WHEREAS, emergency and disaster events pose a significant danger to the life, property, and well-being of the residents of Ouray County, as well as to the economy, environment, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners previously adopted Resolution 2012-033 (superseded by previous resolution) and Resolution 2015-054 (superseded by current resolution) regarding emergency situations that pose an immediate danger to life, property, and well-being of residents of Ouray County, and as contemplated and defined by the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, et seq., including the authority given to the Board of County Commissioners to maintain a disaster agency with jurisdiction over the county and to prepare for emergencies and disasters by C.R.S. § 24-33.5-707; and

WHEREAS, emergency preparedness was addressed in the Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Plan adopted by Resolutions 2012-033 and 2015-054 (superseded) and such plans have successfully guided the County in responding to emergencies since its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has requested that local governments periodically revise their emergency preparedness plans, and to conform the style and content as prescribed by the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, Ouray County has benefitted from additional experience, increased skills, and awareness of additional measures to include in its emergency preparedness plan, which will improve the preparedness of Ouray County to respond to emergency and disaster events, through increased, efficient coordinated effort of all county personnel and departments in a cooperation with our mutual aid partners, state and federal agencies, local businesses, service organizations, and our residents; and

WHEREAS, when a meeting is convened to discuss public business and is a meeting at which any formal action occurs or at which a majority or quorum of the Board is expected to be in attendance, then such meetings are open to the public and public notice shall be given and minutes taken pursuant to the Colorado Open Meetings Law; however, C.R.S. § 30-10-303(2) permits the Board to call an emergency meeting in the public interest provided it has adopted procedures therefor;

AND WHEREAS, the resulting attached and revised 2021 Ouray Emergency Operations Plan is in the best interests of the County, its residents and visitors, including substantial revisions herein, due to the recent increase in incidents requiring an emergency response across the United States including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, terroristic threats, wildfires, and numerous severe weather incidents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY, COLORADO, THAT THIS RESOLUTION, INCLUDING THE AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH HEREOF REGARDING EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES, SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE INSTANT RESOLUTION, AND SHALL THEREAFTER GOVERN THE MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES DURING AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER WITHIN OURAY COUNTY, REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 2015-054, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: General Operations. The Board of County Commissioners (Board) confirms the designation of Ouray County as the agency with responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within Ouray County, which agency shall coordinate and cooperate with municipalities, fire districts, and other mutual aid partners. This plan is based on the concept that emergency functions for various groups involved in Ouray County government will generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources will be employed in both non-emergency and emergency circumstances. In an emergency circumstance, it is desirable, and always attempted, to maintain organizational continuity and to assign familiar tasks to personnel. However, in large scale disasters, it may be necessary to draw on people's basic capacities and use them in areas of greatest need. Day-to-day functions that do not contribute directly to the emergency operation may be suspended.
for the duration of any emergency. Personnel and resources that would normally be required of those functions may be redirected to accomplish the emergency task. In keeping with the current strategy of integrated emergency management, this resolution accounts for activities before, during, and after emergency operations, and each department has emergency functions in addition to, or as a substitution to, its normal duties. Upon declaration of an emergency or disaster, the Board of County Commissioners, other elected officials, the County Administrator, department heads, and other county employees shall assume the roles and responsibilities assigned to them by the attached and revised 2021 Ouray Emergency Operations Plan in support of response and recovery operations, and the Board hereby approves and adopts said 2021 Ouray Emergency Operations Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Section 2: Direction and Control. The Board, consistent with C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, titled Local Disaster Emergencies, identifies the County Administrator as the County's "principal executive officer of a political subdivision" with statutory authority to declare an Ouray County emergency or disaster. That declaration shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the Board. In all events, the County Administrator shall make all reasonable efforts to convene, by any reasonable methods, a quorum of the Board within 24 hours of the initial declaration of emergency or disaster; and shall continue those efforts until a quorum is convened. Any order declaring, continuing, or terminating an Ouray County emergency or disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, shall be in writing, and shall be filed promptly with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder and with the State of Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Each Ouray County department head and their staff shall provide support to and cooperation with the County Administrator. The effects of an emergency or disaster declaration shall include enhanced authority for the County Administrator to redeploy Ouray County personnel or equipment from normal job duties to assist in emergency response, repurpose Ouray County facilities to support the emergency or disaster, suspend or temporarily alter personnel requirements, and request and authorize assistance from all appropriate entities and individuals (e.g. local elected officials, other local governments, State of Colorado, federal government)." In the event that the incident has exceeded (or is expected to exceed) Ouray County's capacity and capability to effectively respond to and manage the incident, it may be necessary to request operational assistance from a state or federal incident management team (IMT). Requests for an IMT should be initiated through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and may include any necessary delegation(s) of authority and/or operational command, in consultation with other jurisdictions with overlapping operational responsibility (e.g. a fire district or municipality).

Section 3: Actions by the Board. In addition to all other lawfully exercised powers and functions of the Board, upon declaration of an emergency or disaster the Board may hold emergency meetings with authority to ensure continuity of government, ensure adequate response and recovery, provide for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Ouray County, execute formal requests and agreements for aid and assistance, allocate emergency funds when costs of an emergency or disaster exceed authorized emergency response budgets, suspend or temporarily alter contracting authority requirements, and such other general oversight and supervision of the emergency or disaster as the Board deems necessary. Such meetings are held pursuant to the authority provided in C.R.S. § 30-10-303, even if notice of any such meeting cannot be provided in advance to the public as required by C.R.S. §§ 24-6-401 and -402. Notice shall be provided in advance as the situation permits, and the County Administrator's staff will undertake all reasonable efforts to notify the general public and media outlets of the emergency meeting, including the use of existing electronic distribution lists. The meeting may be held in person, via telephone, by video conference or other electronic means, or a combination thereof. At the outset of the meeting, the Chair of the Board or the County Administrator shall describe the circumstances constituting the emergency under which the meeting is taking place, and acknowledge that the notice requirement may be affected by the type of meeting involved. For purposes of this notification, "emergency" is defined as "an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action." To the maximum extent permissible depending on public safety and the emergency response(s) required, minutes and/or audio recordings of such meetings shall be maintained, meetings shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law for executive sessions, and any actions taken at such meeting or meetings shall be ratified at the next practicable regular meeting of the Board.

Section 4: Continuity of Operations. Until a quorum of the Board has been convened, pursuant to a declaration of emergency or disaster by the Ouray County Administrator, the County Administrator
shall have the full legal authority of the Board. In addition, the County Administrator shall have the
authority to activate the attached and revised 2021 Ouray Emergency Operations Plan and to request
assistance from each appropriate entity through the activation of their respective plans. After twenty-four
hours has elapsed from the initial declaration of emergency, and if a quorum of the Board cannot convene
within seven days, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on behalf of the Board
shall be the following persons, in order: (1) the Chair of the Board; (2) the Vice Chair of the Board; (3) the
third Commission Member of the Board; (4) the County Administrator; (5) the County Attorney; (6) the
County Social Services Director; and (7) the County Human Resources Director. All authority vested in
the County Administrator by this resolution and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 shall be exercised first by the
County Administrator, but if the County Administrator is unavailable, the emergency, interim line of
succession of authority to act on his or her behalf shall be: (1) the County Attorney; (2) the County Social
Services Director; (3) the County Human Resources Director; and (4) any other County Department Head
designated to act in this capacity by the Ouray County Emergency Manager. Any emergency, interim
successors shall relinquish such authority as directed by any person(s) higher in the emergency, interim
lines of succession identified under this section when such person(s) becomes available.

Section 5: Special Provisions. If any part, term, or provision of this resolution including the
attached and revised 2021 Ouray Emergency Operations Plan is held by the courts to be illegal or in
conflict with any federal law or any law of the State of Colorado, the validity of the remaining portions or
provisions shall not be affected, and the remainder shall be construed and enforced as if did not contain
the particular part, term or provision held to be invalid. In the event of any conflict between this resolution
and the attached and revised 2021 Ouray Emergency Operations Plan, the terms of this resolution shall
take precedence. Ouray County retains governmental immunity to the maximum extent permissible under
the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101, et seq., and other applicable law, and no
term or condition of this resolution and its attachment shall be construed or interpreted as a waiver,
express or implied, of any of the immunities, rights, benefits, protections, or other provisions, contained in
these statutes and other applicable law. This resolution and its attachment shall be governed by the laws
of the State of Colorado, and the venue for any action arising with respect to this resolution and its
attachment shall be the Seventh Judicial District, State of Colorado, except upon mutual agreement of the
parties.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 14TH DAY OF December, 2021.

Voting for: [COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURES]

Voting Against: [NONE]

Attest:

[CLERK'S SIGNATURE]

Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

Ben Tisdal, Chair

Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair

Jake Niece, Commissioner

Resolution 2021-048 · Page 3 of 3
OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

In Ouray County, the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as individual citizens, must work together to protect against, mitigate, respond to, recover from, and, to the extent possible, prevent threats and hazards that pose a risk to Ouray County. The management of emergencies begins well before the emergency strikes.
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ANNEXES:

Municipality Response Plans

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Support Annexes/Policies

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<td>B</td>
<td>Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>West Region Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Disaster Recovery Plan</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Courthouse Emergency Procedures Plan</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Mass Causality Incident Plan</td>
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<td>Public Health Emergency Operations Plan</td>
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<td>Community Wildfire Protection Plan</td>
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### Public Safety Sensitive Annexes

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<td>West All-Hazards Emergency Management Region Tactical Interoperable</td>
<td>Communications Plan</td>
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<td>Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Policy and Procedures</td>
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<td>Full Moon Dam Emergency Action Plan</td>
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<td>Ouray County Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuity of Government/Operation (COG or COO) Plan</td>
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PROMULGATION

The Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) provides an outline of general guidelines on how Ouray County, Colorado manages operations related to the five phases of emergency management: preventing, preparing, mitigation, response, and recover. Ouray County manages events from natural, technological, biological, and man-made disasters and emergencies within Ouray County, Colorado.

The purpose of the EOP is to outline general concepts related to both the day-to-day management of incidents in the County but also major emergencies and disaster incidents that present extraordinary problems and challenges for local government, emergency responders and the citizens of Ouray County; that cannot be adequately addressed within the routine operations of local government. It is impossible to plan for every scenario, disaster, or contingency, therefore this plan omits highly detailed operational procedures which become out of date and change based upon agency policies, procedures and the circumstances of the event.

This plan serves as an emergency management link between local municipalities, the county and the State of Colorado via the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and State Emergency Operations Center. The goal of the County’s Emergency Management program as outlined herein, is to facilitate multi-agency and cross jurisdiction coordination amongst local, state and federal agencies to mitigate emergencies and disasters while ensuring adequate resources and planning exists to support the health, safety and property of the whole community.

All agencies, municipalities, departments and special districts within Ouray County are responsible for developing and maintaining policies, procedures and training plans to support and exercise their duties and functions as they relate to the phases of emergency management. This includes but is not limited to law enforcement, emergency management, fire services, emergency medical services, public health, social services, the school districts, domestic and wastewater treatment districts, local special districts, and the regional hospital. This EOP does not and is not meant to replace county, local or special district policies or standard operating procedures.

Emergencies such as wildfires, floods, pandemics and other natural or man-made disasters are complex events with rapidly evolving issues and not all challenges or responses can be addressed in this plan. Therefore, the EOP is a flexible framework that can be easily adapted from small to large events and catastrophic or long-term events. This plan is intended to provide Ouray County officials and department heads with a foundation for a coordinated management of disaster incidents that impact citizens, their property, the environment, public services and economy and to minimize those impacts and begin recovery as quickly as possible. This plan is part of a larger system of plans at the local, state and federal levels; all of which are rooted in the National Response Framework (NRF) and the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

According to The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-700 et seq.), every county is responsible for maintaining an emergency management agency and shall prepare and distribute to all appropriate officials, a written plan outlining the emergency responsibilities of all local agencies and officials and the disaster chain of command. The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners in 1995 pursuant to County Resolution #1995-086 established the Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Manager for the purposes of disaster and emergency management and civil defense.

On September 30, 2002, the Ouray County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2002-036 adopted the Emergency Operations Plan. On December 8, 2003, the Ouray County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2003-062 revised the Emergency Operations Plan. On November 7, 2012, the Ouray County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2012-033 adopted the Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Plan in place of the Emergency Operation Plan. On December 8, 2015, the Ouray County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2015-054 adopted the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan. On December 24, 2021, the Ouray County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2021-048 adopted this rewrite of the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan.

On February 6, 2006, the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to County Resolution #2006-14 adopted as part of public policy the National Incident Management System (NIMS) concept of emergency planning and unified command as its system of preparing for and responding to disaster incidents. On December 8th, 2015 the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to County Resolution #2021-048 designated Ouray County as the agency with responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within Ouray County.
Modifications to the EOP and its annexes are delegated to the Ouray County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Formal review and adoption of the plan is the responsibility of the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners but the plan may be modified and updated as necessary by OEM, the County Administrator, Sheriff or other emergency response function (ESF) lead to support best response and preparedness efforts of the County and the community. This EOP has been developed pursuant to the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 principles, and other authorities as identified in the Authorities & References section.

This plan is promulgated by the Ouray County Emergency Manager, Ouray County Sheriff, Ouray County Administrator and Ouray County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to authorities and responsibilities listed in Colorado Revised Statutes, including but not limited to the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act and County Resolutions #2006-14, #2015-015, #2015-54, #2021-048.

To: All Ouray County Departments, Department Heads, Appointed Officials and Elected Officials
All Participating Organizations, Agencies and Jurisdictions

In Ouray County, the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as individual citizens, must work together to protect against, mitigate, respond to, recover from, and, to the extent possible, prevent threats and hazards that pose a risk to Ouray County. The management of emergencies begins well before the emergency strikes.

Attached is the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan, which serves as a policy level and guidance document. It has been written and approved for use in responding to major incidents and disasters within Ouray County. All organizations participating in emergency management activities (mitigation, preparedness, response and/or recovery) are to follow the concepts and coordination systems specified in this plan and the accompanying Support Annexes, recognizing that each incident is unique and may require some variations in implementation.

The plan has been written in consultation with the participating organizations. It has been designed to serve and assist with the coordination of the activities of various organizations that may not interact on a daily basis, while recognizing the normal mission of the organization. Nothing in this plan is intended to interfere with the delivery of the organizations’ primary services; although, during a crisis, resources may have to be temporarily redirected for the public good. As necessary, a local disaster declaration will be issued to address those issues.

Upon authorization, this plan may be fully or partially activated to manage natural, technological and human-caused incidents that occur. All Ouray County employees shall support this plan and carry out their responsibilities as required by this document.
APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

Major emergencies and disaster incidents are unique events that present communities and emergency personnel with extraordinary problems and challenges that cannot be adequately addressed within the routine operations of local government. Since disasters differ in important ways, and it is impossible to plan for every contingency, highly detailed operational procedures, that can quickly become out of date are avoided in this plan in favor of a streamlined, all hazards preparedness approach.

Government agencies need to anticipate how they will provide services during a disaster, how to resume services once they have been interrupted, or consider alternative means for providing services during a disaster. This Emergency Operations Plan provides guidance to Ouray County staff, volunteers, departments and agencies, private and non-profit sectors to respond to an emergency.

The National Incident Management System, NIMS, is the adopted method and organizational structure for managing emergency response and recovery operations within the Ouray County. All county employees are requested to achieve certificates in the FEMA recommended training fitting their job title fitting response level in an emergency.

Plan Applicability

The Ouray County, Colorado Emergency Operations Plan is approved and adopted by a Resolution by the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners and provides guidance for the planning mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for emergencies and disasters that occur in or near Ouray County and affect Ouray County residents.

The plan was developed in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 standards, the National Response Framework (NRF), National Incident Management System (NIMS), Presidential Directives, as well as authorities and guidance as they relate to Emergency Management duties and responsibilities in the State of Colorado, County of Ouray and the U.S.

The EOP has recently undergone a significant update from the 2002, 2013 and 2015 EOPs adopted by the county with lessons learned from local disasters, and the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic of 2020. This version replaces and supersedes all previous versions of the County Emergency Operation Plan and is part of a comprehensive Emergency Management program for Ouray County.

The EOP 1) outlines circumstances under which the plan should be implemented, 2) provides guidance on the key elements of plan, and 3) identifies Ouray County’s implementation strategies. The EOP will be implemented during all emergency or disaster events that require County staff to utilize alternative methods of maintaining the daily functions of Ouray County. This may include an internal disaster such as a fire in the building where the executive offices are located or where files critical to County functions are located. It could include an environmental event such as extreme winds or flooding where access to services for the County may be interrupted due to debris or impassable roads. Implementation of this plan may occur due to a large disease outbreak or mass fatality event where components of the County’s daily functions (vital records) may be overwhelmed. Implementation may also become necessary with the loss of essential leaders in the county or during a required evacuation of the population of the county.

The contents of this plan are intended to provide a basis for the coordinated management of the types of emergencies and disaster events that may occur in the county of Ouray. County municipalities are welcome to use and adapt this plan. Other organizations and special districts are encouraged to develop and maintain current standard operating procedures (SOPs) to include checklists necessary for implementing assigned duties and functions.

This plan does not address emergency planning and management of towns, cities or special districts. These political subdivisions are responsible for the development and maintenance of their Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) and Annexes, standard operating procedures and training necessary for implementing assigned duties and functions of their jurisdiction’s EOP. The Plan is designed to work in concert with departmental standard operating guidelines, town, regional, and the State of Colorado EOPs.

Nothing in this plan is intended to interfere with the delivery of an organization/department’s primary services; although, during a crisis resources may have to be temporarily redirected for the public good. As necessary, a local disaster declaration will be issued to address those issues.

