

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: 10/3/2020 1200 MST

EOC ACTIVATIONS:

Larimer County (with the assistance of Fort Collins) - 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 a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declaration on 9/7/2020. The Fire was delegated to the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) as of midnight on 9/6/2020 for the county and state lands. The U.S. Forest Service (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 4pm today (10/3). Areas of moderate to heavy smoke have moved into the Front Range once again and are expected to continue through at least this afternoon due to increased activity on the Cameron Peak and Mullen wildfires. Smoke impacts are expected to be greatest in Larimer County including Fort Collins, with additional impacts in other areas of the northern Colorado Front Range including Greeley, Longmont, Boulder, and the Denver Metro area.

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>

Governor Polis has issued a 30-day open fire ban for the State of Colorado, starting 8/20/2020. He extended the fire ban on 9/9/2020 for an additional 30 days. Fire restrictions for each county can be found at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/fire-restriction-information>

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/>

Rocky Mountain National Park implemented park closures on 9/6/2020. Additional details below. More information can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/fire-information-and-regulations.htm>

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 Northwest Team 6 assumed command of the fire on 9/29/2020.

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 Rocky Mountain Blue Team assumed command of the fire two weeks ago and is expected to transition out on Tuesday (10/6) with a Type 1 Team.

Larimer County OEM received notification of the Cameron Peak Fire at approximately 1445 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 fire had not reached Larimer County at the time of this report. 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 125,598 acres with 38% containment at the time of this report. Temperatures will be about three degree cooler today with humidity expected to hold in the 20-30% range. Winds will be lighter from the northwest to north with gusts to around 20 mph. A northwest flow aloft pattern starts to break down Sunday signaling warmer and drier conditions tomorrow and into next week. Smoke from the Mullen Fire is expected to help moderate fire behavior again today. Firefighters plan to take advantage of these conditions to construct fireline directly adjacent to the fire wherever it is possible and safe to do so. A large contingent of structural firefighters continue to mop up around homes within the fire perimeter and adjacent to it. 866 firefighters are now working on this fire. 866 firefighters are now working on this fire.

The Mullen Fire is now 136,840 acres. This morning, the Mullen Fire is now 6% contained, on two sections of the fire perimeter: The west flank south of A Bar A ranch, and the east flank where the Mullen Fire met the Squirrel Creek Fire burn area. Yesterday's firing operations successfully defended a group of structures in the Pelton Creek drainage and expanded the defensive line along the north sides of Colorado Hwy 127 and Colorado Hwy 125. Firefighters quickly suppressed several spot fires on the south flank, guided by real-time aerial infrared imagery from an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS, or "drone"). When conditions are favorable today, firefighters will continue firing operations to extend control lines. 1,057 personnel are assigned to the effort to slow the fire's spread while also protecting values at risk all over the fire area. 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/>.

As the Mullen Fire burned onto the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, the Forest expanded the closure area to cover both fires. Current forest closures can be found at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/6964/>

LARIMER COUNTY EOC OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide for the health and safety of all staff and community members through continuation of work/rest procedures, sheltering and housing, resource support, and information dissemination.
2. Continue to provide support to Incident Management Teams and LCSO through situational awareness, credentialing, logistical support, and consequence management planning.
3. Continue damage assessments for all structures within the fire area as it is safe to do so, provide notifications to residents and provide situational updates for partner agencies to support impacted residents.
4. Continue to build out the recovery infrastructure for short and long term recovery needs including re-entry operations, debris management, infrastructure assessments, community recovery, and flood-after-fire scenarios.

The Larimer EOC remains activated at a Level I due to incident complexity and additional fire growth on both the Cameron Peak Fire and the Mullen Fire. The Larimer EOC has been activated at some level for over six months due to a combination of incidents. Staff safety and health is a primary consideration. The growth of the Mullen Fire into Colorado added complexity and a further drain on available local resources. Additionally, the EOC is supporting the LCSO with logistics for the large search in north central Larimer County for a 12-year old male. All ESFs are activated and EOC personnel continue to coordinate activities as required for active incidents and community support. EOC Staff is regularly reminded to rest, take breaks and transition positions to avoid burnout or illness.

