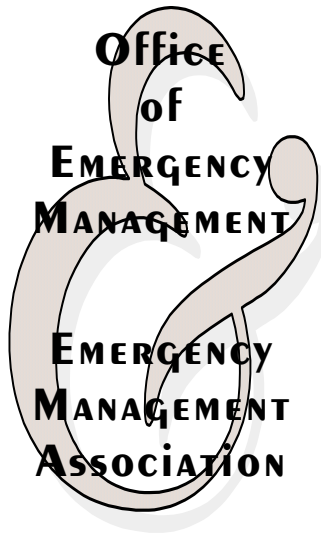


PREPARED

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

Colorado



Bill OWENS
GOVERNOR

DECADE OF DECLINING EMPG CHALLENGES STATE AND LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

by Tommy Grier, Director, Colorado OEM

The Emergency Management Preparedness Grant and its predecessors (Emergency Management Assistance, State/Local Assistance, et al) have been eroded over the past decade with the states and local communities assuming greater funding responsibility. In fact, EMPG is the only line item in the FEMA budget that has not received an increase during that time.

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), which is comprised of emergency management directors from the states and territories, has requested that Congress provide FEMA with additional funding for state and local emergency management programs in the Spring Fiscal Year 2002 supplemental appropriations bill. The request is that \$200 million be added to the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) in the 2002 FEMA budget to address unmet needs and to assist in capacity building, and that appropriate annual increases in EMPG funding continue until it has reached the intended 50/50 match.

A recent NEMA survey revealed total program support needs in the amount of \$2.1 billion. The \$200 million urgent request is based on responses from 38 states to address near term requirements, and will almost assuredly increase when the remaining state data is received.

In Colorado, forty-seven jurisdictions and the state office of emergency management benefit from the EMPG program with a statewide reimbursement rate of approximately 27 percent of eligible expenses. Additional federal funding needed to bring all participating jurisdictions up to the 50 percent level was \$834,366 in federal fiscal year 2001. An estimated additional \$375,000 would be needed to fund jurisdictions not currently participating in the EMPG program, bringing Colorado's annual unmet needs to \$1.2 million.

The history of the current EMPG system of funding state and local governments has its roots in the Civil Defense initiatives of World War II and the Cold War.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War lead to reduced funding for expanded programs even though the same funding system was kept in place. It remains to be seen whether the efforts of NEMA, and perhaps other professional emergency management associations, can prevail upon the Congress for additional funding to build local capacity.

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LIGHTEN THE LOAD & IMPROVE THE PRODUCT THROUGH NETWORKING & TEAMWORK

by Steve Douglas

President, Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA); Director, Pueblo County Emergency Management

The concept of *multi-tasking* isn't hard for any emergency manager to grasp. It is as embedded in our everyday lives as that of *shifting priorities*. The events on and after September 11, 2001 have placed added emphasis on those two terms. They have placed an even stronger emphasis on the value of integrated, all-hazards emergency management and on networking ... otherwise known as teamwork.

Just keeping up with the daily mail (voice-mail, e-mail and old fashioned "snail mail") regarding new initiatives, new grant opportunities and new expectations, as well as the routine work (emergencies included) can become overwhelming. Help may be on the way in terms of new paid staff and/or more volunteers, but those things don't happen overnight and they don't just fall out of the sky without someone's (your's, mine and/or someone else's) effort. So, if the load is starting to feel a bit heavy, it may be because we have forgotten about each other as resources — through networking and teamwork. Here are a few ways to tap into a Colorado network of emergency managers and other good people doing related work:

- The Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM) maintains a list of Colorado's Sheriffs and Emergency Managers including names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses.
- COEM also provides a weekly **Information Report**, which is a one-page summary of current emergency management-related events, trainings, and opportunities. Material included can come from each of us. So, if you have timely material to share, please provide it to Polly White at polly.white@state.co.us.
- The COEM web site, www.dola.state.co.us/oem/oemindex.htm, is a library of, and gateway to a wide range of emergency management-related information, including but not limited to the two items mentioned above. I recommend review and use of the site. It can save each of us hours of searching and can also help us avoid continually reinventing the wheel — i.e., draw from the work and experience of others.

- The Colorado Governor's 2002 Emergency Management Conference is scheduled for August 20-21 in Denver. The agenda is nearly finalized, and includes input from many of you. It, and other conference data, will be posted on the COEM web site soon. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and network with emergency managers from across the state.
- The 2002 Colorado Mitigation & Wildfire Conference is September 27-29 in Longmont. This conference is now on an 18-month cycle. It provides a unique and valuable opportunity for fire officials, Sheriffs, County Commissioners, emergency managers, land use and environmental planners, among others to learn from each other. A draft agenda and conference information is available on line at www.wildfirecolorado.org.
- The Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) offers other opportunities to network. It maintains a web page nested within the COEM site at www.dola.state.co.us/oem/Cema/CEMA.htm. CEMA's annual meeting will be held over lunch on day two (August 21) of the Colorado Governor's 2002 Emergency Management Conference. The 2002 CEMA President's Award for outstanding contributions to emergency management in Colorado will be presented at the meeting. Nominations for the award may be sent to me at The Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 320 West 10th Street B-1, Pueblo, Colorado 81003-2995. The deadline for nominations is July 20. Elections for the offices of President and Treasurer will be held as the meeting's last item of business. Sample ballots and nomination forms have been sent to CEMA members. The meeting agenda will be sent to all members before the meeting, and will be posted on the CEMA web page. Visitors are welcome at the annual meeting.

We are pretty good at reaching out, networking and working as a team when faced with a major emergency or full-blown disaster. We can be even more effective in those challenging times if we practice those skills every day. Above are examples of where, when and how to do that. If you have other suggestions, please share them. Thank you and have a great day!

