

LARIMER COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER SITUATION REPORT

This report is intended to provide information and status in quickly evolving situations and is subject to change.
This report can be shared publicly.

INCIDENT INFORMATION:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Lori R. Hodges, EOC Manager

REPORT DATE/TIME: 10/10/2020 1400 MST

EOC ACTIVATIONS:

Larimer County - Level I (All Hands)
(All personnel virtual due to COVID-19)

DECLARATIONS/DELEGATIONS: Larimer County signed a local Disaster Declaration on August 18, 2020 which was extended on 9/15/2020 by the Board of Commissioners until October 31, 2020. The Governor verbally declared a Disaster Emergency on August 18, 2020 for multiple fires in Colorado, including the Cameron Peak Fire and signed an Executive Order on September 16, 2020. The Governor signed a second Executive Order on the same day extending the disaster declaration until October 16, 2020. Larimer County received approval from FEMA for an FMAG declaration on 9/7/2020. The Fire was delegated to DFPC as of midnight on 9/6/2020 for the county and state lands. USFS is in charge of federal lands.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has issued an Air Quality Alert for Larimer County until 1600 hours today (10/10). Periods of moderate to heavy smoke will continue for parts of the Front Range region Friday and Saturday. The heaviest smoke is most likely for Larimer and Weld counties, including Ft. Collins and Greeley, due to smoke transported from the Cameron Peak wildfire in western Larimer County and the Mullen wildfire in south-central Wyoming. Lighter smoke is expected further south in the Longmont, Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs areas, though brief periods of heavier smoke will remain possible.

COUNTY STATUS:

Larimer County is currently under a fire ban that went into effect at 1200 hours 8/18/2020. That fire ban was extended until October 31, 2020 by the Board of Commissioners at their regularly scheduled meeting on 9/15. <https://www.larimer.org/spotlights/2020/08/18/larimer-county-open-fire-ban-effect>

The USFS updated closures for the Forest on 9/7/2020. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District updated closures on their lands on 10/2/2020 due to fire activity on both the Cameron Peak Fire and the Mullen Fire. The closure order on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest expanded to the north. The general area now closed is all National Forest System lands west of the National Forest boundary (except the lower Poudre Canyon); east of the Colorado State Forest State Park; south of the Colorado state line; and north of Rocky Mountain Park. Updated closures can be found at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/6964/>



CURRENT FIRE SITUATION:

SUMMARY:

The Cameron Peak Fire ignited on August 13th in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests near Cameron Pass and Chambers Lake. The fire is burning in heavy timber over rugged terrain. Hot, dry, windy weather, combined with critically dry fuels has been driving fire growth. Cause for fire remains under investigation. The Pacific NW Team 6 assumed command of the fire on 9/29/2020. A Type I Team is set to transition to the fire on Wednesday 10/14/2020.

The Mullen Fire ignited on Thursday, September 17, 2020 in the Savage Run Wilderness and is burning in the Medicine Bow National Forest, southwest of Centennial in Wyoming. The fire spread rapidly in extremely rugged terrain, with dense vegetation and beetle-killed deadfall. Cause for fire remains under investigation. The Southern Area Blue Type 1 Team assumed command of the fire on 10/6/2020.

Larimer County OEM received notification of the Cameron Peak Fire on 8/13/2020 and activated to support the incident. Larimer County OEM received notification on 9/30/2020 that the Mullen Fire had reached the Colorado State Line and had burned into Jackson County near the Larimer County border. The EOC is activated at a Level I to support both incident operations. EOC remains 100% virtual due to COVID-19.

CURRENT STATUS:

The Cameron Peak Fire is currently 133,884 acres with 44% containment at the time of this report. Friday saw another day of critical fire weather and near Red Flag Warning conditions. Early morning activity pushed the fire out of the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area and toward the Colorado State University Mountain Campus. This prompted a mandatory evacuation for residents and business owners in the Monument Gulch, Pingree Park, and County Road 44H areas before 8:00 a.m. A surge group of County and local firefighters and engines arrived early in the morning to assist with point protection and build firelines to slow fire spread, protecting the values at risk in the area. Extreme fire activity continued in this area throughout the day. Crews remained on scene overnight to monitor fire behavior and extinguish any hotspots. Mop up, re-enforcing dozer lines, and structure protection continued on the north firelines with a heavy focus on the northwest area near Crystal Lakes, Red Feather Lakes, and Glacier View Meadows. County partners and firefighters continued to monitor and mop up the southwest lines near Long Draw Road, and along the Highway 14 corridor near Sleeping Elephant. Aerial operations continued in multiple areas of the fire to slow fire spread as conditions allowed.

