

Fourmile Canyon Fire, Boulder County, Colorado



In September 2010, the Fourmile Canyon wildfire burned approximately 6,200 acres of forest and 168 structures in the foothills west of Boulder, Colorado. In the post-fire condition, the steep terrain, with average slopes exceeding 30 percent over more than half the burned area, posed a greatly increased risk of flooding and debris flows. WWE was retained by Boulder County to evaluate the post-fire runoff from three major drainages for a range of storm events.

Findings from the HEC-HMS modeling analysis were used for emergency preparedness planning. WWE was also tasked with evaluating the projected post-fire hydrologic recovery of the watershed, and planning measures to reduce the impact from debris flows.

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