



WILDFIRE HAPPENS HERE

Be Aware. Be Prepared.



Why?

Wildfires originate in wildland vegetation. They 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, typically a high wind event during prolonged hot and dry weather, wildfire can spread quickly. Responders become overwhelmed leading to catastrophic wildfire and potential for urban conflagration.

How?

Most wildfires are caused by human behavior:

- **Accidental** - sparks from machinery, 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 vegetation
- High winds

DO YOU KNOW?

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