While this plan serves as a policy level and guidance document, it is recognized that each incident is unique and may require some variations in implementation.
Upon authorization, this plan may be fully or partially activated to manage natural, technological and human-caused incidents that occur. All Ouray County employees shall support this plan and carry out their responsibilities as required by this document.

Ouray County retains governmental immunity to the maximum extent permissible under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, § 24-10-101, et seq., C.R.S., and other applicable law. No term or condition of this plan shall be construed or interpreted as a waiver, express or implied, of any of the immunities, rights, benefits, protections, or other provisions, contained in these statutes and other applicable law.

In the event that any portion of this plan is found to be unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this plan shall continue in force.

Nothing in this plan shall be construed to create any rights, third-party or otherwise, in members of the public, or private or public entities affected in any manner by alleged acts, errors, or omissions arising under this plan.

Delegation of Authority for Modifications
The Ouray County Emergency Manager is responsible for the direction, development and maintenance of this plan in conjunction with the Sheriff and County Administrator and associated departments/outside agencies and the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Group as required. While Emergency Management has primary responsibility for the maintenance of the EOP, all county departments, agencies and districts in Ouray County are encouraged to collaborate with each other to coordinate planning, training and exercises to help build resilient communities and ensure the whole community is included in planning and response efforts.

This Emergency Operations Plan will be updated at least Bi-annually through the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group), and as needed after any incident, to ensure that it remains an effective, accurate emergency management tool for responders and citizens of Ouray County. Minor changes may be made by Emergency Management and noted in the Record of Changes log at the beginning of the plan. Major policy changes or addition/deletion of sections of the plan will require the plan to be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners and re-adopted by a vote of the Board at a regularly scheduled Commissioner Meeting.

Planning Contact Information
For all information pertaining to this plan, contact:

**Ouray County Emergency Manager**
Ouray County Sheriff’s Office 421 6th Ave;
PO Box C (Mailing)
Ouray Colorado 81427
970.325.7273
gboyd@ouraycountyco.gov
RECORD OF CHANGE

All changes are to be annotated on the master copy of the Emergency Operations Plan, which is maintained by the Emergency Manager. Should the change be significant in nature, an electronic update shall be made and recorded with the applicable stakeholders. If not deemed significant, changes will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan as needed or during scheduled annual updates. This Emergency Operations Plan will be updated at least Bi-annually through the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group), and as needed after any incident, to ensure that it remains an effective, accurate emergency management tool for responders and citizens of Ouray County. Minor changes may be made by Emergency Management and noted in the Record of Changes log at the beginning of the plan. Major policy changes or addition/deletion of sections of the plan will require the plan to be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners and re-adopted by a vote of the Board at a regularly scheduled Commissioner Meeting.

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RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

This EOP is approved and hereby ordered electronically distributed. All agencies, departments and personnel should review and accept their respective responsibilities as outlined in this plan, including organizational planning and training necessary to implement the plan when required. A hard copy will be kept in the Emergency Operations Center (111 mall Road Ridgway Colorado 81432), the County Administrator’s Office (541 4th Street, Ouray Colorado 81427), and the Emergency Manager’s Desk (421 6th Ave, Ouray Colorado 81427).

Upon adoption this EOP will be electronically distributed to county officials and departments, municipal governments and any identified stakeholders for their respective use as well as for planning and training purposes. Additional copies of this plan are available from the Emergency Manager and will be posted under Emergency Management on the County website.
Department Head/Elected Official Agreement and Signatures
The elected officials/department head for each of the county departments should review the EOP completely and then sign below. The signature of the below identified Department Heads signifies they have reviewed the plan and agree to support and implement the plan as required by their department.

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Ourlay County Base Emergency Operations Plan
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 Purpose of the EOP

The purpose of the Ouray County EOP is to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination of emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery efforts amongst Ouray County, local municipalities, special districts, state and federal agencies.

The EOP does this by:

- Identifying the roles, responsibilities and actions of Ouray County Departments, participating agencies, departments and special districts in the county during the response to emergencies and disasters.
- Providing a framework for coordination and integration of Emergency Plans of municipalities and special districts as well as working with State and Federal agencies.
- Establishing a system for coordinating the five phases of Emergency Management: Prevention, Protection, Response, Recovery and Mitigation.

Every day in Ouray County and across Colorado, emergencies are handled by first responders from dispatch, fire, EMS, and law enforcement. These emergencies are common and often do not put strain on the resources of local first responder agencies, generate a need for mutual aid or involve local government authorities or affect large populations. Day to day emergencies are often handled by individual responders or a team of responders who work together to save lives, contain threats to the public, make arrests and/or minimize damage. While the Emergency Operations Plan can be applied to daily events, its purpose is for large scale emergencies and disasters of a natural, man-made, biological or chemical nature that pose a threat to the community as a whole and may exceed the response capabilities of first responders and/or a local government.

No plan can address every situation and condition that may arise during a major emergency/disaster and local first responders and governments will work together and rely on training and experience to develop plans that are best fitted to respond based upon the specific circumstances of the incident at hand.

Colorado is a local control state meaning all incidents start and end locally. Incidents such as wildfires, floods and other man-made or natural disasters, according to legal precedent are “owned” by the local jurisdiction having authority. This means a local jurisdiction having authority is in-charge of the incident and decisions related to the incident until it exceeds their capacity and they request assistance and delegate decision authority through a delegation of authority. This plan outlines how requests for assistance will work from locals to the county and from the county to the state and state to the federal government.

If an emergency or disaster overwhelms the resources and capabilities of a local jurisdiction and mutual aid resources have been exhausted, the county is requested to assist and if it exceeds the ability of the county, then the county may request assistance from the Governor who decides to exercise his/her authority to use the resources of the state. In the event of a major emergency or disaster, federal assistance is requested by the Governor, through the President of the U.S. through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the guidelines established in Federal Law, specifically the Stafford Act.

1.2 Summary of the Base Plan and Annexes

1.2.1 Base Plan

The Ouray County Emergency Operations Base Plan describes the structure and processes comprising a countywide approach to incident management designed to integrate the efforts and resources of local governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations. Municipal governments, special districts, and non-governmental organizations should maintain and update their jurisdictional or response area emergency operations plans on an ongoing basis. Basic roles and responsibilities are outlined in this plan for coordination purposes. This base plan is adopted by the BOCC and does not change without their approval.

1.2.2 Supporting Annexes

The Annexes to the EOP detail the policies, structures, and responsibilities for coordination support with local agencies or other jurisdictions and entities during incidents. Annexes in support of this EOP are both functional based and hazard specific based. As incidents, planned events, and exercises occur, these Annexes are subject to change to improve response capabilities. New Annexes may be added as needed. Board of Commissioner Approval for annexes to be added is preferred but not required.
2 SCOPE

The plan establishes a system for coordinating the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery and mitigation, phases of emergency management in Ouray County. This plan may be fully or partially activated to manage natural, technological and human-caused incidents that occur. It is divided into three sections: the base plan, supporting annexes and supporting documents.

Essential functions are those organizational functions and activities that must be continued under any and all circumstances as prescribed by the Colorado Constitution. However, some functions may be able to be suspended or prioritized on a temporary basis as needed in an emergency situation and/or recovery.

The scope of the EOP is to identify the essential functions of Ouray County and prepare to maintain or recover them during all hazard events. This plan and its annexes address capabilities the County has or can develop to provide services from alternate locations, redundancy for data collection, and personnel that have been trained to provide leadership under disaster circumstances (order of succession). This plan and its annexes addresses key messages that may need to be developed for public, vendor-managed activities (vaccines, office supplies, UPS [uninterruptible power supply]). It also addresses payroll, purchasing and human resource considerations.

Ouray County is responsible for most of the emergency response operations in the unincorporated areas of the county. However, disasters and large-scale emergencies are rarely confined to one jurisdiction. Although only a portion of Ouray County is likely to be impacted by a single disaster or emergency event, a multi-jurisdictional effort will be required to effectively manage most major incidents. Accordingly, emergency plans and exercises should incorporate procedures for integrating the resources of Ouray County, municipal governments, private and volunteer organizations, and state and federal governments.

2.1 Response Functions

Within Ouray County, emergency response function are provided by the following agencies:

- Black Hills Energy
- Bureau of Land Management
- Center for Mental Health
- City of Ouray Fire District
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Colorado Forest Service
- Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado State Patrol
- Horsefly Fire Association
- Loghill Volunteer Fire District
- Mesa County Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Staff
- Montrose Fire District
- Ridgway Fire District
- San Miguel Power Association
- Tri-County Water
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Forest Service

Routine emergencies will be managed by these agencies under Colorado Revised Statue authorities using the Incident Command System. As an emergency escalates the Incident Commander will coordinate with County officials to ensure all public safety functions are being provided. When required by incident complexity, Ouray County will either assign an agency representative to command and/or open a County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will manage issues including, but not limited to:

- Damage Assessment,
- Coordination of outside agencies and volunteers,
- Intergovernmental relations
2.2 Multi-Jurisdictional Incidents
The county will work in cooperation with the following agencies and jurisdictions in multi-jurisdiction incidents and/or through mutual aid response:

- All agencies that have an emergency response role within the counties (as listed above)
- Adjacent and regional counties
- City of Ouray
- Montrose Regional Health
- Regional fire districts
- Regional municipalities
- Town of Ridgway

2.3 Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Management
DHSEM is available 24 hours a day to provide advice and technical assistance to Ouray County, the City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway. In addition, DHSEM may provide state resources or coordinate other supplemental assistance in support of local emergency management actions. A formal declaration of a disaster by the Ouray County may be required as a pre-condition of some forms of state assistance or to expedite state assistance. DHSEM is also the state agency responsible for processing requests for state and federal disaster assistance. It should be noted that response and recovery operations are the responsibility of the Ouray County with the support of the municipalities affected. As a result of an emergency or disaster event and declaration, county, state or federal funding assistance is not guaranteed.

3 SITUATION OVERVIEW
3.1 Planning Environment and Necessities
3.1.2 Planning Necessities
The Ouray County Emergency Operations is based on the following necessities:

- Government at all levels must continue to function under all threats, emergency and disaster conditions. Continuity of Government (COG)/Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans should be developed by all agencies and departments consistent with this plan and in accordance with the State of Colorado Emergency Operation Plans and National level guidance.
- Municipal governments and special districts will perform under their scope of authority and responsibility and will make declarations of emergency and disaster to County Emergency Management. All emergency and disaster declarations received by the County will be forwarded to the State of Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- Ouray County government has no fiscal responsibility to any municipal government or special district after receipt of their emergency or disaster declaration nor should Ouray County expect the state to have fiscal responsibility upon a receipt of an emergency or disaster declaration.
- Municipal governments, special districts, and non-governmental organizations should maintain and update their jurisdictional or response area emergency operations and continuity plans on an ongoing basis and especially during time of an emergency or disaster response. These entities are expected to coordinate their planning, response, and continuity efforts with the County Emergency Management Office to support intergovernmental responsibility.
- It is possible for a major disaster to occur at any time and any place in or near Ouray County. While in some cases, timely dissemination of warnings and increased readiness measures may be possible, many disasters occur with little or no warning;
- Incidents begin at the County or local government level (this includes special districts) and will remain the responsibility of the local government throughout the incident and through the recovery phase. Higher levels of government may agree to share some of the responsibility within an agreed upon scope. Generally, local jurisdictions (up through the county) should not plan on the arrival of significant State resources ordered for 24 to 36 hours after the incident. Federal resources may not arrive until 48-72 hours after the incident.
- An emergency or disaster can occur at any time and any location. It may create a significant degree of human suffering and loss of life, property damage and economic hardship to individuals, government, public services, the environment and the business community.
• Collaborating and sharing information across multiple levels of government, the response community and the private sector is essential for the successful stabilization and common operating picture of any emergency or disaster.
• The public expects government to keep them informed and to provide guidance and assistance in the threat of or an actual emergency or disaster. Furthermore, they can be expected to make sound personal decisions when presented with information in a clear and concise manner.
• The premise of the National Response Framework, the State Emergency Operations Plan and this plan is that all levels of government share responsibility for working together in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from the effects of an emergency or disaster event. Within Ouray County’s organization structure certain County Departments have clearly understood responsibilities during an emergency while other departments have coordination responsibility and authority, however it may be necessary to staff an emergency or disaster with additional outside staff assistance. Depending upon the magnitude and catastrophic nature of the emergency and disaster there is a potential that any and all county offices and departments could be mission tasked to respond and perform certain functions during an emergency or disaster event. The transition to emergency work would be under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners and managed by the County Administrator.
• Hazardous conditions may continue for some time following a major disaster thereby increasing the risk of casualties or fatalities.
• Evacuation plans lend themselves to events that are predictable and have adequate warning time. All other events are impromptu and situation dependent requiring evacuation or shelter-in-place decisions based on the hazard. Effective evacuation plans should be phased or tiered based on at-risk populations, and should include trigger points, pre-designated routes and timelines. They may also include pre-designated safe areas for specific hazards (such as flood), which could be reached on foot when evacuation routes are damaged, impassable or gridlocked with traffic. Many of the County's disasters and emergencies are non-predictable with little to no warning time. When a local evacuation order is given, the City, Town, County and localities shall provide available assets to support that evacuation. Some mitigating factors in a mass evacuation include the physical location of the incident (the geographic layout of Colorado ranges between flatlands to rough mountain terrain); and the timeframe of the incident (during the winter months, eastern plains and mountain highways may be closed, thus preventing near-by community response and support).

3.2 County Profile

3.2.1 Ouray County History

Before the gold rush of the mid-1800s brought settlers to Ouray County, Colorado’s western slope was home to the Ute Indians. The valley of the Uncompahgre River, which runs through the County, was the traditional homeland of the Uncompahgre Band of Utes. Established by the Colorado State Legislature in January 1877, Ouray County was actually named for the Ute chief who opened the San Juan Mountains to white settlers in 1874 with the signing of the Brunot Treaty.

The history of Ouray County is diverse. Colona, in the north, was settled in 1874 and became a supply point and old stage stop. The City of Ouray was born the next year following the discovery of gold in surrounding areas. What began as a mining camp grew into a town, which was incorporated in October 1876, the same year that Colorado became a state. By the turn of the century, all the major mining areas in the County had been developed. Ridgway was officially established as a railroad and ranching center in 1890, with the incorporation of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad Company to connect the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad’s Ouray and Durango branches.

Much of the County’s historic past is still evident today. The entire City of Ouray is registered as a National Historic District, with most of the buildings dating back to the late nineteenth century.
3.2.2 Geography and Climate
Located in the mountains of southwest Colorado, Ouray County is known as the Switzerland of America. The County’s terrain ranges from the San Juan Mountains in the south, through the fertile Uncompahgre River Valley, to rolling foothills and mesa lands in the north. It is a land of steep gorges, towering peaks, tumbling waterfalls, high mesas, and green pastures. It is bordered by Montrose County to the north and northwest, San Miguel County to the west, San Juan County to the south, Hinsdale County to the southeast, and Gunnison County to the northeast. Ouray County encompasses 542 square miles (2 square miles are water), and includes two incorporated municipalities:

- The City of Ouray is located at an elevation of 7,800 feet and has a total area of .8 square miles, all of it land.
- The Town of Ridgway is located at an elevation of 6,900 feet and has a total area of 2.0 square miles, all of it land.

The Uncompahgre River flows northwesterly through the County. The climate in the river basin, which is not limited to Ouray County, is semiarid, but rainfall and temperatures vary widely. Average annual precipitation ranges from 13 inches in the Colona-Ridgway area to as much as 40 inches in the mountains. Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the precipitation is snowfall. The area is subject to cloudbursts. The frost-free period averages approximately 127 days annually, and varies from 112 days at higher elevations to 148 days in the valleys. Vegetation in the area consists of piñon, juniper, sagebrush, oak brush, and ponderosa pine, with dense spruce/fir forests in the Alpine Zone.

3.2.3 Population and Demographics
Ouray County has grown by 11.5% percent since the 2010 U.S. Census. The estimated 2019 county population was 4,952 people. The City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway are the County’s principal population centers. Population estimates for the years 2010 and 2021 for each of the incorporated cities and the unincorporated county are provided in the following table 3.2.3A:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>July 2010</th>
<th>July 2015</th>
<th>July 2019</th>
<th>July 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Ouray</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>1,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ridgway</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>1,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated Ouray County</td>
<td>2,526</td>
<td>2,682</td>
<td>2,879</td>
<td>3,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ouray County</td>
<td>4,456</td>
<td>4,608</td>
<td>4,952</td>
<td>5,212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select Census 2021 demographic and social characteristics for Ouray County are provided in Table 3.2.3B:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Ouray County</th>
<th>City of Ouray</th>
<th>Town of Ridgway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender/Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (%)</td>
<td>50.81</td>
<td>47.39</td>
<td>50.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>49.19</td>
<td>52.61</td>
<td>49.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years (%)</td>
<td>6.77</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>7.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over (%)</td>
<td>23.27</td>
<td>21.16</td>
<td>17.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity (one race)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (%)</td>
<td>97.66</td>
<td>95.89</td>
<td>96.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native (%)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian (%)</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American (%)</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (%)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (%)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>2.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic of Latino (of any race) (%)</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or higher (%)</td>
<td>97.77</td>
<td>97.61</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.4 Government

Any board, commission, or other advisory decision-making body of a political subdivision of the state; or any entity that has been delegated the governmental decision-making function are required to abide by the Colorado Open Meetings Law (COML) (C.R.S. 24-6-401 and C.R.S. 24-6-402, which is part of the Colorado Sunshine Law. The Open Meetings Law requires most discussion of public business or any formal action to done where it is open to the public and must be noticed at least 24 hours ahead of time. There are times during a declared emergency or declared disaster where time is of the essence. The COML has no provision for “emergency” meetings. The Colorado Court of Appeals has held that a town council’s “emergency” meeting without timely notice was permissible under the COML in light of the council’s subsequent notice, consideration, and ratification of the actions taken at the emergency meeting at a later properly noticed public meeting. Lewis v. Town of Nederland, 934 P.2d 848, 851 (Colo. App. 1996). The court observed, however, that an “emergency” is one that is an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.” As such, public bodies should provide some form of notice on their websites whenever possible.

