

Colorado Burning

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Due to lower than expected snowpack this past winter, coupled with recent high temperatures and low humidity, the Colorado high country has become a tinderbox. A map of fires currently burning in Colorado is below.



The following information is currently available with respect to these fires.

Woodland Heights Fire

On Saturday morning, a fire broke out in a home near High Drive on the west side of Estes Park, near the Beaver Meadows Entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. Twenty-two homes and two structures were reported lost in a matter of hours. Many hotels and campgrounds were evacuated. No information is available with respect to the fire cause other than that it originated in a home and spread to adjacent vegetation.

Waldo Canyon Fire

This fire is burning near Waldo Canyon off of Highway 24 just west of Colorado Springs. It is at 0 percent containment. This fire has currently burned 3,600 acres and smoke could be seen from the Denver area over the weekend. No homes have been lost but a claimed 2,800 homes were thought to be in immediate danger. The cause of the fire is under investigation but our wildland fire investigator has been told that the public authorities believe that the cause may be a bonfire that was not extinguished.

High Park Fire

This fire is located west of Ft. Collins. The fire has burned more than 83,000 acres and destroyed 248 homes. One person died in the fire. The fire is approximately 45 percent contained. 1,000 people remain evacuated. More than 2,000 firefighters are battling this fire. This is the most destructive fire in Colorado history. The official cause has been listed as a lightning strike. It has been reported that this weekend there was likely a second burnover of the origin area. Our wildland fire investigator will be providing his opinion with respect to origin and cause as soon as he is allowed into the origin area by the fire authorities (which is anticipated to be in the next two weeks).

Weber Fire

This fire is located in Montezuma County. It was first reported at 4:25 p.m. on Friday, June 22. Approximately 6,500 acres have been burned. No structures have been lost but the fire is about a mile away from structures. There is zero containment. It is reported to be human caused – either an unattended campfire or illegal, open burning.

Springer Fire

This fire is located near Lake George. A reported 1,145 acres have been burned. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. There were reports that this fire may have been started by people shooting a gun at a propane tank, but that has not been confirmed. The Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are participating in the fire investigation.

Stateline Fire

This fire is burning southeast of Durango. Approximately 337 acres have been burned. The majority of this fire is on Southern Ute Indian Tribe land. The fire started Saturday afternoon, June 23, near U.S. Highway 550 about two miles north of the state line with New Mexico. Federal and local officials are still investigating the cause, but authorities assume it was human caused.

CR102 Fire

This fire is burning in Elbert County. It was first spotted at about noon on Sunday, June 24. Approximately 600 acres have burned. No structures have been reported damaged. It is 75 percent contained. No information is available with respect to cause at this time however there was no reported lightning in the area.

Treasure Fire

This fire is burning southeast of Leadville. Approximately 300 acres have been burned. There are no structures lost and no information is available with respect to fire cause. This fire is almost completely contained.

Trout Creek Fire

This fire is burning near Rainbow Falls in Douglas County, close to the Pike National Forest. Approximately 25 acres have been burned. There is no information available with respect to fire cause. However the fire cause is believed to be consistent with a serial arsonist who may have started other fires in the area as the origins of this fire, like the others, appears adjacent to an all-terrain vehicle trail.

Little Sand Fire

This fire is located near Pagosa Springs. A reported 18,439 acres have burned. Over the past few days the fire has been growing at a rate of 1,000 acres a day. Seven residences have been evacuated in the area and 28 structures are threatened. It has been reported that this fire was started by lightning on May 13.

High temperatures and low humidity are forecast for the remainder of the week so it is anticipated that firefighting will remain difficult and that more fires can be expected.

To discuss any questions you may have regarding the opinion discussed in this Alert, or how it may apply to your particular circumstances, please contact Brad W. Breslau at bbreslau@cozen.com or 720.479.3920.