



**LAM
TREE
SERVICE
INC.**



talk

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Fire Mitigation and Your Homeowner's Insurance

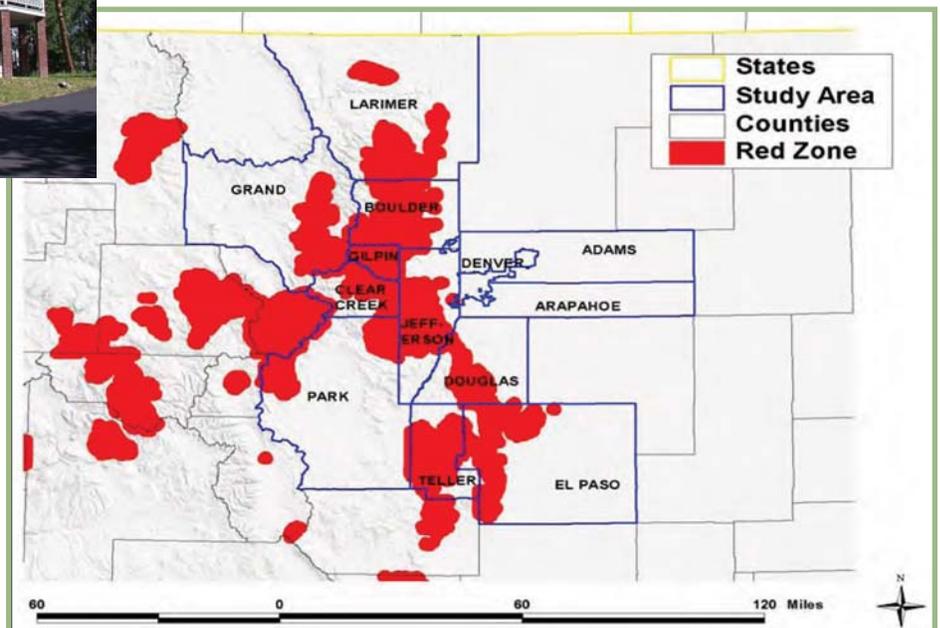


Top - A property in Evergreen before a Lam Tree fire mitigation job.

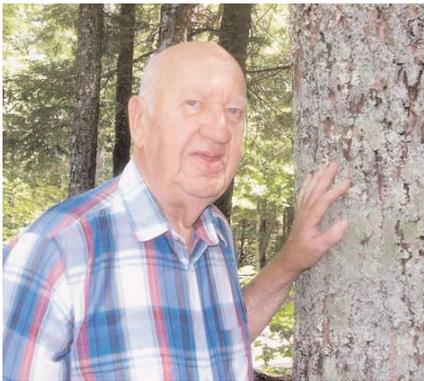
Bottom - After the fire mitigation job the property is more fire resistant, looks better, and your insurance carrier is happy.

Have you received a letter from your homeowner's insurance carrier asking you to remove and/or trim trees around your house to reduce wildfire risk? Many homeowners in the foothills have received such letters in the past few years and there is good cause for concern on the part of the insurance companies. In spite of the precipitation we have received this year, there is still a severe risk of wildfire in the Front Range foothills area.

Look at the "red zone" map on this page and you can see that Evergreen is pretty much dead center in the area most susceptible to a wildfire. At Lam Tree we tend to agree with the proactive stance the insurance companies are taking, however be sure to get a knowledgeable opinion about exactly what fuels should be eliminated. For example, instead of removing one very large pine tree next to your house, there might be more gained by thinning out various smaller trees that are crowded, but not right next to the house. These fuels could allow a fire to spread to your house or to other parts of your property. If you're contacted by your insurance company about fuel reduction, just give us a call, and we can get you an estimate on what needs to be done to satisfy them, and make your property safer from wildfires. 🌲