3.2.4.1 Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

The BOCC is the governing body for Ouray County. Each of the three members serves a four-year term. They are elected from each of three districts, but by the County electorate as a whole. County government has powers granted by state statutes. The BOCC meet regularly several times a month on Tuesdays. This is always subject to change with notice. The BOCC can also schedule work sessions with at least 24 hours’ notice.

Pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2021-048: “Upon declaration of an emergency or disaster, the Board may hold emergency meetings as may be required to ensure continuity of government, ensure adequate response and recovery, provide for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Ouray County, execute formal requests and agreements for aid and assistance, and allocate emergency funds when costs of an emergency or disaster exceed authorized emergency response budgets. Such meetings are held pursuant to the authority provided in C.R.S. § 30-10-303, even if notice of any such meeting cannot be provided in advance to the public as required by C.R.S. §§ 24-6-401 and 402. Notice shall be provided in advance as the situation permits, and the County Administrator’s staff will undertake all reasonable efforts to notify the general public and press of the emergency meeting, including the use of existing electronic distribution lists. The meeting may be held in person, via telephone, by video conference or other electronic means, or a combination thereof. At the outset of the meeting, the Chair of the Board or the County Administrator shall describe the circumstances constituting the emergency under which the meeting is taking place, and acknowledge that the notice requirement may be affected by the type of meeting involved. For purposes of this notification, "emergency" is defined as an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.” To the maximum extent permissible depending on public safety and the emergency response(s) required, minutes and/or audio recordings of such meetings shall be maintained, meetings shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law for executive sessions, and any actions taken at such meeting or meetings shall be ratified at the next practicable regular meeting of the Board.”

3.2.4.2 The City of Ouray City Council

The City of Ouray is a home rule municipality and the county seat of Ouray. The City may govern its own affairs within certain limits, but authority to exercise powers is derived from state statutes. It is governed by the City Council, which consists of five elected officials: 4 council members elected at large that serve a 4 year term, and the mayor who is elected at large and serves a 2 year term. Ouray City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month which is always subject to change with notice. The City Council can also schedule work sessions with at least 24 hours’ notice.

3.2.4.3 Ridgway Town Council

The Town of Ridgway is a home rule municipality. The Town Council consists of seven members, including the mayor and the mayor pro tem, who are elected for two-year terms. The Town Council meets the second Wednesday of every month which is always subject to change with notice. The Town Council can also schedule work sessions with at least 24 hours’ notice.

3.2.5 Sectoring Ouray County

Ouray County is divided into 8 Sector's: See following map:
3.1.5.1 Sector 1
Sector 1 contains all areas within Ouray County South of Sector 2 and includes, but not limited to, the following locations:

- US Highway 550 at South of Bear Creek to the County line;
- County Roads: 18, 20 and its extensions, and 31 and its extensions;
- Trails: Gray Copper, Full Moon, Richmond, Hayden, Bear Creek, Bear Creek South Fork;
- All roads in that area that come off of US Highway 550;
- All land within Ouray County South of Bear Creek Trial;
- Half Moon Basin;
- Gulches: Full Moon, Commodore, and McIntyre;
- Red Mountains #1, #2, and #3 within Ouray County
3.2.5.2 Sector 2
Sector 2 Contains areas North of Bear Creek Trail and South of Ouray County Road 23 and includes, but not limited to, the following locations:
- Everything within the City of Ouray City Limits
- Ouray Ice Park
- Panoramic Heights
- Lake Lenore
- Mineral Farms
- Amphitheater Campground
- County Roads: 14 and all its extensions, 16, 17 south of Mary’s Rd, 26 and all its extensions, 361
- Trails: Baldy, Cobbs Gulch, Storm Gulch, Shortcut, Cutler Creek, Okeson, Left Fork Cutler Creek, Dexter Creek, Difficulty Creek, Horse Thief, Cascade Falls, Perimeter, Wetterhorn, Middle Canyon; Dallas, Corbett, Corbett Canyon, Silver Shield, Twin Peaks, Sutton, Neosho, Weehawken, Alpine Mine, Mount Sneffels, Wright Lake, Virginus Mine, Richmond

3.2.5.3 Sector 3
Sector 3 contains the areas West of Highway 550 and East of County Road 7 south of County Road 24 and Colorado Highway 62 and North of sector 2 and includes but not limited to:
- Everything in the Town Limits of Ridgway West of Colorado Highway 550
- Park Estates
- Elk Meadows
- Idlewild
- Ouray County Roads: 3, 3A, 5 and it’s extensions, 7 and its extensions, 17 north of Mary’s road, 23, 24 east of 24A, 24A,
- Colorado Highway 62 from the Town of Ridgway to Ouray County Road 7
- Trails: Wilson Creek, Dallas (East of Ouray County Road 7 through Ouray County Road 5), Moonshine, and Blaine Basin
- Blaine Basin

3.2.5.4 Sector 4
Sector 4 contains areas within Ouray County north of Ouray County Road 24, West of Colorado Highway 550, East of the most western part of County Road 22 and includes, but not limited to:
- Loghill Mesa;
- Vista Terrace
- Ridgway State Park;
- Colona West of Colorado Highway 550;
- Ouray County Roads: 1 and its extensions, 22 and its extensions, Spud Hill, and Ponderosa;

3.2.5.5 Sector 5
Sector 5 contains areas within the North West section of Ouray County, West of Loghill, and North of Sector 6 and includes, but not limited to:
- Dave Wood Road
- Sims Mesa Road
- Government Springs Road
- Cornerstone
- Divide Road
- San Miguel County 90Al3.1.5.6 Sector 6
- Horsefly

3.2.5.6 Sector 6
Sector 6 contains the areas in Ouray County West of Ouray County Road 7, south of Horsefly Peak and includes, but not limited to:
- Ouray County Roads: 9, 9A, 24 west of 24A, 24C, and 24D
- Colorado Highway 62 west of Ouray County Road 7
- Pleasant Valley
• Spruce Mountain
• South Baldy
• San Juan County Road 62X
• Walcott Mountain
• Box Factory Park
• Dallas Trail West of Ouray County Road 7

3.2.5.7 Sector 7
Sector 7 contains the areas within Ouray County South of Owl Creek Pass, East of Highway 550, North of Sector 2, and includes:
• Ponderosa Village
• Valley Heights
• Ouray County Land Use Building
• Ouray County Road: Mall Road, 8B, 8L, 10 and its extensions, 12 and its extensions
• Trails: Stealey Mountain; Stealey Mountain South, Stealey Mountain North, Courthouse, Courthouse Mountain, Owl Creek, Old Owl Creek, Spalding Park;
• Stealey Mountain
• Courthouse Mountain
• Ramshorn Ridge

3.2.5.8 Sector 8
Sector 8 contains the areas within Ouray County’s Northeast Corner of the county, east of Colorado Highway 550, North of Owl Creek Pass and includes, but not limited to
• Ouray County Roads: 2, 2A, 4, 4A, 4B, 8, 8A, and 906;
• Trails: Deer Creek, Lou Creek; Nate Creek, Spruce, and
• Montrose County Road 32
• Owl Creek Pass
• Monument Pass
• Buckhorn Road
• Billy Creek SWA
• Billy Creek State Wildlife Area
3.2.6 Ouray County Special Districts

Ouray County has a variety of special districts, which perform important functions for the citizens of Ouray County. Below is a list of special districts from the Special Districts from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs's website for Ouray County. Current listings of board members (if Available) can be found at: [https://dola.colorado.gov/lgis/](https://dola.colorado.gov/lgis/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Districts/Irrigation Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River Water Conservation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shavano Conservation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-County Water Conservancy District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Protection Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loghill Mesa Fire Protection District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montrose Fire Protection District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray Fire Protection District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgway Fire Protection District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Service/Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray County Emergency Medical Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray County Regional Service Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Districts/Education/Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montrose County RE-1J School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray R-1 School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgway R-2 School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncompahgre Board of Cooperative Educational Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Hill Cemetery District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Park Cemetery District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing/Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone Metropolitan District No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loghill Village Park and Recreation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairway Pines Sanitation District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.7 School Districts

There are 4 school districts that serve Ouray County, Montrose County RE-1J School District, Ouray R-1 School District, Ridgway R-2 School District, and Uncompahgre Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Montrose County RE-1J School District does not have a school in Ouray County however it serves students on the North in of the county. In Ouray County there are 3 Schools:

- Ouray Schools is located 400 7th Ave, Ouray, Colorado 81427. It serves Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2021, enrollment for Ouray School was 187 students. The school provides school bus transportation services to students and is available to provide mass transportation in emergencies. The School has been designated as an emergency evacuation shelter by the American Red Cross.
- Ridgway Elementary School is located at 1115 W. Clinton St., Ridgway, Colorado 81432. It serves Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade. In 2021, enrollment for Ridgway Elementary School was 155 students. The school provides school bus transportation services to students and is available to provide mass transportation in emergencies. The School has been designated as an emergency evacuation shelter by the American Red Cross.
- Ridgway Secondary School is located at 1200 Green Street, Ridgway Colorado, 81432. It serves 6th grade through 12th grade. In 2021, enrollment for Ridgway Secondary School was 180 students. The school provides school bus transportation services to students and is available to provide mass transportation in emergencies. The School has been designated as an emergency evacuation shelter by the American Red Cross.

The following Table 3.2.7 shows enrollment trends of the school districts that Serve Ouray County since 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montrose County RE-1J School District</td>
<td>6,145</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>6260</td>
<td>6154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray R-1 School District</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgway R-2 School District</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.8 Domestic Water and Wastewater Treatment
Domestic drinking water and wastewater treatment for residents living within city limits is provided by each municipality. The City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway exclusively provide wastewater treatment within their jurisdictions with limited service outside of the municipal boundaries. Domestic water taps and distribution is wide-ranging across the county though.

Residents living in unincorporated Ouray County receive domestic water via private water companies, out-of-town domestic water taps serviced by municipalities, by private wells licensed by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources or via cisterns.

3.2.9 Utility Providers
Ouray County is serviced by various public utilities. Power is provided to the majority of the county through San Miguel Power Association. A handful of residents receive power from Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA). There is only one natural gas provider in Ouray County, Black Hills Energy. There are multiple suppliers of propane throughout Montrose and Delta who service residents in Ouray County.

Internet and telephone providers vary across the county with outlying areas of all communities having little to no access to broadband internet except via satellite internet providers. The main providers in the county are CenturyLink, Deeply Digital, and OurayNet. Cell service varies across the county as well and several areas of the county have no cell service such as areas on Dallas Divide, Red Mountain Pass, and many backcountry 4WD roads. Verizon and AT&T have towers in Ouray County, however, depending on the region of the county you are in dictates which service works best.

3.2.10 Healthcare
In 2021, the US Census Bureau estimates that 8.6% of the population of Ouray County under the age of 65 years are uninsured. Ouray County does not have a hospital and the EMS system and residents rely heavily on Montrose Regional Health, which is the regional hospital for the area. The closest level 2 trauma hospital is St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Junction Colorado. When residents take themselves to the hospital, the majority will use Montrose Regional Health, Delta County Memorial Hospital, or St. Mary’s Hospital. The Ouray County Ambulance will transport a patient to Montrose Hospital or if the patient needs a higher level of care, they will utilize an air ambulance to transport the patient to St Mary’s Hospital or to Mercy Hospital in Durango.

Ouray County does not have any long term care facilities. This includes nursing homes, assisted livings, or rehab units. Mountain Medical Center LLC is a medical clinic located at 295 Sherman Street and is supported in part by the Ouray County Regional Service Authority. There are many other doctors that are located in Ouray County, Montrose County, Delta County and Mesa County that serve the residents and visitors of Ouray County.

Ouray County Emergency Medical Services are supported in part by mill levies and Ouray County Funds. Services are available 24/7/365 by calling 911. There are ambulances stationed in Ouray at the Ouray City Hall and there are ambulances stationed in Ridgway at the Ridgway Fire Protection District Station.

The Ouray County Public Health Agency (OCPHA) is located in the City of Ouray at 302 2nd Street, Ouray Colorado, 81427. OCPHA provide collaborative services with our surrounding counties where it best serves our populations, such as restaurants inspection and water quality evaluation. Programs that are made available to our residents are Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning, Pandemic Response, Immunization Programs, Retail Food Inspection Programs, Tobacco Prevention Education Program, Women, and Infant and Children (WIC) Nutritional Services.

3.3 Individuals with Access and Functional Needs
At-risk individuals are people with access and functional needs that may interfere with their ability to access or receive medical care before, during, or after a disaster or emergency.Irrespective of specific diagnosis, status, or label, the term “access and functional needs” is a broad set of common and cross-cutting access and function-based needs.

- Access-based needs require resources that are accessible to all individuals, such as social services, accommodations, information, transportation, medications to maintain health, etc.
- Function-based needs refer to restrictions or limitations an individual may have that requires assistance before, during, and/or after a disaster or public health emergency.

The 2013 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act defines at-risk individuals as children, older adults, pregnant women, and individuals who may need additional response assistance. Examples of these populations may include but are not limited to individuals with disabilities, individuals who live in institutional settings, individuals from diverse cultures, individuals who have limited English proficiency or are non-English
speaking, individuals who are transportation disadvantaged, individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals who have chronic medical disorders, and individuals who have pharmacological dependency.

At-risk individuals may have a number of additional needs that must be considered in planning for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster or emergency. A recommended approach for integrating the access and functional needs of these individuals is the CMIST Framework as follows:

- **Communication** – Individuals who may have limitations that interfere with the receipt of and response to information require information be provided in an appropriate and accessible format. This can include individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, individuals who speak American Sign Language, individuals who have limited or no English proficiency, individuals who are blind or have low vision, and individuals who have cognitive or physiological limitations.

- **Maintaining Health** – Individuals who may require Personal Assistance Services (or personal care assistance) in maintaining their activities of daily living such as eating, dressing, grooming, transferring, and toileting. Independence – Includes individuals who function independently if they have their assistive devices, such as consumable medical supplies (diapers, formula, bandages, ostomy supplies, etc.), durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, etc.), and/or service animals.

- **Services and Support** – Includes support for individuals with behavioral health needs, those who have psychiatric conditions (such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Schizophrenia, severe mental illness), pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants, and children.

- **Transportation** – Includes individuals with transportation needs because of age, disability, temporary injury, poverty, addiction, legal restriction, or those who do not have access to a vehicle. This requires coordination to ensure access to accessible vehicles.

While most individuals with access and functional needs do not have acute medical needs requiring the support of trained medical professionals, many will require assistance to maintain health and minimize preventable medical conditions. These individuals may require more time and assistance during an evacuation. According to the US Census Bureau, 5.7% of the County's population under the age of 65 has some form of disability. 27.9 % of the population over the age of 65 has some form of disability. The numbers from the following Table 3.3 warrants special attention from planners and emergency managers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Persons with disability</th>
<th>Percent of Age Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under the Age 20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 64 years</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 65+</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

#### 3.4.2.2.1 Avalanche (Taken from MHP2019)

**Description**

An avalanche is defined as a mass of snow moving down a slope. An Avalanche occurs when the stress (from gravity) trying to pull the snow downhill exceeds the strength (from bonds between snow grains) of the snow cover. There are four ingredients of an avalanche: a steep slope, a snow cover, a weak layer in the snow cover, and a trigger. About 90% of all avalanches start on slopes of 30-45 degrees and about 98% of all avalanches occur on slopes of 25-50 degrees. Avalanches release most often on slopes above timberline that face away from prevailing winds (leeward slopes collect snow blowing from the windward sides of ridges). Avalanches can run, however, on small slopes well below timberline, such as gullies, road cuts, and small openings in the trees. Very dense trees can anchor the snow to steep slopes and prevent avalanches from starting; however, avalanches can release and travel through a moderately dense forest.

Skiers, snowboarders, and snowmobile operators are most commonly associated with avalanche hazards. However, motorists and others not engaging in recreation are also at risk of being caught in an avalanche. Colorado is a top-ranking state for the avalanche hazard because of its snowfall and mountain recreation.

**Location**

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) provide avalanche forecasting zones that can be used to indicate the locations of avalanche danger throughout Colorado. Much of the southern and eastern portions of the County are located in the Northern San Juan Mountain Zone. These are mountainous areas of the County that experience heavy snowfall. The San Juan Mountains that form the dramatic scenery in southern Ouray County are regarded as one of the most avalanche-prone regions in Colorado and rank high among the world’s other avalanche-prone areas. Southern
Oouray County high country and Colorado State Highway 550 over Red Mountain Pass and the Camp Bird Road (CR 361) are particularly prone to avalanches, and the area is a popular destination for backcountry users. The East Riverside slide on Red Mountain Pass is notoriously dangerous because it impacts Highway 550.

**Extent**
The North American Avalanche Danger Scale is used by the U.S. and Canada to communicate the potential for avalanches to cause harm or injury. Understanding avalanche conditions can help prevent injuries from occurring, however, once an avalanche is triggered it has a sudden onset making then difficult to escape from.

