

## 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:

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**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** Lori R. Hodges, EOC Manager

**REPORT DATE/TIME:** 09/17/2020 3:00pm MST

**EOC ACTIVATIONS:**

Larimer County (with the assistance of the City of Fort Collins) - Level II  
(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. Larimer County received approval from FEMA for an FMAG declaration on 9/7/2020. The Fire was delegated to DFPC as of midnight on 9/6/2020 for the county and state lands. USFS is in charge of federal lands.

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### 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. Updated closures can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/arp/recreation>

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, 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 on 8/13/2020 and activated to support the incident. The EOC is activated at a Level II to support incident operations. EOC remains 100% virtual due to COVID-19. The Southwest IMT 3 Type II Team (SWIMT3) assumed command of the fire on 9/12/2020.

### **CURRENT STATUS:**

The Cameron Peak Fire remains at 102,596 acres, but containment has increased to 8% as of 9/16/2020. Approximately 1,000 personnel continue to support this fire, There is a total of 237 miles of line around this fire that needs to be secured before full containment can be reached. There was an increase in smoke and fire activity yesterday, but no significant changes to the fire area occurred.

The most active area involves “the thumb” which is an area on the north end of the fire near Crystal Lakes and Red Feather Lakes. Firefighters supported by helicopters made some progress on this section of line, however steep slopes, beetle-killed trees, and access present increased hazards to firefighters. In the Crystal Lakes, Red Feather, and Glacier View subdivisions the contingency line was also strengthened by locating additional resources to enhance structure protection and continue vegetation removal. On the northeastern, eastern, and southeastern perimeters; Highway 14, Pingree Park Road, Long Draw Road and Buckhorn Road to Comanche Reservoir respectively, lines remained secure. In the areas of Estes Park and Glen Haven, fire managers refined plans to conduct structure protection and also worked to build indirect lines around communities, should they be needed. Overall, fire activity was lessened due to higher humidity in the afternoon.

Fire growth will be fuels and terrain driven for the most part throughout the week. Over the weekend, there is some concern with a storm from the pacific northwest moving into the area that may bring winds from 20-30 mph and lightning. However, Saturday may also be another opportunity for rainfall over the fire.

The Monument Gulch area has been opened to impacted residents today until 5pm for assessments and insurance needs. LETA is working on installing an Emergency Call Box in Monument Gulch, which will allow community members the ability to call for emergency services if needed. This will be a huge step in allowing residents back into the area.

Behavioral Health is becoming a greater concern with the extended wildfire event on top of the stressors created from the COVID-19 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)

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## **LARIMER COUNTY EOC OBJECTIVES:**

**SUMMARY:** The EOC will continue to implement the following objectives:

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

The Cameron Peak Fire is a long duration fire, not expected to be fully contained until the end of October. All EOC staff not directly engaged in the fire support have been placed back on standby status. The EOC will continue to assess staffing needs, to determine long-term strategy and ensure that burn out of staff is avoided. All necessary ESFs are currently activated and providing support as required.

### **OBJECTIVE 2. Continue long-term coordination with the Incident Management Teams that rotate on to manage the incident in order to provide seamless transitions, support wildfire operations, identify and prioritize critical assets, provide logistics, and establish consequence management objectives**

The EOC continues to coordinate with the Southwest Team 3 Type 2 IMT (SWIMT3), ensuring a continuous flow of information and resources as needed. Logistics continues to work with Interagency Dispatch and the T2 Team on resource tracking and cost tracking.

**OBJECTIVE 3. Continue to provide logistical and planning support to LCSO for evacuations, traffic control, credentialing, access to properties and re-entry of community members in affected areas**

Access remains a primary issue for many in the evacuation areas. The EOC is also working with the Town of Estes Park and the team on evacuation planning for the Glen Haven and Estes Park areas. This is a precautionary measure only, in the event the fire moves south and threatens Glen Haven, the Retreat or Estes Park. The EOC will continue to work with the LCSO on re-entry planning for the fire affected areas to ensure a smooth process and coordinated communications.

**OBJECTIVE 4. Ensure long-term support to all community members by effectively communicating expectations for this event and providing on-going resource assistance, information dissemination, and recovery coordination for those affected by the fire.**

The Larimer EOC has contacted all of the community members with damages and is now sending daily updates for recovery to this group. A Virtual Town Hall was held on Monday to provide affected residents with recovery resources from the local, state and federal levels. The Larimer Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is meeting today to discuss ongoing community needs. Everyone within the mandatory evacuation areas that has self-identified as needing assistance has been notified to ensure there are no unmet needs. The EOC will re-evaluate this area to determine if additional calls should be made with future fire growth.