ARE WE PREPARED?

by Lt. Roger Hoffner, Arapahoe County Emergency Management Coordinator

If you read the newspapers or listen to the radio you might get the impression Colorado and local governments haven't been, and are not doing anything to prepare for a terrorist attack. My perspective is that this couldn't be further from the truth. For at least the past two years, long before 9-11, the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM) and local governments have been planning and preparing. The Arapahoe County's Office of Emergency Management (ACOEM) has been an integral part of this process. I have been the Emergency Management Coordinator for six years and have attended many classes on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. I've established a terrorist annex for the County Emergency Operations Plan as have 56 of the 64 counties in Colorado. One hundred percent of the public health agencies in Colorado have completed assessments relating to health capabilities and needs.

Almost two years ago I learned of grant money that was to be available to counties for first responders and hazmat teams. A county assessment listing targets, vulnerabilities, capabilities and needs was required to apply. With permission, Douglas County was included in a regional assessment and application. In August 2001, Arapahoe/Douglas Counties were awarded \$352,000, but the money would take time to get from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to the state and then county. Although this was about \$550,000 short of the listed assessment needs, it was a great start. The ACOEM planned to put together a "First Responders Bag" for law enforcement in both counties. After 9-11, a request was made to DOJ through COEM to expedite \$113,000 for the "Bags". Once approved, 805 were put together and distributed to all the law enforcement agencies in Arapahoe and Douglas counties. Since that time, the ACOEM has given 32 additional "bags" to Colorado State Patrol at the Castle Rock office. The bags contain: chemical/biological gas mask, three different kinds of gloves, goggles, disposable respirators, eye wash, ear plugs, chemical suit with hood, overshoe booties and duct tape.

In November 2000, the COEM coordinated an Integrated Emergency Management Course in Emmittsburg Maryland at the Emergency Management Institute. There were 79 leaders, mostly from Arapahoe County, including three County Commissioners who made the trip and experienced the realistic exercise and training. Since that time, there has been a commitment to continue the training with this group. In 2001, there was a general meeting to discuss what we had learned and where we wanted to go.

This was followed with a tabletop exercise in October to discuss how to handle recovery if impacted by a large tornado. On March 13, the group was brought together for a presentation from Greg Moser, COEM's counter terrorism expert. The message was about WMD and terrorism truths, fears, and how Colorado is preparing. This was very informative and well received. On May 31, another tabletop exercise is scheduled involving a terrorist attack. We will test our plans, call down lists, and knowledge.

Those of us in the first responder community realize there are two things which seem to fall apart on any large, multi-agency incident; communications and incident management. We have seen this in recent events and are actively addressing the issue. The Incident Command System (ICS) is a management system that if used properly will help in managing these two problems. The key here is we all must understand ICS, train, and exercise with it. The ICS is modular in structure and can be used for large or small incidents, emergency or non-emergency. It is built on having a communications plan, a unified command structure if more than one agency is involved, and resource and personnel management. This is happening. Most of the police and sheriff's office people are either trained or are being trained.

Are we ready? Some would say no, but I say we are far more ready than most of the country. Sure we have a ways to go and we're working on it. The training and planning for a terrorism event never stops, but neither does the plans for a natural disaster. We have a potential for severe weather, man-made disasters with all the nasty hazardous materials transported on the highways and railroads, storage facilities and businesses and possible air crashes, all of which could shut the county down. We don't have tidal waves, and if we do, that means California has finally slid into the Ocean.

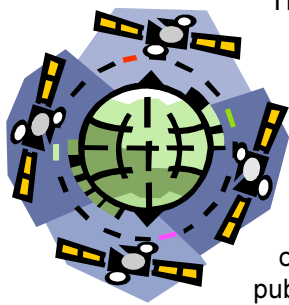
The key here is to realize that although terrorism is on everyone's minds, we plan for disasters everyday. The County Emergency Operations Plan is put together with an all hazards perspective. Sure there are differences between a terrorist attack and other disasters, but will we respond — absolutely!

Keep in mind that what you see on the television or get from the media may be sensationalized to make an impact. Think about it, learn about it, stay smart about it, and don't panic. As we've heard before, terrorism wages war between your ears and the battle is won and lost there. Increase your knowledge, prepare yourself and your family, and know what to do if you're faced with a "disaster."

FIVE COUNTY AREA TO ADOPT EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

by Duane Freeman, Delta County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

A five-county area on the western slope is in the process of adopting the emergency preparedness network (EPN) system offered by Qwest and Intrado. Intrado is a company under contract from Qwest that handles the enhanced 911 database. The EPN system offers a unique telephone emergency notification system for incidents such as floods, fires and other emergencies. The five counties are Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose and Ouray. Each has signed or is in the process of signing an agreement for the system. The five-county agreement results in significant cost savings for each county. A kick-off date for planning will be set when all agreements are in place. Training will be set-up for counties to map preplanned areas within the system and to train dispatchers.



The EPN is a rapid and broad reaching telephone emergency notification service. The EPN provides emergency notification by actively placing telephone calls to inform citizens of an impending danger. In the event of a disaster, an authorized public safety official can request deployment of EPN. Within minutes,

hundreds or thousands of calls can simultaneously reach affected citizens to deliver warnings and critical safety instructions. EPN employs a strictly controlled database of geographically coded subscriber telephone numbers and addresses. When emergencies arise, Qwest's EPN identifies those telephone numbers within the specified geographic area designated by the appropriate public safety official.

Based on a 30-second message length, up to 2,000 emergency messages per minute can be automatically delivered.