The American Red Cross, Humane Society, the Sheriff's Posse and the Horseman's Association remain busy with evacuated people and animals in both Colorado and Wyoming for both fires. The EOC Operations Section continues to support affected residents with access concerns, specifically for those with life safety needs or insurance claims. Larimer OEM met with State of Colorado staff and Red Cross staff yesterday to continue work for FEMA approval of non-congregate sheltering operations to provide financial support to the Red Cross for the current large-scale sheltering operation. Additionally, the EOC Manager and the Damage Assessment Team met yesterday to go over process improvements and a safety protocol for staff entering hazard areas. Credentials for mandatory evacuation areas are being offered today, October 3rd, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the Fort Collins City Hall, 300 Laporte Avenue. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2HAqTtN>.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team is finalizing the BAER report and plans to send it for approval on Monday to begin the approval process. Phase 2 will need to be added for the expansion of the fire on 9/25-9/26/2020. 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) have a meeting with National Weather Service personnel this coming week to begin working on emergency alerts and warnings related to flooding for the fire area and community assets downstream. From there, warning information will be created and LETA will work on polygons for notification areas in advance of a rain or snow event that could cause debris flows.

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:

Cameron Peak Fire officials have lifted the voluntary evacuation for County Road 44H from County Road 27 to Pennock Pass. The roadblock on County Road 44H has been moved to the Buckhorn Ranger Station in the 32,000 block, which is at the intersection of County Road 44H and Forest Road 100.

Other 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>.

Total number of contacts for evacuations:

Cameron Peak Fire - Mandatory Evacs 5942 Voluntary Evacs 36

Mullen Fire - Voluntary Evacs 15 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 @ 1800: the Pingree Park Road from Highway 14 south to the housing district east of the CSU Mountain Campus
- Dated 9/5 @ 1752: In the area along Highway 14 from the Fish Hatchery east to Kelly Flats
- Dated 9/20 @ 1515: Crystal Lakes and RFL including Manhattan Road to Highway 14 and Shambhala Center
- Dated 9/25 at 1340: All Glacier View Filings, Red Feather Highlands subdivision, and the Lady Moon area residents and businesses
- Dated 9/30 @ 1730: Areas of Roach and Hohnholz in northwest part of Larimer County along CR 103 for the Mullen Fire

Current Voluntary Evacuations:

- Dated 9/3 @ 1026: The area from Four Corners along County Road 103, south to County Road 99
- Dated 9/17 @ 0900: Highway 14 from Kelly Flats to Stove Prairie Landing

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 641 clients in 305 rooms as of 0800 this morning. The Cache la Poudre Middle School is no longer activated as an evacuation site but will be reactivated as needed to support evacuations.

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 responding. The Ranch is sheltering large animals. All horses but one have been sent to longer-term foster care.

The remaining horse is expected to be housed this weekend. The Ranch continues to shelter a number of cattle. The Larimer County Humane Society reported that they are sheltering 183 animals as of this morning's briefing. 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 Sunday (9/27) and all notifications were made to impacted residents on Monday (9/28).

Totals for the fire:

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

* A few residents have called with damages to properties on leased USFS lands. Therefore, these numbers may change in the coming days as we refine the data.

Public Infrastructure: Unknown damages from recent fire growth. Engineering and Road and Bridge plan to go back into the fire area in the coming days to reassess county infrastructure.

Private Sector: Multiple power lines were impacted in the fire area. PVREA is tied in with the T2 Team and will be working to make repairs as it is safe to do so.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION:

The Cameron Peak Fire Joint Information Center (JIC) can be reached 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 74E (Red Feather Lakes Road) - From Livermore west
- CR 103 - North to State Line due to Mullen Fire

State Highway Closures

- W. HWY 14 from Kelly Flats Campground West

Subdivision Road Closures

The following subdivision roads are closed:

- 030874 - S3 T08 R74
- 151175 - S15 T11 R75
- 320973 - S32 T09 R73
- 360975 - S36 T09 R75
- Bliss
- High Country Haven
- Lake Area
- Lake Area Sub 3RD FIL AND Lake Area Sub 2ND ADD
- Lazy D Ranch RLUP
- Mummy Range
- Poudre City
- Poudre Springs
- Red Feather Lakes
- Crystal Lakes
- Shambhala Center

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 due to critical fire weather conditions and active fire behavior:

- Trail Ridge Road at Forest Canyon Overlook on the east side (about 17 miles from east side entrances) and the Colorado River Trailhead on the west side (about 10 miles from the west side entrances)
- Old Fall River Road, which will remain closed until further notice
- The remote northwest area of the park including wilderness campsites, cross country zones, and trail systems in the northwest section of the park. Trails included in this closure are: Chapin Pass Trail, 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) has been formed for this event to support individual needs. The LTRG consists of a number of non-profit, volunteer, government and non-governmental partners who work together to try to address unmet needs. The group 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.