

WILDFIRES - Ada County is subject to range fires every year that destroy forage and ground cover. Most fires are confined to an area of less than 500 acres. Approximately half of these fires are caused by dry lightning storms, with the other half being human actions or undetermined causes.

In 1992 five lightning fires combined to blacken 257,000 acres of rangeland in and around Ada County. Vulnerability is steadily increasing as more dwellings are constructed in the foothills adjacent to range lands.

In July of 1994 a range fire with wind gust of over 40 miles an hour took the lives of two Kuna firefighters.

On August 26, 1996 a human caused wildfire was ignited in the Boise foothills. The temperature was 104 degrees and the winds reached 30 mph. On September 2, the fire was contained after burning 15,300 acres of land.