

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.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Lori R. Hodges, EOC Manager

REPORT DATE/TIME: 08/24/2020 3:00pm MST

EOC ACTIVATIONS:

Larimer County - Level 1
(All personnel virtual due to COVID-19)

COUNTY STATUS:

Larimer County is currently under a fire ban that went into effect at 12:00pm 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 USFS 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 12:00pm 8/21/2020, due to increased coordination with federal partners regarding recovery concerns for recent burn scars. At this time, All State EOC functions remain available to support current and future incidents.

CAMERON PEAK FIRE

INCIDENT TYPE: Wildfire

INCIDENT START DATE/TIME: 08/13/2020 2:30pm MST

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

SUMMARY:

The Cameron Peak Fire ignited on August 13,2020 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 rapid fire growth. Cause for fire remains under investigation.

Larimer Emergency Management was notified at approximately 2:45 on 8/13/2020 about the fire and upgraded the EOC Activation to a Level II to support the U.S. Forest Service and our emergency services partners. The Type 2 Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue Team assumed command of the fire at 6:00am on 8/15/2020 and remains in command.



Multiple fire resources (air and ground) have been deployed with over 722 personnel on scene. The Cameron Peak Fire is a full suppression fire which is approximately 20,118 acres and remains at 0% containment as of Monday morning (8/24/20). Fuels are very dry in the area. 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.

For Cameron Fire information, the public can call the USFS PIO 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 LCSO 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>

LEWSTONE FIRE

INCIDENT TYPE: Wildfire

INCIDENT START DATE/TIME: 08/22/2020 4:00pm MST

INCIDENT LOCATION: Between Lower Poudre Canyon and Risk Canyon, Larimer County

SUMMARY:

The Lewstone Fire ignited on August 22, 2020, at approximately 4:00pm. The fire was reported by LCSO Emergency Services in the area between Rist Canyon and the lower Poudre Canyon, coordinates 40.660333, -105.255833. The fire is burning in rugged terrain with difficult access for engines and ground resources. Cause for fire remains under investigation and is still not known at this time. Larimer OEM was notified just after 4:00pm on 8/22/2020 to assist with the Lewstone Fire. Larimer OEM sent a page to all EOC personnel to engage due to incident complexity, mandatory evacuations and multiple events. The EOC remains activated (virtually due to COVID) at a Level 1.

When the Lewstone Fire started, Cameron Peak Fire managers assisted Larimer County with initial attack by utilizing helicopters attached to the Cameron Peak incident. As of 8:30am this morning (8/24), the Lewstone Fire remained at 165 acres, 12% containment. There are over 180 people on the ground. Weather and fuels will lead to favorable conditions for fire spread this week. Larimer County requested an Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) designation for the Lewstone Fire, which was approved by the State of Colorado on 8/22/20, providing necessary financial support for the fire suppression. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) took command of the fire at that time. A Type III Incident Management Team is in place for this fire.

Although DFPC is in command, all public information will continue to go through the Larimer County Sheriff's Office. The information line for the Lewstone Fire is 970-980-2501.

Additional Larimer County public information on the Lewstone Fire can be found at NOCO Alerts:

<https://nocoalert.org/>

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

For all other questions, please contact the LCSO Public Information Office at (970) 980-2501

LARIMER COUNTY EOC OBJECTIVES:

SUMMARY:

Larimer County EOC priorities and objectives have changed due to the increased complexity of supporting two large wildfires.

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 I, EOC staff continue to function in a virtual environment due to COVID. The Cameron Peak Fire is a long-duration fire with EOC personnel expected to be activated for several weeks. The Lewstone Fire has added to the resource requirements already present. A new check-in and long-term staffing plan rolled out this morning for all personnel to better ensure hours are monitored and that staff are taking breaks as needed. In many ways, it is more difficult in a virtual environment to ensure that staff are taking breaks, eating well and hydrating. Additionally, The EOC Planning Section developed an incident dashboard for both fires to support the accurate and timely access to situational awareness tools to all EOC staff and agency partners.