**Previous Occurrences**
Avalanches occur naturally every winter in the County. This discussion focuses on those avalanches that have collided with people or property. A detailed account of avalanche history has been compiled in Avalanche Hazard in Ouray County 1877-1976 by Betsy Armstrong. In that report 62 lives were lost, and 192 people were caught in avalanches between 1877 and 1976. 33 sites of human activity, including mines and towns, have been damaged or destroyed. The sheer number of deadly events illustrates the danger of avalanches in the County.

More recently avalanche fatalities have been due to backcountry recreation and travelers, particularly on Colorado State Highway 550. According to the CAIC, between the 1950-1951 and 2020-2021 seasons, the County experienced 19 fatalities due to avalanches. During this time period, Ouray County ranked fifth in the state in avalanche fatalities. Previous occurrences of avalanche fatalities, injuries, or damages, particularly in more recent years, are limited to unincorporated Ouray County where backcountry users recreate. The incorporated communities typically do not experience avalanches.

**Probability**
Avalanches occur every winter in Ouray County. However, avalanches causing death or damages are less frequent. Based on the CAIC avalanche fatality data, from 1950 to 2021 there have been 16 fatalities in Ouray County, or a 24% annual chance of occurrence. This equates to a probability of “likely.” The probability of occurrence is highest in unincorporated Ouray County, specifically around Highway 550 south of the City of Ouray.

**Future Conditions**
The County’s vulnerability to this hazard has fluctuated with development trends in the County, specifically as it relates to the mining industry. When the mining activity subsided considerably, so did the deaths and damage from avalanches. A renewed interest in mining is occurring in the Camp Bird Road area, and the County has continued to collaborate with the mines for winter road maintenance. There has also been an increase in interest/demand to use the back country recreation area up Ouray County Road 361. Mining companies contract with Helitrax for avalanche control by helicopter. Safety concerns remain for both avalanche and notification of the backcountry users during avalanche mitigation.

Climate change can also have an impact on the frequency of avalanches. According to the 2018 Colorado States Hazard Mitigation Plan, “Avalanche officials in several western states have noticed a pattern associated with increased avalanche risk. Snow occurs early in the winter and is then followed by a long period without snow. This created a thin snowpack that becomes structurally weaker as the winter goes on. New layers of snow may not bond well to the weak base layer, creating prime conditions for avalanches. As Colorado experiences winters with higher average temperatures and lower average precipitation, these conditions that increase avalanche risks become more common.”

With avalanches being prevalent every winter in Ouray County, and winter backcountry recreation remaining popular, it will be imperative for avalanche forecasters to monitor these changes and incorporate them into avalanche predictions and education in the future.

3.4.2.2.2 Dam Failure (Taken from 2020 NHP Update)

**Description**
Dam failure incidents involve unintended releases or surges of impounded water. Dam failure can be caused by rainfall, earthquakes, blockages, animal activity (such as burrowing), landslides, lack of maintenance, improper operation, poor construction, vandalism, and terrorism.
Dam failures can be arranged into four classifications: Overtopping, foundation failure, structural failure, and other unforeseen failures. Overtopping failures result from the uncontrolled flow of water over, around, and adjacent to the dam. Earthen dams are most susceptible to this type of failure. Hydraulic failures account for approximately 28% of all dam failures. Foundation and structural failures are usually tied to seepage through the foundation of the main structure of the dam. Deformation of the foundation or settling of the embankment can also result in dam failure. Structural failures account for approximately 28% of all dam failures, and foundation problems account for another 25%. Earthquakes or sabotage account for 12% of all dam failures, while inadequate design and construction account for the remaining 7% of failures. According to the Association of state Dam Safety Officials, the average age of dams in the U.S. is 51 years. This means many dams are likely reaching their useful life cycle and are in need of maintenance.

Dams are classified through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) based upon hazard potential. This classification is based on the consequences if the dam were to fail, not the potential of failure, or the existing condition of the dam. The dams are rated (1) high, (2) significant, or (3) low hazard. The USACE based the hazard potential designation on such items as acre-feet capacity of the dam, distance from nearest community downstream, population density of the community, and age of the dam.

- **High Hazard Dam Failure**: In case of failure of the dam, the dam would likely cause loss of life.
- **Significant Hazard Dam Failure**: Dam would, in likely cause only minimal property damage, but no loss of life.
- **Low Hazard Dam Failure**: Dam would likely cause only minimal property damage. Hazard potential classification is no guarantee of safety.

**Location**

According to the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Dam Safety, as of September 23, 2021, there are five jurisdictional dams in Ouray County. A jurisdictional dam is a dam creating a reservoir with capacity of more than 100 acre-feet, or creates a reservoir with a surface area in excess of 20 acres at the high-water line, or exceeds 10 feet in height measured vertically from the elevation of the lowest point of the natural surface of the ground where that point occurs along the longitudinal centerline of the dam up to the crest of the emergency spillway of the dam. Three of these dams are low hazard, one significant hazard, and one high hazard. Both the significant and high hazard dams have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). These dams are listed in Table 3.4.2.2.2.

### Table 3.4.2.2.2 Jurisdictional Dams in Ouray County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam Name</th>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Downstream Town</th>
<th>Hazard Class</th>
<th>EAP</th>
<th>EAP Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carroll Brown</td>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>Ridgway</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaffee Gulch Detention #6</td>
<td>Chaffee Gulch</td>
<td>Ridgway</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray</td>
<td>Uncompahgre River</td>
<td>Ouray</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgway</td>
<td>Uncompahgre River</td>
<td>Montrose</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9/20/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone Pond No.4</td>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>Montrose</td>
<td>Significant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1/11/2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, there is one non-jurisdictional dam in the County. A non-jurisdictional dam is a dam creating a reservoir with capacity of 100 acre feet or less and a surface area of 20 acres or less and with a height measured 10 feet or less. This dam is the Chimney Peak Ranch Dam (Forgotten Reservoir) on Nate Creek and has a low hazard class.

Lastly, there are 93 livestock water tank and erosion control dams in the County. These structures include all reservoirs built after April 17, 1941, on watercourses which the state engineer has determined to be “normally dry” and having a capacity of not more than ten acre-feet and a vertical height not exceeding fifteen feet from the bottom of the channel to the bottom of the spillway.

Additionally there are two dams that were identified that are not included in the Colorado Dam Safety database: the Full Moon Dam, located South of the City of Ouray on Crystal Lake and a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulated dam also south of the City of Ouray.

**Extent**

In addition to the ratings of high, significant, and low hazards, extent can be measured by factors such as speed of onset and warning time. The speed of onset depends on the type of failure. If a dam is inspected regularly then small leaks
allow for adequate warning time. Once a dam is breached, however, failure and resulting flooding occurs rapidly. Dams can fail at any time of the year, but the results are most catastrophic when the dams fill or overtop during winter or spring rain/snowmelt events.

**Previous Occurrences**

There is no history of previous dam failures in Ouray County. However, there have been over 130 known dam failures in Colorado since 1890.

**Probability**

Based on no previous occurrences, the probability of a dam failure in the County is unlikely. However, as dams age and as development occurs, it is still important to consider the impact of a failure event. Although low probability of occurrence, a dam failure could cause devastating impacts.

**Future Conditions**

Although dam failures are a relatively low frequency hazard, future development could still be threatened if structures are built in inundation zones. Flooding due to a dam failure event is likely to exceed the special flood hazard areas regulated through local floodplain ordinances. Jurisdictions should consider the dam failure hazard when permitting development downstream of the high and significant hazard dams. One important fact to note is that low hazard dams could become significant or high hazard if development occurs below them.

Regular monitoring of dams, exercising and updating of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), and rapid response to problems when detected at dams are ways to mitigate the potential impacts of these rare, but potentially catastrophic, events.

Dams and other hydrologic containment structures are designed based on calculations of a river’s flow behavior, and any changes in weather patterns can have significant effects on the hydrologic information used for the design of the dam. Although there is no consensus that annual mean precipitation will increase in Colorado due to climate change, it is possible that precipitation may increasingly come in the form of extreme storms. Extreme precipitation events may result in large floods that could stress dams, and thus potentially increase the risk of failure of these structures. In the last 100 years, overtopping due to inadequate or improperly designed spillways is the leading cause of dam failure and resulting in loss of life. The 2018 Colorado-New Mexico regional Extreme Precipitation Study utilized an updated methodology to more accurately predict extreme precipitation events for dam safety. This study also utilized the latest climate predictions and science for the region to incorporate into the model. These methods and results can be utilized to more accurately predict dam failures due to extreme precipitation events in the face of a changing climate.

Additionally, the structural integrity of earthfill dams may be compromised by climate change impacts such as drought and severe storms. Changes in vegetation and prolonged drying due to drought, embankment erosion due to severe storms, and more extreme fluctuations in water levels due to severe storms and increased frequency of drought all make earthfill dams vulnerable to climate change. The structural integrity of non-erodible dams, such as concrete, are less vulnerable to climate change, but extreme temperatures may lead to cracking or joint movement.

3.4.2.3 Debris Flow (Taken from MHP2019)

**Description**

Debris flows are among the most destructive geologic processes that occur in mountainous areas. A debris flow is a mass of water and earth materials that flows down a stream, ravine, canyon, arroyo, or gulch. Technically, if more than half of the solids in the mass are larger than sand grains (e.g. rocks, stones, boulders) the event is called a debris flow, otherwise it is called a mudslide or landslide. For the purposes of this plan, the term debris flow is meant to be a global term to include mudslide/mudflows. Many of Colorado’s older mountain communities built in major mountain valleys are located on or near debris fans. A debris fan is a conical landform produced by successive mud and debris low deposits, and the likely spot for a future event. Three of the five conditions necessary for debris flows to occur: (1) steep slopes, (2) loose rock and soil material, and (3) clay minerals, are adequately met by the geography and geology in the Ouray area. The last two conditions for debris-flow occurrence: (4) sufficient antecedent soil moisture, and (5) rainfall of
sufficient intensity and duration to initiate slope movement, are provided by snowmelt and intense summer thunderstorms.

The debris flow problem can be exacerbated by wildfires that remove vegetation that serves to stabilize soil from erosion. Heavy rains on the denuded landscape can lead to rapid development of destructive mudflows.

**Location**

Due to the geology and steep topography in Ouray County, debris flows occur in the southern portion of the County, particularly in and around the City of Ouray and the Highway 550 corridor, following heavy rains. The City of Ouray and surrounding areas have been developed near debris fans since it was founded in 1875. According to the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS) Special publication 30: Debris-Flow Hazard in the Immediate Vicinity of Ouray, Colorado (1986 Candace Jochim author), there are eight creeks and several smaller basins and gullies that directly affect the City of Ouray, including Portland, Cascade, Skyrocket, Canyon, Owl, Bridalveil, Corbett, and Dexter. The main part of the City is located in the debris fans of Portland, Cascade, and Oak Creeks (the corporate limits include Skyrocket and Bridalveil Creeks).

Debris flow hazard areas have been studied and mapped in CGS Special Publication 30. The maps detail very high, high, and moderate to low hazard zones. The majority of Bridalveil Creek Fan and Skyrocket Creek Fan are designated “very high hazard.” The Cascade Creek and Portland Creek fans, upon which most of the City of Ouray is built, are designated as “high hazards.” No GIS data was available for this Plan update.

Additionally, the Corbett Creek fan and the Dexter Creek fan are debris flow-susceptible areas in the unincorporated County. Ouray County road 5 and 7 southwest of Ridgway require regular repairs and inspection due to damage from debris flows. Ouray County Road 17 near Corbett Creek has also been impacted several times in the past. Mudslides have also overrun and closed Colorado Highways 62, 145, and 550 several times a year.

**Extent**

Debris flows can occur rapidly with little warning during the torrential rains. Debris and mudflows generally occur with floods and downpours associated with the late summer monsoon seasons. The CGS report identifies debris flow hazard areas based on the following scale:

- **Very High Hazard Zone:** This is the zone of greatest hazard. It is estimated that in this area the greatest impact form, and most frequent exposure to, debris flows and floods occurs. The zone is characterized by steep slopes, deposits of large boulders (Greater than two feet in diameter), tree scars and burial, channels, levees, and lobes. Damage in this zone could include structural damage, such as buildings being moved off their foundations, walls and windows being broken, large accumulations of debris being piled in and around buildings, trees being toppled or severely damaged, and severe mud and water damage. Plugs of debris should be expected in this zone, and loss of life is possible.

- **High Hazard Zone:** This is the zone of high hazard. This zone is subject to debris flows and floods, but does not experience the maximum impact of the events. However, events may be just as frequent as in the Very High Hazard Zone. The zone is generally characterized by moderate to steep slopes, boulders, levees, lobes, tree scars and burial, and channels. Damage in this zone could include moderate damage to structures resulting from the pounding of boulders and logs, broken windows, basements filled with mud and debris, piles of debris in and around structures and in yards in streets, and severe mud and water damage.

- **Moderate to Low Hazard Zone:** This hazard Zone is usually subjected primarily to mud and water flooding as a result of debris-flow events. This zone is characterized by low to moderate slopes, and deposits of abundant mud, and minor debris (small boulders, on foot or less and logs). Damage is usually comparatively minor, consisting of mud and water damage to outer walls of buildings, basements, and yards.
Previous Occurrences
The City of Ouray and Ouray County have histories of damaging mud and debris flows. Notable events occurred in 1878, 1909, 1927, 1929, 1951, 1965, 1971, 1973, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2018, and 2021 with many years having more than one event. The 1929+ events were considered the most widespread and devastating. Note that this hazard is closely related to the flood hazard. All of these events included heavy sediment and debris-laden flood water between the plus or pulses of mud and debris. In Jochim’s analysis of past events, the damage has been more debris than water related. The CGS report indicated that the 1981 and 1982 reports had damage and cleanup costs of $196,000 and $360,000, respectively. Those storms were considered to be 10 to 25 year storms, so the damage from a 100-year storm event would be much higher.

There is a long history of efforts to mitigate the hazard in the City of Ouray that began with the construction in 1909 of flumes to route debris and water from Portland and Cascade creeks through the City. Over time the impacts of repeated debris flows have degraded the flumes, and often the flumes would plug and divert debris into nearby property. The most recent improvements to the flumes were made in 2005.

The CGS’ Critical Landslides in Colorado, A Year 2002 Review and Priority List was done as part of an update of the 1988 Colorado Landslide Mitigation Plan. The update is a status report on 49 locations believed to pose the most serious landslide risk in Colorado that were identified in the 1988 plan. The hazard areas (Landslide/Rockfall or debris flow) are categorized into three tiers. Tier one listing are serious cases needing immediate or ongoing action or attention because of the severity of potential impacts. The report lists the Ouray Town site and vicinity debris flows in Ouray County as a Tier one debris flow area.

The report’s Year 2002 Evaluation and Recommendations includes: “Our recommendations in the year 2002 are that further building of homes on the Skyrocket fan be held in abeyance until adequacy of the diversion structures has been tested by major debris event or until an independent review of the mitigation scheme confirms it to be adequate. For other parts of Ouray and vicinity, the report and maps of Jochim (1986), should be consulted for guidance in land-use decisions.”

Probability
Debris flows in Ouray County have a 100% chance of occurrence in any year, equating to a “highly likely” probability. Based on the Jochim report, damaging storms occur at intervals of approximately 10 to 25 years.

Future Conditions
Debris Flow are a primary concern for the City of Ouray and unincorporated County near the City. The City of Ouray is projected to experience population growth through 2050, but at a slow rate. Hazard maps and land use codes have been designed to discourage development of hazard-prone areas. The City of Ouray has developed on high hazard debris fan areas of Skyrocket and Bridalveil creeks. Development has also occurred on Corbett Creek and Cutler Creek debris fans in unincorporated Ouray County.

Although there is no consensus that annual mean precipitation will increase in Colorado due to climate change, it is possible that precipitation may increasingly come in the form of extreme storms. These high-intensity rainfall events could lead to increased flash flood conditions, which exacerbates the potential for debris flows. Additionally, climate change is contributing to an increased frequency of high-intensity wildfires across the western U.S. These high-intensity wildfires can decimate vegetation, which increases the risk for debris flows during a rain event.

3.4.2.2.4 Drought (Taken from the MHP2019)

Description
Drought is a condition of climatic dryness that is severe enough to reduce soil moisture and water below the minimum necessary for sustaining plant, animal, and human life systems. Influencing factors include temperature patterns, precipitation patterns, agricultural and domestic water supply needs, and growth. Lack of annual precipitation and poor water conservation practices can result in drought conditions.

Drought is a complex issue involving many factors, it occurs when a normal amount of moisture is not available to satisfy an area’s usual water-consuming activities. Drought can often be defined regionally based on its effects:

- **Meteorological drought** is usually defined by a period of below average water supply.
- **Agricultural drought** occurs when there is an inadequate water supply to meet the needs of the State’s crops and other agricultural operations such as livestock.
- **Hydrological drought** is defined as deficiencies in surface and subsurface water supplies. It is generally measured as streamflow, snowpack, and as lake, reservoir, and groundwater levels.
**Socioeconomic drought** occurs when a drought impacts health, well-being, and quality of life or when a drought starts to have an adverse economic impact on a region.

Due to Colorado’s semiarid conditions, drought is natural but unpredictable occurrence in the State. However, because of natural variations in climate and precipitation sources, it is rare for all of Colorado to be deficient in moisture at the same time. Single season droughts over some portion of the State are common. The onset of drought in western Colorado mountains counties is usually signaled by a lick of significant winter snowfall. Ouray County receives the majority of its precipitation as snow in the higher elevations between November and April. Hot and dry conditions that persist into spring, summer, and fall can aggravate drought conditions, making the effects of drought more pronounced as water demands increase during the growing season and summer months.

