



WILDFIRE HAPPENS HERE

Be Aware. Be Prepared.



Why?

Wildfires originate in wildland vegetation and have long been a natural occurrence in Boulder County. Many small fires start in the county every year. Most go out naturally or are quickly extinguished by fire-fighters.

Increased human development and outdoor recreation, land management practices that have included fire suppression over the last 100 years, and factors such as steep terrain, drought, high temperatures, and strong winds have resulted in an environment prone to extreme wildfire behavior.

Under extreme conditions, especially when fire starts in a less accessible location, wildfire can spread quickly. Responders become overwhelmed leading to catastrophic wildfire.

How?

Most wildfires are caused by human behavior:

- **Accidental** – sparks from machinery, prescribed or agricultural burns, equipment malfunction.
- **Carelessness** – with campfires, cigarettes, or fireworks.
- **Purposeful** – arson or other malicious intent.

Lightening is by far the most common source of natural ignition.



NCAR Fire March 27, 2022

When?

Catastrophic wildfires generally take place when these conditions align:

- High seasonal temperatures
- Low humidity and dry fuels
- High winds

BOULDER COUNTY WILDFIRES THAT LED TO EVACUATIONS
by month and year



DO YOU KNOW?

A Red Flag Warning from the National Weather Service means that fire weather conditions are imminent or occurring.

Learn more: www.wildfirepartners.org/whh

