



Please Vote YES on HB18-1051

Stricter Penalties for Leaving Campfires Unattended

Sponsors: Hamner & Carver/Coram & Merrifield

Since 2016, Colorado has seen two major wildfires in the wildland urban interface that were started by unattended campfires. The Peak Two Fire in Summit County in 2017, that forced a pre-evacuation order for the Town of Breckenridge, and the Cold Springs Fire outside the Town of Nederland in Boulder County in 2016, that destroyed homes and forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 people.

Our state is currently at 64% of the average snowpack and next summer is shaping up as one that could see extreme drought conditions and high fire danger. The cost of fighting a wildfire can **exceed a million dollars a day** and saddle local communities with years of restoration work and recovery costs. And yet current statute places the fine for leaving a campfire unattended at a mere fifty dollars. **The time for stricter penalties is now.**

HB 1051 is legislation recommended by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee to update a VERY antiquated statute by creating stricter penalties for leaving fires unattended. It raises the maximum punishment for knowingly or recklessly failing to attend to campfires in grassland or forested areas to a \$750 fine or six months in jail (or both). It also removes an unfunded signage mandate on counties – a dated requirement that is no longer necessary in this age of social media and other more effective electronic notification options.

Please Support This Effort to Prevent Catastrophic Wildfires

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