

Splash:

Shane: What's up Monarch

Samantha: We are standing in front of one of the 991 houses that were destroyed in the Marshall fire.

Shane: Everyone in the community has been impacted, especially these Monarch students.

Luke/Shane Impact- evacuation

Gwyn: As we were leaving we saw fire up on our road and then we just had to completely make up a new way to get out of our neighborhood.

VO: On December 30th the Marshall fire tore through the neighborhoods of Superior and Louisville, leaving some students without a place to call home.

Buck: The craziest thing about losing your house is what you have in your car and on your back is all of your possessions, so anywhere you go you're moving.

Grant: My first thought was this can't be real. I'm just sitting down here playing video games enjoying my break, like, why do we have to evacuate? There's blue sky.

Buck: It was very surreal, because one of the things that's crazy and I think a lot of people have noticed is you start to see the landscape around the houses that have burned and you know, to see the hill behind my home, and the view that we had, was overwhelming.

VO: Buck Coleman, Grant Hilton, and Gwyn Christensen all lost their houses, but not before making the impossible decision about what to take and what to leave.

Buck: I was lucky out of my family. I probably grabbed the most stuff. I had a plan set ahead that I didn't even realize I had made, in which I kept all of my memorable things from my childhood, from my friendships, and I had them in this little shoebox! And so I took this shoebox and stuffed it in my bag, grabbed electronics, and that was it. I had the clothes on my back and I had these memorable items. And honestly, I'm 100% very glad that I took the memorable items over clothes

Grant: I got some clothes, I took my family's jewelry box, their wedding album, and a family photo album.

Gwyn: I had to help some of my family members gather their stuff before I could get all of mine, so I didn't get everything exactly that I wanted, but I got a good amount.

VO: And even though they knew their houses were in danger, they didn't think twice when others reached out for help.

Gwyn: As we were evacuating my sister got a notice that her friend's dog were still in their house, and we pulled up and got the dogs out before we left

Buck: My dad actually had to run into another neighborhood, and his car was blocked off by the police. So he had to run down some paths and grab a dog that was in their house, and actually their houses ended up burning down so if he hadn't gone in, they weren't home, and the dog would have died in the fire.

VO: They didn't only lose their houses during this tragedy, but many of their belongings were destroyed, along with the memories those items held.

Buck: I had one thing, it was my baritone. You know, music is such an important part of my life and single handedly, the worst thing I've had to go through is not only losing my house, but you know, missing my music. I lost a piano, my baritone. My sister was very lucky she grabbed her trumpet, but without having that music to cope with that loss it's been very difficult.

VO: So how are these students coping with this tragedy?

Grant: I've been listening to a lot of acapella, I've been playing my instruments at the high school, which is actually nice. I've been talking with friends, family.

Buck: You don't know how you're going to react to things like this, there's nothing that can prepare you for losing your home, but I will say that my reaction to it was nothing like I thought it would be. I know my parents, especially my mom, have been a lot more devastated in the moment, whereas mine has been more prolonged because you know, as I'm going to college I know I won't be living in that house, or would have been living in that house for very much longer.

VO: While their houses may have been destroyed, their faith in their community has only grown stronger.

Grant: And uh, yeah. There have been a ton of people who have reached out to me and my family, and I thank you all for that.

VO: For KYOT, I'm Shane Klingensmith .

Nathan -Dogtag

Shane: Near the start of the fire, a local doggy daycare was required to evacuate.

Samantha: DogTag was a family run business that burned in the Marshall Fire.

Shane: Evacuating a business sheltering over forty pets was not an ideal situation.

Samantha: Our reporter Nathan Yanagida took a closer look into this business and their story.

VO: While people were fleeing their homes during the Marshall Fire, Chris Crolik had something else on his mind.

CHRIS: Luca was my first pet. He was part of the family.

VO: Luca was one of 41 dogs staying at DogTag, a local doggy daycare in Superior.

