

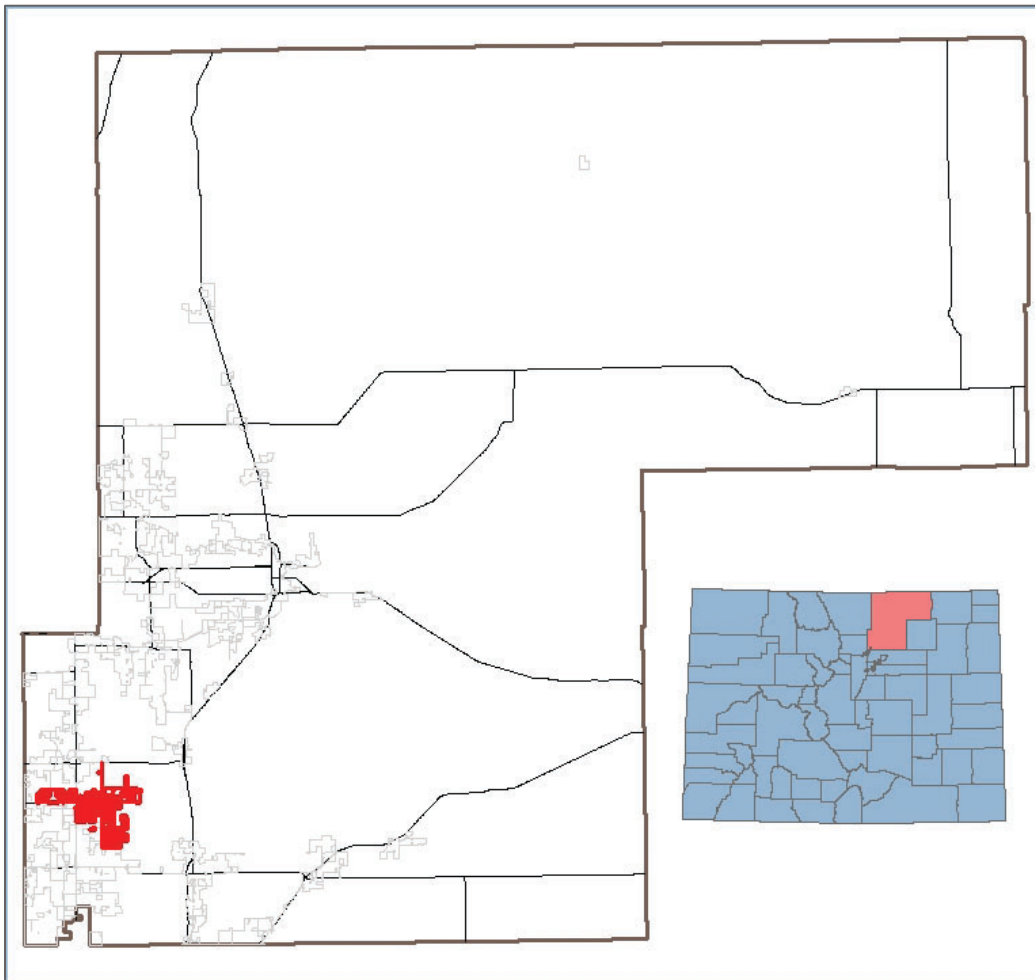
## 7.6 Town of Firestone

*“The Town of Firestone is a unique community of citizens, businesses, and governments that are united in creating a stable, safe, prosperous, and healthful environment in which to live, work, worship, learn, recreate and exercise the rights and freedoms provided by the United States Constitution.”*

– Firestone Master Plan 2013

### 7.6.1 Community Profile

The Town of Firestone is located on the northern edge of the Denver-Boulder metropolitan area along Interstate 25, midway between Denver and Fort Collins, just east of Longmont. Firestone’s boundary is approximately 7,774 acres with a planning area of about 56 square miles. The Town of Firestone offers residents the charm of a small town along with easy access to the Rocky Mountains, front range communities, parks, trails, schools, community events, and more.



Firestone is part of the Carbon Valley area which also includes the Towns of Frederick and the City of Dacono. The three municipalities share a Chamber of Commerce and a Park and Recreation District. They are represented in the Carbon Valley Emergency Management Agency, which also includes the Frederick Fire Protection District and Mountain View Fire Rescue. The municipalities work with their specific stakeholders in determining risks and vulnerabilities, however the unique agreement between them is important to planning efforts. The multi-jurisdictional emergency management system Firestone

shares with Dacono and Frederick is key to fostering collaboration across agencies and successfully integrating hazard information and mitigation planning strategies.

