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*The Marshall-Martinek Team*



**David  
Martinek**

**Your  
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Contact information:

Direct Phone: 719.687.1516  
Toll Free: 800.905.3811  
Fax: 719.687.0488  
Cell: 719.213.9335

Web: [www.davidmartinekcb.com](http://www.davidmartinekcb.com)

[davidmartinek@  
1stchoicerealtycb.com](mailto:davidmartinek@1stchoicerealtycb.com)  
or

[dmartinekhomes@gmail.com](mailto:dmartinekhomes@gmail.com)

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*The Fire!*

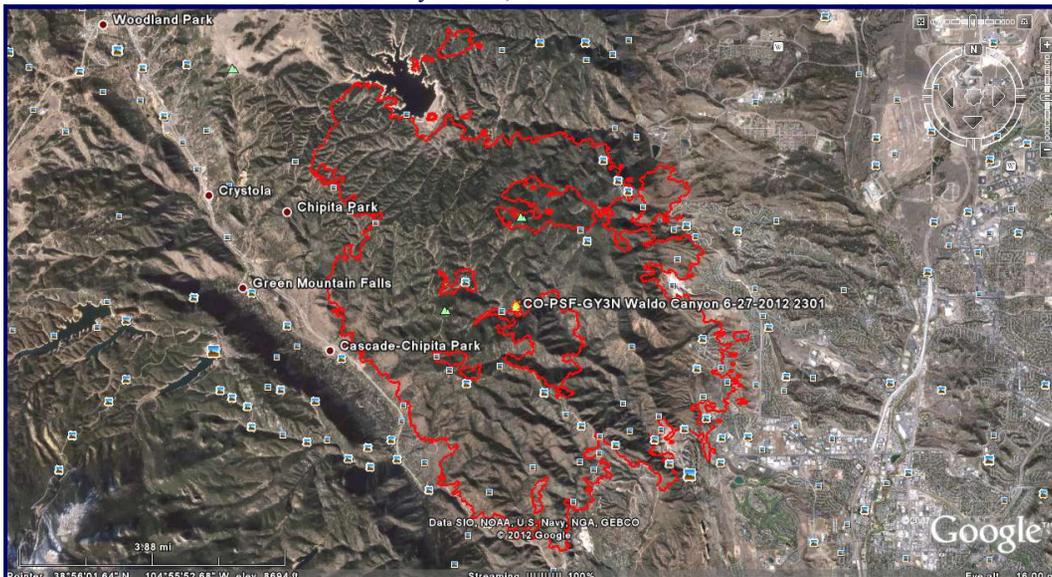
It would be an inexcusable oversight on my part not to write about the great Waldo Canyon Wildfire currently burning itself out along the northern slopes of Ute Pass three miles west of Colorado Springs - between the city and Teller County, particularly since its black embers are just a few miles to the east, and since the news and pictures of this local tragedy have been the focus of so many, starting Saturday, June 23.

And even though I wasn't personally endangered by the fire, the potential was there; its affect on everyone in the Pikes Peak region was universal. But for the people who lost their homes, or their loved ones, the affect was personal and devastating, and their memories are permanently etched by the experience.

I learned of the fire around noon on Saturday, June 23, just as the Donkey Derby Days parade in Cripple Creek was winding to an end. I had received a text from a friend in the Springs about a fire in "waldo cyn." I didn't know where the canyon was exactly, but after numerous small fires during the last week in Teller County, the news of it spread quickly. As the week went by, the whole country learned where Waldo Canyon was, even the President.



**Waldo Canyon Wildfire: The fire on top Rampart Range overlooking Woodland Park on Wednesday morning, June 27.**



**Waldo Canyon Wildfire: This Google Earth map shows the fire perimeter at the height of its reach - Tuesday, June 26.**

It's possible that the fire actually started, or was intentionally set (the investigation of the cause is still ongoing), on Friday evening. According to later newspaper reports, some folks living in Crystal Park, south of Manitou Springs, reported smoke in the canyon to law enforcement that night. A patrol was sent out to investigate but darkness prevented verification. When officers returned in the morning (Saturday), the fire was already fully developed.