CHRIS: Searched around on social media and had coworkers going around shelters to try and find Luca. got text from DogTag to come pick up dog (Not knowing if the dog was safe)

VO: Meanwhile, the owner of DogTag, Donelle Slater, knew she didn't have much time as she was desperately trying to evacuate all the dogs.

DONELLE: We went to plan z. We had to try and round as many dogs. At this point the barn was on fire.

VO: Donnelle took 27 dogs with her as she evacuated leaving 14 dogs behind.

DONELLE: I proceeded to let the rest of the dogs out hoping they would be able to survive

VO: Miraculously, all the stray dogs were found soon after the fire cleared.

CHRIS: We got a text from DogTag saying they had Luca and thats how we found him.

DONELLE: I had some dogs loose nearby and I asked the officers at costco to help gather them, they did a great job

VO: After losing most of the property to the fire, Donelle has started to plan a way to rebuild and come back stronger.

DONELLE: It's going to take a really long time and some people might move on, but there is a reason why superior and louisville are so special.

VO: For KYOT, I'm Nathan Yanagida

Alex - Farm

Shane: Dog's weren't the only animals that were affected by this tragedy.

Samantha: As they saw the fire grow, the people at Oakley Stables were able to hitch their trailers in order to save their horses as well.

KARA: We could see flames on the hill by one of the pastures

VO: A girl and her horse, And the orange glow from the Marshal fire growing ever closer

KARA: You can't really think about anything else

VO: AS the Marshall fire barreled over homes and closed in on the barns and stables around Boulder county, Kara Peters got to work loading the horses at her table to evacuate them.

KARA: I was somewhere else, I hit every red light. There's like 20 people there trying to hook up trailers

VO: But loading a 600 pound animal into a trailer isn't as easy as it might seem.

KARA: The horses didn't want to get in the trailer, We got to the fairgrounds and I helped feed, water, muck, but they didn't have enough hay so we had to go get more

VO: All the horses from the barn were safely evacuated and have since made their way back to their barn which only thankfully received minimal damage

KARA: The horses spook and one of the pastures has burned

But after the ash is cleared, the pastures will only grow back greener.

VO: For KYOT Im Alex Neumann

Dominic - Media Coverage

Samantha: While the residents of superior and louisville were evacuating their neighborhoods, local news reporters were doing the opposite, entering the heart of the fire

Shane: Reporters like Kyle Clark of Nine News and Nick Roschild from Channel 7 allowed the community to see the streets they called home, even though they were miles away.

VO: Kyle Clark of nbc nine news is no novice to covering colorado fires.

Kyle: so i have covered fires here in colorado for more than a decade"~2:39

2:18~:"The marshall fire was different in behavior than other fires

VO: Clark and journalists like him were indispensable while the evacuated families awaited news on their home and community.

Kyle: "We sent a lot of crews out in that direction at once and instead of coming on at a point of time with digital and social media coverage we were also wall to wall on the air for a good period of time about noon to 11 pm so sustaining coverage while we were on with a number of different crews."

VO: Clark and his team spent from dusk to dawn driving from fire to fire to deliver the news

Kyle: ~3:07 we spent the early part of the day near mcaslin and washington in the southwest corner of harper lake and the wind was blowing so hard at times that we could barely stand.

VO: the wind that day was ranging from 70-100 miles per hour making it hard for anyone to stand.