Alex Shigo 1930-2006



The tree care industry lost a giant last October 6 when Alex Shigo passed away. Dr. Shigo was widely considered the father of modern arboriculture. He developed many of the principles that have become central to arboriculture, and his work served as a foundation for much more research following it. Born in Duquesne, Pennsylvania on May 8, 1930, Dr. Shigo spent most of his professional career with the U.S. Forest Service, eventually becoming Chief Scientist. He was the first scientist to study trees by making longitudinal cuts (along the stem) rather than transverse cuts (across the stem). This technique led to many important discoveries, some of which were incorporated into CODIT (Compartmentalization of Decay in Trees), a groundbreaking biological idea that led to many changes and additions to commercial tree care practices. Dr. Shigo authored over 270 publications in his career and continued to teach and lead workshops until his untimely death. Several of us at Lam Tree Service were fortunate enough to hear Dr. Shigo lecture and have met with him personally to gain insights on tree biology. At Lam Tree we consider ourselves disciples of Dr. Shigo and we will miss him and his wisdom very much. 🌲



MEET OUR NEW OFFICE PERSONNEL

Tracy Cox & Susan Lumbard

Tracy Cox (right) joined our staff in February 2007. She is our office manager. Tracy is originally from Connecticut, but spent many years in Memphis, Tennessee. You'll know that when you call here and hear her southern drawl. She moved to Colorado in 2006 and says that she's here to stay forever.

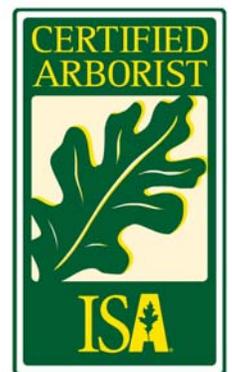


Tracy and her husband Tommy reside in Bailey. Tracy is a true nature lover and finds it extremely satisfying to work for a company that helps people care for their trees. Her enthusiasm is contagious and we are very excited to have her aboard.

Susan Lumbard (left) is our assistant office manager, and just recently joined our staff. She was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and moved to Evergreen five years ago. She has two daughters, Valerie and Victoria, and two grandsons, Trevor (5) and Hunter (3). She just returned from Germany, where she spent six months with her daughter and grandsons. We are glad to have Susan and her many years of office experience with us. 🌲

Check for ISA Certification

Lam Tree currently employs three certified arborists. Always look for this logo when you hire a tree care company. If you are hiring a company that employs certified arborists, you are hiring a company that cares about your trees and has extensive knowledge of trees. 🌲



Spring 2007 Insect Update

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

While the high country of Colorado is being devastated by a huge M.P.B. outbreak, population levels in the Front Range are fairly stable, but growing. In the "2006 Report on the Health of Colorado Forests" produced by the Colorado State Forest Service, it is reported that "overcrowded Front Range forests are indeed in the early stages of a slower growing epidemic, although their insect populations are growing independently of the high country." M.P.B. always exists in the forest, but epidemics only occur periodically. Spraying of high value ponderosa pines is highly recommended on an annual basis. Spray dates are May 1 – July 30.

IPS BEETLE

Ips Beetle populations remain extremely high in certain areas of the foothills. These insects are devastating lodgepole pines mostly at elevations of 7800 ft. – 8500 ft. Ips will also attack weakened ponderosa pines or spruce at lower elevations. This is an early season spray, so if you haven't sprayed by the time you read this, give us a call right away.

DOUGLAS FIR BEETLE

Isolated patches of D.F.B. damage exist in the area. Spray preventively in April or May.

SPRUCE BEETLE

There are several areas with spruce beetle outbreaks. The Evergreen Meadows area has a pretty severe outbreak, and there is also an outbreak along Bear Creek between Kittredge and Evergreen. Preventive spraying should be done by May.

DWARF MISTLETOE

This parasitic plant continues to debilitate ponderosa pines in the area. When combined with the ongoing drought, dwarf mistletoe is causing many ponderosa pines in the area to die. Spray infested trees in July or August, but a forest management program including trimming, spraying and selected removals is the best plan.

COOLEY SPRUCE GALL APHID

Spray your spruce trees in August for control of this insect. For optimum control spray in April and again in August.

ASPEN INSECTS AND DISEASES

Two or more spray treatments are recommended after budbreak (late May-early June) with an insecticide/miticide/fungicide.

