WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Justin Smolenske

ABOUT ME

- I3 Years in Fire/EMS Local 4123 Vice President
- Engineer/Acting Officer Frederick Firestone
 Fire Department
- Colorado State FF1, FF2, DOP, Hazmat Technician, Fire Officer 1
- National and State Registered EMT/IV
- NWCG ENGB, ICT 5, Type 3 Faller
- Fought Fire in CO, CA, ID, NM, WY, UT
- I0+ Type 1 Incidents, Pine Gulch, Cameron Peak, Marshall Fire.
- Grew up in Mead CO and moved to Fox Hill June 2019
- Live with wife Laura and baby Charlotte

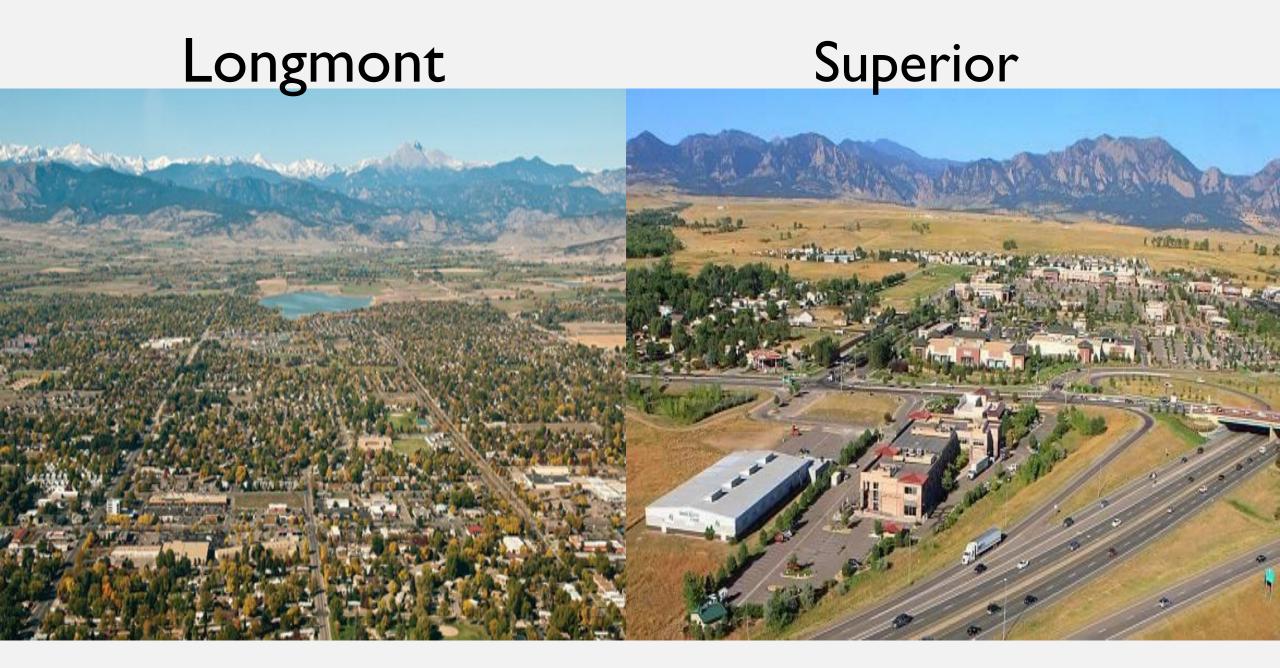
MARSHALL FIRE

Started December 30, 2021, at 10:30 AM on HWY 93 and Marshall Rd

 Units arrived on scene within 4 minutes, to find a running grass fire

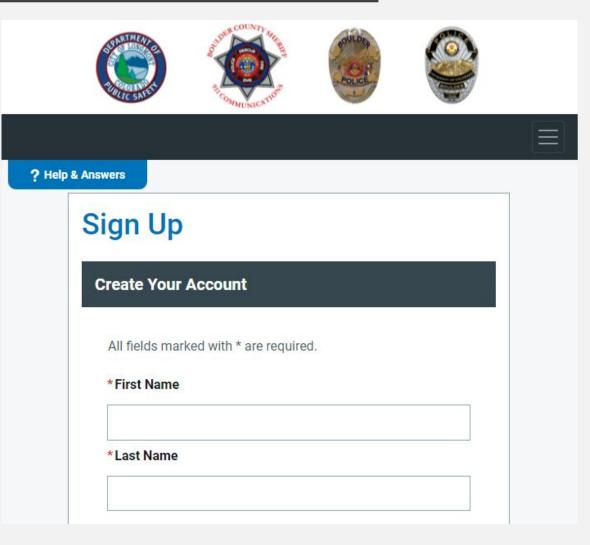
- High winds in the area with gusts up to 115 MPH
- Unusually dry winter with an abundance of dead grass
- By 11:45 AM evacuation notice for the town of Superior and Louisville
 - By 5:00 PM 6100 acres and 1084 buildings had burned
- Longmont has very similar topography, fuels and weather