**OBJECTIVE 5. Continue to establish incident recovery priorities and actions including ongoing Damage Assessments, Infrastructure repair and restoration, utilities restoration and Long-Term Recovery Group formation.**

No additional damage assessments have been needed since last week (see damage assessment section for total numbers of damaged property). The OEM Staff has developed a draft recovery organizational framework with six Work Groups including: 1) Water Recovery, 2) Infrastructure, 3) Environmental Health and Debris Management, 4) Community Recovery (individual needs), 5) Mitigation and Resilience, and 6) Grants and Fundraising. This framework has been sent to partners to ensure no changes are needed and then will be released to a broader group to begin filling out each team.

The U.S. Forest Service will officially kick off the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessments next week. A Water Group toured the fire area yesterday (9/15) to determine impacts to water infrastructure in the fire area. Larimer County Road and Bridge and Engineering Staff were part of that tour to assess county-specific infrastructure and possible impacts to infrastructure from the fire.

**EVACUATIONS:**

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

**Current Mandatory Evacuations:**

The mandatory Evacuation Order for two areas has been downgraded to Voluntary as of this morning (9/16) at 0900 hours:

1. Highway 14 from Stove Prairie Landing west to Kelly Flats
2. County Road 44H (Buckhorn Rd) from Pennock Pass to County Rad 27

Mandatory Evacuation Orders that remain in place include:

- 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

**Current Voluntary Evacuations:**

The Voluntary Evacuation Order for the Stratton Park area was lifted this morning (9/16) at 0900. This includes Stove Prairie Landing south along County Road 27 to CR 44H and east to include Stratton Park.

Current Voluntary Evacuation Orders include:

- Dated 9/3 @ 1026: The area from Four Corners along County Road 103, south to County Road 99
- Dated 9/7 @ 1627: The areas of the Glen Haven Retreat, the town of Glen Haven, and Storm Mountain
- Dated 9/8 @ 1100: Crystal Lakes, Red Feather Lakes, Lady Moon, Red Feather Highlands, and the Shambhala Center
- Dated 9/17 @ 0900: Buckhorn Road (County Road 44H) from Pennock Pass to County Road 27
- 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, the Red Cross is providing support to 34 evacuees, with three more families contacting them yesterday (9/16). Northern Water has provided their campground (old KOA) to evacuees who need to stay with their RVs and require hookups. This site is located on the east side of Hwy 287 across from Ted's Place.

**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 activated to support large animal evacuation but does not currently house any large animals. The Larimer County Humane Society reported that they are still sheltering 11 domestic animals.

**DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:**

No changes to the damage assessments.

- 57 total structures with damages/destruction.
- 55 destroyed structures
- 26 of which are residential dwellings
- 3 are primary residences
- 1 Business
- 0 Known Rental properties

Public Infrastructure: No significant county infrastructure reported damages.

Private Sector: Utility providers report several downed power lines and burned power poles. They are tied in with the T2 Team and will be working to make repairs as it is safe to do so.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

For Cameron Fire information, the public can call the USFS PIO Line at (970) 541-1008

For shelter assistance for those unable to go to the Evac Site, call (970) 481-1243

All other calls should be directed to the LCSO PIO line at: (970) 980-2501

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/](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 162/CR 69 to CR 74E
- W CR 74E - From CR 68C to CR 86
- Buckhorn Rd - From N CR 63E to Stove Prairie Rd
- Stove Prairie Rd - From HWY 14 to Buckhorn Rd
- Rist Canyon Rd/Old Flowers Rd - From Stove Prairie Rd to Pingree Park Rd

### **State Highway Closures**

- W. HWY 14 from Gateway 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

### **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>

Traffic into the Red Feather Lakes and Crystal Lakes areas is being restricted to residents only.

## **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>

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## **RECOVERY:**

The OEM staff met to solidify a recovery organization for the Cameron Peak Fire. This organizational structure has been sent to the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed group to determine if changes are needed. Once confirmed, the OEM staff will begin to tie in partners to each of the areas within the plan.

Key areas for today include the formation of the Long-Term Recovery Group through the VOAD, and the establishment of specific target areas of support available to community members. Specifically, we have a few elderly and disabled community members who do not have access to technology for resources. Direct contacts are being made with those individuals to help them through the recovery process. Additionally, the EOC is working to get a Recovery Fund established and advertised to begin getting donations for affected residents.

Larimer OEM worked with the Larimer County Conservation Corps on a grant application for the Conservation Service Corps through Great Outdoors Colorado for mitigation work in the 2013 Flood and 2020 Cameron Peak Fire areas.

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**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](mailto:SM.FS.usfarp@usda.gov).