Examples of areas that can be preplanned for emergencies are the Gunnison River in Gunnison and Delta Counties, and the Uncompahgre River in Ouray, Montrose, and Delta Counties. Other local floodways can also be mapped and preplanned for emergencies. Dynamic real-time event boundaries can be programmed by mapping wildfires as they threaten homes and communities.

San Migial County plans to be added to the EPN providing for a six-county area. The six-county area has been set up as a regional planning area and representatives of the counties along with those of state and federal agencies meet quarterly in Montrose to discuss such things as emergency incidents, training schedules, exercises, grant programs, mutual aid agreements, radio systems, and 911 systems.

The five-county Emergency Preparedness Network is an example of Colorado counties working together to provide coordinated public safety and service for its citizens and achieving significant cost savings in the process.

WEATHER AWARENESS WEEKS A HUGE SUCCESS

The National Weather Service and the Colorado Office of Emergency Management have again partnered to make Colorado Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 7-13) and Lightning and Wildfire Awareness Week (April 28-May 4) a huge success.

The agencies provided activities and public education to interested residents and National Weather Service professionals conducted training in weather spotting. Many local emergency management agencies conducted activities throughout the weeks to raise local awareness.



The Governor's proclamations declaring the awareness weeks may be viewed on the Colorado Office of Emergency Management website.

Greek and Roman temples often were erected at sites where lightning struck. The Gods were worshipped there as an attempt to appease them.

Multi-County Rail Disaster Exercise

by Greg Moser, Colorado Office of Emergency Management

The Front Range Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Committee (RETAC) recently sponsored a tabletop and large-scale field exercise for responding to a mass casualty incident involving a railroad. The exercise was based on the derailment of a passenger train on the line between Boulder and the Moffat Tunnel. The exercise was hosted by Gilpin County with participating agencies from Boulder, Jefferson, Clear Creek and Grand counties. The Colorado Office of Emergency Management and Colorado State Patrol also participated in the planning and conduct of these training events. Private sector participation was invaluable with both AMTRAK and the Union Pacific Railroad providing both resources and participants. Qwest and WorldCom, whose transmission lines are often on railroad right of ways, also



participated.

The tabletop exercise was held at the Gilpin County Justice Center on April 27th. Approximately 65 first responders, emergency managers, elected officials, and private sector representatives participated in this 6-hour training event. A large-scale model of the Moffat Tunnel was used with a table map and scale model vehicles to simulate a field exercise in a classroom environment. Representatives from the Colorado Office of Emergency Management provided a lead in for the exercise that was facilitated by several members of the RETAC. This phase of the training focused on communications, coordination, and resource management. Emphasis was also placed on the use of the Incident Command System to support multi-agency/multi-jurisdictional response. Larry Stern, Boulder OEM, facilitated the exercise critique.

The field exercise was held at the eastern portal of the Moffat Tunnel on May 5th. Forty-seven agencies provided 187 participants for this event.



In addition to a broad range of local and state response resources, AMTRAK and the Winter Park Ski Train provided passenger cars to support the exercise. AMTRAK and Union Pacific personnel also provided training on safety considerations for first responders when working around railroads and trains. First responders were familiarized with accessing trains and other unique aspects of railroad resources and operations. This training also highlighted the electrical and hazardous materials aspects of responding to rail disasters. Twenty-three simulated victims were moulaged to simulate various degrees of injury and provide responders with a variety of challenges, including removal of victims from a railcar.

This was the third large-scale regional exercise in which Colorado OEM and other state agencies have participated in the last year. Earlier regional exercises in the San Luis Valley and at Blue Mesa Reservoir were clear demonstrations of the importance of regional response to large-scale

man-made or natural disasters.

If your community is interested in having COEM involvement in exercise development, please contact your regional planner or Bob Wold at 303.272-1778.



The Missing Link

Since 1999 Red Rocks Community College, in Lakewood Colorado, has been offering emergency management training via the INTERNET. Students can take a course without the need for long distance travel and can set their own schedule. Since INTERNET courses don't have a set classroom time, students can participate at any hour...the school is now coming to the student.

Ten core Emergency Management and Planning courses, representing 30 credit hours, are currently available. The current course offerings include:

- Principles of Emergency Management,
- Emergency Planning,
- Developing Volunteer Resources,
- Exercise Design and Evaluation,
- Leadership and Influence,
- Decision Making and Problem Solving,
- Effective Communication,
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management and Operations,
- Incident Command System (ICS), and
- Public Information Officer (PIO).

All of these **public-sector oriented** courses are based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) curriculum and supported by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

The emergency management discipline has gained new recognition with the September 11th attack and the need for a **business-oriented** emergency management program was graphically demonstrated by the impact to, and destruction of so many private companies. With this in mind, Red Rocks is developing a basic business-oriented course which has been missing from Red Rocks' popular public sector-oriented emergency management offerings. With the development of this course, Red Rocks will close the loop.

This **Introductory Course** is being developed in conjunction with the Association of Contingency Planners and support from the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and FEMA, and uses the current national consensus standard. This course will be available for the fall 2002 semester. The course is an introduction to the emergency management field for all sizes of businesses as well as a foundation to more specialized courses. It provides a complete, basic program for the small business and the typical part-time, under-resourced emergency program coordinator who wears many other hats.

Students will learn how to identify the critical business processes that must continue through a disruption or disaster and learn about survivability issues for an organization. The students will also learn how to obtain much of the basic planning information and advice from public and private sector sources.

The course development team is composed of Tony Mendes (FEMA), Bob Kistner (Energy Planning Consultants, Inc.), Rich Huggins (Huggins & Associates), Robert Niehoff (BCP Advisors), Dr. Floyd Shoemaker (FEMA, retired), Lynn Overstreet (retired), Dave Weiss (Weiss Insurance Agency), and Ivo Roosbold (Red Rocks Community College).

