exist within the town limits. The Wildfire Resiliency Code is the next step in the process to minimize the wildfire threat.

Please feel free to ask any questions or voice any concerns.

Thank you,

Orrin D. Moon, Division Chief/Fire Marshal.

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