

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: Kohl Parrott, EOC Manager

REPORT DATE/TIME: 08/28/2020 1100 MST

INCIDENT NAME: Cameron Peak Wildfire CO-ARF-636

INCIDENT START DATE/TIME: 08/13/2020 1430 MST

INCIDENT LOCATION: Cameron Peak, near Chambers Lake, Larimer County

OEM OR EOC POC NAME/CONTACT INFO:

Kohl Parrot, Emergency Operations Center Manager
(970) 481-3493 [mobile]
parrotck@co.larimer.co.us

COUNTY STATUS:

Larimer County is currently under a fire ban that went into effect at 1200 hours 8/18/2020 and will be in effect for a period of 30 days, until 9/18/2020. <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. Fire restrictions for each county can be found at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/fire-restriction-information>

The US Forest Service expanded closures for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest on 8/20/2020. Updated closures can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD787358>

The State Emergency Operations Center is at a Level 1 as of 1200 8/21/2020, due to increased coordination with federal partners regarding recovery concerns for recent burn scars. At this time, All State Emergency Operations Center functions remain available to support current and future incidents.

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.



Larimer County Office of Emergency Management received notification of this fire at approximately 1445 on 8/13/2020 and activated to support the incident. The Emergency Operations Center is activated at a Level II to support incident operations. Emergency Operations Center remains 100% virtual due to COVID-19. The Type II Rocky Mountain Incident Management Black Team assumed command of the fire on 8/26/2020.

DESCRIPTION:

Multiple fire resources (air and ground) have been deployed with over 742 personnel on scene. The Cameron Peak Fire is a full suppression fire which is approximately 22,986 acres and remains at 0% containment, according to a fly over at 2300 last night (8/27/2020). The crews have completed many of their structure protection goals to date and continue to progress on updated plans.

Fire crews continued with structure assessments and preparation with removal of vegetation and laying hose and sprinkler systems. As weather permits, they continue to use fire to remove unburned natural fuels between the edge of the main fire and structures. Heavy equipment and hand crews continue to remove vegetation, improve roadways and build fire lines to be used as fuel breaks along the northern, eastern and southeastern portions of the fire area. Assessments continue in the steep terrain on the southern portion of the fire to tie control operations to natural features in areas above the tree line.

The fire is burning primarily in subalpine fir/Englemann spruce with lodgepole pine intermixed. There are large areas of continuous beetle kill timber fuels throughout the fire area. Aspen stands and greener riparian areas provide partial barriers to surface fire spread. All dead fuels are available to burn and are receptive to spotting. Due to the location of this fire, direct attack options are limited.

LARIMER COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER OBJECTIVES:

SUMMARY: The EOC is activated to support both the Incident Management organization as well as the overall community needs. Below are the current objectives for the Larimer EOC.

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure safety and well-being of all EOC staff through staff support, additional onboarding of personnel, safety messaging and regular check-ins.

Although activated at a Level II, Emergency Operations Center staff continue to function in a virtual environment due to COVID. A staffing plan has been implemented to provide both shadowing opportunities for trainee positions, as well as needed relief for Emergency Operations Center personnel who have been working since the fire began. Additionally, the Emergency Operations Center will look at re-evaluating a new staffing plan this Saturday to place some Emergency Operations Center staff on standby, and possibly scale down to a Level III core team activation to help provide relief for staff. The Emergency Operations Center continues to stress the health of all personnel and works to build tools to streamline processes.

OBJECTIVE 2: Continue coordination with the Rocky Mountain Black Type II Team on the Cameron Peak Fire to support wildfire operations, identify and prioritize critical assets, provide logistics and establish consequence management objectives.

Larimer EOC is coordinating with the Rocky Mountain Black Type II Team, which is in command of the incident. Additionally, a National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team has deployed to this incident to assist with both response and recovery activities, including Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessments. All Emergency Operations Center coordination will continue to go through the RM Black Type II Team. Command Staff met with the NIMO Team and had a coordination call with the RM Black Team yesterday (8/27). Additional NIMO Team calls will continue each day over the next few weeks to work through impacts and strategies for response and recovery. ARGOS and Cascarta continue to be used for situational awareness and critical asset identification in and around the fire area.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide logistical and planning support to the LCSO for mass evacuations, traffic control and credentialing of community members in affected areas, as appropriate.

A credentialing schedule spanning multiple days will occur next week, starting 8/31 to complete the credentialing for the Red Feather Lakes and Crystal Lakes areas, as well as Pingree Park where volunteer evacuations are in place. Public messaging was sent out yesterday (8/27) with the details of this effort. The Civil Air Patrol approved a request from the Larimer Emergency Operations Center to support staffing and operations for these credentialing dates next week. Since the Cameron Peak Fire is an evolving event, this plan could change with new information. See below for detailed information on evacuations.

OBJECTIVE 4: Ensure support to all community members through preparedness, sheltering, feeding, information dissemination, translation and communications.

The Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is embedded in the Larimer Emergency Operations Center as a direct support to community needs. Member agencies are providing shelter, feeding, emotional and direct assistance to those impacted by the fires. The Emergency Operations Center has worked with United Way of Larimer County 2-1-1 volunteers to develop a daily resource guide in both English and Spanish to be disseminated to people impacted by the fires. Additionally, the EOC Manager received approval from the U.S. Forest Service to translate their briefing documents into Spanish. These translated briefing documents are being distributed to the public via social media and the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management webpage. The RM Black Team has also set up closed captioning for all briefings for the deaf and hard of hearing. All impacted individuals who had self-reported as possibly needing assistance with evacuation in our emergency notification system have been contacted by VOAD volunteers.

EVACUATIONS:

Approximately 350 people have been evacuated from the Cameron Peak Fire area. Voluntary and Mandatory Evacuation orders are still in place for Cameron Peak. Evacuation area maps are available at <https://nocoalert.org>.

Mandatory Evacuations:

Mandatory Evacuation ordered as of 1630 on 8/13/2020, for the area from the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 103 north to Four Corners, as well as the areas around Chambers Lake.

Mandatory Evacuation ordered as of 1600 on 8/14/2020 for residents and business occupants south of County Road 86 (Deadman Road) from County Road 103 east to County Road 73C and south to Highway 14. County Road 103 is closed south of County Road 86, so if residents use County Road 103, they must go north to Wyoming. Traveling east, they may use County Road 74E from 86. Those on Highway 14 must travel east.

Mandatory Evacuation ordered as of 1915 on 8/14/2020 for the areas of Long Draw Road and Long Draw Reservoir.

Mandatory Evacuation ordered as of 1430 on 8/21/2020 for the area of Crown Point, Pingree Park Road, and CR 44H. Notification has been issued to 320 contacts representing the 144 known addresses within the evacuation area.

Voluntary Evacuations:

The Cameron Peak Fire only has one area under voluntary evacuation at this time and that is the area of County Road 44H from Pennock Pass east to County Road 27 as well as residences to the south using County Road 44H as access.

Evacuation Center/Shelter Location(s):

Non-congregate sheltering is being utilized for evacuations due to the current COVID-19 environment. The EOC Mass Care Branch has identified eight hotels for sheltering operations - all allow pets. These include one (1) in Loveland, one (1) in Laramie WY, and the remaining in Fort Collins. Depending on need, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) will coordinate mass feeding operations for people needing sheltering. When shelter is needed, people can contact the Office of Emergency Management On-Call line at (970) 498-7120 to coordinate. This is not the phone line for community questions overall, that would be the PIO line at (970) 980-2501.

As of 8/25, the Red Cross has assisted a total of 100 evacuees, 48 of those requiring sheltering assistance. Currently, there are no people being sheltered.

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 standing down their tent sheltering, but outdoor stalls are available if needed. The Larimer County Humane Society is activated for small animal sheltering and is not currently sheltering any animals.

Animal Evacuation Contacts:

- Larimer Humane Society is lead for small animals; public inquiries should go to the Dispatch line at 970-226-3647; ext. 7
- Sheriff's Posse is lead for large animals POC: Troy Badberg 970-443-3231
- The Magic Sky Ranch has been established as a primary evacuation site for Large Animal evacuations for the Cameron Peak Fire. Coordinate through the Sheriff's Posse.
- The Ranch Events Complex is also available for large animal evacuations

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

No structures damaged or destroyed to date. The Larimer County Damage Assessment team is currently on stand-by should the need occur to implement them. The Damage Assessment Tool has been updated for the Cameron Peak Fire incident so that damages can be collected immediately upon notification as needed. Larimer County Engineering and Road and Bridge continue to collect information regarding infrastructure in the area of the fires.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

For Cameron Fire information, the public can call the US Forest Service Public Information Office line at (970) 541-1008

For shelter assistance or if people cannot self-evacuate, they can call (970) 498-7120

For all other questions, please contact the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Public Information Office at (970) 980-2501

Additional Larimer County public information on the Cameron Peak Fire can be found at:

<https://www.larimer.org/cameron-peak-fire>

The RM Type 2 Team Incident Command will hold virtual community meetings via the Cameron Peak Fire Facebook page. At this time, no recurring briefing time has been set. These will continue to be offered throughout the duration of the incident. Information for this fire can be found by following @CameronPeakFire on Facebook. Additionally, an interactive story map was created for the public and launched yesterday. This can be accessed at: <https://arcg.is/1ayXeD0>

Public Information Officers continue to work on messaging to release resource information to target areas near the fires. Please continue to check <https://inciweb.nwccg.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/>.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

The Emergency Operations Center 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)

ROAD CLOSURES:

The following roads are closed: Hwy 14 to Kelly Flats and Gould, CR 103 (Laramie River Valley Rd) to Hwy 14 and Deadman Rd (Four Corners), Deadman Rd to CR 103 and CR73C (Red Feather SW), Manhattan Rd to Rustic and Boy Scout Ranch Rd, and Pingree Park south and west of Crown Point, Emmanuel Pl, and Pine Acres Way.

RECOVERY:

Restoration / Recovery Efforts - Larimer Office of Emergency Management will continue to work with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed and key partners affected by the Cameron Peak Fire to establish processes for the restoration and recovery phase of this incident. A Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Recovery Specialist has been assigned to assist with this effort.

End of Report.