**Location**
The entire county is at risk to drought conditions including the populated areas of local water supplies for the City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway (domestic needs) and widespread areas of the County (agricultural, environmental, and recreational needs).

**Extent**
Drought is a gradual phenomenon. Although droughts are sometimes characterized as emergencies, they differ from typical emergency events. Most natural disasters, such as floods or wildfires, occur relatively rapidly and afford little time for preparing for disaster response. Droughts occur slowly, over a multi-year period, and can take years before the consequences are realized. It is often no obvious or easy to quantify when a drought begins and ends. Droughts can be a short-term event over several months or a long-term event that lasts for years or even decades.

**Previous Occurrences**
Previous occurrences of drought can be measured in several ways. For the MHP2019, previous occurrences were determined by reviewing precipitation averages over time to identify periods with precipitation amounts below the long-term average, and reviewing U.D. Drought Monitor records/current conditions. Drought conditions based on precipitation deficits are described in Table 3.4.2.2.4, indicating the top five years of precipitation deficit departure from the long-term average of 22.37 inches. It is evident significant precipitation deficits have occurred throughout history in Ouray County. However, recently, 2019 was the third driest year since 1895.

**Table 3.4.2.2.4 Precipitation Deficits 1895-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precipitation Average</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Precipitation</th>
<th>Deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.37 in</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>13.24 in</td>
<td>9.13 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.37 in</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>13.78 in</td>
<td>8.59 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.37 in</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>15.01 in</td>
<td>7.36 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.37 in</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>15.04 in</td>
<td>7.33 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.37 in</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>15.26 in</td>
<td>7.11 in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drought conditions based on U.S. Drought Monitor records. Based on this data, the most severe drought conditions during this timeframe occurred from approximately 2002 to 2004, and again from 2018 to 2019. For parts of 2018, 100% of the County was experiencing exceptional drought conditions. Additionally, the years of 2012 to 2014, the County experienced severe to extreme drought.

The winter of 2018 brought extremely low snowpack totals to southwest Colorado, leaving April 1, 2018 snowpack between 50% and 69% of normal for Ouray County. The snowpack above Ridgway Reservoir was on at 46% of average and streamflows into the reservoir were approximately 40% of average. At the time Governor Hickenlooper activated the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response plan for the agricultural sector in 34 of the State’s 64 counties, including Ouray. The County was fortunate in that reservoir storage levels were adequate to offset the historically low snowfall levels. Additionally, southwest Colorado received much higher snowfall during the 2018-2019 winter season. As of April 2019, the Gunnison River Basin (to include Ouray County) was at 148% of normal for now-water equivalent measurements. These circumstances helped ease the impact of the 2018 drought. However, the dry conditions led to wildfire concerns for the summer, which was one of the worst wildfire seasons on record for the State.

**Probability**
According to the 2018 Colorado State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the probability of a drought occurring in any given year is 32.4%, equating to a likely probability. Based on the limited time-series data for Ouray County specifically, this is the most accurate probability estimate for Ouray County.
Future Conditions

Population growth can place a great demand on limited water resources. Both the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway have experienced growth in the last decade and are projected to continue to grow. The municipalities have continued efforts to focus growth within municipal boundaries where utility infrastructure already exists, which helps reduce the need for new water sources. New development in unincorporated County, which has also experienced growth, could also put additional strain on water resources. The 2018 Colorado Drought Plan states, “growths in the Gunnison headwaters region will require additional water management strategies. The area between Ouray and Montrose is rapidly growing, and a rapid influx of retirees and growth in the Uncompahgre Valley may dramatically change the agricultural uses and other land uses in the area.”

Increased temperatures are projected to increase the frequency of drought events in Colorado. Increased droughts could impact Ouray County in many ways, including increasing the wildfire risk; decreased snowpack, particularly at elevations below 8,200 feet; and early peak runoff.

Changes in hydrologic characteristics, such as snowpack amounts and timing of runoff, can impact water systems that rely on predictable snowmelt and runoff. Additionally, the Colorado Water Conservation Board states that decreased snowpack and changes in peak runoff could increase the vulnerability of water resource systems during intense or persistent drought. While such vulnerability may be somewhat buffered in large water systems by robustness and resilience in the design, smaller systems may be extremely vulnerable under climate scenarios not considered in their original design.

3.4.2.2.5 Earthquake (Taken from the MHP2019)

Description

An earthquake is caused by a sudden slip on a fault, which is a plane of weakness in the earth’s crust. Stresses in the earth’s outer layer push the sides of the fault together. Stress builds up and the rocks slip suddenly, releasing energy in waves that travel through the earth’s crust and cause the shaking that is felt during an earthquake. The amount of energy released during an earthquake is usually expressed as a Richter magnitude and is measured directly from the earthquake as recorded on seismographs. Another measure of earthquake severity is intensity. Intensity is an expression of the amount of shaking, typically the greatest cause of losses to structures during earthquakes, at any given location on the surface as felt by humans and defined in the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.

Liquefaction is the phenomenon that occurs when the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking or other rapid loading. Essentially, the soil acts like a fluid, similar to wet sand near the beach, resulting in ground failure. Liquefaction causes two types of ground failure: lateral spread and loss of bearing strength. Lateral spreads develop on gentle slopes and entails the sidelong movement of large masses of soil as an underlying layer liquefies. Loss of bearing strength results when the soil supporting structures liquefies and causes structures to collapse.

Location

All of Ouray County, including the incorporated areas, could be impacted by earthquakes. The City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway, due to the nature of historic buildings stock as well as being population centers, could endure the greatest losses if a significant earthquake were to occur.

Earthquakes are caused by the movement of faults, so understanding the history of Colorado’s Faults can help determine potential future earthquake locations. Ouray County could also be impacted by faults outside of the County boundaries. There are several faults near Ouray County.

Faults have been classified based on the time frame of their last suspected movement (In order of activity occurrence, most recent is listed first):

- H—Holocene (within past 15,000 years)
- LQ—Late Quaternary (15,000 - 130,000 years)
• MLQ—Middle Quaternary (130,000 – 750,000 years)
• Q—Quaternary (approximately past 2 million years)
• LC—Late Cenozoic (approximately past 23.7 million years)

Faults that are considered by the Colorado Geologic Survey (GCS) to be sources of damaging earthquakes that could affect the County are the Busted Boiler (LQ), Cannibal (LQ), Cimarron (LQ, Q), Roubideau Creek (H). The Busted Boiler is suspected of movement with the Late Quaternary and the Roubideau Creek fault moved in the Holocene. Other faults within the County: Cow Creek (LC), Loghill Mesa Graben Faults (LQ), Montrose Faults SW (Q), Ridgway (Q), Ridgway Quarry Faults (LC) Faults in neighboring San Miguel County that are suspected to have had movement with the Quaternary age are the Big Gypsum Valley Graben Faults, the Dolores Fault Zone, and the San Miguel Canyon Faults (Source: State of Colorado Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan 2004 Earthquake Evaluation Report).

According to the CGS, the potentially active faults with the vicinity of Ouray County are capable of producing a magnitude of 6.25 earthquake.

Extent
Earthquake magnitude is measured using the Richter Scale, an open-ended logarithmic scale that describes the energy release of an earthquake through a measure of shock wave amplitude (Table 3.4.2.2.5.A). Each unit increase in magnitude on the Richter Scale corresponds to a 10-fold increase in wave amplitude, or a 32-fold increase in energy. Intensity is most commonly measured using the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale based on direct and indirect measurements of seismic effects. The scale levels are typically described using roman numerals ranging from “I” corresponding to imperceptible (instrumental) events to “XII” for catastrophes (total destruction). A detailed description of the MMI Scale of earthquake intensity and its correspondence to the Richter Scale is given in Table 3.4.2.2.5.B.

**Table 3.4.2.2.5.A Richter Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richter Magnitudes</th>
<th>Earthquake Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3.5</td>
<td>Generally not felt, but recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 – 5.4</td>
<td>Often felt, but rarely causes damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 – 6.0</td>
<td>A most slight damage to well-designed buildings. Can cause Major damage to poorly constructed buildings over small regions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 - 6.9</td>
<td>Can be destructive in areas up to about 100 kilometers across where people live.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0 – 7.9</td>
<td>Major earthquake. Can cause serious damage over larger areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 or &gt;</td>
<td>Great earthquake. Can Cause serious damage in areas several hundred kilometers across.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.4.2.2.5.B Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale for Earthquakes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Description of Effects</th>
<th>Corresponding Richter Scale Magnitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>Detected only on seismographs</td>
<td>&lt; 4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Feeble</td>
<td>Some people feel it</td>
<td>&lt; 4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Slight</td>
<td>Felt by people resting; like a truck rumbling by</td>
<td>&lt; 4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Felt by people walking</td>
<td>&lt; 4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Slightly Strong</td>
<td>Sleepers awake; church bells ring</td>
<td>&lt; 4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Trees Sway; suspended objects swing, objects fall off shelves</td>
<td>&lt; 5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Very Strong</td>
<td>Mild alarm; walls crack; plaster falls</td>
<td>&lt; 6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Destructive</td>
<td>Moving cars uncontrollable; masonry fractures, poorly constructed buildings damaged</td>
<td>&lt; 6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>Ruinous</td>
<td>Some houses collapse; ground cracks; pipes break open</td>
<td>&lt; 6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Disastrous</td>
<td>Ground cracks profusely; many buildings destroyed; liquefaction and landslides widespread</td>
<td>&lt; 7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI</td>
<td>Very Disastrous</td>
<td>Most buildings and bridges collapse; roads, railways, pipes and cables destroyed; general triggering of other hazards</td>
<td>&lt; 8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII</td>
<td>Catastrophic</td>
<td>Total destruction; trees fall; ground rises and falls in waves</td>
<td>&gt; 8.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Previous Occurrences
Overall, Ouray County has experienced 12 previous earthquakes since 1897 that originated in the County. Additionally, earthquakes in nearby counties can impact Ouray County. On March 4, 2019, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake occurred near the Colorado-Utah border approximately seven miles southeast of the town of Paradox. The earthquake was felt across southwest Colorado and Southeast Utah, however, no damages were reported.

The Strongest earthquakes experienced in the County were Intensity VI earthquakes, in 1913 and 1960. Impacts included: cracked plaster, chimneys, and windows; fallen pictures from walls; broken dishes; and damages to the Ridgway School ceiling. Additionally, in Montrose, a foundation cracked in three places.

Probability
Based on 12 previous occurrences of earthquakes in Ouray County from 1897 to 2019, there is approximately a 10% annual chance of occurrence, or a likely probability.

Future Conditions
Any new construction built to code in the County should generally be able to withstand earthquakes, but the potential for nonstructural damage will increase with new development. The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway and unincorporated County have experienced population growth in the last decade, and are projected to grow through 2050. Continued growth of population in the County exposes more people and structures to earthquakes and their related hazards.

3.4.2.2.6 Extreme Temperatures (Taken from the MHP2019)

Description
Extreme temperature events, both hot and cold, can have severe impact on human health and mortality, natural ecosystems, agriculture, and the economy. Temperature extremes cause more deaths every year than any other disaster, including hurricanes.

Extreme Cold
Extreme cold often accompanies a winter storm or is left in its wake. It is most likely to occur in the winter months of December, January, and February. On average, January is the coldest month. The average last freeze/frost day in Ouray County is May 29. However, there has been at least one recorded snowfall in every month of the year.

What constitutes extremely cold temperatures varies across different areas of the U.S. based on normal climate temperatures for the time of the year. In Colorado, cold temperatures are normal during the winter. When temperatures drop at least 20 degrees below normal winter lows, the cold is considered extreme and begins to impact the daily operations of the County. Extreme cold/wind chill impacts inanimate objects, plants, animals, and winter supplies.

The effects of extremely cold temperature are amplified by strong to high winds that can accompany winter storms. Wind-chill measures how wind and cold feel on exposed skin and is not a direct measurement of temperature. As wind increases, heat is carried away from the body faster, driving down the body temperature, which in turn causes the constriction of blood vessels, and increases the likelihood of severe injury or death to exposed persons. Animals are also affected by wind-chill, however cars, buildings, and other objects are not. In 2001, the National Weather Service (NWS) implemented an updated Wind Chill Temperature Index. This index was developed to describe the relative discomfort/danger resulting from the combination of wind and temperature. Wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by wind and cold.

Extreme Heat
According to information provided by FEMA, extreme heat is defined as temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for the County and last for several weeks. Extreme heat is most likely to occur in the summer months of June, July, and August. On average, July is the warmest month.
Heat kills by taxing the human body beyond its abilities. In a normal year, about 175 Americans succumb to the demands of summer heat. According to the NWS, among natural hazards, on the cold winter—not lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, flood, or earthquakes—takes a greater toll. In the 40-year period from 1936 through 1975, nearly 20,000 people were killed in the U.S. by the effects of heat and solar radiation. In the heat was of 1980, more than 1,250 people died.

Heat disorders generally have to do with a reaction or collapse of the body’s ability to shed by circulatory changes and sweating or chemical (salt) imbalance caused by too much sweating. When heat gain exceeds the level the body can remove, or when the body cannot compensate for fluids and salt lost through perspiration, the temperature of the body’s inner core begins to rise and heat-related illness my develop. Elderly persons, small children, people with chronic illnesses, those on certain medications or drugs, and persons with weight and alcohol problems are particularly susceptible to heat reactions, especially during heat waves in areas where moderate climate usually prevails.

Extreme heat can impact livestock and pets, causing heat stress and possibly death. It can exacerbate droughts, which in turn depletes water supplies for livestock and crops. Droughts and extreme heat also increase wildfire risk. The combination of hot, dry weather and dry thunderstorms ignite wildfires that can quickly become devastating and overwhelm local firefighting capabilities.

**Location**

Extreme cold temperatures can impact the entire County. The Ridgway area is a known “cold sink,” and can frequently experience extremely cold temperatures. Extreme heat can impact lower elevations of the County and the municipalities, but generally the relatively high elevations of Ouray County is not prone to extreme heat. The extreme minimum temperature has reached well below 0°F and the extreme maximum above 90°F for both Ouray and Ridgway.

**Extent**

Extreme cold events are typically predictable in advance of the event, and can have a duration of days. The NWS issues wind chill warning, watches, and advisories, as described below.

- **Wind Chill Warning:** Take Action! NWS issues a wind chill warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with a wind chill warning, avoid going outside during the coldest parts of the day. If you do go outside, dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and make sure at least one other person knows your whereabouts. Update them when you arrive safely at your destination.

- **Wind Chill Watch:** Be Prepared: NWS issues a wind chill watch when dangerously cold wind chill values are possible. As with a warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Make sure your car has at least a half tank of gas, and update your winter survival kit.

- **Wind Chill Advisory:** Be Aware: NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values but not extremely cold values are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors.

The NWS will issue a Wind Chill Advisory for Ouray County (Valley locations) when wind and temperature combine to produce wind chill values of -18 to -24°F.

The Heat Index (HI) is used when evaluating extreme heat. The HI describes how hot the heat-humidity combination makes it feel. As relative humidity increases, the air seems warmer than it actually is because the body is less able to cool itself via evaporation of perspiration. As the HI rises, so for health risks.

- When the HI is 90°F, heat exhaustion is possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
- When HI is 90°F-105°F, heat exhaustion is probable with the possibility of sunstroke or heat cramps with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
- When HI is 105°F-129°F, sunstroke, heat cramps or heat exhaustion is likely, and heatstroke is possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
- When HI is 130°F and higher, heatstroke and sunstroke are extremely likely with continued exposure. Physical activity and prolonged exposure to the heat increases the risks.

Heat emergencies are often slower to develop, taking several days of continuous, oppressive heat before a significant or quantifiable impact is seen. Heat waves do not strike victims immediately, but rather their cumulative effects slowly impact populations.

The NWS has a system in place to initiate alert procedures (advisories or warnings) when the HI is expected to have a significant impact on public safety. The expected severity of the heat determines whether advisories or warnings are issued. A common guideline for the issuance of excessive heat alerts is when the maximum daytime high is expected to
equal or exceed 105°F and a nighttime minimum high of 80°F or above is expected for two or more consecutive days. The NWS office in Grand Junction can issue the following heat-related advisory as conditions warrant.

- **Excessive Heat Warning/Advisory:** Issued when an excessive heat event is the next 36 hours. These products are issued when an excessive heat event is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurring. The warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property. An advisory is for less serious conditions that cause significant discomfort or inconvenience and, if caution is not taken, could lead to a threat of life and/or property.

- **Excessive Heat Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 12 to 48 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased, but its occurrence and timing is uncertain. A Watch provides enough lead time so those who need to prepare can do so, such as cities that have excessive heat event mitigation plans.

- **Excessive Heat Outlook:** Issued when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook provides information to HI forecast map for the contiguous U.S. those who need considerable lead time to prepare for the event, such as public utilities, emergency management, and public health officials.

**Previous Occurrences**

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), there have been two reported cold/extreme cold/wind chill events in the County between 1950 and 2019. The first event occurred on December 4, 2005 and caused $100,000 in property damages. Arctic air spilled down mainly into the lower elevations of western Colorado in early December and remained trapped for about two weeks. Overnight low temperatures dropped below 0°F throughout the area, with many locations braking all-time record cold readings for particular days. Frozen water pipes burst in many areas resulting in water damage likely exceeds $100,000. The second extreme cold event occurred on February 1, 2011. There were no damages or casualties reported with this event.