By 2:06 p.m. that afternoon, Chipita Park and Green Mountain Falls, two small towns along Highway 24 down Ute Pass were under mandatory evacuation

*"The Fire" - continued on page 2*

**Happy Independence Day - Wednesday, July 4, 2012**



### "The Fire" - continued from page 1

orders. A few minutes later all lanes of Highway 24 were closed from Crystola, just southeast of Woodland Park, to 31st Street in Old Colorado City. By that evening, the entire city of Manitou Springs, some 5000 people, along with about 6,000 other residents in Cascade and western Colorado Springs were ordered to evacuate.

After 8:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, June 24, the Manitou Springs residents were allowed back home, but Highway 24 remained closed. Mandatory evacuations were still in place for the Ute Pass communities, and the eastern portion of Woodland Park was put on standby alert.

The fire spread out in three directions and quickly consumed over 2000 acres the first day, growing rapidly to 5,000+ acres by Monday. C-130 tanker aircraft from Air Force Reserves at Peterson AFB, as well as from the Wyoming Air National Guard, were called in to help.

But on Tuesday, June 26, high winds shifted and drove the fire eastward towards Colorado Springs. Exploding across more than 15,000 acres in just a few hours, it forced fire crews to abandon their positions and engulfed the Mountain Shadows community, as well as other homes along streets near the Flying W Ranch.

The Flying W Ranch, a western theme attraction that has been around for 60 years, was burned to the ground. In addition, 35 neighborhood streets and 346 homes (official count) were destroyed before firefighters could regain control of the perimeter on the Colorado Springs side of the fire. Later, two fatalities were discovered in the basement of the same home. By Wednesday, June 27, over 32,000 people were displaced.

The fire raged up Wellington Canyon to the west and east, and north along Queens Canyon toward the U.S. Air Force Academy, Palmer Lake and Monument. On the west side, it approached Rampart Range Reservoir and threatened to come down the slope to Woodland Park. The smoke was intense. In response, the eastern part of Woodland Park closest to Rampart Range was evacuated and the rest of the city, half-way to Divide, put on pre-evacuation alert by local officials. The "evac

**Waldo Canyon Wildfire: (Below) 346 homes on 35 neighborhood streets in the Mountain Shadows area of Colorado Springs were destroyed (the white areas are the ashes of the homes).**



center" at the Woodland Park High School, set up to accommodate the Ute Pass evacuees, was moved to the Summit Elementary School in Divide, and another center was opened at the school in Cripple Creek.

Fortunately, the weather began to change on Wednesday, June 27, becoming cooler and actually raining in some areas of the city and mountains. This allowed the incident commanders to beef up their fire crews, bring in more resources and begin to take the offensive. By evening, five percent of the fire was contained. Thursday and Friday proved equally favorable and several of the western Colorado Springs evacuations were lifted. By Saturday, June 30, the fire lines were holding and the fire was 45 percent contained. Woodland Park residents were allowed back home in the afternoon.

On Sunday, July 1, the Ute Pass community evacuations were lifted, and Highway 24 was re-opened in the evening. As of this writing, the fire continues to burn within its perimeter and north towards Monument Canyon. Aircraft are being used to keep the north flank south of Monument.

The folks whose homes were lost and/or who lost loved ones will be scarred for life by their experience, though they may rebuild. In any event, their lives are going to be in turmoil for quite a long time. As a community, people are reaching out to them as best they can. Memories are long lasting; things can always be replaced; but people cannot. This fire, like the Hayman Fire exactly 10 years ago, will remain on our collective consciousness for years to come.

Good things did happen. Throughout the fire week, the communications between law enforcement officials, fire agency command centers and city and county governments was rapid and outstanding. Besides daily press conferences in the mornings and evenings, messages were sent to the public through social media, newspapers, online announcements, county websites and reverse 911. Citizens shared information on Facebook and Twitter.

*"The Fire - continued on page 3*



**Rampart Range Reservoir**



*“The Fire - continued from page 2*

There was also a human dark side to this tragedy. I won't talk about the homes that were looted and burglarized while their owners were evacuated, or the cars of evacuees that were broken into in hotel parking lots across Colorado Springs. But it happened. Nor will I go into detail about whether the Waldo Canyon Fire was intentionally set, just like the 25 other small fires that were believed to have been caused by arson in Teller County just a week before - not to mention the earlier Stringer Fire near Lake George that was supposedly started by some idiots shooting at explosive targets taped to a propane tank. These people, whoever they are, are not indicative of the kindness and generosity shown by folks during the last few days. No, they are crazy, deranged minds with confused motives, and they will see justice in time.

