

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

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

This is a combined public situation report for the Larimer EOC for both the Cameron Peak Wildfire and the COVID-19 Response. Wildfire information will be provided first, followed by COVID-19 information.

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 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 activated to support response and recovery for all current wildfires in Colorado as well as the COVID-19 response. Coordination continues with federal partners regarding recovery concerns for recent burn scars.



WILDFIRE INCIDENT INFORMATION:

INCIDENT NAME: Cameron Peak Wildfire CO-ARF-636

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

CURRENT FIRE SITUATION:

The Cameron Peak Fire ignited on August 13th in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests near Cameron Pass and Chambers Lake. The Type II Rocky Mountain Incident Management Black Team assumed command of the fire on 8/26/2020. The fire is burning in heavy timber over rugged terrain. Hot, dry, and windy weather, combined with critically dry fuels, has been driving fire growth. Cause for fire remains under investigation.

Larimer County OEM received notification of this fire at approximately 1445 on 8/13/2020 and activated to support the incident. The EOC is activated at a Level III to support incident operations. EOC remains 100% virtual due to COVID-19.

CURRENT STATUS:

Multiple fire resources (air and ground) have been deployed with over 840 personnel on scene. The Cameron Peak Fire is a full suppression fire which is approximately 23,903 acres according to a fly over yesterday evening. Containment remains at 6%.

All of the initial lines have been completed for community protection for the Crystal Lakes, Red Feather Lakes, and Glacier View Meadows communities. Crews have now begun construction on additional indirect lines closer to the fire perimeter as an attempt to try to reduce the footprint of the fire where possible. These include a line from Crown Point Road toward the Comanche Peak Wilderness as well as a line from Cameron Pass through the Neota Wilderness.

The USFS continues to facilitate daily Core Team meetings for initial recovery coordination. Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessments have begun and will continue to be conducted as it is safe to do so. These assessments help to identify life safety needs and establish possible treatments for the fire area and for post-fire flood mitigation.

Hot and dry conditions are expected in the fire area through Monday, leading to increased fire activity over the weekend. A steep drop in temperatures is expected for Monday night into Tuesday, however, which may lead to rain and perhaps some snow over the fire.

The USFS has made progress on watershed mapping and burn severity mapping. A fly over is expected today to get imagery of the fire. If it is a clear day without a lot of smoke, the USFS plans to process that imagery over the weekend. This data will then be turned over to the USGS debris flow group to determine impacts and risk. This group will then work with local emergency managers and the National Weather Service to develop early warning systems and notifications for post-fire flooding.

COVID-19 INCIDENT INFORMATION:

INCIDENT NAME: Larimer County COVID-19 CO-LRX-03092020001

INCIDENT LOCATION: Larimer County

CURRENT SITUATION:

DESCRIPTION:

There are currently 2,438 confirmed and suspect cases of COVID-19 in Larimer County with 44 fatalities. The Case Contact and Monitoring Group continues to issue isolation and quarantine orders as required to limit the spread of the virus. The Compliance team is currently conducting site visits in collaboration with the consumer protection team to local facilities and businesses to review COVID compliance policies and procedures. The Outbreak Team is currently working with 11 confirmed outbreaks.

The LCDHE team is also providing support to the teams working the Cameron Peak Fire. In response to the 4th confirmed positive COVID case, LCDHE quarantined about 25 close contacts. LCDHE continues to be the liaison between CDPHE and the personnel on the Cameron Peak Fire for COVID needs.

Testing: Testing turn-around time continues to improve. Due to a recommendation by CDPHE, a new lab based out of Denver called Unipath Lab will start running LCDHE tests. This should begin on Monday. Hours, directions, and appointments for all active UHealth testing sites are all available through the online registration accessed at:

<https://www.uhealth.org/services/infectious-diseases/coronavirus-covid-19/antibody-testing/>

While our variance remains in place, we must continue trends in the same direction. Larimer County and our partners are working collaboratively to ensure we are able to continue moving forward without further affects to our workforce and businesses. This is not an effort we can do alone and need the community to work with us. More information can be found at

<https://fortcollinschamber.com/keep-noco-open/>.

LARIMER COUNTY EOC OPERATIONS:

The EOC has scaled down to a Level III activation, with only a core team remaining activated and all other EOC staff being placed on-call. This allows staff to rest, regroup, and work on day-to-day work activities to decrease the overall workload and decrease stress of members. Public Health personnel continue to work seven days a week on the COVID-19 response. The core EOC staff support their efforts while also supporting the response to the Cameron Peak Fire.