Kyle “ It was also throwing stuff in the wind, small rocks and things like that, so we had to turn away. It was also throwing embers significant distances. There was a point where we were probably a football field away and a bush just lit up in flames right in front of us”

VO: even for a weathered news vet like Clark such destruction can be disheartening

Kyle: 2:51~ the speed of the marshall fire and the scope of it all at once was unlike anything ive ever seen along with the fact that it was in such densely populated communities

5:00 ~At times it was just very discouraging to see the extent of the damage

VO: while clark was on scene, 7 news sports anchor and monarch graduate Nick Rothschild had a more personal connection to the fire

Nick: When i heard it was so close to home

VO: Rothschild was getting ready to anchor for the nuggets when alerted of the fire

Nick: 12:00 when told

VO: rothschild was troubled when he found out how close the fire was to his childhood home

Nick: Didnt know it could burndown my parents house

VO: Rothschild was prepared to go on the front lines to report the fires

Nick: If you guys need me to go i can do that for you

VO: when the smoke cleared the monarch community prevailed

Nick: Whether your house is fine or your still picking up the pieces we need to stay together

VO: For KYOT, I'm Dominic Spacone

MJ/Markus - Fire relief

Shane: Even in the chaos, there's hope, and everyone has a special place to go.

Samantha: Sister Carmen Community center is one of those places

Shane: This well known non profit didn't falter when the community needed help.

Samantha: Their Volunteers gave up their time to try to make the effects of this tragedy more manageable.

(Quote w/t far shot of the building)

VO: Sister Carmen has been helping people since 1978 and they have kept their beliefs and ideas since then, which persuades them to work harder each day.

(quote about how they started)

(quote of bouquet of his history with the place)

(quote after the fire)

VO: Being the amazing people they are, they were able to aid with the recent catastrophe of the Marshal Fire

(quote about when the fire started and how do they helped)

VO: Even in the tough times, sister carmen and their volunteers, are there to help you

(Quote of bucket and what they get from them)

VO: It doesn't matter who you are, you will get help in this place

(quote, the help that brought and to who)

(quote of what they would say to someone who lost it all)

VO: For KYOT, this is MJ Macias

Ella - firefighters

Shane: The Volunteers at Sister Carman have been able to lend a helping hand to the victims after the destruction of the fire.

Samantha: firefighters were the first people to go into action that night and did their best to save as much as possible.

6:39 - I was on the initial call and I went home finally on Friday so the next day at like 6pm.

VO: Chris Melvin is one of the Battalion Chiefs at the Louisville Fire Station 2.

5:05 - As one of the Battalion Chiefs in Boulder County I have a pretty large response area and so part of my response area is actually where the fire started so I was dispatched shortly after they discovered the fire and I responded up to that so I was like the third or fourth person on that scene.

VO: What Melvin saw on December 30th 2021 was beyond his belief.

10:37 - You pull up into a block of homes and there's four or five or a dozen homes burning it's unexplainable really and I've been in the fire service for a bit of time now and I've certainly never been on an incident nor do I ever hope to ever experience it again.

8:05 - We like to win right so we like to go and put out these house fires and save as much property as we can and we just found ourselves in a position on the 30th that the fire was moving so fast and it was throwing embers and things probably at least a mile ahead of the actual flame front.

8:52 - The scope of this incident I think is still something we are trying to understand and process individually and as a fire department so it may take us months or even longer to just kind of realize what we experienced that day.

VO: Despite the lasting impact that it will leave on everyone affected Melvin has been able to find a silver lining.

12:30 - It's the last thing we ever wanted to deal with as a fire department certainly and as a community but you know seeing this town come together both of our communities Superior and Louisville come together to help one another is inspiring and I think we hope that continues because this is going to be a long process for all those folks who were affected by this fire.

VO: While this has been a traumatizing experience Melvin has words for the 80027.

14:30 - Expect the unexpected you don't want to live in fear or things like that we're already dealing with enough stuff in the world right now so you know taking a minute to educate yourself and you know maybe make your house a little more fire devensible would be is certainly something I'm gonna take from it and implement at my house.

VO: For KYOT I'm Ella Malm.

Outro:

Shane: The pain of this disaster is still being felt today, but the community is continuing to move forward and come together to support one another.

Samantha: Remember Monarch, no matter the struggle, the community will always stay connected.

Both: Stay strong Monarch

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Sister Carmen Community Center

Louisville Fire Station 2