



**CML's 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**June 19 - 22, 2018**  
**Vail**

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**Wildfire - We're All in This Together**

*Mike Morgan, Director, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control; Mike Lester - State Forester and Director, Colorado State Forest Service; Mark Novak, Fire Chief, Town of Vail*


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**Overview**

- Seasonal outlook and the changing nature of the fire problem
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Local government approach to wildfire


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**Activity**


- Visit the challenges and the barriers posters
- Identify your top 2 challenges and barriers using a sticky dot

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**Colorado Department of Public Safety-Division of Fire Prevention and Control**


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**CDPS / DFPC**

- Housed within the Department of Public Safety
- Five Divisions;
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - Colorado Bureau of Investigation
  - Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - Criminal Justice
  - Fire Prevention and Control

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## DFPC Sections

- Fire and Life Safety
- Professional Qualifications and Training
- Fire and Arson Investigation
- Wildland Fire Management
- Center of Excellence
- Support Services



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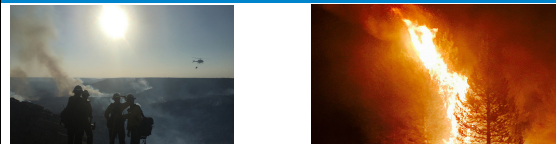
## 2018 Fire Season Forecast

- An above average fire season, not as bad as 2002 or 2012. Similar to 2013
- What does that mean?
- What is normal or average?



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## Increasing Fire Activity in Colorado



Years	EFF Incidents	EFF Average/Year	FEMA Incidents	FEMA Average/Year
1967-1969	0	0	0	0
1970-1979	1	.1	1	.1
1980-1989	8	.8	1	.1
1990-1999	15	1.5	4	.4
2000-2009	65	6.5	32	3.2
2010-2017	56	6.6	17	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>		<b>55</b>	



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## Increasing Fire Activity COLORADO

Calendar Year	Annual County Assessments	# of EFF Fires	Fire Suppression Cost to EFF	Fire Suppression Cost to Exec Order	Total State Fire Suppression Cost
2010	\$ 1,000,121	3	1,587,983	6,290,296	7,878,279
2011	\$ 999,997	11	611,831	6,563,097	7,174,928
2012	\$ 1,000,004	16	1,549,196	14,326,420	15,875,616
2013	\$ 1,000,001	9	1,163,004	11,812,068	12,975,072
2014	\$ 1,000,001	1	244,000	0	244,000
2015	\$ 1,000,000	0	0	0	0
2016	\$ 1,029,011	6	2,750,000	12,275,000	15,025,000
2017	\$ 1,030,710	10	1,030,710	5,397,290	6,428,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,059,845</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$ 8,936,724</b>	<b>\$ 56,664,171</b>	<b>\$65,600,895</b>



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## Values at Risk

### Denver Post Research on Insured Losses

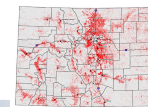
- 2010 Fourmile Fire: 168 homes, \$231.8 million in Insured Losses
- 2012 High Park Fire: 259 homes, \$113.7 million in Insured Losses
- 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire: 346 homes, \$460.3 million in Insured Losses
- 2013 Black Forest Fire: 511 homes, \$420.5 million in Insured Losses



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## Population and WUI Growth

- Colorado State University researchers predict that by the year 2030, the size of Colorado's WUI will have increased from 715,500 acres in 2000 to 2,616,400 acres (300% increase) and the number of homes within the Colorado WUI will have increased from 300,000 to 720,000 (240% increase)



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### Values at Risk

- Nearly 40 million Americans rely on the Colorado River system for drinking water and to support livelihoods ranging from farming to recreation (Bureau of Reclamation).
- This includes the residents of Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, and San Diego.
- The river irrigates nearly 4 million acres of cropland in the U.S. and Mexico, and supplies hydropower plants that generate more than 10 billion kilowatt-hours annually (USGS).

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### Colorado's Reality

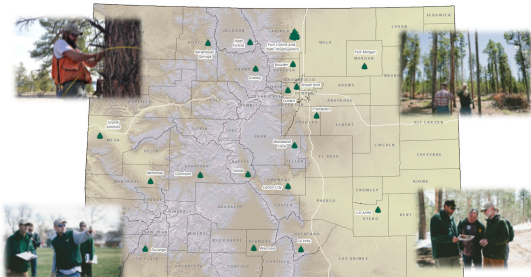
Wildfire in Colorado has grown beyond a natural resource problem and has become a public safety problem impacting lives, homes, watersheds, tourism, economy, and quality of life.