Today will be another near critical fire weather day after a sixth night with little moisture recovery for vegetation. The primary focus for today will be in the CSU Mountain Campus and Pingree Park community where extreme fire behavior is expected once again. An additional surge group with local and regional crews arrived Friday afternoon to assist with point protection. Firefighters will continue to focus on the north perimeter mopping up and securing firelines to increase containment and protect the values at risk on the northeast side of the fire. Damage Assessment teams have been notified to be on standby in case additional damages to structures occur today.

The Mullen Fire is at 174,911 acres as of the evening's infrared flight. Additional containment is shown along the western perimeter of the fire and is calculated to be at 21%. The Mullen Fire is burning in the Medicine Bow National Forest, southwest of Centennial, Wyoming. Critical fire weather and strong winds have increased the size of the fire, which continues to burn actively. The fire has destroyed 65 structures with 1,440 people evacuated from the surrounding area. Firefighting priorities are public and firefighter safety, the protection of structures and community infrastructure. Values at risk include multiple communities in the surrounding area and the Rob Roy Reservoir. Rob Roy Reservoir is the water source for the city of Cheyenne.

The fire was active yesterday, especially along the finger that extends towards Woods Landing and the areas above Rambler and around Albany. Fire suppression activity today will be focused on structure protection and preparation and picking up any spot fires that may cross containment lines. especially across Wyoming Highway 230 and Colorado 127 in the southeast part of the fire. Firefighters are battling Red Flag Warning or near Red Flag Warning conditions daily, utilizing aviation resources when it is effective to do so.

For real-time info about road closures and road conditions for the Mullen Fire, see the Wyoming Travel Information Map at <https://map.wyoroad.info/wtimap/>.

Yesterday, PVREA cut power to the Pingree Park area, but were able to restore power to a handful of members south of Goodell Corner. Crews are also making good progress on the remainder of the HWY 14 line. Crews restored power from Profile Rock east along HWY 14 to roughly 1.5 miles east of 63E. Everything along Manhattan Road between Red Feather Lakes Road (74E) and Boy Scout Ranch Road (68C) was also energized. For specific questions, members can email PVREA at communications@pvrea.com or call (800) 432-1012.

CURRENT WEATHER:

A Red Flag Warning will be in effect for the Cameron Peak Fire area from 0300 hours through 1800 hours on Sunday 10/11. Strong winds are expected over the northern Colorado mountains and foothills late tonight into Sunday. Very windy conditions will spread across the plains by Sunday afternoon behind a pacific cold front. Winds will be west 25 to 35 mph with gusts up to 55 mph.

A Red Flag Warning is in effect today (10/10) for the Mullen Fire from noon through 2000 hours for gusty winds and low humidity. Winds will be south to southwest 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.

Temp: High 68°F / Low 43°F Prec. 0% Humidity:38% Wind: SW 9 mph

Today's Forecast: Widespread smoke. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. South southwest wind 5 to 9 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.

Tonight's Forecast: Areas of smoke. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Breezy, with a southwest wind 8 to 13 mph increasing to 17 to 22 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 36 mph.

LARIMER COUNTY EOC OBJECTIVES:

1. Ensure the safety and security of EOC Staff through regular transitions of staff, access to behavioral health resources, hydration and staff breaks during each operational period.
2. Continue coordinating and assisting the Incident Management Teams and the LCSO through situational awareness, damage assessments, re-entry planning, operational and logistical support.
3. Ensure the safety and security of community members through mass care operations, including sheltering, feeding, access to resources, and information dissemination.
4. Complete risk assessments for the fire area and all downstream communities that might be affected by debris flows or flooding and establish early warning triggers and messaging for each area.
5. Continue to establish recovery work groups and partners for all recovery needs ensuring seamless coordination between governmental, non-governmental, volunteer and non-profit organizations.

