

The Mullen Fire burned 276 square miles last Fall, including much of the southern Snowy Range Mountains in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests. The purpose of this letter is to share information and resources with anyone who may be in or immediately downstream of the Mullen burn area. Post-fire emergency conditions exist and may affect your life, safety and/or property!

The Mullen fire burned in a mosaic pattern and conditions vary widely across the burn area. There are areas that burned very hot and most of the vegetation has been consumed and other areas where the fire crept along the ground burning some duff but left trees intact or did not burn at all. Some of the potential hazards in the burn area include:

- Trees weakened by the fire that may fall at any time.
- Burned tree roots or stumps left holes left in the ground and create a tripping hazard.
- Rocks or debris loosened by the fire may fall or roll downslope.
- Flash floods resulting from thunderstorms over the burn area.
- Debris flows resulting from thunderstorms over the burn area.
- Damaged or missing infrastructure, such as bridges, culverts, warning signs, washed out roads.

You can take steps to minimize the risk to yourself, others, and your property, including:

- Educate yourself, clients and others of the conditions and hazards that exist because of the fire and post-fire precipitation events.
- Consider avoiding the burn area, especially during heavy rain and high winds.
- Do not linger around burned trees.
- Be alert for falling objects.
- Do not camp or linger in low lying areas susceptible to flash flooding or debris flows.
- Move to high ground immediately during flash floods and debris flows.
- Monitor local weather reports and public safety bulletins, local road closures, emergency notifications, weather alerts, follow local county and city advisories, and act accordingly.

Some resources are available to help you make informed decisions about whether, when, where and what precautions you may want to take in and downstream of the Mullen burn area:

- US Forest Service – Mullen Burn Area Emergency Response: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mbr/fire/>
- USGS – Emergency Assessment Post-Fire Debris-Flow Hazards: https://landslides.usgs.gov/hazards/postfire_debrisflow/
- National Weather Service – Mobile Alerts: <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/>
- Albany County, WY – Emergency Management Agency: <https://www.co.albany.wy.us/228/Emergency-Management-Agency-Homeland-Sec>
- Carbon County, WY – Emergency Management: <https://carbonwy.com/954/Emergency-Management>
- Jackson County, CO – Sheriff's Office: <https://jacksoncountycogov.com/sheriffs-department/>

The risk of post fire hazards is greatest in the first year following a fire but persists at decreasing levels for at least 3-5 years as recovery takes place in the burn area. In addition to the Mullen fire, please also be aware of potential post-fire hazards associated with the Beaver Creek, Keystone, Badger and Ryan fires.

If you have questions about the Mullen burn area or post-fire emergency conditions, you may contact Dave Gloss, Mullen Burn Area Emergency Response Team Lead (David.Gloss@usda.gov / (307) 326-2510).