GUNNISON COUNTY'S DEDICATED EOC UP UP & RUNNING

by Jo Ann Stone, Gunnison County Emergency Services

Gunnison County has just completed their dedicated Emergency Operations Center located in the basement of the courthouse.

The EOC also serves as the conference room for the Communications Board, the LEPC, 911 Board and as a meeting room for other vital county agencies.

The EOC is hooked up to the system used by the City of Gunnison, Gunnison County and to other internet services. The EOC will also be used as an Incident Command Center for those appropriated incidents. Gunnison County Commissiocrs have been very proactive in preparing for emergencies and this is just another example of these preparations.

Gunnison, Delta, Montrose, and Ouray Counties have just signed the contract for Reverse 911 (story on page 4) which should be very beneficial during an active wildfire season as well as any other potential hazard.

The county also just completed a Hazardous Materials Operations Class. Twenty-four students completed this course which will add to the numbers of members who volunteer for their Hazardous Materials Response team. Gunnison County just completed the Ops Center Software class. This class was taught by Matt Coldwell of Colorado State Patrol at the Western State College Computer lab and was attended by every law enforcement agency within Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties as well as Public Works, Finance, EMS, Fire, Public Health and Emergency Management agencies.

ANOTHER "DAM" EXERCISE

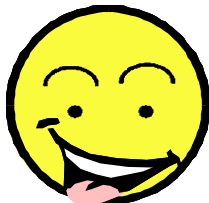
by Larry Stern, Boulder Office of Emergency Management

Recently, the City of Boulder purchased Barker Dam and Reservoir from XCELL Energy. A hydroelectric plant was part of the deal. The Dam, Reservoir, and Hydro come under regulations of FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). FERC requires that; tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises be held as part of the regulations.

On Thursday, May 9, 2002, the functional exercise was held at Boulder's City Yards. Most city departments participated as well as our office. The scenario included: 15 inches of predicted rain (3 inches produce a 100 year flood in Boulder Canyon); the National Earthquake Center in Golden confirmed a minor earthquake occurrence in the area of Barker Dam; 80,120 CFS (cubic feet per second) water flow into the reservoir was predicted (12,000 cfs produces a 100 year flood); the Dam was predicted to overflow 10 feet above the spillway for a period of 14 hours (causing the dam to fail); and the National Weather Service issued a Flood Warning for Boulder County.

Thus began the exercise.

Well, we immediately evacuated for a 2000 year flood event by using 911 callback, cable interrupt, Alert system, EAS, notified State OEM, declared a local disaster, opened all of the established shelters in the County, closed all the roads leading into the City of Boulder, moved our EOC to an alternate EOC at the University of Colorado (40 feet higher than ours), located emergency Incident Command Vehicles on Flagstaff Mountain, established ICS, and instituted our local and metro Mass Casualty Plans; all before the first message came from the exercise control group.



The three-hour exercise lasted less than one-hour, the evaluators and representative from FERC, were blown away by our actions, and we FERC'd the FERC.

MITIGATION FUNDS AFFECTED BY LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

by Marilyn Gally, Colorado OEM

Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, new rules were promulgated to facilitate implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the new Mitigation Planning requirements. Under the new rules, communities interested in obtaining mitigation funds through the new FEMA PreDisaster Mitigation Program or the existing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are requested to do local hazard mitigation plans.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is triggered by presidential disaster declarations. The program has been triggered three times in the past ten years: 1997, 1999, and 2001. The State of Colorado received approximately \$3.5 million for mitigation projects after those disasters.

Response has been exceptional. Over 30 communities have expressed interest in participating in the process.

The new PreDisaster Mitigation Program may be viewed as a 'next phase' to Project Impact. Under Project Impact, communities did local hazard analyses and planning to select viable mitigation projects. This year the state received approximately \$351,000 to assist local governments with mitigation planning efforts.

Earlier this year the state asked local governments if they were interested in completing multi-hazard mitigation plans. Response has been exceptional. Over 30 communities (counties and cities) have expressed interest in participating in the process.

We will work with these communities toward developing these plans. Plans will have to be adopted by local jurisdictions and then approved by FEMA to be eligible for federal mitigation funds. FEMA contractors are developing aids and guidance to assist local communities with this effort. The Colorado Office of Emergency Management and FEMA will provide technical and financial assistance to assist communities.

LEPC CONFERENCE

by Richard Bardsley Colorado OEM

The Colorado Emergency Planning Commission (CEPC) will again be hosting its Annual Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) Conference. This year's conference will be held at the Denver West Sheraton at 360 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado September 19-20, 2002. More information will be distributed when available - but now is the time to mark you calendars. The conference is on a Thursday and Friday and if you wish to make a weekend out of it - the Sheraton will offer the discounted room rates of \$84 per night.

According to the CEPC attendance policy, three representatives from single jurisdictional LEPCs and four representatives from LEPCs that are made up of more than one jurisdiction are allowed to attend. However, if you have more people who are interested - please submit an application. No one has ever been turned down from attending the conference.

The CEPC will pay for rooms, per diem, and travel as per the State of Colorado Fiscal Rules. If you're coming in from over one hundred miles away, you will be provided a room for the nights of the 18th and 19th of September. If you're traveling between fifty and one hundred miles, you'll be provided a room for the night of the 19th only. Less than fifty miles and you'll not be provided a room by the CEPC.

Although the agenda is still in draft - there are many interesting and informative subjects that will be covered, including industry presentations, computer demonstrations, open forums, and meth lab updates. Continental breakfasts and lunches will be provided both days. The Jefferson County LEPC will host a reception at the conclusion of the first day.

