



Post-Flood Community Preparedness Guide

The Mountain Outreach Team wants you to be prepared for any flooding, landslide or debris flow situations that arise due to normal spring runoff, intense rain events and/or abnormal land conditions following the September 2013 Flood. If you would like assistance in emergency planning or if you have questions please call Larimer County Emergency Information line at: 970-498-5500 or visit www.larimer.org/emergency.

Know The Risks:

Flash Flooding - Debris Flow
Spring Runoff - Landslide
Thunderstorm Related Flooding

Stay Informed:

Sign up to receive free emergency alerts on home, work cell phone, text messages and emails. Go to LETA Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority, www.leta911.org

As a result of last year's rain and flooding, the risks of flash flooding may increase this year because of the following reasons:

- Reduced creek and river capacity due to increased sediment deposits, rocky debris and location changes of creek banks
- Woody debris deposits in and along rivers and creeks potentially causing debris dams and subsequent flash flooding
- Flash flooding can occur very quickly, even when it is not raining at your location. The heaviest rainfall may be upstream from you and water surges may happen if debris or earthen dams suddenly break free.
- Debris flows and landslides may cause access issues and obstruct creek flows
- Reservoirs are at capacity in the region and will spill earlier than usual causing additional flow during the runoff and thunderstorm season
- Altered locations and conditions of rivers and creeks may impact structures and infrastructure at risk (i.e. homes, roadways, culverts and bridges)

Safety Routes and Locations:

Plan to go to a safe location, identify two location located at higher ground in the case of flooding, and two locations out of the area in case of landslides

- Moving to higher ground is not necessarily the best choice in the case of landslides
- Have a plan for your pets so you won't be delayed in leaving a danger zone
- Know more than one way to get to your safe locations on foot if necessary
- Practice leaving by means of your safety routes
- Talk with family members and neighbors to plan where you will meet and how you will check in with each other at your safety locations

Helpful Websites:

www.crh.noaa.gov/den www.ReadyColorado.com www.larimer.org/emergency www.cotrip.org

National Weather Ser.

CDOT

Vehicle Safety:

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle related. As little as 18 inches of water will float most automobiles.
- Never drive your vehicle through flood waters.
- While driving your vehicle, be aware of dips, culverts, bridges and low lying areas.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

During a Flash Flood: *Residents should take the following action in the event of a flash flood*

- Move to high ground immediately.
- Stay out of floodwaters. Swift moving waters and debris can be deadly.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Leaving the area can pose significant dangers, as road washouts and landslides can occur along escape routes.
- If you plan to try to leave the area, give yourself as much time as possible, and know that it still may not be enough time.

Landslide Awareness: *Landslides can occur very quickly and may leave little reaction time. But there are a few things to watch for that may indicate the threat of a landslide:*

- New crack in pavement or foundations
- Noticeable tilting of trees or utility poles
- Broken water lines or other utility lines
- Unusually frequent occurrences of rock falls
- Abrupt changes in stream flow

If you notice any of the above, call 911 to report your findings.

Before the Flood:

- Promptly notify Larimer County Road and Bridge at 970-498-5650 or in an emergency at 911, if you see potential for roadway flooding or debris issues.
- Remove debris and sediment from drainage channels near your property. You may need to do this several times during a rainy season.
- Talk with your neighbors and family about how you will communicate during a disaster.
- Contact your Fire Protection District and attend meetings in your community.
- Stay informed through local radio, television alerts and your own observations.
- Monitor a NOAA Weather Radio (with S.A.M.E. and back up battery).
- Listen for the latest Flood Watches, Warnings and Advisories:
 - WATCH** indicates that life threatening flooding is possible within the designated watch area
 - ADVISORY** indicates that non-life threatening flooding of small streams, streets and low lying areas is occurring or is imminent.
 - WARNING** indicates that flash flooding or flooding has been reported or is imminent, and necessary precautions should be taken at once

Get Ready:

Gather emergency supplies for **sheltering in place at your home**. If your home is located on high ground and it is NOT in danger from debris flows, you may choose to shelter in place. Plan to be on your own without water, gas and electricity for at least three days.

- Battery powered radio and /or NOAA weather radio (with S.A.M.E. and back up battery)
- Telephone that does not require a separate electricity source (i.e. one that plugs directly into a phone jack)
- Two (2) flashlights and extra batteries
- Manual can opener
- Extra Blankets
- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Non-Perishable foods
- Paper towels
- Essential medication
- Plastic utensils
- Personal hygiene items
- Pre-moistened towelettes
- Important papers
- Pet needs (food, medications, litter, leash)

Gather emergency **supplies to take with you** if you need to leave quickly (also make this a car kit for items you may need if you are away from home when a flash flood or debris event occurs). Put these items in a backpack so they'll be ready to go.

- Radio and/or portable NOAA weather radio (S.A.M.E.)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Gloves
- First aid kit
- Important papers and important phone numbers
- Necessary medications
- Cellphone chargers
- Change of clothes
- Blanket(s) or sleeping bag(s)
- Walking shoes
- Food and water
- Rain gear
- Water purification tablets
- Waterproof/windproof matches
- Any personal hygiene items (dentures, glasses)

Develop an emergency plan for your family. Disasters can occur at any time – If separated, how will you and your family reunite during or after an emergency if communications systems aren't operating?

- Plan for how you and your family will communicate during and after an emergency. Identify a meeting location in case you can't call one another.
- In some cases, a cell phone's text capabilities will be available even when a call cannot be connected.
- **Note:** Text messages also help keep cell tower congestion to a minimum, which is vital to emergency correspondence.
- Plans should address any individuals with access and functional needs, children, and pets.
- Identify multiple routes for evacuating during the disaster.
- Identify a shelter in place location in the home.

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Larimer Sheriff Non-Emergency Dispatch: 970-416-1985

Poudre Fire Authority: 970-221-6570

Loveland Fire & Rescue: 970-962-2471

Estes Park Fire: 970-577-0900

Berthoud Fire District: 970-532-2264

Loveland Police: 970-667-2151

Berthoud Police: 970-532-2611

Estes Park Police: 970-586-4000