POPLAR BORER

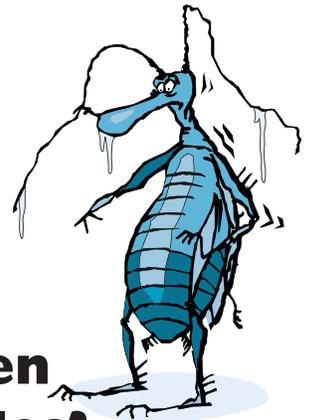
Preventively spray in March- May for this insect, which bores into Aspens and Cottonwoods.

SPRUCE BUDWORM & TUSSOCK MOTH

These two defoliating caterpillars are quite similar. There are some outbreaks of each in the foothills. Timing is critical for this spray, so call us if you have noticed either insect in your area. Spraying will probably occur between June 1 and June 20, depending on the weather. 🌲

Soil Injections Can Be an Alternative to Spraying

For certain applications such as Cooley Spruce Gall or insects on aspens, we are able to inject "Merit" (imidacloprid) into the soil to control the insects. This is as opposed to an insecticide spray. The advantages are that there is no pesticide drift with injections and insect control is better. We can also add materials to the mix to help your trees' roots if applicable. This application must be done in spring for best results. 🌲



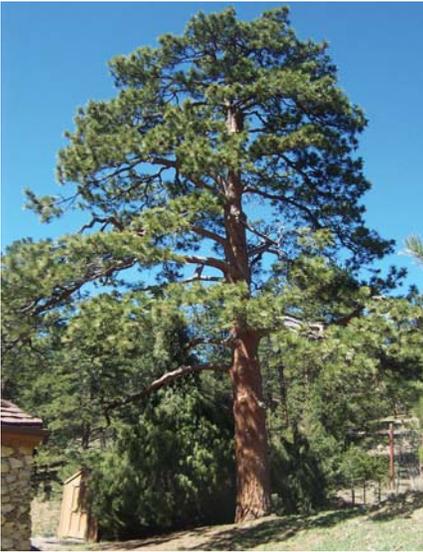
Frozen Beetles?

At Lam Tree we are often asked if the beetles died from the cold this past winter. It got pretty cold this past winter, but not cold enough to kill off a pine beetle. According to Jim Maxwell of the U.S. Forest Service "We need two weeks or so of temperatures 20-30 below zero" in order to kill off a beetle population. The cold snaps this past winter didn't approach that, and the beetles survived intact. Pine beetles produce an alcohol in the winter that insulates them like an anti-freeze. The alcohol, similar to ethanol, replaces water and prevents beetles from freezing. A real cold stretch, especially one in the spring or fall, when the beetles are more vulnerable, could do the trick, but it would have to be **real** cold for several weeks. 🌲

Don't Forget!

Spring is the best time to get on our schedule for noxious weed spraying. It is also a great time to give your trees a boost with a root treatment.

Tree Maintenance Versus New Plantings



A beautiful, mature, healthy ponderosa pine, nurtured by Lam Tree at a cost of a few hundred dollars annually.

At Lam Tree we are often amazed by the fact that people will spend their hard earned money on planting new trees, but will often neglect the greatest assets on their property – their existing trees. The typical cost to purchase and plant a seven-foot ponderosa pine might be \$600 or so. Many of our customers will not hesitate to plant ten of these for \$6000. After the initial investment is made in these trees, there is still the question of whether they will survive and become established. They will need years of supplemental watering and might not make the transition from nursery to your property. On the same property there may be ten huge ponderosa pines that are seventy feet tall, two feet thick at the trunk and two hundred years old. These mature trees have often been abused by root disturbance, soil compaction, and other man-caused problems. They provide wonderful shade and beauty, but many people are hesitant to provide them with the care they need to survive in a semi-urban environment. They are often in need of preventive beetle spraying, trimming or root treatments, which they

don't receive in favor of new plantings, which may or may not survive. Even if the new plantings do survive, they will not approach the magnificence of the mature tree in your lifetime.

There certainly is a time and a place for new plantings, and we can provide that service, however the care of existing mature trees is often your best investment. Consult with one of our I.S.A. Certified Arborists to determine whether mature tree maintenance or new plantings is more important to your specific property. 🌲



Two ponderosa pines planted from a nursery. They are struggling to survive, but probably won't make it.

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