THE FIRST PAID VACATIONS

In any given week, an average of 2.3 million Americans are off on paid vacations. They can all thank George Westinghouse, the founder of Westinghouse Electric Company, for launching the idea. Beginning in 1871, he instituted half days on Saturdays, which helped spur the movement toward the five-day work week. In 1913, Westinghouse was the first major employer to establish paid vacations.

LEN BOULAS HAZMAT AWARD

At the Annual LEPC Conference in September, the Len Bouldas Hazmat Award will again be presented. Now is the time to start thinking about nominations for the award. Nomination forms will be sent to all LEPCs with the monthly CEPC minutes for the May meeting.



Previous winners include Tim Gablehouse, Jo Ann Stone, and Duane Freeman. The only criteria required is the nominee must be involved in the hazmat arena in some fashion.

CEPC OUTREACH MEETINGS

The CEPC recently held a combined outreach meeting with the Region IX LEPC and the Southern Ute Tribal LEPC

in Ignacio, Colorado. The meeting was extremely successful with over forty in attendance. The CEPC would like to hold one outreach meeting per quarter outside of the Denver Metro Area. If your LEPC would like to host a

meeting, please contact any CEPC member or either of the Co-Chairs, Susan Jones-Hard at (303) 692-3019 or Richard Bardsley at (303) 273-1619.



LEPC ROSTERS

A reminder to LEPCs — a current copy of your LEPC membership roster needs to be submitted to the CEPC for approval. Copies should be submitted at least once a year or when there is an LEPC membership change. The limited liability protection offered by state and federal statutes is based on an approved current LEPC roster.

Colorado Mitigation & Wildfire Conference

www.coloradowildfire.org

September 27-29th, 2002

Raintree Plaza Hotel in Longmont, CO

Join us for Colorado's 6th Annual Mitigation
& Wildfire Conference.

This conference focuses on managing and
preparing for issues in the wildland/urban interface.

Firefighters, planners, policy makers, public
groups, and private industry discuss and develop
ideas to help reduce the loss of life, property, and
natural resources in these areas.

Last year's conference brought over 300
participants from around Colorado and over 15
states and included a diverse mix of county
commissioners, planning officials, homeowner
association and insurance company
representatives, citizens, sheriffs, emergency
managers, and firefighters.

Visit our website as the 2002 conference takes
shape. Brochures, registration and financial aid will
be available later in the year.

www.wildfirecolorado.org



Jeffco's LEPC PROJECT

The Jefferson County LEPC, on behalf of and in coordination with the CEPC and with a small grant to help, has undertaken a project dealing with excess and dangerous chemicals in schools. The following is a synopsis of their efforts to date.

A special advisory committee to the Colorado Board of Health gathered information and sought opinions from public health, emergency response, and school representatives regarding chemical safety in schools. Based on the input, they determined that the problems faced by schools can be broadly characterized into two groups. First, the inventories of old and hazardous chemicals in schools; and second, poor inventory control, curriculum design, and limited regulations don't prevent hazardous chemicals from entering the schools. The committee recommended, and the Board of Health adopted, new regulations in March that prohibit certain chemicals from being present in schools.

Many schools end up with inventories of hazardous chemical materials. In many cases, the materials present an imminent hazard to health and safety because of degradation and/or poor storage practices. Current inventory and purchase practices continue to promote this accumulation well beyond what is appropriate to ongoing curriculum needs. Rarely is curriculum design based on the use of minimum quantities of these materials or use of hazardous materials more appropriate for the experiment being conducted.

Because of the extraordinary risks to students and staff, the committee believed existing, unnecessary inventories of hazardous chemicals must be removed from schools with proper disposal. Unfortunately, the cost of such a program is beyond the reach of routine school district budgets, so the inventories accumulate.

The Jefferson County LEPC sought and obtained grant funds to allow it to support a small number of school districts that are interested in addressing these problems. The grant funding will allow the LEPC to pay for the services necessary to inventory and remove old and potentially hazardous chemicals from the schools.

The LEPC will also provide training to faculty, staff, and others on inventory control and curriculum design techniques to avoid these problems in the future.

Disaster Trivia Contest



Oh, there were so many good guesses! And we got our three winners. Because more than three submitted the correct answer to last issue's Disaster Trivia Contest, we ended with a drawing to determine who the three winners would be.

First, those who submitted correct answers, thank you. You were: Karen Ashcraft, Emergency Management Coordinator, Pueblo County Emergency Management; Julie Brooks, Public Information Officer with the Golden Police Department; Dave Downing, City Engineer with the City of Westminster; Charlie Hanson, District V Representative with the Montana Division of Emergency Services; Monique T. Lay, Earthquake Program Manager, State of Montana; Rick Newman, Denver Paramedic; and Eric Nilsson, Larimer County Emergency Management Specialist.

The winners were Dave Downing, Rick Newman, and Erik Nilsson. Erik, feeling fortunate to have been the third and last name picked out of the hat, wanted to say this:

Thank you all so much. I just don't know what to say. I never thought I'd be standing up here although I have dreamed about it all my life. I'd like to thank my director and fellow actors and especially the woman who has stood by, through thick and thin, throughout my entire career. I know that in any endeavor like this, one person who gets an award is just part of a larger team. So I accept this award in behalf of all who have worked so very hard to put me at this podium tonight. I also want to note the accomplishment of the fine talent who were considered for this award along with me. You have inspired me and will continue to do so. Thank you all again

...and in closing, Mr. Nilsson adds...*"I am not so much alarmed as deflated with the news that my truck will not be required to take possession of my winnings....but I hasten to add that I am elated that I actually won something. The last time this happened was at a birthday party for my friend Eric Hansen. It was Omaha, Nebraska in the summer of 1956. I think I won a fake pocket knife. The physical manifestation of my good fortune was less important than the fact that the fates had allowed me to triumph.*

This was the true essence of the prize. A corollary to this is to be found in the cynical words of Gore Vidal who once noted, "It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail". I have succeeded - others have failed. Life is good. I await the arrival of my major prize with bated breath and would not only like to thank the members of the Academy but you and Clyde as well. Now, I shall not walk but run to the 7-11 to purchase Power Ball tickets. I need to cash in on good fortune when it knocks. But don't worry - when my train comes in, everyone rides. I'll cut you in for a piece of the action. EN

...and from our contest sponsor...

