

1,381 burned cars.

7 commercial buildings lost.

\$513,212,589 in damages.

ONE monarch. **EVERYONE** impacted. **80027** strong.

It started out with my mom and my sister going into Boulder, while my dad and I were at home.

They FaceTimed us at home because it was getting so windy and there was smoke in the air. My mom called us because she knew how fast grass fires can spread and that it had the potential to be really dangerous.

My dad suggested I text my friend Julia based on where my mom and sister had seen the smoke.

I thought it was a bit ridiculous, but ten minutes later, I texted her saying that there was a fire near her house.

I had absolutely no clue that it had already gotten there.

Apparently, that was the first she had heard of any fire.

My mom and my sister were probably one of the last cars allowed through Marshall road because they could barely see through

the smoke.

Julia called me hysterical, asking to come to my house. I said, "Of course."

Even at that time I didn't understand how close the fire had been. All I knew was that their family was leaving.

It was like a scene from a nightmare.

Half the sky was black, half was a perfect blue.

We collected our things at home, and we were lucky we had time.

Julia drove to Denver, and we were some of the first in our neighborhood to leave.

We honestly thought it was just precautionary, to be extra extra safe.

That we would be home in two to three hours.

Three hours.



a life changing **TEXT**

Annika Holecek (12) texts friend to alert her of Marshall Fire

TEN minutes

Julia Crawley (12) had just 10 minutes to escape her burning neighborhood with sister, dogs

My sister and I were home alone.

I was cooking lunch when I got a text from one of my friends saying that there was a fire, and it looked like it was right near my neighborhood. I went outside because I had no idea what was happening.

It looked smoky, and there was definitely some ash, but it didn't seem that intense.

I called my mom and she told my sister to run across the street and ask our neighbors if they had gotten an evacuation notice.

She told me to go upstairs and start collecting our documents and our most valuable stuff.

I went into the office and that's when I looked outside again.

All of a sudden it was pitch black, I could barely

see anything.

My sister came running into the house. She was just screaming at me. I looked outside the window again, and I could see my neighbor's house right across the street from me.

It was just on fire.

My sister and I threw the dogs in the car. As we were pulling out of our driveway, we saw a fire truck and a firefighter hooking up a hose to the fire hydrant in my front yard, heading towards my neighbor's house.

It was really scary.

I got the text ten minutes before, and when I looked outside I wasn't concerned.

When I left ten minutes later, I could see the flames feet from my house.



"MY DOG IS MY BEST FRIEND, and I can't imagine my life without him, so I'm grateful we were home to make sure we could get him out safely." — Anna Ruprecht (12)



"I SAVED MY CAMERA because it's really important to me. I got it for my birthday from my stepdad who's in Alaska." — Alexandra Randle (11)



"MY RABBIT DAISY was the first thing I grabbed when I went out the door. She means a lot to me. We share a special bond." — Mateo Dunham (9)

saved. *what we*

history, REPEATED **Superintendent Rob Anderson recalls losing parents' home to fire, relates to Marshall Fire**



TELLING OF TRAUMA Hannah Rowton (12) interviews Superintendent Dr. Rob Anderson about the Marshall Fire on Feb. 18.

My home was in the evacuation zone, and I had gone up to Winter Park to ski with my family. I was actually in the gondola when my phone started to ring. At first, I was concerned, but didn't understand at the time what a serious event this was going to turn out to be.

You know on the one hand, I'm a superintendent. On the other hand I'm a dad. I'm a friend. I'm a community member. I think that when you see people you care about have to go through such a tragedy, it's painful. I don't know any other way to describe that. We know families who lost everything.

When I was 20 years old, my parents' house burned down. So, unfortunately, I have lived through the trauma that a fire can bring to a family. It's incredibly painful to watch people we care about go through this, and remembering my own experience and having to deal

with that is really, really hard.

I have healed from my personal experience, but it's hard because I know what it's like.

These weren't your typical fires. These were "melt through your fireproof safe" kind of fires. In my home, there were things they salvaged and cleaned, though that was painful. I remember that pain and that gave me some perspective.

There's still lots of unknowns. I know that lots of families are in different places. Some folks had to move out of town. Some were lucky enough they found a place here. Our hope is to continue to prioritize this and not forget about what our families and kids have gone through and provide them the support they need until they don't need it anymore. This doesn't end on the last day of school.

don't shoot the **MESSENGER**

Jake Elverson (12) gives Superior students updates on their homes



They had that police barricade the day after, and we were still mostly concerned about going to our house to find out if it was still there.

We snuck through Superior Community Park. That was the first time we could see a whole row of houses that were all gone.

We went up through there and saw my dad's house was okay.

That's when I took the first picture and sent it to the senior group chat. I texted the group to see if anyone else wanted to know if their house was there.

A week later, I still had messages because so many people sent their addresses.

We got stopped by two police cars because they needed proof of ID that we live there.

I asked one cop about some of the addresses in Old Town Superior, and she said, "Don't even try to go to Old Town. There's nothing there to see."

It was so all very surreal, looking at all of these homes. Telling people, "Yeah, here's a picture. I guess it's not there anymore."

In the end, we walked about six and a half miles that day.

But it only felt like ten minutes.

SIBLINGS separated **Ava Schuler (12) describes being away from home and apart from family**



In Winter Park, I checked any information on the fire. It was right next to Target. It was a little too close to my home for comfort. My dad told me the fire isn't close enough to our house to worry.

Then, the fire jumped Highway 36, right behind my house. After 30 minutes of sitting in the lodge crying, we headed back to our mountain house.

I got a video from one of my neighbors. I opened it dreadfully. It was a video of their fence on fire. On the news, I could see my home in the background of a broadcast from Avista Hospital. I watched my house catch on fire and become engulfed in the flames. My dad got a call from a friend who works for the Boulder Police Department, who confirmed what we had just witnessed on the news. My childhood home was gone.

I couldn't comprehend what just happened. I could only sit and watch the news, wondering how this twist of fate

happened. I attempted to go to bed, only to lie there for hours until the sun rose.

My brother went to our house alone to look at the damage. He turned the camera and showed us the war zone that our neighborhood had become.

I was in absolute disbelief that the only home I had known was now gone with absolutely nothing left behind.