The EOC remains activated at a Level I due to incident complexity and the addition of the Mullen Fire. Staff safety and health is a primary consideration. All Emergency Support Functions are activated and EOC personnel continue to coordinate activities as required for active incidents and community support.

EOC Operations continues to work with the Law Branch and the Incident Management Team on damage assessments, re-entry operations and changes to evacuation areas. No additional damages were reported yesterday after extensive structure protection work in critical fire conditions. The Damage Assessment team is

on standby for the weekend to prepare to conduct additional assessments if needed. The EOC Logistics Section is working with the T2 Team and the USFS on debris considerations. There is a large amount of vegetative debris along roadways that will pose a concern come winter.

The American Red Cross, Humane Society, the Sheriff's Posse and the Horseman's Association remain activated and ready to respond to new requests for assistance. EOC Operations Section continues to support affected residents with access concerns, specifically for those with life safety needs or insurance claims. Credentials will be provided on an appointment basis only unless conditions change. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2HAqTtN>.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team finalized the BAER report and sent it for approval on Monday, 10/5/2020. Phase 2 will need to be added for the expansion of the fire since 9/25/2020. This report will provide the USFS and all partners with valuable data on current risk areas, burn severity and possible mitigation treatments within the fire area. Larimer OEM has begun working with partners on additional risk assessments needed for the burn areas related to private structure concerns for flood-after-fire scenarios. Larimer OEM and the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) met with the National Weather Services this week to begin working on emergency alerts and warnings related to flooding for the fire area and community assets downstream.

Larimer OEM will be meeting with the Board of Commissioners on Monday afternoon (10/12) to discuss immediate needs and longer-term considerations for incident recovery.

HORSETOOTH OUTLET PROJECT

The Horsetooth Outlet Project (HOP) is an infrastructure maintenance project planned by Northern Water and the Bureau of Reclamation to repair and upgrade the Soldier Canyon Dam outlet. This outlet supplies water to more than 220,000 residents and businesses in Fort Collins and the surrounding areas. The HOP Project is scheduled to begin on October 14th and is planned to be complete by Thanksgiving. By moving forward with HOP this fall (if conditions continue to be safe to do so), they will be strengthening the Horsetooth Reservoir water delivery infrastructure for the future. The fire could affect water quality in the Poudre River for many future runoff seasons – which makes it even more important to complete the HOP maintenance now.

Fort Collins City Manager Darin Atteberry signed a declaration and order for mandatory action level IV water restrictions on lawn watering and other outdoor water uses in order to avoid a water shortage due to the ongoing drought conditions, Cameron Peak fire and infrastructure repairs on the Horsetooth Outlet Project (HOP). These restrictions began on October 1, 2020.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

The EOC is working with behavioral health resources to provide support to community members as concerns increase and more calls are received. The below resources are available 24-hours a day for support:

- Countywide Connections Warm Line - (970) 221-5551
- Summitstone Health Partners Crisis Line - (970) 494-4200
- CO Crisis Support Line (844) 493-TALK (8255)

EVACUATIONS:

Voluntary and Mandatory Evacuation orders are still in place for the Cameron Peak Fire and the Mullen Fire. Evacuation area maps are available at <https://nocoalert.org>.

Additional Mandatory Evacuation Orders were added yesterday for Pingree Park/Monument Gulch area and for County Road 44H (Buckhorn) to County Road 27 (Stove Prairie) for residents and business occupants due to immediate and imminent danger. For the north part of the fire, Mandatory Evacuation Orders were downgraded to Voluntary today (10/10) at noon for Crystal Lakes, Red Feather Lakes, Lady Moon and Red Feather Highlands.