Additionally, water supply pipes on Loghill Mesa have been known to freeze at the valves, despite being buried several underground.

There have not been any recorded extreme heat events in Ouray County since 1950.

**Probability**

NCEI data would indicate that the frequency of occurrence is unlikely, however, the local planning committee asserts that extreme temperatures, and extreme cold in particular, are highly likely to occur in any given year. The data in the NCEI database may represent a lack of reporting rather than a lack of occurrence. Ouray County’s residents are accustomed to dealing with extreme temperatures and may be less likely to report events unless they cause significant damage. It would be more accurate to say that extreme temperature events are highly likely to occur in the County in any given year, but the frequency of damaging events is only likely.

**Future Conditions**

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway and unincorporated County have experienced population growth over the last decade and are projected to continue to grow through 2050. This increases the number of people exposed to extreme temperatures in the County. New developments should be adequately equipped with a heating and cooling source.

Colorado’s temperature have already increased by two degrees Fahrenheit from 1977 to 2006, and warming is likely to continue to increase. However, due to Ouray County’s high elevation, it is unlikely that extreme heat will have severe impacts to public health in the County due to climate change. However, increased temperatures can increase wildfire and drought risks, as well as cause changes in snowmelt and timing of streamflow runoff, impacting water supply planning in the County.

Extremely cold temperatures will continue to occur in Ouray County, despite rising temperatures due to climate change.

3.4.2.2.7 Flood (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**

Riverine flooding is defined as when a watercourse exceeds its “bank-full” capacity. Riverine flooding generally occurs as a result of prolonged rainfall, or rainfall that is combined with soils already saturated from previous rain events. The area adjacent to a river channel is its floodplain. In its common usages, “floodplain” most often refers to that area that is inundated by the 100-year flood, the flood that has a 1% change in any given year of being equaled or exceeded. Other types of floods include general rain floods, thunderstorm generated flash floods, alluvial fan floods, snowmelt and rain on snow floods, dam failure floods, and local drainage floods. The 100 year flood is the national standard to which communities regulate their floodplains through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
The potential for flooding can change and increase through various land use changes and changes to land surface. A change in environment can create localized flooding problems inside and outside of natural floodplains by altering or confining watersheds or natural drainage channels. These changes are commonly created by human activities. These changes can also be created by other events such as wildfires. Wildfires create hydrophobic soils, a hardening or “glazing” of the earth’s surface that prevents rainfall from being absorbed into the ground, thereby increasing runoff, erosion, and downstream, sedimentation of channels.

Ouray County is susceptible to the following types of flooding:
- Rain in a general storm system
- Rain in a localized intense thunderstorm
- Melting Snow
- Rain on melting snow
- Dam Failure
- Urban storm water drainage
- Rain on fire damaged watersheds

The total annual precipitation in northern Ouray County (Colona-Ridgway) is approximately 13 inches. And the County experiences as much as 40 inches in the southern mountainous areas. Approximately 30 to 40% of the precipitation is snowfall. Generally, the flood season extends from late spring to fall. Much of the rainfall occurs with thunderstorms during April through August. Ouray County is affected by a seasonal wind shift and moisture increase known as the “southwest monsoon.” The monsoon typically begins every year in mid-July and ends by mid-August, but has been known to vary in duration and intensity. During La Nina years, the monsoon can be particularly wet and enduring. This seasonal rainfall is the most common cause of flooding in Ouray County.

**Location**

Ouray County’s flood events are typically flash floods from intense cloudburst storms over small and steep watersheds in the summer and fall and snowmelt driven floods in June.

Additionally, sources of riverine flooding in the County include the Uncompahgre River, Dallas Creek, Cedar Creek, Cuddigan Gulch, Coal Creek, and Unnamed Creek. Steep, rocky tributaries of the Uncompahgre River draining relatively small confined basins flood frequently and intensely. These areas are notable in Portland, Cascade, Skyrocket, Corbett, Oak, Canyon, Cutler, Dexter, Forsman, Blowout, Plummer, Coal, Bridalveil, and Cottonwood Creeks, and numerous other intermittent creeks and drainages. The Uncompahgre River’s headwater lie south of the City of Ouray in the high peaks of the San Juan Mountains. This river flows through an extremely narrow gorge just south of the City and then flattens into a broad and gentle floodplain between Ouray and Ridgway. This floodplain tends to absorb floodwaters and debris coming from floods on nearby tributaries. The area between the City of Ouray and Ridgway known as Idlewild, is also at risk to flooding.

The City of Ouray has six very steep and rocky drainages that discharge in the immediate vicinity of the City. These drainages have a long history of intense and devastating floods. The primary problem drainages are Portland, Cascade, and Skyrocket creeks. Portland and Cascade creeks drain from the “Amphitheater,” a dramatic confined drainage east of the City, and continue through the City toward the Uncompahgre River. Since the early 1900s, attempts have been made to confine these drainages to “flumes.” These flumes channel the flow to prevent the natural wanderings over the cumulative alluvial fans on which much of the City of Ouray has been built. Originally constructed with wood, these flumes were replaced with concrete following a flood in 1906. These flumes have been repaired and altered over the years and other require maintenance to clean out debris. Often it is the debris more than the water that causes the most problems in the City of Ouray. Debris clogging drainages following other hazard events such as debris flow, landslide/Rockfall, and avalanches is a major concern and source of flooding for the City of Ouray. Additionally, recently there has been a push from utility companies to clear cut areas around electric poles to mitigate their wildfire risk. However, it has been noted that debris is a concern for clogging creeks and contributing to flooding by the local planning committee.

The MHP2019 contains figures that show the 100-year floodplain in Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway.
Flood events are typically described based on their frequency, such as the 100-year or 500-year flood event. Frequencies are determined by plotting a graph of the size of all known floods for an area and determining how often floods of a particular size occur. Another way of expressing the flood frequency is the chance of occurrence in a given year, which is the percentage of the probability of flooding each year. For example, the 100-year flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, and the 500-year flood drops to 0.2% chance of occurring in any given year. Therefore, they are commonly referred to as the 1% annual chance flood and the 0.2% annual flood, respectively. It should be noted that flooding is possible every year and even multiple times each year.

Additionally, flash floods are common in Ouray County, particularly during the summer monsoon season. Flash floods occur very suddenly but usually dissipate within hours. Flash floods are usually preceded with warning from the NWS in terms of Flash Flood advisories, watches, and warnings. According to the NWS, a Flash Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flash flooding. It does not mean that flash flooding will occur, but it is possible. A Flash Flood Warning is issued when flash flooding is imminent or occurring.

**Previous Occurrences**

Ouray County and most notably the City of Ouray has witnessed several major flood on the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries, with the tributaries causing the most problems.

Overall, there have been 29 total reported flooding events from 1909 to April 2019. Nine of these events were flooding events and 20 flash floods, although some of the older records may not have indicated whether the event was a flood or flash flood. Twenty of these events were recorded in or near the City of Ouray, four in Ridgway, and five in unincorporated Ouray County (Red Mountain, Portland, and Campbird). These events totaled $1,956,596 in recorded property damages. Of these damages, $552,572 were recorded in the City of Ouray, $1,225,000 in Ridgway, and $149,024 in unincorporated County. These events are described in detail in Appendix C—HIRA Appendix of the MHP2019.

In recent years, the Town of Ridgway has installed storm drains downtown. Much of the Town was built on a relatively flat area, making natural drainage insufficient. This has alleviated much of the flooding concerns in the downtown area of Ridgway. However, there are still undersized culverts in the Town with a project underway to improve these culverts.

Flash flood events on Canyon Creek or Weehawken Creek have repeatedly damaged the Weehawken Spring transmission line that delivers water to the City of Ouray’s water storage tanks and water treatment facility. This line has also been damaged by landslide events.

Despite the frequency and ferocity of the flood events, loss of life from flooding in Ouray County has been rare. Four incidents have been documented, three in 906 and one in 1927. The 1906 incident involved a train engineer who died when his locomotive went over a chasm where the bridge was washed out. The other two were miners seeking shelter in a small tunnel that became filled with debris. The 1927 incident involved a rancher who was found in a field near his cabin following flooding on the Uncompahgre River.

**Probability**

Based on previous occurrences, Ouray County has experienced 29 flooding events from 1909 to 2019, equating to a 26% chance of annual occurrence, or likely annual probability.

**NFIP Participation**

Table 3.4.2.2.7 provides detailed information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies and claims in participating jurisdictions in Ouray County.
Table 3.4.2.2.7 Community Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Date Joined</th>
<th>Effective FIRM Date</th>
<th>Policies in Force</th>
<th>Insurance in Force</th>
<th>Number of Claims</th>
<th>Claims Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Ouray</td>
<td>07.03.1985</td>
<td>07.03.1985</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$5,451,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$33,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ridgway</td>
<td>09.27.1985</td>
<td>09.27.1985</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated County</td>
<td>07.03.1985</td>
<td>07.03.1985</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$9,209,700</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of May 2019, there were 19 policies in force in the City of Ouray (down from 30 in 2013). Ridgway does not have any policies in force (down from 4 in 2013). There were 32 policies in force in unincorporated areas of Ouray County (up from 29 in 2013). For the breakdown of these policies by type, refer to the MHP2019.

Future Conditions

The only flood GIS data available were the results of the Hazus analysis. The Hazus results largely do not pass through any designated growth areas by the County. However, it does pass through both the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway. Both of these jurisdictions have experienced population growth over the last decade and are projected to continue to grow through 2050. The risk of flooding to future development should be minimized by floodplain management programs of the County and its municipalities, if properly enforced. Risk could be further reduced by strengthening floodplain ordinances and floodplain management programs beyond minimum NFIP requirements.

Although there is no consensus that annual mean precipitation will increase in Colorado due to climate change, it is possible that precipitation may increasingly come in the form of extreme storms. These high-intensity rainfall events could lead to increased flash flood conditions, which are already a primary flooding concern for the County.

Additionally, the timing of peak runoff has shifted one to four weeks earlier in the State. This change in timing can impact Ouray County directly due to the high amounts of snowfall the County receives, and should be taken into consideration when mitigating against flooding from spring snowmelt.

3.4.2.2.8 Hazardous Materials Incident (Taken from the MHP2019)

Description

Ouray County is susceptible to accident involving hazardous materials (Hazmat) on road, highways, and at fixed facilities that manufacture, use, or store dangerous chemical substances. A hazardous materials incident may occur at any time during routine business operations or as a result of a natural disaster. The release of hazardous materials can threaten people and natural resources in the immediate vicinity of the accident. Air releases can prompt large-scale population evacuations and spills into water or onto the ground can adversely affect public water and sewer systems.

A transportation incident refers to accidental and uncontrolled releases of chemical or other hazardous materials during transport (i.e., highway, pipelines, and airways). A fixed-facility incident is an uncontrolled release of chemicals or other potentially hazardous materials from a facility. Fixed facilities include companies that store hazardous materials at their facility as well as all hazardous waste sites.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) uses nine classes of hazardous materials:

- Explosives
- Compressed Gasses: Flammable Gasses; Non-flammable Compressed Gasses; Poisonous Gasses
- Flammable Liquids: Flammable (Flash Point Below 141°F); Combustible (Flash Point 141°-200°F)
- Flammable Solids; Spontaneously Combustible; Dangerous When Wet
- Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides
- Toxic Materials: Materials that are Poisonous to Humans; Infectious Agents
- Radioactive Material
- Corrosive Material: Destruction of Human Skin; Corrode Steel at the Rate of 0.25 Inches Per Year
- Miscellaneous
The U.S. DOT, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) all have responsibilities in regulating Hazmat and waste.

**Location**
There are no designated route for hazmat transporters in Ouray County, but illicit transport of materials has been known to occur on Colorado State Highways 62 and 550. Fuel trucks traveling over Highway 550 are a concern to the County and trucking industry shortest route requirements may be routing more trucks over the pass. Since Ouray County is surrounded by mountains and diverse terrain, transportation of hazmat is at higher risk to accidents on high mountain passes with severe weather conditions and ice, wildlife, and debris on the roadways.

There are several methods to determine locations of fixed facilities in an area.

Started in 1988, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a federal program established by the U.S. EPA that contains information on releases of nearly 650 chemicals and chemical categories from industries including manufacturing, metal and coal mining, electric utilities, and commercial hazardous waste treatment, among others. TRI facilities are required to file reports of their disposal or other environmental releases as well as other waste management quantities of regulated chemicals they manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than the established threshold quantities of these chemicals. Ouray County has no reported TRI data. Another method of determining hazmat fixed facility sites is through the U.S. EPS’s National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is the list of sites of national priority among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the U.S. and its territories. Again, Ouray County does not have any active NPL or Superfund sites.

Additionally, releases associated with the mining industry could occur in Ouray County.

**Extent**
The extent for a hazmat release can vary widely based on the chemical released, amount, weather, and location of the release.

**Previous Occurrences**
Statistics from the National Response Center, which serves as the sole national point of contact for reporting all oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the U.S. and its territories, indicate that between 1990 and 2019 11 incidents were reported in Ouray County. Of the incidents, four were fixed and seven were mobile. The City of Ouray was the closest city for seven events, Ridgway three events, and Montrose (Montrose County) one event. As will be discussed in the Mass Casualties Hazard Profile, the aircraft incident in the Ridgway Reservoir killed 5 people, however, no injuries or deaths were related directly to a hazmat release. Additionally, a fireman was killed in the 1950s when a fire burned in a shed that was filled with explosives. Details on other previous events can be found in the Ouray County MHP 2020 Update.

Natural gas pipelines are another source of hazmat events in the County. There have been a number of incidents in which a pipeline was breached. Depending on the location of the incident and extent of damage to the pipeline, impact could be serious.

Additionally, the Idarado Mine, located between Telluride and Ouray, was listed as a Natural Resource Damage Site. The western portal of the mine is located approximately 11 miles south of Ouray. Heavy metals were present in the mine tailings, specifically lead and cadmium. The main impact of heavy metals was on aquatic ecosystems and human contact was minimal. However, elevated lead levels presented a concern for children in the area. The site has since been remediated.

**Probability**
Based on the NRC data, there have been 11 hazmat releases from 1990 to 2019 in Ouray County, equating to approximately a 39% annual chance of occurrence, or likely probability.

**Future Considerations**
The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway and unincorporated County have experienced population growth over the last decade and are projected to continue to grow through 2050. This exposes more people across the County to impacts from a hazmat event. Development near major transportation corridors, such as Colorado State Highway 550, and fixed facility hazmat sites will be at the highest risk to a hazmat release.
3.4.2.2.9 Imminent Threat (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**

Imminent threat includes the potential for violent attacks, including but not limited to domestic and international terrorism. The FBI defines terrorism as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” The threat of terrorism, both international and domestic, is ever present, and an attack is likely to occur when least expected. Incidents of mass shootings in public areas around the U.S. have shown that individuals can inflict severe damage. These individuals’ motives may vary, from terrorism to random or criminal acts.

Imminent threats to public safety are a growing concern worldwide that must be addressed through security and awareness. Needs associated with imminent threats include training and equipping of local emergency response personnel in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Ouray County could be a source of explosives for imminent threats to public safety. These sources could be from active mines (dynamite) or hand charges and shell for howitzers used for avalanche control by the Colorado Department of Transportation. The mines themselves could be targets from radical environmental groups. There are families and individuals in Ouray County with a history of strong anti-governmental statements, actions, and signage. It is these latter groups that are of particular concern to Ouray County. Ecoterrorism is a form of domestic terrorism that the FBI defines as “the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally-oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature.”

Imminent threats may also include cyber terrorism, or cybersecurity incidents more generally. Cybersecurity incidents are a growing concern as many energy delivery systems are managed by computers. There are many threats, some more serious than others. For example, many power plants and other infrastructure are remotely controlled by supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) Systems. SCADA systems are vulnerable to attack through hackers who could access the system and sabotage the target facility. Some examples of how computers and systems could be affected by a cybersecurity incident—whether because of improper cybersecurity controls, manmade or natural disasters, or malicious users wreaking havoc—include the following:

- **Denial-of-service**: This refers to an attack that successfully prevents or impairs the authorized functionality of network, systems, or applications by exhausting resources. This type of attack could shut down a government agency’s website, thereby preventing citizens from accessing information or completing transactions. This type of attack could also impede business operations or critical services such as emergency medical systems, police communications, or air traffic control.

- **Malware, Worms, and Trojan Horses**: These spread by emails, instant messaging, malicious websites, and infected non-malicious websites. Some websites will automatically download the malware without the user’s knowledge or intervention. This is known as a “drive-by download.” Other methods will require the users to click on a link or button.

- **Botnet and zombies**: A botnet, short for robot network, is an aggregation of compromised computers that are connected to a central “controller.” The compromised computers are often referred to as “zombies.” These threats will continue to proliferate as the attack techniques evolve and become available to a broader audience, with less technical knowledge required to launch successful attacks. Botnets designed to steal data are improving their encryption capabilities and thus becoming more difficult to detect.

- **“Scareware”**: Fake security software warnings: in this type of scam, cyber criminals use pop-up warnings telling users that their system is infected. Many users are then lured into downloading and paying for unnecessary software to “protect” their system.

**Location**

All Critical Infrastructure within the county are potential terrorist targets.

**Extent**

It is difficult to describe the extent of an imminent threat due to the human-caused nature of the hazard. Factors such as the type of attack, location, time of day, and weather can all influence the impacts of an attacks. The United State
Department of Homeland Security utilizes the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) to communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public. The State of Colorado law enforcement agencies utilize the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) for sensitive information sharing.