Rather, I will end by saying that area residents (including myself) in both counties are so very grateful and proud of their local law enforcement officials, the fire commanders and especially the over 1200 firefighters who risked their lives to protect them, some sleeping on the fire lines at night. Words are inadequate to express their appreciation, but the heart knows.

*Sources:* Colorado Springs Gazette; Iciweb.org; El Paso and Teller County websites; KKTv.com. All pictures are the property of the Gazette.

To view a time-lapse video of the fire, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBA7eHY022k>. Or, go to the Colorado Springs Gazette's website at <http://www.gazette.com/sections/slideshow/?id=14952210> to see slideshows.

**Statistics (to date) for the severest wildfire in Colorado history :**

**Acres Affected:** 17,512 (13,930 acres of USFS land and 3,582 privately owned; the acreage differs slightly depending on the report);

**Total Evacuated (El Paso/Teller County):** 35,500 (of which 20,085 were directly threatened);

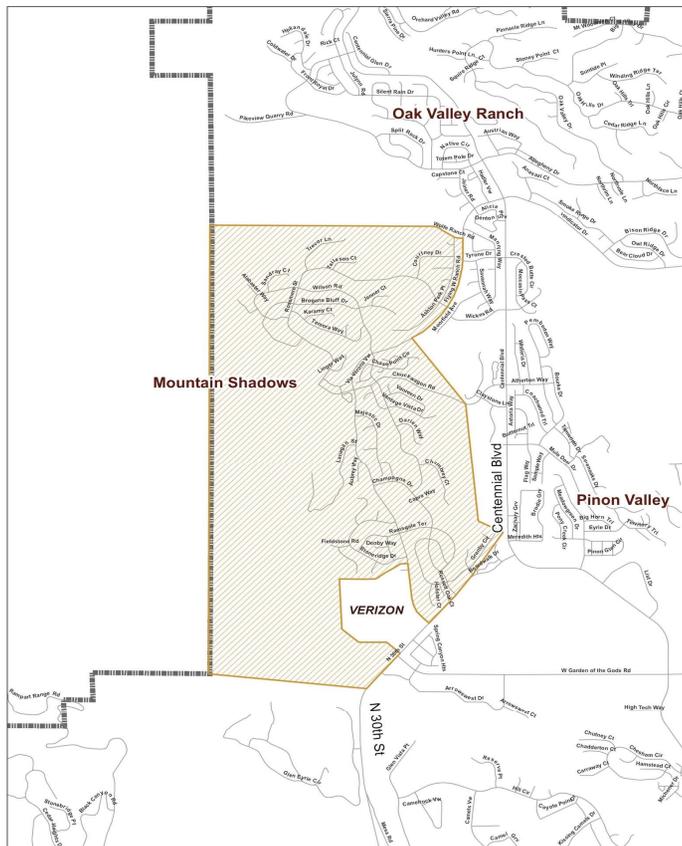
**Homes Destroyed:** 346 (on 35 streets);

**Fatalities:** 2

**Total Firefighters:** 1,287 (on 39 crews);

**Total Pieces of Equipment:** 126+ (including 80 fire engines, 16 water tenders, 11 helicopters, 16 dozers, 4 C-130 aircraft and who knows how many brush trucks and other light vehicles); and

**Total cost of the fire:** \$8,800,000 and increasing.



Department of Information Technology GIS Services Division  
Mandatory Evacuation Area  
Legend  
Mandatory Evacuation Area 070112\_0953  
Colorado Springs City Limits  
Date: 7/1/2012 Time: 1:51:14 PM  
MXD Name: MandatoryEvac\_7\_01\_12\_11x17  
0 345 690 1,380 Feet

*The residents of the Mountain Shadows subdivision (see picture on page 2 and the map above) were recently allowed back into their neighborhood, on a bus tour. They could not get out and start picking through the debris. The area is still under mandatory evacuation until officials have cleared the area. A Relief and Recovery Center has been established in El Paso County to help displaced homeowners deal with their loss, provide grief counseling, assist with insurance claims and provide other relief. A concert is planned for July 4th to aide those left homeless. Other efforts are underway and FEMA will be providing assistance, thanks to Pres. Obama's visit.*





