

**LARIMER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

CAMERON PEAK FIRE RECOVERY

Community Recovery
Newsletter
February 2021



This guide provides updated information to community members regarding efforts and future actions for the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fire Recovery.



Upcoming Webinars and Town Halls

Please join us for one of two Virtual Town Hall sessions scheduled to update community members about current and future recovery activities for the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fires.

February 17th @ 6pm

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UPcSO1sBRlyLd1yIHw-6gQ

February 27th 10:30am

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VHTRHmHxQ9-F3OOZrWkhGg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the session



CSU EXTENSION WEBINARS:

February 18, 2021, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. - Reseeding following wildfire.

February 25, 2021, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. - Trees & Forest Health

Free to attend, but registration is required. After registering, you will receive a link to join the webinar. Registration link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwuc-iqrDwoGNO1UPpruiOf_BGM_FVre_IK

UNITED POLICYHOLDERS ROAD TO RECOVERY ONLINE WORKSHOPS:

Multiple offerings from United Policyholders. More information can be found here:

<https://www.uphelp.org/blog/2020-colorado-wildfires-insurance-and-recovery-help>

Suppression Repairs

Fire Suppression Repairs are post-fire actions taken to repair dozer lines and hand lines to minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire suppression activities. The repairs will not include utilities repairs, rehabilitation or seeding.

This effort began in the fall with the USFS Incident Management Team.

Larimer County will continue these efforts this spring for private lands and county lands where repair is needed.

Emergency Management already has a list of properties requiring repair and the signed agreements with property owners for the work.

The USFS is also continuing their work on federal lands.



Photo Credit: Cameron Peak Fire Inciweb

Risk Assessments

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessment

The United States Forest Service (USFS) conducted a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessment for the Cameron Peak Fire in two phases this last fall. This report provides details about burn severity and risk for erosion and flooding in future rain events, as well as recommendations for treatments and mitigation to protect people and property. The summary reports for both Phase I and II are now available on Inciweb at the CPF BAER Site at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7210/>.

Larimer County Risk Assessment

Larimer County conducted an additional Risk Assessment to further evaluate county and private lands to ensure we have a solid risk assessment for the fire area and downstream communities. All available data will be used to determine necessary actions for mitigating the threat of erosion, sedimentation, and debris from rain events this spring. This will be done in partnership with other jurisdictions and partners to attempt to do the most work prior to spring runoff and beyond.

Disaster Declaration Request

Think of the different types of declarations as pieces in a pie. For any incident, Larimer County applies for those pieces of the pie that are relevant to the disaster. For the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fires, Larimer County sought funding assistance for:

- 1) FEMA Public Assistance Program—provides funding for public infrastructure such as public roads, bridges, culverts and water infrastructure.
- 2) FEMA Individual Assistance Program—provides direct assistance to residents who have lost primary residences from the fire or are underinsured or uninsured.
- 3) FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program—provides funding for both pre- and post-wildfire mitigation actions to decrease overall risk to the community.
- 4) Small Business Administration Declaration—provides funding to impacted individuals and businesses in the form of low-interest loans.



Disaster Declaration Status

- FEMA approved the Major Disaster Declaration for the Public Assistance Program on January 15th. Larimer County will begin work as soon as the snow melts to decrease threats to life and safety.
- FEMA declined our application for Individual Assistance funding on January 20th. Larimer County plans to appeal this decision but the outcome is uncertain. See Debris Programs for information on how we can still assist private property owners.
- Larimer County qualifies for several different hazard mitigation programs. We are working on the development of projects now and will continue mitigating against fire and flood into the future using all means available.
- A Small Business Administration Declaration has been approved for Private Non-Profit Organizations in Larimer County as of January 15th. The Declaration that would help individuals and businesses with low interest loans is still pending.

Debris Removal & Property Clean-Up

Debris Programs to Assist Community Members include: Streamway Debris Removal, Right of Way Debris Removal, Hazardous Tree Removal and Private Property Debris Removal.

- Streamway Debris Removal—Removing loose vegetative debris from the streams and rivers to decrease the chances of debris causing dams along culverts and bridges.
- Right of Way Debris Removal—Removing debris from county roads and county right of ways. This includes hazardous trees and woody debris that can cause a hazard. The county may also be able to set up staging locations for private debris.
- Hazardous Tree Removal – Post-wildfire, many burned trees become a significant hazard for falling, creating a danger to people on trails or roads. Larimer County Plans to request funding for hazard tree removal on both public and private roadways.



Partnership with Volunteer Organizations:

- Volunteer Agencies will partner with Larimer County to assist with hazard trees on private property. It is our hope that both the public and private efforts will occur simultaneously this spring.
- Volunteer Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations may assist private property owners with property clean-up.
- Volunteer and Non-Profit Organizations may help private property owners with rehabilitation of the land, seeding, and other recovery efforts.

Community Recovery Services

The Long-Term Recovery Group consists of multiple volunteer, faith-based, and community organizations that provide direct assistance to individuals following disaster.

- A community donation center was open in November and December for fire survivors to go “shopping”. There are extra supplies and materials from the donation center that we will be distributing this spring (shovels, rakes, buckets, etc.). Watch for more updates!
- Debris removal is happening in the burn area. There have been complimentary roll off dumpsters throughout the area since late December. They are going to be returned to the hauling companies as winter is upon us and weather is getting in the way of clean up. The dumpsters will be relaunched in early April and will remain in the area for the spring.
- We are working with several agencies to create large community volunteer projects to help with restoration and flood mitigation. Keep watching this newsletter for information or visit <https://www.nocovolunteers.org/> and sign up for fire recovery volunteer announcements.

LARIMER COUNTY FIRE RECOVERY FUND



<https://uwaylc.org/post/Larimer-County-Fire-Recovery-Fund>

Case Managers are working with fire survivors on unmet needs and rebuilding strategies. To connect, call

970-232-1150

Flash Flood Warnings & Other Alerts

To receive National Weather Service Flash Flood Warnings in the Cameron Peak burn area, as well as other warnings and forecasts, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a good alternative when other means of communication won't work.

Broadcasting directly from the NWS office in Boulder 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, weather information is always at hand.

You will need a NOAA Weather Radio receiver to receive these special broadcasts, available online and at many electronics stores. Make sure to get a receiver with Tone Alert and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) features.

Tone Alert will make an audible sound to let you know the National Weather Service has issued a warning. SAME allows you to set your radio to alert only for Larimer County.

To get an idea of reception coverage from the transmitter in Fort Collins, go to:

<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/sites?site=WXM92>



EMERGENCY ALERTS IN LARIMER COUNTY

In a disaster, there are never too many ways to receive a possibly life-saving alert. That's why agencies in Larimer County will use multiple ways to reach you if there is a threat to your life or safety.

The best way to ensure you receive alerts is NOCOAlert!

<https://nocoalert.org/>

Even if you have previously signed up for alerts in the county, it is best to go back into the website and ensure your information is correct. This will also allow you to sign up for specific weather alerts for your area.



For more information:

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www.larimer.org/wildfire-resources