Total updated number of contacts for evacuations:
Cameron Peak Fire - 1225 Mandatory, 5113 Voluntary
Mullen Fire - 15 Voluntary Evacuation contacts

Current Mandatory Evacuations:

- Dated 8/13 @ 1630: Highway 14 and Larimer County Rd 103 near Chambers Lake (area from the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 103 north to Four Corners, as well as the areas around Chambers Lake)
- Dated 8/13 @ 1804: South of County Road 86 (Deadman Road) from County Road 103 east to County Road 73C and south to Highway 14
- Dated 8/14 @ 1908: Long Draw Road and Long Draw Reservoir
- Dated 9/5 @ 1752: In the area along Highway 14 from the Fish Hatchery east to Kelly Flats
- Dated 9/30 @ 1730: Areas of Roach and Hohnholz in northwest part of Larimer County along CR 103 for the Mullen Fire
- Dated 10/9 @0500: Pingree Park and Monument Gulch area residents and businesses
- Dated 10/9 @0800: County Road 44H (the Buckhorn Rd) to County Road 27 (the Stove Prairie Rd) area residents and businesses

Current Voluntary Evacuations:

- Dated 9/3 @ 1026: The area from Four Corners along County Road 103, south to County Road 99
- Dated 10/7 at 1400: All Glacier View Filings downgraded to voluntary evacuation,
- Dated 10/10 @ 1200: Crystal Lakes, Red Feather Lakes, Lady Moon and Red Feather Highlands downgraded to voluntary evacuation.

Mullen Fire Evacuations in Wyoming

Please see <https://www.co.albany.wy.us/454/Mullen-Fire> for information about evacuation areas for the Mullen Fire in Wyoming.

Evacuation Center/Shelter Location(s):

The Red Cross remains activated to provide support to evacuees. Non-congregate sheltering is being utilized for evacuations due to the current COVID-19 environment. Currently, ARC is providing sheltering services for both the Mullen Fire and the Cameron Peak Fire. ARC is sheltering 343 clients in 166 rooms for the Cameron Peak Fire as of 0800 this morning and is sheltering 30 clients in hotels and 2 in a KOA campground in Wyoming for the Mullen Fire as of 0800 this morning. Red Cross is asking persons needing sheltering to call **(970) 324-3211** to make arrangements.

Northern Water has provided their campground (old KOA) to evacuees who need to stay with their RVs and require hookups. This site is located on the east side of Hwy 287 across from Ted's Place. Jim Struble is POC: (970) 593-2074

Small and Large Animal Shelter(s):

Small and Large animal evacuation partners, including the Larimer Sheriff's Posse, the Larimer Humane Society, and the Horseman's Association, all have facilities in place for sheltering and officers/volunteers on standby. The Ranch is currently sheltering a number of cattle. The Larimer County Humane Society reported that they are sheltering 126 animals as of last report. They are also coordinating with the Horseman's Association to transport 63 fowl back home to Livermore. The Humane Society continues to have plenty of space to shelter animals and has agreements with neighboring areas as needed.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

The Damage Assessment Team completed their assessment of additional damages within the fire area on 10/7. All notifications have been made to property owners. No additional damages reported since that time.

Totals for the fire:

- 104 total structures with damage / destruction
 - 100 destroyed structures
 - 3 major damage
 - 1 minor damage
- 45 of which are classified as residential dwellings
- 4 are primary residences
- 2 known businesses impacted
 - Includes multiple buildings at Shambhala
- 0 known rental properties

Public Infrastructure: The EOC is working to gather all public infrastructure damages for the fire to determine if thresholds are met for a FEMA Public Assistance declaration.

PVREA has sustained extensive damage in the burn area. PVREA provided the following update on damages on 10/5/2020:

- CR 69 - 6 transmission structures damaged, 1 substation damaged, and 20 poles down south of Boy Scout Rd.
- Hwy 14 W of CR 69 - Large number of lines down (4 miles).
- CR 63E (Pingree Park Rd) near Monument Gulch - Power lines down. This area needs to be re-designed and re-routed.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION:

The Cameron Peak Fire Joint Information Center (JIC) is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at (970) 980-2500 to answer all questions about evacuations and road closures.

For shelter assistance for those unable to go to the Evac Site, call **(970) 324-3211**

An interactive story map was launched for the public. This can be accessed at: <https://arcg.is/1ayXeD0>

PIOs continue to work on messaging to release resource information to target areas near the fires. Please continue to check <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6964/> for the latest updates and an updated map of the Cameron Peak Fire. Additionally evacuation boundaries and emergency alerting information is being provided on <http://www.nocoalert.org/>.

