

# Marshall Fire, Boulder, CO, Started December 30 2021

compiled by Miles Epstein, 21 Apr 2023

## Contributing Weather

- Wet previous spring, leading to increased grass growth
- Warm and dry summer and fall, drying out grass
- No recent rain or snow—local experts say this was a necessary ingredient (<https://apnews.com/article/climate-wildfires-science-environment-environment-and-nature-8d111d6f6dfa9bfa78a2fe9659802826>) (ongoing drought)
- Conditions at time of fire (<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/30/weather/colorado-wildfires/index.html>) :
  - 80-100 mph (129-161 km/h) winds, with gusts 110-115 mph (177-185 km/h) due to large and persistent mountain wave (Boulder is on the lee side of the Front Range), responsible for rapid fire spread
  - Relative humidity below 20%
  - Temperatures were not notable at time of fire
  - <https://www.weather.gov/bou/MarshallFire20211230>: good resource describing the necessary conditions and fire

## Images and Videos from Media

Image/Video	Caption/Source
	RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post The Marshall Fire continues to burn out of control near Broomfield on Dec. 30, 2021. <a href="https://www.denverpost.com/2021/12/31/marshall-fire-explained-firestorm-colorado-weather/">https://www.denverpost.com/2021/12/31/marshall-fire-explained-firestorm-colorado-weather/</a>



Photo from: Hart Van Denburg / CPR News  
<https://www.artemis.bm/news/marshall-fire-in-boulder-colorado-destroyed-1000-properties/>



A fire burns an Element hotel in Superior, Colorado, on Thursday, December 30. (Trevor Hughes/USA Today Network)  
[https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/boulder-colorado-fire-updates-12-30-21/h\\_6eb663b3bf61758f05c8844e4a0d4303](https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/boulder-colorado-fire-updates-12-30-21/h_6eb663b3bf61758f05c8844e4a0d4303)





*Superior, Colorado, before and after the Marshall Fire, Sept. 11, 2021 and Jan. 2, 2022. Nearmap.*

<https://wildfiretoday.com/2022/01/05/photos-before-and-after-the-marshall-fire-in-boulder-county-colorado/>





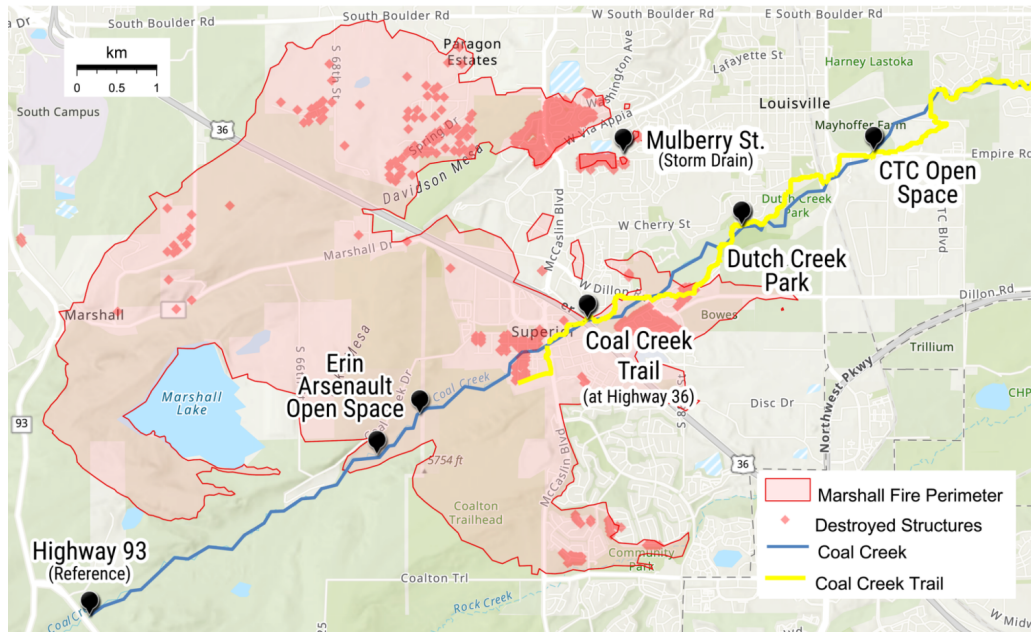


*Mulberry Street Yellow Scene Magazine*

<https://www.longmontleader.com/local-news/boulder-county-closing-in-on-results-of-marshall-fire-investigation-6256764>