Disaster in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 1889

*by Clyde Anderson, Moffat County OEM
Information taken from the book The Johnstown Flood
by David McCullough*

In May of 1889, Johnstown was a town of about 30,000 people, lying in the iron-rich Conemaugh Valley near Pittsburgh. Fifteen miles upstream and 450 feet above Johnstown, the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club was an exclusive private resort owned by high society Pittsburgh Industrialists. An earthen dam that had long been the subject of controversy held back the water from the valley. At the time, this 450 acre body of water called Lake Conemauga was one of the largest man-made lakes in the country.

Johnstown sat on a flood plain at the confluence of the Little Conemaugh River and Stony Creek. Steel mills probably kept the air full of smoke, but all around the city, lush, forested ridges rolled off in every direction. Men worked 12-hour shifts in the steel mills. If they earned \$10 a week they were doing good, and many lived in cheap company houses along the riverbanks. As the *Johnstown Tribune* once put it, "Loud and pestiferous stinks prevail." But, there were no slums, and nobody was going hungry. The climb up out of Johnstown would take your breath away, but on top of the ridges, there was another world, wide open, lush and clean. Memorial Day had been celebrated on Thursday, May 30, filling the streets with people, flags and flowers. But that evening, the rain began, slamming through the darkness in wind-driven sheets which pounded against the roof tops as the residents of Johnstown turned in for the night.

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Disaster in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 1889

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The storm had started in the plains, but when it struck Pennsylvania it was the worst downpour on record. Nobody welcomed it, as there had been too much rain that spring, and the rivers were already running high.

By early Friday morning, May 31st, the rain had stopped, leaving a thick fog in the valley. There had already been signs of trouble. A landslide had caved in a stable and anyone that was awake could hear the roar of water. The rivers were rising at more than a foot per hour. Mill workers were told to go home and look after their families. There was water in most basements. Schools had been closed, and the children sent home. Many could be seen splashing about in the streets playing with makeshift toy boats.

A hard rain soon resumed. Many residents moved furniture to upper floors and evacuated to higher ground. By noon, the water was higher than the flood of 1887, making this the worst flood on record. Several bridges in town had been swept away. At 1:00 p.m., a telegraph message warned that the dam was in danger of failing. The message warned the people of Johnstown to prepare for the worst. This message was not taken seriously for the residents of Johnstown had heard such warnings before. The warning was spread to few people, and even fewer took it seriously. At 3:15 p.m., someone from the Central Telephone office called the *Tribune* and told a reporter that the danger of the dam breaking was increasing. But, by 3:15 p.m., the water of Lake Conemaugh was already on the way to Johnstown.

"The whole dam seemed to push out all at once," witnesses said. Within 36 minutes, the lake was empty. The flood raced towards Johnstown like a giant wall. Chunks of the dam, logs, rocks, trees, houses, animals and debris beyond description were swept before the wall of water. Fires raged deep within the debris and smoke began to cover the valley. Most people never saw the water coming; they only heard it. Many people said that the wall of water was preceded by a strong wind that blew down small buildings and knocked people to the ground. The devastation of Johnstown took about ten minutes.

By dawn the next day, survivors had gathered, chilled to the bone, hungry, many of them severely injured.

They gathered in ankle-deep mud, straining to see the destruction as the darkness began to lift. The devastation was estimated at a quarter mile wide and two miles long. Every bridge was gone except for a large stone bridge in the middle of town. Piled against it was a large, blazing heap of debris. Survivors began to rescue people from rooftops and search the wreckage for signs of life. Walls were still caving in and more fires were breaking out as gas mains exploded.

Problems were enormous. People were hungry, but there was no food or drinking water. Thousands were homeless and injured. Many people were in shock and suffering from exposure. The dead and dying lay everywhere and there was a threat of disease. People built rafts and began to cross the rivers to rescue survivors. Farmers from the surrounding areas brought clothing, food and water. Unclaimed children were being cared for and a crew was working on rigging a telegraph wire to the next town.

At 3:00 p.m., a meeting of all able-bodied men was called. A "dictator" named Arthur Moxham was elected to be in charge. He immediately organized citizens' committees to address the most urgent problems. Morgues, victim identification and burial were assigned to a team of ministers. Other men were put in charge of removing dead animals and debris. A team of doctors was put in charge of establishing temporary hospitals. A man was put in charge of establishing law and order, as the entire police force had been killed. Seventy-five men were immediately deputized and began protecting two banks still standing. They were also put in charge of collecting cash found laying in the mud and debris. A committee was established for supplies and finance. Another was appointed to address sanitation issues.

As dusk fell upon the valley, the search for victims continued. Hundreds of people would never be found. At the morgues, bodies piled up faster than they could be handled. "We had no record books," a worker wrote, "and had to use with great economy the paper which we gathered amid the debris or happened to have in our pockets." No one had any way of knowing how many people had died. There would never be an exact count, but the generally accepted death toll was set at 2,209. Ninety-nine entire families died. Three-hundred and ninety-six children under the age of ten were killed. Ninety-eight children lost both parents. One-hundred and twenty-four women lost their husbands. One-hundred and ninety-eight men lost their wives. News editors had no first-hand statistics to report and exaggerated the death toll to as high as 10,000. A reporter from New York City wrote "nobody who has been here for an hour would think anything too awful to be possible." The phrase "no pen can describe..." was used often.

