

Alliance for Response

# National Leadership Institute

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*Laying the Groundwork: Creating Effective Local,  
State, and Federal Connections*



Mitigation and Recovery Section  
Colorado Division of Emergency Management  
Department of Local Affairs  
9195 East Mineral Ave  
Centennial, CO 80112

# Mission Statements

- **Department of Local Affairs**

- *Strengthening Colorado Communities*

- **Division of Emergency Management**

- *DEM leads, manages and coordinates state level actions for all-hazards preparedness, natural hazards mitigation, emergency response and disaster recovery in support of local governments within Colorado.*

# DEM Organizational Structure



# Emergency Management Partners

**Private  
Sector**

**Local  
Governments**

**Private  
Non-Profits**

**Citizens**

**Federal  
Government**

**Tribal  
Governments**

**State  
Government  
Level**

# State-Level Partners

Department of  
Public Health  
and  
Environment

Colorado  
Geological  
Survey

Division of  
Housing

Office of  
Archaeology  
and Historic  
Preservation

Colorado  
Water  
Conservation  
Board

Colorado State  
Forest Service

Department of  
Transportation

Department of  
Agriculture

Governor's  
Office

Department of  
Public Safety

Department of  
Corrections

Department of  
Labor and  
Employment

Governor's  
Office of  
Homeland  
Security

Division of Fire  
Safety

Department of  
Education

Division of  
Local  
Government

Department of  
Higher  
Education

Division of  
Insurance

Avalanche  
Information  
Center

Department of  
Human  
Services

Department of  
Natural  
Resources

Division of  
Local  
Government

Colorado  
National  
Guard

Many  
Others

# Partners with Historic Interests

Department of  
Public Health  
and  
Environment

Colorado  
Geological  
Survey

Division of  
Housing

Office of  
Archaeology  
and Historic  
Preservation

Colorado  
Water  
Conservation  
Board

Colorado State  
Forest Service

Department of  
Transportation

Department of  
Agriculture

Governor's  
Office

Department of  
Public Safety

Department of  
Corrections

Department of  
Labor and  
Employment

Governor's  
Office of  
Homeland  
Security

Division of Fire  
Safety

Department of  
Education

Division of  
Local  
Government

Department of  
Higher  
Education

Division of  
Insurance

Avalanche  
Information  
Center

Department of  
Human  
Services

Department of  
Natural  
Resources

Division of  
Local  
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Colorado  
National  
Guard

Many Others

# DEM Responsibilities

- We coordinate resources, provide technical assistance, and help match funding to needs
- Activities and services cover the four phases of emergency management

*Preparedness*

*Response*

*Recovery*

*Mitigation*

# Preparedness

## ■ Citizen Corps

- Helps coordinate volunteer activities that will make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation
- Existing mechanism for citizens or groups to plug into emergency management minded processes
- Opportunity for a voice and access to government emergency management contacts

## ■ Contact

- State Citizen Corps program manager in emergency management and/or homeland security office



# Preparedness

## ■ ReadyColorado (Ready.gov)

- Public awareness campaign supported by public and private partners concerned with homeland security and all-hazards preparedness
- Transitioning to align with FEMA's "Whole Community"
- Looking to capture a broad segment of interest
- Opportunity to contribute in how the program is transitioned and further developed

## ■ Contact

- Preparedness officer within state emergency management and/or homeland security office

# Preparedness

## ■ Planning

- Emergency Response / Operations Plan
- Continuity Plan
- Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Recovery or Resiliency Plan
- Critical Infrastructure Plan

## ■ Contact

- Lead planner within state emergency management and/or homeland security office

# Preparedness

- **Planning guidance typically advocates (or requires) an inclusive or whole community process with stakeholders at the table**
- **Planning Guidance**
  - Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance
  - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) Coordinators Manual – Section 510
  - Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101

# Response

- **Colorado State Emergency Response Plan**
- **Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resource Annex**
  - Appendix D: Protection of Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources
  - Lead agency coordinates capabilities and resources (in Colorado, this is Dept. of Agriculture)
  - Support Agencies: USDOl, Department of Natural Resources, Colorado conservation boards, State Forest Service, Tribal representatives, Colorado Historical Society, others as subsequently identified

