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# NEWS

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Can Estes Park Avoid a Tree Catastrophe?**

**ESTES PARK** — Can Estes Park avoid a tree catastrophe like the one Grand County is experiencing? The Town of Estes Park Tree Board, whose mission is to protect trees, hopes to prevent that kind of destruction in the Estes Valley.

To inform area residents about what they can do to help keep their trees — and the trees in their neighborhoods and community — healthy, the Estes Park Tree Board is sponsoring the Estes Park Tree Symposium, a public forum on identification and control of mountain pine beetles. The symposium will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, May 18, in the Estes Park Town Hall, 170 MacGregor Ave, Estes Park.

Symposium topics and speakers include *Mountain Pine Beetle: Treatment and Prevention — The Basics*, Dave Lentz, county forester and pest inspector, Larimer County; *Mountain Pine Beetle: Ecology and Current Status*, Ingrid Aguayo, forest entomologist, Colorado State Forest Service; and *The Big Picture: Forest Health Issues and Landscape-Scale Disturbance*, Wendy McCartney, forester, Colorado State Forest Service – Fort Collins District. The program concludes with a panel discussion that considers the potential for a tree catastrophe in the Estes Valley. Panelists include the morning speakers and Jeff Connor, natural resources specialist, Rocky Mountain National Park; Sue Pinkham, interagency fire education coordinator, Estes Park Fire Department; and Jeff Witcosky, forest health management – service center leader, U.S. Forest Service.

In addition to presentations, land-management agency representatives will be available to discuss tree problems and other forestry issues.

“As part of our mission to protect trees, the tree board wants to prevent a mountain pine beetle epidemic like the one that has turned the mountainsides in Grand County a rusty red,” said Scott Roederer, Estes Park Tree Board.

“Trees provide us with shade, wind protection, erosion control and scenic beauty, which is a trademark of the Estes Valley. It’s up to all of us to learn how to identify beetle-kill trees on our properties and treat them before the next generation infests and kills healthy trees.”

The symposium is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Scott Roederer at [osprey@estesvalley.net](mailto:osprey@estesvalley.net) or 970-586-8812.

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