OBJECTIVE 2: Coordinate with the Incident Management Teams for both the Lewstone Fire and the Cameron Peak Fire to support wildfire operations, identify and prioritize critical assets, provide logistics and establish consequence management objectives.

A Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DPFC) Type 3 Team established authority for the Lewstone fire at midnight on 8/23/20 and the Larimer EOC has since established communications with their command structure to provide support and coordination for their operations. The Larimer EOC continues to work closely with the Rocky Mountain Blue Type 2 Team through logistical, operational, and planning support on the Cameron Peak Fire as well. The RM Blue Type 2 Team will be transitioning out with the RM Black Type 2 Team this Wednesday (8/26/20). Connections have been made with the new Liaison Officers for the RM Black Team. More connections will occur in the next few days to ensure a seamless transition. Additionally, the EOC was notified today during the 0800 briefing that a National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team will be deployed to this incident, also starting this Wednesday (8/26/2020) to assist with both response and recovery activities, including Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessments.

The EOC Logistics Section continues to order supplies and materials as requested through Interagency Dispatch, the T2 Team IMT, the DFPC Type III Team and local Emergency Services agencies. The EOC Planning Section continues to support both events through situational awareness, mapping, public messaging, and policy direction. The EOC Operations Section is directly tied in with both incident operations and LCSO personnel to ensure coordination and is working with all operational elements, including the CO National Guard personnel currently assigned to this incident. Larimer GIS Tools continue to be used for situational awareness and critical asset identification in and around both fire areas.

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

Efforts are underway to schedule a few more credentialing days for the areas of Red Feather and Crystal Lakes. Due to successful line development efforts on the northeast part of the Cameron Peak Fire, no other communities will require a credential at this time. As evacuation areas potentially expand, this could change.

Currently approximately 350 people have been evacuated from the Cameron Peak Fire area and approximately 144 addresses for Lewstone Fire. Voluntary and Mandatory Evacuation orders are still in place on both fires. Evacuation areas 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.

As of 1600 on 8/14/2020: 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 are under a mandatory evacuation. County Road 103 is closed south of County Road 86, so if you use County Road 103, you must go north to Wyoming. Traveling east, you may use County Road 74E from 86. Those on Highway 14 must travel east.

As of 1915 on 8/14/2020 the areas of Long Draw Road and Long Draw Reservoir are now under a mandatory evacuation order; the area was previously under voluntary status.

As of 1430 on 8/21/2020 the area of Crown Point, Pingree Park Road, and CR 44H are now under a mandatory evacuation order; the area was previously under voluntary evacuation issued by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office at 1845 on 8/13/2020. Notification has been issued to 320 contacts representing the 144 known addresses within the evacuation area.

As of 8/22/2020, Lewstone Fire mandatory evacuations occurred for the following areas: Pine Acres, and the area S. of Rist Canyon Road (52E) from Whale Rock Road and all areas to the west of Davis Ranch Road. As of 1800 hours on 8/23/2020, the mandatory evacuation area from Whale Rock Road west to Davis Ranch Road was downgraded to a voluntary evacuation.

Voluntary Evacuations:

Lewstone Fire officials have issued voluntary evacuations for residents in the Stratton Park Road area, north of Rist Canyon Road (County Road 52E). This was not due to concerns over additional fire activity but to allow the firefighters to work to better protect this area.

Evacuation Center/Shelter Location(s):

Non-congregate sheltering is being utilized for evacuations on both fires 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. When shelter is needed, people can contact the OEM On-Call line at (970) 498-7120 to. This is not the phone line for community questions overall, that would be the PIO line at (970) 980-2501.

As of 11:30pm last night (8/23), Red Cross had welcomed over 75 evacuees at the evacuation site. ARC assisted and sheltered 29 clients in 9 rooms in non-congregate housing. The evacuation center was closed at 11:30 pm last night. They left signage at the door with contact information and re-opened this morning at 9:00 am to assist additional clients. Two volunteers are assigned at the site and one shelter supervisor at the hotel.