HOW TO GET NOTIFIED

- Boulder County Emergency Mass Notification System
- Call, text, and/or email
- Fire, Weather, Hazmat, Active Shooter/Police Activity
- <u>https://www.bouldercounty.org/safety/emergencyy/emergency-mass-notification-system/#149150</u> <u>7798782-f5b1e60c-2fab</u>
- <u>https://member.everbridge.net/4530030856122</u>
 <u>31/new</u>
- Follow Boulder County on Facebook or Twitter
- Emergency personnel will inform you



WHAT TO DO IF TOLD TO EVACUATE

WILDFIRE RESPONSE PLANNING

READY...

EMBER AWARENESS

Wind-blown embers can travel one mile or more. *Think about where embers might land* around your home and take actions to mitigate the risk of fire. **FAMIL**

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT/ DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Modifying your vegetation and clearing debris is a great way to create a defensible space around your home. Pack your vehicle with your emergency items.

SET...

FAMILY PLAN

Create a *family plan* to address the needs of every member of your household, including pets.

EMERGENCY KITS

Build an **emergency kit** to contain enough supplies for at least three days.

GO...

LEAVE EARLY!

Know **when** to leave, **what** to take, **where** to go, and **how** to get there while evacuating during a wildfire.

DON'T WAIT

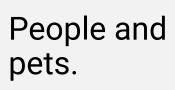
If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate. Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or emergency vehicles and equipment.

SHELTER IN PLACE

If trapped by a wildfire, shelter away from outside walls. Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them. Stay hydrated. Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire. Check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks, or embers. Check inside the attic for hidden embers. Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.

6 P'S OF EVACUATION







Papers, phone numbers, and important documents.



Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses.



Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia.



Personal computer hard drive and disks.



"Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION – ITEMS TO GATHER

_ Trailers Motorcycles
1-hour warning:
1. Take or safeguard guns, ammo
2. Ice cooler w/ice, food, drinks
3. Genealogy records, files
4. 3 days food, special diet items
5. Gloves, dust mask for smoke
6. Paper plates, cups, utensils
7. School items, homework, pen,
pencil, books, calculator, paper
8. Licenses, vehicle titles, deeds
9. Insurance, financial, medical
data; Wills, Powers of Atty.
10. Personal property list, photos
& appraisals, documentation
11
12
2-hour+ warning:
1. Albums, photos, home videos
2. Albums, photos, home videos
3. Family photos on display
4. Military decorations, records,
mementoes, plaques
5. Luggage (packed)
6. Valuable items, cameras

7. Heirlooms, art, collections

9. Secondary vehicles, RV

10.Camping equipment, tent

12._____

11. Journals, diaries, letters

8. Primary cosmetics

10. Toilet paper, hand wipes, soap

11. Clothing for 3 days, shoes

12. Computer, monitor, laptop

13. Gal. jugs of drinking water

14._____

15._____



- Boulder County Wildland Community Protection Plan
- <u>https://www.bouldercounty.org/disasters/wildfir</u> es/mitigation/community-wildfire-protection-pla n/
- Fireproof Safe Can protect important items such as birth certificate, Social Security Card, Passport, other important items.
- Talk with insurance company about fire coverage.
- Get to know your neighbors and know if they would need help.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

Dead/Dry Vegetation	Remove dead vegetation from plants and lower branches from tall trees.
Gutters and Roof	Keep the gutters, roof and outdoor spaces free of debris like leaves and twigs.
Windows and Basement Egress	Clear out window screens and basement egress.
Patio Furniture and Grill	Move patio furniture, grill and other flammable items away from home.
Rock Perimeter	Have a rock perimeter around your home.
Trees and Shrubs	Clear any shrubs or tree branches 10' form your home.



EXAMPLES

GOOD: ROCK BORDER, TREES TRIMMED AWAY FROM HOUSE

BAD: LADDER FUEL CLOSE TO HOUSE, TREE THAT OVERHANGS ROOF





QUESTIONS?