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Disaster in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 1889

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The sympathy generated by accounts of the disaster brought on an outpouring of charity. In Pittsburgh, a crowd gathered at the steps of city hall where industrialist Robert Pitcarin spoke. "It is not tomorrow you want to act, but today." "Thousands of lives were lost in a moment, and the living need immediate help." A call for contributions netted over \$48,000 in less than an hour. In all, \$3,742,818 in cash donations was received, which was an enormous sum of money in the late 1800's. Trains full of food and supplies were donated from across the country and thousands of workers pitched in to help rebuild.

One of the most noteworthy relief workers was a woman who brought with her members of her newly formed American Red Cross. Clara Barton and her delegation of 50 doctors and nurses arrived on June 5th. Clara had helped at other disasters, but when she arrived at Johnstown, she knew that they had arrived at their first major disaster. Red Cross hospitals were set up and earned the reputation of being the cleanest, best-organized hospitals in town. Six Red Cross hotels for the homeless were also constructed. Clara ordered a door-to-door survey, which revealed many injured people too weak to help themselves. There were many cases of shock. Red Cross hospitals operated for five months.

Less than a week after the disaster, nationwide interest in the South Fork Hunting and Fishing Club began to grow. Fish guards had been placed on dam spillways to prevent fish from escaping from the lake into the river. These iron bars had clogged with debris, allowing the water in the lake to reach dangerous levels. Waste gates had been closed when the club took possession of the dam years earlier. On June 6th, a coroner's jury in Cambria County came to a decision that clearly fixed blame on the club, leaving no question that criminal negligence was involved. Although lawsuits for negligence and wrongful death were filed, no money was ever collected from the club or from any club members. It is doubtful club members personally knew the dam was unsafe, but the fact none of them were ever required to pay for their mistakes infuriated nearly everyone and left a feeling of resentment that lasted for generations. The failure of the club to remove the fish guards came to symbolize everything repulsive about the club. A man named Isaac Reed wrote this widely quoted poem:

Many thousand human lives,
butchered husbands, slaughtered wives

Mangled daughters, bleeding sons,
hosts of martyred little ones

Worse than Herod's awful crime,
sent to heaven before their time

Lovers burnt and sweethearts drowned,
darlings lost but never found

All the horrors that hell could wish,
such was the price that was paid-for fish!

Special thanks to Clyde Anderson.

Ready for another trivia contest?

The death toll from this man-made disaster is reported at over 2,000. Nine thousand were injured, many permanently, and 6,000 were left homeless. Almost a thousand sustained eye injuries. Over fifteen hundred homes were totally destroyed and 12,000 were damaged. There was a blizzard that night after the disaster and many of the homeless froze to death. A relief committee was immediately initiated to provide clothing, money, and furniture and this committee existed for almost 59 years. Thirty million dollars worth of donations were managed by the relief committee. Improvements in medical treatment, social welfare, public health and hospital facilities, and security were all a result of this devastating disaster.



Again, three prizes will be awarded for the correct answers. To win, you must name all of the following correctly:

- The **type** of disaster.
- The **location** of the disaster.
- The **year** the disaster occurred.

Email your answer to Polly White (polly.white@state.co.us) no later than **June 30, 2002**. In the event that more than three correct answers are received, a random drawing will be held. Winners will be notified via email.

Keeping an eye on the drought...

by Jeff Brislawn, Former Colorado Drought Water Availability Task Force chair
Colorado Office of Emergency Management

The weather is a popular subject of conversation in Colorado, and lately the conversations tend to gravitate towards how dry its been. Colorado's Drought Water Availability Task Force (a.k.a. Drought Task Force) has confirmed what many have sensed or feared lately: the majority of Colorado is undergoing severe to extreme drought.

Task Force Background

As the monitoring element of Colorado's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan the Water Availability Task Force (WATF) has been meeting on at least a quarterly basis since 1981. The task force has been meeting on a monthly basis in 2002 to monitor what has become one of the driest winters and springs since 1977. The WATF has been chaired since its inception by a representative from the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM). At the April 24 meeting the torch was passed from COEM's Jeff Brislawn, the chair for the previous three years, to Brad Lundahl at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Brad is the head of the CWCB Office of Water Conservation and a logical choice for the chairmanship as someone who deals with water issues on a daily basis.

Drought Plan Activation

On April 23 Governor Owens requested a statewide USDA drought declaration and directed the Water Availability Task Force to activate the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan in response to the growing concerns across the state. Several Impact Task Forces mobilized as a result to assess current and potential drought impacts on Colorado's economy and environment. Initial action recommendations were developed for the Governor with an emphasis on actions that could be addressed by the legislature. On the day of the May 23 WATF meeting, the Governor signed two bills related to drought: HB02-1414 and HB02-1152. HB02-1414 authorizes the State Engineer to review and approve substitute water supply plans that would provide alternative water supplies for drought-impacted communities. HB02-1152 authorizes the use of the Colorado Water Conservation Board's construction fund to repair water facilities that allow for more water storage. Visit the CWCB website to view the Impact Task Force recommendations and for the latest updates on the drought conditions. The website address is: http://cwcb.state.co.us/owc/Drought_Planning/2002_Drought_Information.htm

Water Status summary:

At the May 23 WATF meeting, the latest conditions were assessed. Following are some observations coming out of that meeting.