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### Colorado State Forest Service



Active Management of Colorado's diverse forest environments provides clean air and water, enhances wildlife habitat, improves resiliency, reduces wildfire risk and supplies essential forest products to Colorado's citizens

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**Mission:** To achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations

CSFS is the lead state agency providing forest stewardship and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners

Agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU

Provides staffing for the Division of Forestry at DNR

State Office in Fort Collins; 4 Areas consisting of 19 field offices throughout Colorado

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- National Cohesive Strategy
  - Resilient Landscapes
  - Fire Adapted Communities
  - Safe and Effective Fire Response



- Resilient Landscapes
  - Facilitate forest management and fuels mitigation on state and private lands
  - Administer state and federal grants for treatments
  - Pile burning on state lands
  - Engage with local, state, federal partners on collaboratives focusing on landscape-scale forest management across boundaries

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Taking advantage of past forest management treatments can pay off in suppression efforts and reduce the amount of negative post-fire effects



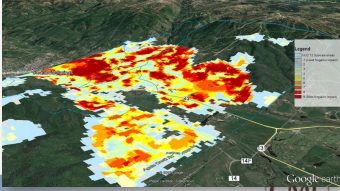


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- Fire Adapted Communities
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
  - Firewise USA recognition
  - Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (CO-WRAP)
  - Collaboration on local, state, and national committees focusing on FAC
  - Working with communities and homeowners to identify wildfire hazards, take steps to reduce the hazards, and understand fire's role in the ecosystem
  - Administer state and federal grants for treatments and planning efforts



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- CWPP's bring together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources.
- It offers a positive, solution-oriented environment in which to address challenges such as local firefighting capability, the need for defensible space around homes and subdivisions, and where and how to prioritize land management on both federal and non-federal land.
- Steamboat Springs
  - The wildland-urban interface risk in Steamboat Springs, a map created in CO-WRAP can help residents plan to reduce wildfire risk. Source: CO-WRAP





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Created under Senate Bill 17-050, combined the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program administered by DNR and the Colorado Forest Restoration Grant Program administered by the CSFS into one grant program administered by CSFS. Funds projects that reduce the risk of damage to property, infrastructure and water supplies, and those that limit the likelihood of wildfires spreading into populated areas.


Year	Grant Funds Requested	Grant Funds Awarded	# of Applicants	# of Awardees
2013	\$4,858,766	\$3,912,872	55	25
2014	\$10,205,407	\$5,499,012	90	64
2015	\$2,339,254	\$1,257,109	36	27
2016	\$2,852,836	\$1,038,161	39	16
2017 (FWRBM)	\$3,720,671	\$1,053,499	66	24
Total	\$24,095,934.00	\$12,760,653.00	286	156

Funds are directed to non-federal lands within Colorado. To date, the program has awarded 156 projects throughout the state.




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- 30% of Colorado's forests owned by private landowners – there are around 7 million acres of private land in Colorado
  - More than 2 million people live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- More than 5 million acres of forest have significant mortality from insect and disease
- Longer fire seasons, larger fires with negative impacts to watersheds and forests
- Limited funding for forest management treatments



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- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
  - State Land Board
  - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- USFS regarding the implementation of the Good Neighbor Authority program – recent GNA Staff appointments




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# THE TOWN OF VAIL

One municipality's approach



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# Choosing Our Fires




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# You don't need a helicopter to do good things




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# WILDFIRE: Not if, but when




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# Fire Resistent Landscape




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# Mitigation

- Curbside Chipping
- Curbside Defensible Space Evaluations
- Fuels Reduction Projects
- Pile Burning
- Abatement ordinance



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## The Built Environment

- Wood shake ordinance
- Design guidelines

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## Evacuation Planning

Wildland Pre-Incident Plan - Wildfire Zone 2

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## Evacuation Planning

**Zone 2**

Land Use/Use Type	100
Population	100
Evacuation Route	100
Evacuation Route	100
Evacuation Route	100
Evacuation Route	100
Evacuation Route	100
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Evacuation Route	100
Evacuation Route	100

Zone Size: 100 Acres

Safety Zones: Right Park 0223 Mountain Dr.

Evacuation Routes: Streets leading west to Right Park or use evacuation route east (Big Horn Rd to Blue Path to Lower Truck Range or 4470).

Evacuation: Streets leading east to Right Rd. then west to 4700 or Right Rd. East to Blue Path to Lower Truck Range or 4700.

Nearest Staging Area: 11.

Critical Infrastructure: Fiber optic and communication towers south off Snowflake Lane.

Other Hazards: Extremely steep slopes.

Caution/Note: Heavy trail use north of zone.

Known Point Locations:

Point Name	Common Name	Address	Latitude	Longitude
11	Right Park	0223 Mountain Dr.	44°58'N	121°13'W
12	Upper West north of Big Horn Rd.	0223 Mountain Dr.	44°58'N	121°13'W

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## Fire Suppression

### Considerations

- Other Agencies
  - County Sheriff
  - USFS, BLM
  - DFPC
- Financial Impacts
  - Suppression
  - Recovery
  - Indirect

### Challenges

- Distance
- No statewide mutual aid plan
- Depth of regional resources

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## QUESTIONS?

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