



## **FireWise of Southwest Colorado Chipper Rental Rebate Program**

### *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*

**Q: I rented a chipper in late February. Can I apply for the rebate?**

*A: No, your receipt must be dated after April 1, 2018 when this year's program was initiated.*

**Q: I'm having a contractor come in to masticate several acres on my property and he's going to treat some old slash piles while he's here. Can I claim a portion of the cost?**

*A: No. This program offers a rebate only when an actual chipper has been used.*

**Q: I'm going to have my oak and shrubs mowed. Does this count as chipping?**

*A: No. Unfortunately, mowing is considered mitigation work. This program offers a rebate only when an actual chipper has been used.*

**Q: My neighbors and I are planning on buying a chipper that we will share. Can we get a rebate for part of the cost?**

*A: While we recognize that purchase of a chipper may be cheaper and more effective in the long run, the rebate does not cover the purchase of equipment.*

**Q: I didn't use a professional contractor, but I hired someone to run the chipper I rented for me. Can I claim their labor costs?**

*A: Yes. You would claim the chipper rental on **Line 1** and the labor costs on **Line 2**. Provide an original invoice with the application either a paper or a scanned copy of the original invoice.*

**Q: Our subdivision is planning on renting a chipper for resident's use. How do they apply for the rebate?**

*A: The association can submit one application with associated invoices and will receive one rebate check. The subdivision or HOA is entitled to 50% of the cost up to \$1,500. FireWise will not write checks to each individual who participated. The association is responsible for any participant reimbursements.*

**Q: I want to chip the piles I have from last year but will probably do more tree limbing later this summer. Can I get a rebate for both efforts?**

*A: It doesn't matter when you made the piles, just when they were chipped. If the chipping happened in multiple events, and they were all within the April 1 through October 31, 2018 season, submit all the receipts at the same time. The rebate is **limited***

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**to one application per household per season** for as long as funds remain available. Early submission is encouraged.

**Q: I hired a contractor and it only took them a few hours to chip my slash piles. How should I calculate my rebate?**

*A: Ask your contractor to list each chipping day separately. You are not required to specify how many hours they chipped each day. When you submit the contractor's invoice that invoice must show each chipping day/event **separated out** from any other work billed in the invoice.*

**Q: I rented a chipper for 3 hours. Can I get the rebate?**

*A: Yes. Chipper rentals are usually for whole or half days. Enter your days on **Line 6** accordingly*

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### FireWise Wood Chipper Pointers

Creating Defensible Space around your home can have the benefit of providing you with useable firewood. It also can provide you with more woody slash than you know what to do with. One of the common ways to deal with slash is by shredding it into chips which can be hauled away, spread across the landscape or used as mulch far enough away from structures so as not to pose a fire threat.

Whether you are a professional mitigator or a private property owner using a rented machine, there are some important things to consider when operating a chipper. These machines have a large range of sizes and chipping power. What they all have in common is enough power to cause serious injury or death. Machines don't care how much experience you have or if you only make one mistake. Pay attention at all times and they can be useful wonderful tools.

#### Pre-checks

1. Make sure you are familiar with the operation of the machine and any safety devices on it, especially the emergency stop switch or safety bar.
2. Check the machine before operating. Fluid levels, belts, safety devices and stable position of the machine are all important considerations.
3. Chippers are loud and create a lot of dust and flying debris. Use personal protective gear:
  - a) Eye protection
  - b) Hearing protection



- c) Non-gauntlet work gloves
- d) Close fitting clothing
- e) Sturdy footwear

### **Safe Operation**

The most serious accidents with chippers involve being pulled into the machine or being struck by flying debris. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has a list of guidelines based on experiences.

- Designate one or more employees as a safety watch to be stationed near emergency shut-off devices while other employees feed material into the chipper.
- Stand to the side of the infeed chute when feeding material into the chipper. This reduces the "caught-in" hazard and allows quick access to emergency stop devices.
- Keep hands and feet out of the immediate infeed chute area while the chipper is running.
- Push material into feed rollers with a wooden tool or a long branch.
- Feed branches into the chipper butt-end first.
- Place shorter branches on top of longer branches being fed into the chipper.
- Place small debris into trash cans instead of feeding it into the chipper.
- Never stand, sit or climb onto any part of the chipper while it is running.
- Shut down the chipper and remove the ignition key when it is unattended.
- Before starting a chipper, ensure that the chipper's disc hood is completely closed and latched, and that there are no foreign objects in the infeed area.
- Ensure that the discharge chute is positioned to prevent chips from hitting employees.
- Do not stand in front of the feed table when the chipper is running.
- Check material to be fed to ensure that it is free of metal and other foreign objects.
- Use proper locking pins to immobilize the disc cutting wheel when attempting to clear a clogged chipper chute or changing chipper blades.

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## Pile Stacking



*Cut ends in same direction. Nice.*



*Jumbled together.*



*Easy to broadcast chips*



*Too close for comfort*

How you stack your piles and where you put them can make your chipping day go quickly and easily or can turn it into a long, back breaking ordeal. A few extra minutes when building your piles goes a long way to making for an easy day. Otherwise you could be playing a giant game of pick up sticks that keep trying to hook each other.

- Stack slash piles where it will be easy to pull the chipper alongside.
- Stack slash with all of the cut ends in the same direction so you can feed the cut end in first.
- If you are going to blow the chips into a truck for removal, place the piles where the chipper and truck can be alongside each other.
- If you are going to spread the chips over the landscape, place the piles so that the chips don't end up in one big pile. It's best not to exceed a 6" depth of chips.