**Dave's Buyers' Guide**

**Cabins, second-homes and land specials from Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty**

**Prices and status effective as of July 31, 2012**



**\$649,850**

**711 Skyline Dr, Woodland Park**  
**Live the dream!** A luxury home in a great neighborhood. 4BR/4BA/2GAR w/ 5010 S.F. on 0.46 acres. Gourmet kitchen, formal dining room, master retreat w/ private balcony & 5-piece bath. An endless list of extras & amenities to live the dream. #778446

Facebook Posts:



A city sign by a barricade when folks from Woodland Park were allowed to come home.

**To inquire, email or call 719.687.1516**

*(Martinek Team listings are BOXED)*



**\$399,900**

**520 Regent Ln, Woodland Park**  
**Custom home!** 4BR/4BA/3GAR, 3641 S.F. on 0.74 acres. Gourmet kitchen. FB in MBR sitting area. Secluded backyard w/ deck. Entertain your guests in style in a true mountain setting. #740010



**\$319,000**

**261 Utah Way, Florissant**  
**Spectacular views!** See Pikes Peak & rock formations. Immaculate house. 4BR/3BA/2GAR, w/ 3202 S.F. on 2 acres. 2-story river rock FP. Wrap-around, huge deck. Well built home. #795383



**\$289,900**

**Reduced**

**115 Sunrise Ct, Woodland Park**  
**Morning Sun Solar Community!** 3BR/3BA/3GAR, 2200 S.F. on 0.8 acres. Ranch style, grassy lot. MBR has vaulted ceilings, 5-piece bath & walk-out patio. Kitchen island. Plenty of solar heat. #744688



**\$249,900**

**Reduced**

**23 High Chateau Cr, Florissant**  
**One Level Living!** 2 acres with views of Mt. Pisgah & Pikes Peak. 2BR/2BA/2GAR and 1962 S.F. The kitchen is a chef's delight. Master retreat w/ jetted tub. Huge covered deck. Rock wall FP. Stainless appliances. Great condition. #761951



**\$185,000**

**730 N. Walnut St, Woodland Pk.**  
**Family Friendly!** Close to parks, schools, shopping. Clean and well maintained. 3BR/2BA/2GAR w/ 1296 S.F. on 0.28 acre lot. Back deck, sunroom, fenced yard. Cozy wood stove and vaulted beam ceilings. Needs a new family. #732453



**\$125,000**

**Reduced**

**111 West St, Cripple Creek**  
**Two home in one!** A 1910 remodeled cottage that can be a residence or a rental. Two units include a front section and back apartment. 3BR/2BA/0GAR, 1438 S.F. A side alley provides easy access. A little TLC needed. #729184



**\$33,900**

**127 Carlton Cir, Florissant**  
**Building Plans!** This 2.04 acre lot is ready to go. Perc test done, fire mitigation trees cut, building plans available. A well permit is waiting. This is a beautiful parcel overlooking the CME valley. A dream lot for a dream home.



**\$19,900**

**2847 N. Mountain Est. Florissant**  
**Two Lots!** Two adjacent lots on a corner that total 1.18 acres. Several building sites are among the many Ponderosa and Fir trees. A selective build produces a great view of Pikes Peak.



**\$15,000**

**317 Blue Spruce Dr, Florissant**  
**Scenic!** 1.61 acres lot with the building sites is on the ridge line. Then the lot slopes severely down to Four Mile Road. View of the Dome Rock area. Secluded and very private. #756145



**\$16,000**

**1001 S. Mtn Est. Rd, Florissant**  
**Meadow!** Two acres of meadow and trees and some nice building sites in beautiful Colorado Mountain Estates, south of Florissant. Easy access to nearby Fossil Beds and Cripple Creek. #530773



**\$16,000**

**2856 Blue Mesa Dr., Divide**  
**Fronts Water!** This heavily treed lot in Highland Lakes (1.67 acres) slopes down to Beaver Lake No. 2. Strategic tree cuts will make room for a driveway and a building site. See this beautiful lot. #457747

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David Martinek, P.O. Box 1088, Divide, CO 80814

davidmartinek@1stchoicerealtycb.com