**Previous Occurrences**
Ouray County has had some incidents in the past that could be considered terrorist activities today. A suicide bomber blew himself up on Colorado State Highway 550, near the East Riverside avalanche she in the 1970s. In 1920, there was an incident in Ridgway that involved unknown perpetrators blowing up some buildings in the downtown area with dynamite. Their motives were unknown. Also, in the 1920s there were Ku Klux Klan rallies in Ridgway and Ouray. The Idarado Mine in Ouray was the source of explosives for terrorist activity in Boulder County during the 1980s.

**Probability**
Based on previous occurrences as well as the potential target areas in the County, the probability of an imminent threat occurring in the County is possible, with a 1-10% chance of annual occurrence.

**Future Conditions**
The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway and unincorporated County have experienced population growth over the last decade and are projected to continue to grow through 2050. More population can lead to more people being impacted in the case of an imminent threat event. Additionally, increased population density can increase the risk of becoming a target for an imminent threat event.

3.4.2.2.10 Landslide/Rockfall (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**

**Landslide**
A landslide is a general term for a variety of mass-movement processes that generate a downslope movement of soil, rock, and vegetation under gravitational influence. Some of the natural causes of ground instability are stream and lakeshore erosion, heavy rainfall, and poor-quality natural materials. In addition, many human activities tend to make the earth materials less stable and, thus increase the chance of ground failure. Human activities contribute to soil instability through grading of steep slopes or overloading them with artificial fill, by extensive irrigation, construction of impermeable surfaces, excessive groundwater withdrawal, and removal of stabilizing vegetation. Landslides typically have a slower onset and can be predicted to some extent by monitoring soil moisture levels and ground cracking or slumping in areas of previous landslide activity. Additionally, landslides become a hazard in areas burned by previous wildfires, although for the purposes of this Plan, the hazard post-wildfire aligns with the debris flow hazard profile.

**Rockfall**
A rockfall is the falling of a detached mass of rock from a cliff or down a very steep slope. Weathering and decomposition of geological materials produce conditions favorable to rockfalls. Rockfalls are caused by the loss of support from underneath through erosion or triggered by ice wedging, root growth, or ground shaking. Changes to an area or slope such as cutting and filling activities can also increase the risk of a rockfall. Rocks in a rockfall can be of any dimension, from the size of baseballs to houses. Rockfalls occur most frequently in mountains or other steep areas during the early spring when there is abundant moisture and repeated freezing and thawing. Rockfalls are a serious geological hazard that can threaten human life, impact transportation corridors and communication systems, and result in other property damage.

Spring is typically the landslide/rockfall season in Colorado as snow melts and saturates soils and temperatures enter into freeze/thaw cycles. Falling ice is sometimes a hazard on Colorado State Highway 550 just north or south of Ouray. Rockfall and landslides are influenced by seasonal patterns, precipitation and temperature patterns. Additionally, an earthquake could trigger rockfalls and landslides.
**Location**
The Colorado Geologic Survey (CGS) report “Debris-Flow Hazard in the Immediate Vicinity of Ouray, Colorado” contains a hardcopy map showing known landslide deposits near the City of Ouray. The deposits are limited and none of them affect developed areas or roads. A landslide has caused occasional problems to Colorado State Highway 550 near Colona. Another landslide problem includes the 11000 block of Ouray County Road 1 as it climbs the escarpment. The road is showing possible damage due to sliding foundation.

Rockfall hazards in Ouray County usually are marked by the presence of fist to boulder sized rocks that accumulate below cliff areas, steep slopes, or talus fields on mountainsides. Steep slopes in the southern half of the County are prone to this hazard, particularly around the City of Ouray, the Camp Bird Road area, and along Colorado State Highway 550. Recently Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has shored up failing crib walls to mitigate rockfalls near mile post 89 on Colorado State Highway 550 (Mother Cline area).

CDOT identified 756 sites throughout Colorado that have ongoing issues with rockfall. There are 14 such sites in Ouray County. CDOT identifies these areas using the Colorado Rockfall Hazard Rating System (CRHRS) which combines traffic data, geology information, and slope measurements to determine a hazard ranking score. Table 3.4.2.2.10 below details the 14 rockfall hazards in the County by mile marker. Motorists should be particularly careful and aware of the rockfall hazards along that stretch of highway.

**Table 3.4.2.2.10 Ouray County Rockfall Hazard Areas along Colorado State Highway 550**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Beginning Mile Marker</th>
<th>Ending Mile Marker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>80.901</td>
<td>80.963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>88.058</td>
<td>88.116</td>
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<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>88.131</td>
<td>88.239</td>
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<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>88.250</td>
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<td>550</td>
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<td>90.692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>106.250</td>
<td>106.381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based off of data based on compendium of landslide GIS database developed by CGS for the 2018 Colorado State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the southern, eastern, and western portions of the County are more susceptible to this hazard. Refer to the MHP2019 for visual aids depicting this data.

**Extent**
There is not a formal scale to measure landslide extent. Factors such as volume and size can be used to determine landslide extent. Characteristics determining extent can vary widely between the different landslide types. Some landslides are slow moving (for example, a “creep” landslide), while others occur suddenly and quickly.

Additionally, there is not a formal scale to measure rockfall extent. However, rockfalls typically occur suddenly, with little to no warning time. Rockfalls can vary from smaller rocks to large boulders.

**Previous Occurrences**
There have been 13 recorded significant rockfall or landslide events recorded since 1984. It should be noted that there are not the only rockfall/landslide events to occur in the County, only ones with documented impacts. Of these events, 11 were rockfall and one landslide. Four events occurred in the City of Ouray, one in Ridgway and the rest in unincorporated County, including Camp Bird Road, Ouray County Road 17, East River Slide, and Red Mountain Pass. These events equated to $1,035,000 in damages, although this is likely a low estimate.

In March 2016, a rockfall totaled a house in the City of Ouray. In November 2018, a rockfall occurred in the City of Ouray that impacted a home, totaled a motorhome, and caused flooding concerns in a drainage ditch.
Additionally, on March 8, 2019 a massive rockslide cause significant damage to Ouray County Road 17, approximately three miles north of the City of Ouray. Rocks the size of town large SUVs landed on the surface of the road above the gas main that supplies the City of Ouray and Whispering Pines neighborhood. The road remained closed for approximately 4 months. It was determined that this rockfall occurred in a geologically active debris field, which will be impacted again in the future, although the recurrence interval is unknown.

In August 2019 and again in 2020, a rockfall landed on the catwalk and geothermal line that supplies the Ouray Hot Springs pool. The initial damage assessment is a little over $8,000 in damages.

Rockfall incidents on Colorado State Highway 550 have dropped rocks large enough to force vehicles into the opposing traffic lane in order to proceed. Slippage events on Forest Service property and long Ouray County Road 361 have damaged the Weehawken Spring water transmission line. This transmission line delivers water to the City of Ouray’s water storage tanks and water treatment facility. The City has a limited supply of water in storage, so damage to the Weehawken Spring transmission line can quickly become serious.

**Probability**

According to the recorded previous occurrences of 13 landslide/rockfalls from 1984 to 2021 and discussions with the Local Planning Committee landslides and rockfalls have a likely probability of occurring every year. There is between 10-100% chance of occurring in any year.

**Future Considerations**

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated County have experienced population growth over the last decade and are projected to continue to grow through 2050. Development in areas identified in the location of landslide/rockfall has increased vulnerability to this hazard. The severity of landslide problems is directly related to the extent of human activity in hazard areas. Adverse effects can be mitigated by early recognition and avoiding incompatible land uses in these areas or by corrective engineering. The mountainous topography of the County present considerable constraints to development, most commonly in the form of steep sloped areas. These areas are vulnerable to disturbance and can become unstable. Landslide risk is considered during the permitting and construction per the County’s development regulations.

The southern portions of the County which are more susceptible to landslides/rockfall are not very suitable for growth due to topography. However, these areas are popular for outdoor recreation, and continue to grow in popularity. This increase in visitors can expose more people to this hazard in the County.

Climate change can impact landslides and rockfall similarly to debris flow in the County. Increased heavy precipitation can increase the landslide and rockfall risks. Additionally, changes in freeze/thaw cycles associated with changes in temperature/precipitation may impact rockfall events, particularly in the spring when rockfall events are more common.

An increase in and increased frequency of high-intensity wildfires can increase the risk of landslides or rockfall burn scar areas during a rain event.

3.4.2.2.11 Lightning (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**

Lightning is a discharge of electrical energy resulting from the buildup of positive and negative charges within a thunderstorm, creating a “bolt” when the buildup of charges becomes strong enough. This flash of light usually occurs within the clouds or between the clouds and the ground. A lot of lightning can reach temperatures approaching 50,000°F. Lightning rapidly heats the sky as it flashes but the surrounding air cools following the bolt. This rapid heating and cooling of the surrounding air causes thunder which often accompanies lighting strikes. While most often affiliated with severe thunderstorms, lightning may also strike outside of heavy rain and might occur as far as 10 miles always from any rainfall.

Lightning is one of the most dangerous weather hazards in the U.S. and Colorado. Each year, lightning is responsible for deaths, injuries and millions of dollars in property damage, including damage to buildings, communications systems, power lines, and electrical systems. Lightning also causes forest
and brush fires, as well as deaths and injuries to livestock and other animals. According to the National Lightning Safety Institute, lightning causes more than 26,000 fires in the U.S. each year.

U.S. lightning statistics compiled by NOAA between 1959 and 1994 indicate that most lightning incidents occur during the summer months of June, July, and August and during the afternoon hours from 2-6pm.

**Location**
The entire County is susceptible to lightning. Ouray County has lower flash density than much of the U.S. and eastern Colorado. However, the exposed, mountainous terrain and high amount of people recreating in the high county makes the County vulnerable to lighting strikes impacting people.

**Extent**
In Ouray County, lightning is most frequent during the summer monsoon season. Typically July and August, which produces afternoon thunderstorms nearly daily. These storms can arrive very quickly, making them particularly dangerous and leaving people outdoors vulnerable to lightning.

**Previous Occurrences**
From 1997 to 2012, Colorado experienced an average of 506,131 lightning flashes per year, ranking it 32\textsuperscript{nd} in the nation for the number of flashes during this time period. Ouray County has an average of 2,400 flashes per year.

In terms of lightning fatalities, Colorado has experienced 146 fatalities from 1959 to 2016, ranking it 5\textsuperscript{th} in the number of fatalities (behind Florida, Texas, North Carolina, and Ohio). While lightning is a regular occurrence in Ouray County, damaging lightning is not. According to the National Climatic Data Center Storm Event Database, there were two notable lightning events in Ouray County between 1993 and 2021:

- **August 17, 1999**—Lightning struck a power substation. Insulators were destroyed and fuses were blown on transformer, which resulted in a power outage to the entire community for about one hour. Damage was estimated at $1,000
- **June 13, 1996**—A man was struck and killed by lightning while hiking near the summit of Mt. Sneffels. Shortly before the lightning strike he was warned of the potential lightning danger from other hikers who were coming down from the summit.

**Probability**
There is a 100% chance of occurrence of lightning every year in Ouray County, equating to a high likely probability. However, damaging lightning happens much less frequently.

**Future Conditions**
The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated Ouray County have all experienced population growth in the last decade and are projected to continue to grow in population through 2050. This exposes more people across the County to lightning. Many people living in Ouray County take advantage of the ample alpine recreation opportunities, however, new residents may not be aware of the dangers associated with lightning while recreating, which can lead to an increase in injuries or deaths from lightning.

The impacts of climate change on lightning-producing thunderstorms is unclear for the State of Colorado. More research is needed to determine if climate change is impacting the warm-season convective thunderstorms across the state.

3.4.2.2.12 Mass Casualty Events/Incident (MCI) (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**
In general, a mass casualty incident/event (MCI) is defined as an incident in which local emergency response capabilities are overwhelmed by the number and severity of casualties. While many of the hazards profiled in this plan could result in such an incident, this hazard is specifically concerned with transportation incidents that involve large numbers of people (e.g., a plane or bus crash). These incidents could be primary hazards or secondary effects of another hazard (e.g. an avalanche along a transportation corridor could bury vehicles). A plan crash in the rugged terrain of Ouray County is likely to have few survivors, whereas a tour or school bus crash could result in multiple injuries and fatalities.
Additionally, the mining industry has seen growth in Ouray County in the last few years. MCIs sometimes occur in the mining industry due to cave-ins or explosions.

Ouray County is particularly concerned that a tour/motor coach bus could go over the side of Colorado State Highway 550. Greyhound has changed their route and no longer goes through the City of Ouray.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most severe injuries in MCIs are fractures, burns, lacerations, and crush injuries. However, the most common injuries are eye injuries, sprains, minor wounds, and ear damage. Additionally, it is normal for people to suffer emotional and physical stress after a MCI, even if they are not at or near the scene. This additional stress can make existing health conditions worse or trigger a new health problem.

**Location**

An event such as an airplane crash could occur anywhere in the County. Traffic and bus accidents are most likely to occur along Colorado State Highway corridors of 550 and 62. The steeper, curvy sections of Highway 550 above and south of the City of Ouray are particularly prone to accidents. The section of Highway 500, also known as the Million Dollar Highway, extending south of the City of Ouray to Silverton is 27 twisty mountain miles with very few guardrails. The first section up to the Ironton Park Meadows run along an eastern cliff side with up to 410 foot drops down to the bottom and the Uncompahgre Rive. MCIs could also occur in the County’s active mines. Refer to the MHP2019 for maps of active mines within Ouray County.

**Extent**

A MCI would likely be sudden, unpredictable occurrence.

**Previous Occurrences**

Since 2005, emergency services in Ouray County have responded to five incidents where a vehicle carrying enough people to be considered a mass casualty has gone over the side of the highway. There have been additional vehicles that have gone off the side of the highway, although not considered a MCI. Impacts ranged from minor injuries to fatalities. One of these incidents, which received national attention, occurred in February 2005 when a van carrying six passengers hit a patch of black ice, flipped sideways, started rolling, and plunged approximately 400 feet down the mountain ravine (all passengers were able to walk away from the accident). Although none of these five events were MCIs, they are indicative of what could happen given the right combination of circumstances.

An airplane crash in the winter of 2004 killed four people on Whitehouse Mountain and the bodies could not be recovered until the following spring. On March 22, 2014, a small plane carrying five people crashed into the Ridgway Reservoir. No one survived the crash. The passengers, all from Alabama, were on their way to Montrose for a skiing trip. This incident tied up all emergency responders in the county for the initial response, and many for over a week during the recovery of the bodies. If a second hazard event were to occur during this time, it would overwhelm emergency response resources.

On November 17, 2013, two miners at the Revenue-Virginius Mine died from carbon monoxide poisoning. Twenty other miners were taken to regional hospitals to be treated for carbon monoxide exposure. An area of the mine was contaminated with lethal levels of carbon monoxide from a previous explosive detonation.

**Probability**

Based on previous occurrences and input from the Local Planning Committee, the probability of a MCI occurring is occasional, with between 1 and 10% of occurring annually.

**Future Conditions**

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated County have all experienced growth since 2010 and are projected to grow through 2050. With more people in the County, the likelihood for a MCI could increase. Additionally, with continued visitors and residents traveling along Red Mountain Pass on Colorado State Highway 550 increases the risk of a MCI along the highway.

3.4.2.2.13 Public Health Emergencies (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**

For this Plan COVID-19 (added in addition to the 2020 MHP Update); pandemic flu; the West Nile Virus; and radon, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and methane seeps are profiled as Public Health Emergencies.

**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**

In 2020, the world was hit by a global pandemic that is continuing through the time of this plan update (October 2021). According to the World Health Organization [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1]:

“Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by staying at least 6 feet apart from others, wearing a properly fitted mask, and washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently. Get vaccinated when it’s your turn and follow local guidance.

The virus can spread from an infected person’s mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe. These particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosols. It is important to practice respiratory etiquette, for example by coughing into a flexed elbow, and to stay home and self-isolate until you recover if you feel unwell.”

Well before the COVID-19 outbreak, The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention had been working closely with other countries and the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen systems to detect outbreaks of influenza that might cause a pandemic and to assist with pandemic planning and preparation. The COVID-19 Pandemic has led to high levels of illness, death, social disruptions, and economic loss. Impacts have ranged from school and business closings to the interruption of basic services such as public transportation, health care, and the delivery of food and essential medicines. Stay at home orders were put in place and people have been asked to social distance (maintain 6 feet distance from others) and wear personal protection equipment. Numerous healthcare workers and first responders have been among those who have lost their life to COVID-19.

A vaccine for COVID-19 has been develop (at the time of this Plan update) by three different companies and is available to everyone at no cost to the recipient. Ways to prevent COVID-19 include:

- Get vaccinated when a vaccine is available to you.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from others, even if they don’t appear to be sick.
- Wear a properly fitted mask when physical distancing is not possible or when in poorly ventilated settings.
- Choose open, well-ventilated spaces over closed ones. Open a window if indoors.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- If you feel unwell, stay home and self-isolate until you recover.

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization. The most common symptoms include fever, cough, tiredness, and loss of taste or smell. Some less common symptoms include sore throat, headache, aches and pains, diarrhea, a rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes, and red or irritated eyes. Serious symptoms include difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, loss of speech or mobility, or confusion, and chest pain. Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should manage their symptoms at home. On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days.

The science for the treatment for COVID-19 is very dynamic at the time of this Plan update. Speak with your doctor, Urgent Care, or Emergency Department for the latest in treatment recommendations.