Table 106 summarizes key demographic and development related characteristics of the Town of Firestone.

Table 106. Town of Firestone Demographics

Firestone	Colorado	
16,177	5,758,736	Population, 2019
58.6%	14.5%	Population, % change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019
7.9%	5.8%	% Population under 5 years, 2019
30.0%	21.9%	% Population under 19 years, 2019
9.2%	14.6%	% Population 65 years and over, 2019
88.6%	64.9%	Homeownership Rate, 2019
3.09	2.56	Persons Per Household, 2019
\$97,102	\$68,811	Median Household Income, 2014- 2018
3.6%	9.3%	Persons below poverty level, %, 2014- 2018
6.7%	7.3%	% Population under 65 years, with a disability 2014-2018
10.4%	17%	Language other than English spoken at home, % age 5+, 2014- 2018

Source: US Census Bureau

### 7.6.2 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Table 107 summarizes the results of the RF ranking exercise performed by the Town of Firestone. The results represent the relative risk of different hazards across the municipality from the perspective of local stakeholders and subject matter experts. Note the final RF Ranking values in this table include the weighting factors detailed in the Risk Assessment chapter of this Plan.

Table 107. Risk Factor Results for Firestone

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	RF Ranking
Agricultural Hazards	3	3	4	1	4	3.1
Cyber Hazards	3	4	4	4	4	3.7
Drought	3	2	4	1	4	2.8
Earthquake	1	2	4	1	1	1.9
Extreme Temps.	2	2	2	1	3	2.0
Flood	3	3	4	2	4	3.2
Hazmat Release	3	2	2	3	2	2.4
Land Subsidence	1	1	1	2	1	1.1
Prairie Fire	3	2	1	4	3	2.4
Public Health Hazards	4	2	4	1	3	3.0
Severe Storms	4	3	4	3	2	3.4
Tornado & Wind	3	4	2	4	4	3.3

The conclusions drawn from the qualitative assessment are organized into three categories shown in the

following table and provide a summary of hazard risk for Firestone as a whole - based on High, Moderate, or Low risk designations. This process helped frame ongoing planning discussions around local and regional hazard risks and assisted with the development of the Plan's updated mitigation strategy.

Table 108. Hazard Risk Conclusions for Firestone

<b>HIGH RISK (2.5 or higher)</b>	<b>Agricultural Hazards, Cyber Hazards, Drought, Flood, Public Health Hazards, Severe Storms, Tornado &amp; Straight-Line Wind</b>
<b>MODERATE RISK (2.0 – 2.4)</b>	<b>Extreme Temperatures, Hazmat Release, Prairie Fire</b>
<b>LOW RISK (1.9 or lower)</b>	<b>Earthquake, Land Subsidence</b>

Since the 2016 Plan, the Town has increased the assessed risk from drought and public health hazards to High Risk (both formerly Low). Severe storms and tornado & straight-line wind also elevated from Moderate to High Risk. Besides the newly added hazards of agricultural hazards and cyber hazards, all other risk rankings remain the same.

The following sections highlight the Town of Firestone's High Risk hazards and include any specific content relevant to the Town. They are intended to supplement information included in each hazard profile in the main body of this Plan.

#### *7.6.2.1 Agricultural Hazards (including Disease & Pests)*

Vulnerability to agricultural hazards is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to these hazards. There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Firestone. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### *7.6.2.2 Cyber Hazards*

For any municipality, vulnerability to cyber hazards does not vary from that of the County as a whole. While there are no documented cyber events impacting the Town of Firestone, the threat of this hazard is continually increasing. There are no previous events to document specific to Firestone. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### *7.6.2.3 Drought*

The community vulnerability to drought is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to this hazard. There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Firestone. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### *7.6.2.4 Flood (including Dam & Levee Failure)*

Flood is a very localized hazard and vulnerability is unique for each municipality. There are no previous events to document specific to the Town of Firestone.

The Town of Firestone's overall vulnerability to flood is noticeably different from the rest of the County. Firestone has 51 address points located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This equates to 0.8% of all address points for the Town, as compared to 1.6% of Countywide addresses located in the SFHA.