# Response

## ■ ESF 11, continued

- EOC – No permanent seat for cultural or historic interests but will call for Technical Specialists if situation warrants
- Consider making contact to offer credentials as Technical Specialist resource for state response

## ■ Contact

- Lead planner from state emergency management and/or lead agency for ESF 11 or specifically the cultural and historic resources area (in Colorado, this is the Department of Natural Resources)

# Recovery

- **Colorado State Recovery Plan (Draft)**
- **Recovery Support Function (RSF) – Historical and Cultural Resources Protection**
  - Colorado Historical Society and the SHPO are currently listed as lead state agencies
  - Identify programs capable of rehabilitating and protecting cultural and historical structures
  - Intermediate recovery phase (14-180 days out)
  - Pre-disaster identification of historical and cultural significance for some funding programs

# Recovery

## ■ Long-Term Recovery Committee

- Addresses the needs of disaster victims that could not be met by governmental assistance or immediate voluntary agencies
- Opportunity to find additional resources
- State supported local initiative

## ■ Contact

- SHPO or recovery program manager from state emergency management

# Mitigation

- **Colorado Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan**
  - CDEM and the State Hazard Mitigation Team
  - Describes vulnerability in terms of types and numbers of existing buildings and infrastructure within a hazard area
  - Historic and cultural areas may include buildings, structures, objects, sites, national and local historic or significant districts, and historical archival storage facilities



# Mitigation

- **Plan review and comment period**
  - Look out for public notices, where to find plan documents, and how to contribute
  - Plans are often presented to city councils or planning commissions
- **Contact**
  - State Hazard Mitigation Officer
  - Local county/city emergency manager

# Mitigation

- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program**
  - Defer to Steve
- **Example of local jurisdictions reaching out for grant opportunities**
- **Two jurisdictions are currently interested in applying for FEMA mitigation grants to protect historic structures:**
  - Wildfire mitigation project to protect historic structures in parks
  - Flood mitigation project to protect museum building

# Mitigation

## ■ Mount Saint Francis Nursing Home

- Large part of the building can be considered historically significant
- Project retrofitted windows for smoke resistance to provide time to shelter in place
- CDEM suggested working with a designer versed in historic preservation and architecture
- \$130,000 in FEMA funding
- Existing relationship between non-profit and local government on previous wildfire mitigation programs (FireWise)

# Homeland Security

- **National Infrastructure Protection Plan**
  - National Monuments and Icons Plan
  - Many assets in the National Register of Historic Places or the List of National Historic Landmarks
  - Identification is a collaborative effort
  - Assists in appropriate distribution of limited funding for infrastructure protection
- **Contact**
  - State homeland security planner, regional homeland security coordinator, or local emergency manager

# Who is an Emergency Manager?

## ■ Varied Backgrounds

- Law Enforcement
- Healthcare
- Fire Fighters
- Paramedics
- Military
- Community Planner
- Engineers
- Others

## ■ Varies by Jurisdiction

## ■ Varied Education

- Emergency management and homeland security curriculum is relative young

# Job of an Emergency Manager

- Sometimes referred to as “stage manager”
- Preferably a support position
  - Resource manager
  - Messenger
  - IT specialist
  - Facilitator
  - Victim advocate
  - One who Prioritizes
  - Record keeper
  - Planner
  - TV/Radio personality
  - Damage assessor
  - Policy advisor
  - Integrator

# Communication Strategy

- Know your audience – learn about who you are talking to
- Engage with emergency managers or related professionals who care, or be willing to try and change their minds
- When people are in harms way, life preservation is the number one priority
- Understand the priority of historic and cultural preservation in your environment – this helps with strategy and resources

# Communication Strategy

- Be proactive - present information, ideas, alternatives, and opportunities
- Be clear presenting desired outcomes of your involvement
- Volunteer you or your organizations time and/or property
  - Stakeholder committees
  - Exercise venue
- Standing and working committees at state or local levels are key to building and maintaining relationships