

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: 08/18/2020 1100 MST

INCIDENT NAME: Cameron Peak Wildfire CO-ARF-636

INCIDENT TYPE: Wildfire

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

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

LARIMER OEM OR EOC POC NAME/CONTACT INFO:

Lori Hodges, EOC Manager
(303) 656-3214 [mobile]
hodgeslr@co.larimer.co.us

CURRENT SITUATION:

The Larimer County Board of Commissioners ratified a Disaster Declaration and a county-wide fire ban today. The fire ban goes into effect at noon today and will be in effect for a period of 30 days, until 9/18/2020, unless extended,

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

At approximately 3pm on 8/13/2020, Larimer OEM received notification that an active wildfire was growing on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property near Chambers Lake and Blue Lake on Hwy 14. The EOC activated virtually to support the Sheriff's Office, USFS and the Incident Management Team. The fire is on USFS property and the Rocky Mountain Blue Type 2 Team is in command for this fire.

Per the T2 Team Operations Section Chief, the latest confirmed acreage is estimated at 14,018 acres with 0% containment. There was 1,200 acre growth of the fire overnight. The fire did not make any significant runs yesterday. However, today thunderstorms will be moving into the area that will likely produce dry lightning with little precipitation. This is a full suppression fire.



There is a Fire Weather Watch in effect for the fire area tomorrow (8/19) afternoon. More fire starts may be caused by dry lightning, hot temperatures and gusty winds. The airstrip out of Granby is continuing to be utilized for air operations.

Larimer EOC Objectives for this event:

1. Coordinate with the Rocky Mountain Blue T2 Team, USFS & the Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Emergency Services Unit via logistical, planning, and operational support to mitigate the Cameron Peak Wildfire.
2. Coordinate sheltering operations, evacuation support, and assistance to people with disabilities or access and functional needs affected by the fire.
3. Identify and communicate critical infrastructure within and around the fire area and work with LCSO Emergency Services to establish priorities for mitigation.
4. Provide accurate and timely information and situational awareness to all EOC staff and agency partners.
5. Ensure safety and well-being of all EOC staff through staff support, safety messaging and regular check-ins.
6. Prepare to support mass evacuation through emergency messaging, credentialing, and planning, operational and logistical support.

The focus in the Larimer EOC (in coordination with law enforcement, the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA), and our Public Information Officers) is to prepare as much as possible for large-scale evacuations in the Red Feather Lakes and Crystal Lakes areas. It is not known at this time if an evacuation will be required in this area or other populated areas in the county, but emergency services and emergency management agencies want to have everything in place ahead of any needs to ensure the safety of all personnel and community members. Community members in these areas will be provided with access tags that will allow re-entry access into the area once safe to return. We will begin efforts for the Glacier View Meadows once everything is in place for RFL and Crystal Lakes.

The EOC, in partnership with VOAD, made contacts with all folks who have self-identified in the area as potentially needing assistance in evacuation. No needs have been communicated to date. Contact will be made today with those who may require assistance in Glacier View Meadows as a precautionary step in the event evacuations are required in that area. Additionally, the RM Type 2 Team will begin including closed captioning at all virtual briefings for people that are deaf or hard of hearing, and the Larimer EOC is working with the T2 Team to ensure all messaging includes Spanish translation.

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

Please continue to check <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6964/> for the latest updates and an updated map of the fire. There is an area closure impacting access and recreation in the area. Additionally evacuation boundaries and emergency alerting information is being providing on <http://www.nocoalerts.org/>

Restoration / Recovery Efforts - The EOC is working with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, water utilities, USFS and other fire-shed partners to begin coordination around post-fire recovery. This fire will have long-term impacts to both the land around the fire and the Poudre River. Therefore, it is important to get these efforts started quickly. The kick-off meeting for this is slated for early next week.

CASUALTY REPORT:

Responder Deaths/Illness: N/A

Civilian Deaths/Injuries: N/A

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 Collection Tool has been updated for this fire 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 fire,

ROAD CLOSURES: Highway 14 is closed from Rustic to Gould. Additional road closures include CR 103 (Laramie River Valley Rd) between Hwy 14 and Deadman Rd (Four Corners), Deadman Rd between CR 103 and CR 73C (Red Feather SW), Manhattan Rd between Rustic and Boy Scout Ranch Rd, and Pingree Park south and west of Crown point. Significant growth potential continues to exist due to conditions.

EVACUATIONS: Currently about 175 people have been evacuated from the area. Voluntary and Mandatory Evacuation orders are still in place. Evacuation areas are available at <https://nocoalert.org>.

Ongoing/Planned 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. It was previously voluntary.

Voluntary Evacuations:

As of 1845 on 8/13/2020 Larimer County Sheriff's Office ordered voluntary evacuations from Crown Point east to the Pingree Park Road and south to just past County Road 44H (Buckhorn Road).

Evacuation Center/Shelter Location(s):

Larimer EOC received one request for sheltering assistance yesterday (8/17) through the Healing Warriors Program for a veteran who needed assistance. Red Cross was able to assist with access to a hotel room. We expect that sheltering will become more of a concern in the coming days. Non-congregate sheltering will be pursued should mass evacuations occur due to the current COVID-19 environment. Hotel availability locally is good for about 2-week periods, subject to re-evaluation after that time. The Red Cross is setting up a facility in Fort Collins to meet with people displaced by the fire who do not have access to shelter to get them set up with area hotels. Depending on need, VOAD will also coordinate mass feeding operations for people needing sheltering. If shelter is needed, people can contact the OEM On-Call line at (970) 498-7120 to coordinate.

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 should the need arise for animal evacuation support.

Teams Activated. Currently, no requests for assistance.

- Larimer Humane Society is lead for small animals POC: Judith Calhoun 970-226-3647 ext. 7
- Sheriff's Posse is lead for large animals POC: Troy Badberg 970-443-3231
- Horseman's Association can assist with large animals. POC: Hugh Templeton 970-622-0982
- The Magic Sky Ranch has been established as the primary evacuation site for Large Animal Evacuations. They are on standby if needed. Troy Badberg will activate. The Ranch Events Complex is a secondary location in the event the fire grows and an alternate site is required.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: None at this time.

END OF REPORT