## Post-Marshall Fire Coal Creek Sampling Locations



A map depicting the locations of the surface water samples collected from the Coal Creek waterway shortly after the Marshall Fire.

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2022/12/21/ongoing-cu-research-explores-impacts-solutions-after-marshall-fire>



*View of the Marshall Fire from Pearl Street in Boulder (Credit: Leo Pelle)*

<https://kdvr.com/news/causes-of-marshall-fire-could-still-take-months/>





**Hart Van Denburg/CPR News**

***Two people among the hundreds who gathered as night fell on Dec. 30, 2021, along the north side of 120th Avenue between McCaslin Boulevard and Eldorado Boulevard, to witness the Marshall fire, driven by 100 mph winds, blast through neighborhoods in Superior below. More than a thousand homes were destroyed in what became the costliest wildfire in Colorado recorded history.***



**Hart Van Denburg/CPR News**

***The Marshall fire left little standing in this neighborhood north of the Louisville Recreation Center and south of Harper Lake, photographed here on New Year's Eve, 2021, the evening after the fire swept through. Police from jurisdictions all over Colorado moved in quickly to lock down the perimeter of the burn scar for security and safety concerns, but it was still possible to walk into some neighborhoods for a glimpse***

<https://www.cpr.org/2022/12/30/photos-then-and-now-marshall-fire-one-year-later/>

Many more pictures of destroyed neighborhoods and how they were rebuilt



***of the devastation — an entire community destroyed.***



***Hart Van Denburg/CPR News***

***On Eldorado Drive on Dec. 28, 2022, a charred mailbox post offers a reminder of the Marshall fire's devastation. Right across the street: one of numerous homes that suffered no visible damage from the Dec. 30, 2021 fire.***



SUPERIOR, CO - DECEMBER 30: Fire consumes a home in neighborhoods in Superior on December 30, 2021 in Superior, Colorado. Fierce winds have whipped wildfires in Boulder County, The towns of Superior and Louisville have been evacuated. Multiple homes and businesses have burned so far from the fast moving fire stocked by fierce winds, with gusts topping 100 mph, along the foothills. The fire has been called the Marshall Fire. (Photo by Helen H. Richardson/MediaNews

<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/breaking-all-residents-in-town-of-superior-ordered-to-evacuate-due-to-fire-threat/>



Group/The Denver Post via Getty Images)



(credit: Denver Fire)

**Also contains dramatic live news footage of fires.**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/boulder-county-marshall-fire-cause-origin-report/>

Video of evacuations

States that additional police video is not yet released because cause is still under investigation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGraXQAxuqI>

Patrick Kramer is a firefighter with Longmont Fire who helped fight the Marshall Fire in Louisville and Superior. He shot this video as his team worked to fight the fire on December 30.

Shows firefighters in action as the neighborhood burns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=os-m9EFVXQg>

Dramatic bodycam footage shows first responders urgently evacuating people during the catastrophic wildfire that swept through Boulder, Colorado, last month. Sheriff deputies went door to door making sure everyone, including pets, got to safety. They even rescued horses at a local stable. As smoke overtook a popular shopping center, deputies ran through Costco evacuating customers as flames encroached the back of the store. The newly released footage shows just how dire the situation was.

Video clips shot by Mike Zoltowski show the early stages of the Marshall fire on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQIxo72uYmg>



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