Spatial information on the fire and map products link for the public site can be found at: https://ftp.nifc.gov/public/incident_specific_data/rocky_mtn/2020/

Additional Larimer County public information on the Cameron Peak Fire can be found at: <https://www.larimer.org/cameron-peak-fire>

Incident Command continues to hold regular virtual community meetings, community briefings, and live question-and-answer sessions via the Cameron Peak Fire Facebook page. These will continue to be offered throughout the duration of the incident.

Information for this fire can be found by following @CameronPeakFire on Facebook.

ROAD CLOSURES:

Current road closures are as follows:

Larimer County Road Closures

- CR 99 - From CR 103 to CR 103

- CR 103 - From CR 80C to HWY 14
- CR 86 - From CR 74E to CR 80C
- CR 63H - From HWY 14 to CR 44H
- CR 44H - From CR63E to CSU Campus and from USFS Road 352 to CR 63E
- CR 67J - From CR 74E to CR 179 and CR 82E
- CR 69 - From CR 74E to HWY 14
- N CR 73C - From CR 19 to CR 74E
- W CR 68C - From CR 74E to 162/CR 69 fork
- W CR 74E - From CR 68C to CR 86
- Buckhorn Rd - From N CR 63E to Stove Prairie Rd
- Rist Canyon Rd/Old Flowers Rd - From Stove Prairie Rd to Pingree Park Rd
- CR 103 - North to State Line due to Mullen Fire

State Highway Closures

- W. HWY 14 from Kelly Flats Campground West

USFS Road Closures

Visit the following link for information on road closures issued by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5300963>

RMNP CLOSURES:

The following temporary closures are in place for Rocky Mountain National Park:

- The northern boundary of the park including Chapin Pass Trailhead, North Fork Trail, North Boundary Trail, Stormy Peaks Trail, Mummy Pass Trail, Comanche Peak Trail, Mirror Lake Trail, Poudre River Trail, Crater Trail, Colorado River Trail, Red Mountain Trail, Grand Ditch Access, Skeleton Gulch Trail, Thunder Pass Trail, Little Yellowstone Trail and the Holzwarth Historic Site access beyond the historic Site.
- Closed cross county travel zones include Cascade Creek, Cache la Poudre, South Cache la Poudre, Hague Creek, and Mosquito Creek

More information on RMNP current conditions and closures can be found at:

<https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/fire-information-and-regulations.htm>

Canyon Lakes Ranger District Closures:

Due to fire activity on both the Cameron Peak Fire burning in the northwest portion of Larimer County, and the Mullen Fire, burning across the Colorado/Wyoming border, the closure order on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest expanded to the north on 10/2/2020. The general area now closed is all National Forest System lands west of the National Forest boundary (except the lower Poudre Canyon); east of the Colorado State Forest State Park; south of the Colorado state line; and north of Rocky Mountain Park (see map). Details of the updated closure and a map are available on our website.

RECOVERY:

The Larimer Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is currently connecting with impacted residents in fire areas for both short-term housing as well as clean-up resource opportunities. Additionally, United Way of Larimer County is accepting donations to support individuals and agencies working to assist evacuees and others affected by the Cameron Peak Fire. Information about this fund will be released as soon as we have more information about specific needs.

Additionally, a broader recovery organization has been formed involving the USFS, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Larimer County, affected municipal partners, utilities and water providers, natural resources, engineering and Road and Bridge personnel, and the LTRG. This group looks holistically at current

and future recovery needs and works collaboratively to find solutions. As with any fire, flooding and debris flows are a major concern for future rain and snow events. The group is actively working on these issues to best prepare the community for the post-fire impacts that may occur.

When it is safe for community members to provide volunteer support, opportunities will be posted on United Way of Larimer County's online volunteer resource center at www.NoCoVolunteers.org. Individuals interested in volunteering are invited to make a free account on the site, where they can choose to be notified when these opportunities become available.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: USFS Law Enforcement staff are asking for photos and any information related to Cameron Peak Fire cause: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD786821>. If anyone took photos of the Cameron Peak Fire from the trails located south of Cameron Peak, they are asked to email them to: SM.FS.usfarp@usda.gov.