Flood events can also occur as a result of dam or levee failure. In these cases, flood waters may not follow the typical floodplains mapped as the SFHA.

Overall vulnerability to flooding in dam inundation areas is increased for Firestone, where 6.8% of address points (434) are located within these dam inundation areas. This is a larger percentage of structures at risk, as compared to 1.0% of Countywide addresses located in these areas.

Additionally, the Town is the first jurisdiction downstream from one dam. It has a hazard classification of Significant and does have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Additional information pertaining to dams can be referenced at the State's Dam Safety website: <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/DamSafety/Dams>.

The Town of Firestone's overall vulnerability to flooding in areas protected by known levees is significantly different from the rest of the County. Firestone has no address points located within levee protected areas, compared to 1.6% of Countywide addresses located in these areas.

It is important to note that this analysis is only as good as best available data allows. Current floodplains, dam inundation areas, and areas protected by levees may not currently map all hazard areas. Additionally, mapped hazard areas may be dated and in need of updated mapping and analysis.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.6.2.5 Public Health Hazards

Vulnerability to public health hazards is not expected to be noticeably different from the rest of the County. Individuals at a higher risk to this hazard include the aging adult population, those with a chronic illness, such as diabetes, asthma, coronary heart disease, and those who are obese or overweight. Other populations at risk include children, those in poverty and those with a disability. This data is collected at census tract level by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and is unavailable at a municipality level. The data by census tract can be found in the Colorado Department of Health and Environment Open Data database [here](#).

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. There are no previous events to document specific to Firestone. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details, including a summary of the higher risk population demographics for Weld County and the State.

#### 7.6.2.6 Severe Storm (including Hail, Lightning, & Winter Storm)

Vulnerability to severe storm, which includes hail, lightning, and winter storm, is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Firestone's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to potential greater losses to the agriculture sector. Any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes experience the greatest risk from structural damages.

According to the NOAA's Storm Events Database, between 2015 and 2020, the Town of Firestone has had fourteen severe storm events. Twelve of these events resulted in reports of hail, which ranged in size from 0.75 inches to 1.75 inches. None of these events resulted in reported damage to property or crops and no injuries or deaths.

Two events were reported as thunderstorm winds with magnitudes of 52 mph and 70 mph. One storm uprooted trees, but for both events there was no damage to property or crops and no injuries or deaths in Firestone.

No other events for severe storm, specific to Firestone, were recorded over this time period.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

#### 7.6.2.7 Tornado & Straight-Line Wind

Vulnerability to tornado & straight-line wind is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Firestone's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes.

Between 2015 and 2020, there were no reports of occurrences specific to Firestone. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

### 7.6.3 Capabilities Assessment

The capability assessment examines the ability of the Town of Firestone to implement and manage the comprehensive mitigation strategy laid out in this Plan. The strengths, weaknesses, and resources of the community are identified here as a means for evaluating and maintaining effective and appropriate management of the Town's hazard mitigation program.

Planning and regulatory capabilities are powerful tools for implementing hazard mitigation. The Town currently utilizes or has implemented many of these capabilities shown in Table 109. It is important for all municipalities to regularly review each of these tools, to identify opportunities for further risk reduction efforts.

Table 109. Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvement Program or Plan (CIP)	Yes	
Floodplain Management Plan	No	
Stormwater Program / Plan	Yes	Stormwater Coordinator on staff overseeing the MS4 Program Pollution Prevention Strategy, along with SOP's for departments
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	No	
Erosion / Sediment Control Program	Yes	MS4 Program for all municipal construction activities, landscaped areas, street maintenance and utility and storm sewer replacement and construction
Economic Development Plan	No	
Other:	No	
Building Codes (Year)	Yes	Currently 2012
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	Firestone Development Code

# WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Other:	No	
Zoning Ordinance (Land Use)	No	No Ordinance, but covered in the Firestone Development Code
Subdivision Ordinance	No	No Ordinance, but covered in the Firestone Development Code
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	Yes	
Flood Insurance Study / Flood Insurance Rate Map / DFIRM	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	No Ordinance, but covered in the Firestone Development Code
Elevation Certificates for Floodplain Development	Yes	Firestone Development Code
Community Rating System (CRS) Participant	No	
Open Space / Conservation Program	Yes	Future adoption of Parks Master Plan. Firestone Development Code addresses also
Growth Management Ordinance	No	No Ordinance, but regulated through Master Plan and Firestone Development Code
Stormwater Ordinance	Yes	Adopted February 2020
Other Hazard Ordinance (steep slope, wildfire, snow loads, etc.)	No	No Ordinance, but covered in the Firestone Development Code
Other:	No	

Available resources including staff, municipal groups, and technology are all vital for a community to be able to implement hazard mitigation. Firestone is fortunate to have most all of these capabilities identified in Table I10.