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 Wolf Sanctuary has started evacuating its animals as of 6:30am on 8/23/20 due to the Lewstone Fire evacuations. The Ranch was activated to take in large animals but does not have any occupants at this time. The Larimer County Humane Society is activated for small animals. As of 0800 this morning, Humane Society has received 19 animals from 6 evacuees needing housing comprised of: 16 dogs and 3 cats. A total of 34 animals have been received for housing since yesterday

Animal Evacuation Contacts:

- Larimer Humane Society is lead for small animals POC: Dispatch line at 970-226-3647; ext. 7
- Sheriff's Posse is lead for large animals POC: Troy Badberg 970-443-3231

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 EOC as a direct support to community needs. Member agencies are providing shelter, feeding, emotional and direct assistance to those impacted by the fire. The EOC has also 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. The Larimer EOC continues to work closely with the DFPC Type 3 Team and RM Blue Type 2 Team to ensure all community members have access to information. With the transition of a new team, the EOC will work again to set up communications that are inclusive.

The EOC, in partnership with VOAD, continues to make contacts with all personnel who are registered in the area as potentially needing assistance in evacuation. Yesterday, the remaining contacts for the Lewstone fire were completed. One resident requested assistance for the Cameron Peak Fire and has since been assisted in evacuating the area in advance of an order.

CASUALTY REPORT:

Responder Deaths/Illness: None reported

Civilian Deaths/Injuries: None reported

Safety Considerations: Extremely dry conditions, rugged terrain, possible dry lightning leading to additional fires in Larimer County and the surrounding areas.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

No structures damaged or destroyed to date. LC EOC 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 and the Lewstone fire incident has been created 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.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION:

The RM T2 Team Incident Command holds virtual community meetings each night at 1730 via the Cameron Peak Fire Facebook page. These will continue to be offered throughout the duration of that incident. Information for this fire can be found by following @CameronPeakFire on Facebook.

PIOs continue to work on messaging to release resource information to target areas near the fire. 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/>.

NOCO Alerts: For those who are interested in getting text messages on either of these fires, you may text the number 888777 and in the subject line enter:

LCEVAC for the Cameron Peak Fire

LEWSTONE for the Lewstone Fire

Citizen registration in the alert system has increased substantially and there have been over 1.1 million views of the map on the nocoalert.org site as of 0700 on 8/24/20. 3,798 people have signed up for the **LCEVAC** keyword and 2,821 people have signed up for the **LEWSTONE** keyword.

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)

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Public health is aware of the possibility of community members on oxygen needing assistance if there is a power outage. UCHHealth has contracts with vendors for oxygen support. Public health PIO is handling air quality public messaging, and the Public Health Joint Information Center (JIC) is handling resulting calls as well as COVID-related questions. Fire could have potential impacts to water quality. Community testing is available to fire teams and emergency responders that may need it. CDPHE is conducting testing today (8/24) of all incident personnel on the Cameron Peak Wildfire due to an upcoming transition.

With current air quality due to smoke, it is expected for COVID-like symptoms to increase both with emergency response personnel as well as the public. Public health will work with Ops to continue messaging

on testing protocols and responsibilities. Public health is aware of possible behavioral health needs and contact has been made with partner organization, Summitstone to begin assessing needs.

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. Two new road closures per SO Dispatch as of 8/24/2020 2 12:45pm: Emmanuel Pl and Pine Acres Way.

RECOVERY:

Restoration / Recovery Efforts - The EOC is working with fireshed, water utilities and providers, and community partners to begin coordination around post-fire recovery. The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed is leading the facilitation of a post-fire restoration group made up of Fireshed, community partners, and State and Federal partners. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for this afternoon, August 24 from 1pm - 3:30 pm. This meeting will be virtual. The purpose of the kickoff meeting is to provide an overview of post-fire programs, coordination and structure development of the recovery group, and establishing initial roles and responsibilities.

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.

END OF REPORT.