Fire weather will be favorable for increased fire activity on the Cameron Peak Fire over the weekend, and we expect the EOC may need to ramp up in the coming days based upon fire behavior. The Larimer EOC is coordinating with the Rocky Mountain Black Type II Team, which is in command of the Cameron Peak Fire, and the National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) Team that is assisting with both response and recovery activities, including fire area assessments. Daily meetings occur with the USFS Core Team and Cooperator meetings continue on M-W-F with the Rocky Mountain Black Type II Team.

The Larimer EOC is working with the LCSO regarding evacuation planning, messaging, and traffic management. Due to the nature of this fire, there is the possibility of long-term displacement within the mandatory evacuation area. We are working on messaging for those most impacted to determine if there are any unmet needs.

The EOC will also continue to coordinate with the LCSO on post-fire re-entry planning and implementation, as well as help to facilitate recovery as appropriate. Credentialing efforts continue for the areas of Red Feather Lakes, Crystal Lakes, the Pingree Park area and all mandatory evacuation areas. Today, Friday (9/4) was the final day of scheduled credentialing sessions. Additional credentialing opportunities will be stood up if the need arises. The Civil Air Patrol has been supporting this effort with staffing and operations.

The core EOC staff will continue communicating with our non-governmental and volunteer partners in the coming weeks as conditions change. The EOC continues to translate the daily public briefing documents from the USFS into Spanish and distribute to the public, via social media and the Larimer County OEM webpage. The EOC continues to work with the T2 Teams on ensuring public communications are inclusive, including closed captioning for the video briefings. All impacted individuals who have self-reported as possibly needing assistance with evacuation in our emergency notification system have been contacted by EOC members.

WILDFIRE EVACUATIONS:

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

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.

As of 9/3 some mandatory evacuation areas have been downgraded to voluntary evacuations. These include:

- The Pingree Park Road from Highway 14 south to the housing district east of the CSU mountain campus
- The Four Corners area of the Laramie River Road (CR 103) south to County Road 99

Sheltering:

Non-congregate sheltering is being utilized for evacuations due to the current COVID-19 environment. There are currently no individuals or animals being sheltered. Red Cross remains on standby in the event individuals require shelter. 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.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

It was reported on 9/1/2020 that an outhouse building near Chambers Lake had been damaged. There are no damages reported outside USFS property. The damage assessment team has provided an on-call person over the weekend in case damages to structures occur.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

The EOC is working with behavioral health resources to provide support to community members as concerns increase and more calls are received for both the wildfire and the ongoing COVID pandemic. 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. EOC Operations discussion with RM T2 Team Operations about Highway 14 suggests the closure is in effect for the foreseeable future. As of 8/30, some traffic control points have changed slightly for the voluntary evacuation area that was lifted. These posts still have signage in place disallowing entry for non-resident access, but are no longer staffed.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION:

For COVID-19 Questions, the public can call (970) 498-5500

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>

The RM T2 Team 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. Additionally, 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.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/>.

RECOVERY:

COVID-19 Recovery: Many of the projects that were presented to the Board of Commissioners last week have been approved for funding through the county Coronavirus Relief Funding allotment, including most of the essential needs projects and outreach efforts. Another meeting is set for September 9, 2020 to further discuss the economic and business needs. The COVID Recovery Collaborative will now be shifting focus on the long-term strategies for recovery and finishing up the Recovery Plan and Unmet Needs Study.

Wildfire Recovery: From initial burn severity assessments of the fire area, Larimer County, City of Fort Collins and a number of water and infrastructure providers are planning for post-fire flood scenarios. Preliminary Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessments have begun around the Chambers Lake area. The full BAER Team should be formed by next week (resource dependent) and will begin more detailed assessments of the fire as it is safe to do so. This will help with planning for post-fire recovery and for flood mitigation. The USFS Core Team is working to develop focus groups in various areas of recovery including data, research, infrastructure, engineering and water. The water group began meeting this week with the other groups being formed now. Additionally, this team is also assessing timelines and priorities for immediate needs. The EOC is currently coordinating with Road and Bridge as well as Engineering leads on establishing priorities prior to snowfall for county infrastructure. A state Recovery Specialist has been assigned to assist with this effort through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and an initial coordination meeting with emergency management was conducted yesterday, 9/3 to establish 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.