Table I10. Administrative & Technical Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Planning Commission	Yes	Firestone Planning & Zoning Commission is a seven-member commission that recommends various development matters to the BOT for consideration
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	
Maintenance Programs (tree trimming, clearing drainage, etc.)	Yes	Parks and Stormwater Maintenance Staff
Emergency Manager	Yes	IGA with Carbon Valley Emergency Management Agency, FTE EM Coordinator
Building Official	Yes	Currently contract with SAFEbuilt and bringing building official in house within next 2 years.
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Matt Wiederspahn
Community Planner	No	The Town of Firestone has a Planning Department (Sr. Planners, Planning Manager and Director)
Transportation Planner	No	Town Engineer on staff overseeing transportation and upcoming Transportation Master Plan

# WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Civil Engineer	Yes	Civil engineer on staff
GIS Capability	Yes	GIS coordinator on staff
Resiliency Planner	No	
Other:	No	
Warning Systems / Services (flood)	No	
Warning Systems / Services (other / multi hazard)	Yes	CodeRed Emergency Notification Service and Blackboard Connect for updates and emergency alerts
Grant Writing / Management	No	
Other:	No	

The ability of a community to implement a comprehensive mitigation strategy is largely dependent on available funding. These related municipal capabilities are outlined in Table I I I and show that Firestone utilizes a broad range of financial tools that can support mitigation activities.

Table I I I. Financial Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval	Yes	Occupation/Lodging Tax
Utilities Fees	Yes	Water/Street lights based on rate studies
System Development / Impact Development Fee	Yes	Impact Fees charged by Planning on permit process
General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt	Yes	2014 Revenue Bonds
Open Space / Conservation Fund	Yes	Conservation Trust from State
Stormwater Utility Fees	Yes	Stormwater fees based on rate studies
Capital Improvement Project Funding	Yes	1% Sales tax limited to parks and streets
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	No	
Withheld spending in hazard-prone areas	No	
Other:	No	

Education and outreach are important capabilities that allow a community to continue the conversation with their public regarding hazard risk and opportunities to mitigate. Table I I 2 shows that Firestone could benefit by expanding upon these capabilities.

Table I I 2. Education & Outreach Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Public Hazard Education / Outreach Program	Yes	Hazard and Preparedness Education and Outreach in partnership with CVEMA



Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Local Citizen Groups That Communicate Hazard Risks	No	
Firewise	Yes	Through Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District Community Outreach
NOAA StormReady Program	No	
Other:		

#### 7.6.4 Plan Maintenance and Implementation

The Town of Firestone has developed a Plan Maintenance and Implementation Strategy outlining their method and schedule for keeping the plan current. The Implementation Strategy below also includes a discussion of how the Town will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

- The Carbon Valley Emergency Manager will facilitate an annual review of the hazard mitigation plan and actions with Town of Firestone police department, departmental staff, leadership, and the Town Board.
- Hazard mitigation will be evaluated by the Town annually in conjunction with project planning and the annual budget.

#### 7.6.5 Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The Town also identified ways to integrate hazard mitigation into their local planning mechanisms and policies. Following are the specific integration strategies identified by the Town of Firestone.

- The Town will continue to integrate hazard mitigation actions into our Capital Improvements Plan by emphasizing projects that mitigate the impacts of our highest risk hazards.

#### 7.6.6 Mitigation Actions

The new mitigation actions identified by the Town during the Plan update are included in Table 113.

Table 113. 2021 Mitigation Actions

ID	Organization	Action
2021-39	1-Firestone	Installation of Infrastructure Transmission Technologies
2021-100	2-Firestone	Godding Hollow Tri-Town Basin Outfall Improvements
2021-101	3-Firestone	Community Connect Program