Colorado is in a creeping, multi-year drought. Mountain snowpack continues to dwindle, with 19% of average (24% of last year) as of May 1. The benchmark April 1 snowpack was 52% of average statewide overall (60% of last year), and is a better measure of the winter season's total snowfall.

This is the lowest seen on that date since 1977 and the fourth consecutive below average April 1 snowpack. Two consecutive hot summers have also left the soil moisture conditions poor and have eroded surplus reservoir storage. April precipitation was below to *extremely below* average statewide. April temperatures were above normal, particularly in the mountains. Stream flows are tracking with the bleak runoff season forecasts and low snowpack, with all basins having below to extremely below to exceptionally below average runoff. Some streams peaked in April when in a typical year the runoff peaks in May or June.

The forecast statistics indicate that this year will likely break minimum streamflow records set in 1977. This includes all river basins in Colorado. With statewide reservoir storage (May 1) at 86% of average, the reservoirs are not expected to fill this year and are anticipated to be drawn down significantly. Water users with junior water rights are being cutoff this year. Most municipal reservoirs are in good shape, but several municipalities now have mandatory or voluntary water restrictions to ensure an adequate supply if the drought wears on.

Relief in sight?

The only bright spot discussed at the meeting were the short and long term forecasts. The evening of the meeting, a winter storm warning was posted for the Northern Front Range foothills with one-half to one inch of rain expected for the northeastern plains. This storm delivered as promised, with 8-10" of snow in much of the foothills. The western slope, however, received only scattered showers. The consensus at the meeting was that a lot of continuous moisture was needed to recover from this drought. For much of Colorado that means waiting to see what next winter brings in terms of snowfall.

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Keeping an eye on the drought...

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Now more than ever we are dependent on a reliable snowpack. Some good news on the horizon is a strengthening El Nino in the Pacific Ocean. Though not anticipated to be as strong as the previous El Nino, it could affect our monsoon weather patterns by August according to Klaus Wolter of the NOAA Climate Diagnostics Center. His July-September outlook shows a chance to be slightly wetter than average for the Eastern Slope, but no strong indications—wet or dry—for the Western Slope. El Nino years typically benefit most of the state with excess winter, and some fall precipitation with the exception of the northwest corner of the state.

Drought preparedness

The unusually widespread and severe drought Colorado now faces emphasizes the importance of drought preparedness and mitigation. A frightening prospect would be another winter as dry or drier on top of the one we just had. A study by the Colorado Climate Center indicates that severe, multi-year droughts have affected Colorado in the past. In addition to the activation of the state drought plan, the CWCB is undertaking a survey of the state's water supplier's water storage to identify how the CWCB can support water suppliers in planning for and mitigating drought impacts. This survey will try to assess how prepared Colorado is for a sustained multi-year drought. No one can say how long the current drought will last, but in the meantime the Water Availability Task Force and other Impact Task Forces will continue meeting monthly to closely monitor the situation and recommend any necessary action to reduce drought impacts.

Web resources for drought:

The Internet is the best way to obtain the latest updates and conditions. Here are just a few recommend drought related sites.

2002 Drought Information Page

This is the Colorado Water Conservation Board's page with the latest information on drought impacts and concerns in the state. http://cwcb.state.co.us/owc/Drought_Planning/2002_Drought_Information.htm

Colorado Drought Watch

This is a newsletter that will be updated twice a month during dry times that discusses Colorado's current water status, developed by the Colorado Water Conservation

Board's Office of Water Conservation. http://cwcb.state.co.us/owc/Drought_Planning/Drought_Watch_Newsletters.htm

Colorado's Drought Plan online can be found at: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/Publications/publications.htm>

Colorado Drought Links

The COEM website has a drought page with links to sites that monitor snowpack, reservoir storage, climate, and weather. http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/PublicInformation/drought_links.htm

CSU Cooperative Extension has a drought website with excellent resources for managing crops, range, livestock, and finances during times of drought, as well as water and climate links. There are also resources for farm or ranch families that may be dealing with tough times financially and emotionally.

<http://www.cnr.colostate.edu/RES/rc/drought.htm>

National Drought Mitigation Center

An excellent site for more information on drought mitigation. <http://enso.unl.edu/ndmc/>

Earthquake Risk: From Awareness to Action A Mile High Challenge

September 15-18, 2002

Brown Palace Hotel
Denver, Colorado

sponsored by the Western States Seismic Policy Council
and hosted by

Colorado Geological Survey
Colorado Office of Emergency Management

Visit <http://wsspc.org/events/ac2002/>

HMEP GRANTS

The CEPC will probably receive Hazardous Material Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation again this year. Grant application packets will be forwarded to LEPCs, interested local governments, and associated agencies during the month of July 2002. The completed application packets should be returned to the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM) by August 15, 2002 in order for the CEPC to review them and make recommendations at their September 2002 meeting. Funds should be available by October 1, 2002.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above or about the CEPC, please contact any CEPC member or the co-chairs, Susan Jones-Hard at (303) 692-3019 or Richard Bardsley at (303) 273-1619.

We'd like to hear from you...

We'd like to hear from you if you have items of interest appropriate for our newsletter. Articles, comments, meeting news, web sites, stories, etc., should be addressed to:

Polly White
15075 S. Golden Road
Golden, CO 80401-3979
303.273-1860
fax: 303.273-1795
e-mail: Polly.White@state.co.us

COEM Web Address:
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/oemindex.htm>

Mark your calendars...



**Governor's Annual
Emergency Management Conference
August 20 - 21, 2002**

**6th Annual Mitigation & Wildfire
Conference
September 27 - 29, 2002**

**"They have computers, and
they may have other
weapons of mass
destruction."**

—Janet Reno

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