At the time of this Plan update in December of 2021, approximately 788,000 people in the U.S. have succumbed to COVID-19 since it discovery in the U.S. on January 21, 2020.
**Pandemic Influenza**
A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A pandemic flu is a virulent human flu that causes a global outbreak, or pandemic, of serious illness. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily person-to-person, causes serious illness, and can sweep across the country and around the world in very short time.

Like COVID-19 an especially severe influenza could lead to high levels of illness, death, social disruptions, and economic loss. Impacts could range from school and business closings to the interruption of basic services such as public transportation, health care, and the delivery of food and essential medicines.

According to the CDC, from 2010 through 2020, the U.S. averaged 35,900 deaths a year from influenza.

**West Nile Virus**
The impact to human health that wildlife, and more notably, insects, and have on an area can be substantial. Mosquitoes transmit the potentially deadly West Nile Virus to livestock and humans alike. West Nile Virus first struck the Western Hemisphere in Queens, New York, in 1999 and killed four people. Since then, the disease has spread across the U.S. The West Nile Virus has now been reported in all 50 States.

Most humans infected by the virus have no symptoms. A small proportion develops mild symptoms that include fever, headache, body aches, skin rash, and swollen lymph glands. Less than 1% of those infected develop more severe illness such as meningitis or encephalitis, symptoms of which include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. Of the few people who develop encephalitis, fewer that 1 out of 1,000 infections die as a result.

There is no specific treatment for the infection or a vaccine to prevent it. Treatment of severe illness includes hospitalization, use of IV fluids and nutrition, respiratory support, prevention of secondary infections, and good nursing care. Medical care should be sought as soon as possible for persons who have symptoms suggesting severe illness. People over 50 years of age appear to be at high risk for the severe aspects of the disease.

**Radon, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Methane Seeps**
Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that forms when uranium in the soil breaks down. Radon can then seep into homes and workplaces through cracks and openings in floors and crawlspaces, and became part of the atmosphere. Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in the lungs when inhaled. Radon exposure does not create an acute or immediate hazard, however, long-term exposure can significantly increase the risk of lung cancer. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. (behind smoking) and is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. Each year, about 21,000 deaths in the U.S. are attributed to radon-caused lung cancer. Lung cancer typically occurs 5-25 years after exposure.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible and odorless gas produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including coal, wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, and natural gas. CO is also produced by internal combustion engine-powered equipment such as portable generators, cars, and lawn mowers. Breathing in high levels can lead to severe illness or death.

Methane is a colorless, odorless gas, and is the main component of natural gas. It is associated with fossil fuels, primarily coal beds, and is also created by microorganisms in marshes, bogs, and landfills. Methane is not a toxic human health hazard; it is not considered a carcinogen and does not cause adverse health effect from ingestion, inhalation, or adsorption. However, if methane accumulates in a confined or poorly ventilated space, an explosion hazard can be created, and because oxygen is displaced, an asphyxiation hazard may also be created. High levels of methane gas in groundwater have been known to create a flammability hazard. Note that this section only address naturally occurring methane seeps.

**Location**

**COVID-19**
The entire population of the County could potentially be affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Pandemic Influenza**
The entire population of the County could potentially be affected by a pandemic flu outbreak.

**West Nile Virus**
The relatively higher elevations of the County are less prone to have the mosquito that carries West Nile. Thus, the lower elevations in the northern County are possibly more prone to this hazard.
Radon, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Methane Seeps
The entire county is exposed to radon. The exact level varies for each individual building, and at this time building-level data is not available to determine areas that may experience higher levels of radon throughout the County. Additionally, carbon monoxide exposure is possible across the entire County. Methane seepage is typically associated with coal bed areas in Colorado. According to the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS), the northern and central portions of Ouray County contain a coal bed and may be more susceptible to methane seeps.

Extent
COVID-19
At the time of this Plan Update (December 2021), the origin of the COVID-19 virus is debated and not fully known. A vaccine in now developed and available to the general population. Unvaccinated persons are highly susceptible to this highly contagious virus. COVID-19 can cause serious illness and death.

Pandemic Flu
According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) 2018 Pandemic Influenza Plan, Influenza pandemics are unpredictable, but expected, and may arrive with very little warning. Certain conditions make pandemic influenza more likely:

- A Novel Influenza A virus emerges when two or more different strains or different viruses combine to form a new subtype, with some characteristics of the original viruses. This process is called “antigenic shift.”
- The population is susceptible with little or no immunity to the new virus.
- The virus is highly contagious.
- The virus is virulent with the capacity to cause serious illness and death.

West Nile Virus
West Nile Virus is most commonly spread by infected mosquitoes. Mosquito season in Colorado lasts from approximately June through August.

Radon, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Methane Seeps
Radon levels in all Colorado counties are rate by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as having predicted indoor radon levels greater that tow picocuries per liter (pCi/L), well above the national average of 1.3 pCi/L. According to the 2018 Colorado State Hazard Mitigation Plan, Ouray County has a predicted indoor radon lever greater that 4 pCi/L, which is at the EPA recommends radon mitigation. The exact level varies for each individual home in the County. Typically, radon exposure occurs over a long time span (such as in an individual's home) and affects from this exposure occur years later. Among people exposed to radon above 4 pCi/L, 62 out of every 1,000 smokers and 7 out of 1,000 nonsmokers could get lung cancer. For nonsmokers, the lifetime risks of dying from this level of radon exposure is comparable to the risk of dying in a car crash; for smokers, the risk is comparable to five times the risk of dying in a car accident.

CO is an odorless gas, so exposure can be sudden and without warning. This can occur at a small scale, such as an individual in a house or vehicle, or at a large scale such as an indoor event.

Similarly to CO, methane is also a colorless and odorless gas, leading to sudden exposure with little warning.

Previous Occurrence
COVID-19
On January 21, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in the U.S. from a Washington State resident who returned from Wuhan on January 15. On January 31, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a public health emergency as worldwide cases reach 9,800 infected and 200 deaths. On February 3, 2020, President Trump issues a U.S. Public Health Emergency. Colorado’s first official COVID case was on March 5, 2020. On March 10, 2020, Governor Polis declared a State of Emergency for the State of Colorado. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declares COVID-19 a national emergency. On March 16, 2020, the Ouray County Board of Commissioners, Ouray City Council, and Ridgway Town Council all declared a state of Emergency for their respective jurisdictions. By May of 2020, U.S. COVID-19 deaths surpassed 100,000. At the time of this plan (December 2021), it is estimated that there have been 268 Million cases worldwide and 5.28 Million deaths worldwide; approximately 50 million U.S. cases and approximately 789,000 U.S. deaths; approximately 850,000 Colorado cases and almost 9,500 Colorado deaths due to COVID-19; and 525 Ouray County cases and 6 Ouray County deaths, 5 of whom were between 80-90 years old.

Pandemic Influenza
There were 3 acknowledged pandemic flus in the twentieth century and on in the twenty-first century:
• **1918-19 Spanish flu (H1N1)**—This flu is estimated to have sickened 20-40% of the world’s population. Over 20 million people lost their lives. Between September 1918 and April 1919, 500,000 Americans died. The flu spread rapidly; many died within a few days of infection, others from secondary complications. The attack rate and mortality were highest among adults 20-50 years old; the reasons for this are uncertain. This flu impacted Ouray County. There is evidence that 15 persons or more died during this outbreak. The far reaching effects of this pandemic were significant, considering the remoteness of Ouray at this point in time. The population of the County at the time was estimated at 3,514.

• **1957-58 Asian flu (H2N2)**—This virus was quickly identified due to advances in technology, and a vaccine was produced. Infection rates were highest among school children, young adults, and pregnant women. The elderly had the highest rates of death. A second wave developed in 1958. In total, there were about 70,000 deaths in the U.S. Worldwide deaths were estimated between 1 and 2 million.

• **1968-69 Hong Kong flu (H3N2)**—This strain caused approximately 34,000 deaths in the U.S. and more than 700,000 deaths worldwide. It was first detected in Hong Kong in early 1968 and spread to the U.S. later that year. Those over age 65 were most likely to die. The virus returned in 1970 and 1972 and still circulates today.

• **2009-10 Swine flu (H1N1)**—This flu strain was first detected in the US and in California in April 2009. It was identified as H1N1 but was not the exact strain that appeared in 1918. Worldwide health response quickly ramped up in April in preparation for a pandemic. All 50 U.S. States reported cases of 2009 H1N1! By June 19, 2009. This strain caused 14,286 deaths worldwide and 2,117 laboratory-confirmed deaths in the U.S. according to the CDC.

**West Nile Virus**

From 2002 to 2021, there have not been any reported West Nile Virus cases in Ouray County. However, there have been reported cases every year in Colorado since 2002. Table 3.4.2.2.13 shows the number of cases over time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,947</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021*</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,778</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2021 case are through October 4, 2021*

Although no cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Ouray County, several surrounding counties have experienced the virus. From 2002 through October 4, 2021, Montrose County has experienced 95 cases, San Miguel County 2 cases, Gunnison County 2 cases, and Delta County 193 cases. This indicates it is possible that Ouray County will experience cases of West Nile.
The Town of Ridgway and Ouray County have had an aggressive mosquito program in place for several years which includes mitigation, education and tracking. The control methods used emphasize treatments with minimal environmental impact but proven effectiveness.

Radon, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Methane Seeps

Radon: Overall, Colorado’s incidence rate of lung cancer is 43.3 cancers per 100,000 residents; this is well below the national average of 60.2, due primarily to Colorado’s low smoking rates. According to this data, Ouray County experienced too few lung cancer cases (three or fewer) to calculate an incidence rate.

Nevertheless, from 1990 through 2015 more than 51,000 Coloradans died from lung cancer, an average of 1,970 deaths a year. While it is not possible to state definitively which of those cancers were due to radon, exposure, the CDC estimate that 13 percent of lung cancers are attributed to radon exposure; this equates to an estimated 255 deaths a year from radon-induced lung cancer in Colorado. The number of lung deaths for Ouray County was not available during this Plan update.

Carbon Monoxide: From 1999 to 2009, an average of 11 Coloradoans died each year due to accidental CO poisoning not related to a fire, and more than twice that number were hospitalized. In 2009 Colorado passed a law requiring the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in most homes. From 2009 to 2018, 95 Coloradans died to accidental CO poisoning not related to fire, which dropped the average to 10.5 deaths a year. Since 2011, there has been 2 CO deaths in Ouray County, both related to the Mine Accident mentioned in the MCI Profile. From 2011 to 2018, there have been nine unintended CO poisoning emergency department visits. 7 of these visits occurred in 2013, which led to an incident rate of 174.16 per 100,000 people, which was significantly higher than the statewide rate. The other two occurred in 2013, but did not lead to an incident rate significantly higher than the statewide rate.

In November 2013, two miners died in the Revenue-Virginius Gold and Silver Mine and at least 19 others were injured from CO poisoning in Ouray County. However, the County does not have jurisdiction over mines and does not mitigate against hazards for them, therefore, for this profile CO events do not include mine accidents.

Methane: There have not been any previous occurrences of methane seepage incidents in Ouray County. However, with the presence of coal beds in the County, it remains a concern.

Probability

COVID-19
Based on the novelty of COVID-19 and based on the fact, Ouray County is having new cases of COVID-19 every couple of days, there is not enough evidence to predict the yearly occurrence moving forward.

Pandemic Influenza
Based on the four previous worldwide flu outbreaks that affected the U.S. between 1918 and 2021, there is an estimated 3.8% chance of occurrence in any year. This equates to a possible probability. Although there is a low chance of occurrence, a pandemic flu outbreak would have serious impacts on human health in the economy.

West Nile Virus
There have not been any recorded West Nile Virus cases in Ouray County. This leads to an unlikely probability occurrence. However, as previously noted, cases have been reported in several neighboring counties, so Ouray county must be prepared for cases in the County in the future.

Future Conditions

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated Ouray County have all experienced population growth in the last decade and are projected to continue to grow in population through 2050. This exposes more people across the County to all hazards associated with public health emergencies. Additionally, as population density increases, influenza and/or COVID-19 type viruses can spread more quickly amongst the population. Pandemic flu and COVID-19 is one of the few hazards that has the potential to directly or indirectly impact each and every person within Ouray County, as well as adversely affect the local economy. Increasing vaccination rates for both influenza and COVID-19 can help reduce the spread of these viruses. For radon and CO, as new development occurs, radon testing and mitigation systems as well as CO alarms should be installed to decrease the risk of these hazards.

Further research is needed to determine the impacts of climate change on COVID-19, pandemic flu, and radon, CO, and methane seeps.
According to the EPA, climate change may raise the risk of human exposure to West Nile Virus. Studies show that warmer temperatures associated with climate change can speed up mosquito development, biting rates, and the incubation of the disease within a mosquito. Climate change’s effect on birds may also contribute to changes in long-range virus movement, as the timing of migration and breeding patterns are driven by climate. Mild winters and drought have been associated with West Nile Virus disease outbreaks, while rainfall can also contribute by creating breeding sites for mosquitoes. More research is needed to determine impacts to Ouray County directly. Lack of long-term reporting is a difficulty when studying the impact of climate change on West Nile Virus.

3.4.2.2.14 Severe Winter Storm (Taken from the MHP2019)

Description

A winter storm is an event in which varieties of precipitation are formed that only occur at low temperatures, such as snow sleet, freezing rain or ice. Snowstorms generally occur with the clash of different types of air masses, with differences in temperature, moisture, and pressure; specifically, when warm moist air interact with cold dry air. Snowstorms that produce a lot of snow require an outside source of moisture, such as the Gulf of Mexico or the Pacific Ocean. Blizzards are severe snow storms with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibility of less than ¼ mile for more than 3 hours. Freezing rain occurs when a layer of warm air hovers over a region, but the ground ambient temperature is sub-freezing.

Heavy snowfall during winter can also lead to flooding or landslides during the spring if the area snowpack melts too quickly. Avalanche danger is greatly increased during and immediately after heavy snowfall.

Location

With its high elevation and surrounding mountain peaks, Ouray County is accustomed to winter storms that bring large snow totals. The southern County high country area and City of Ouray are susceptible to the heaviest snow. The City of Ouray averages 138 inches of snow per year, and Ridgway, sitting at a lower elevation, averages 85 inches per year. For both areas, the highest snow totals fall between November and March, with March historically being the snowiest month.

Extent

Winter storms are defined differently in various parts of the country relevant to their standard weather. Two inches of snow may create serious disruptions to traffic in areas where snowfall is not expected, however this may be considered a light dusting in regions where snowfall is typical, such as Ouray County. Therefore, these are multiple ways in which to measure a winter storm, based on snowfall, temperatures, wind speeds, societal impact, etc.

The National Weather Service specifies the following criteria for a blizzard:

- Sustained wind or frequent gust of 16 meter per second (35 miles per hour) or greater,
- Sustained winds accompanied by falling or blowing snow,
- Frequently reduced visibility to less than 400 meters (0.25 miles) for 3 hours or longer.

Previous Occurrences

The County can experience extreme snowfall events that exceed the average snowfall total almost any month of the year. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) database, there were 855 blizzard, heavy snow, winter storm, and winter weather events from January 1996 to January 2019. Of these, 11 were blizzards, 111 were heavy snow, 300 winter storms, and 433 winter weather. The NCEI data reports by NWS forecasting zones, so it is not possible to determine events by jurisdiction. However, 517 of these events occurred in the Northwestern San Juan Mountains Zone, 24 in the Northwestern San Juan Mountains / E Ouray / X SW Gunnison / N Hinsdale / SE San Miguel Zone, 25 in the Uncompahgre Plateau Zone, 8 in the Uncompahgre Plateau / S Mesa Except X SW / X NE San Miguel / C Montrose / NW Ouray Zone, and 281 in the Uncompahgre Plateau And Dallas Divide Zone. These events yielded $35,000 in damages, with no deaths or injuries.

However, SHELDUS report 36 notable winter weather events from 1960 to 1917, causing $5,319,473 in crop damages, $2,462,414 in property damages, for a total of $7,781,887 in damages (all in 2017 dollars). Winter weather events caused the highest total damages out of all SHELDUS-reported hazards by a significant margin. Due to the aggregated nature of SHELDUS data, there is not further detail about these events.

Research yielded little in details about specific damages and impacts. In 1984, part of the roof of the then defunct Beaumont Hotel collapsed in a snow storm and caused extensive interior damage. It is not known how much of the state of disrepair of the hotel may have contributed to the damage. A March 1992 event dumped 30 inches of snow in Ouray and closed Colorado State Highway 550 for several days. A snow plow operator was killed by an avalanche on Highway 550 and another was buried for 18 hours before digging himself out from next to his plow.
The 2018-2019 winter brought high snow totals in the County, particularly the southern portions of the county and Colorado State highway 550. Multiple storms in a row binging high snow totals caused extreme avalanche danger on Red mountain Pass on Highway 550, causing closures from March 3 to March 22
. Closing the highway essentially cut southern access to Ouray County off, isolating travelers and impacting local business. According to Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) data on Red Mountain Pass, much of the month of March had recorded snow depths over 100 inches. The snowfall combined with avalanches on the Pass caused 40 to 60 feet of snow and debris on the roadway. The damage estimates for this closure are still unknown.

**Probability**

Based on previous occurrences, there is a 100% annual chance of occurrence of a severe winter storm in Ouray County, equating to a highly likely probability. However, Ouray County residents are accustomed to winter weather, and damaging events are less frequent.

**Future Conditions**

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated Ouray County have all experienced population growth in the last decade and are projected to continue to grow in population through 2050. This exposes more people across the County to impacts from severe winter storms. Future residential or commercial buildings built to code should be able to withstand snow loads from severe winter storms. Population growth in the County and growth in visitors has the potential to increase problems with road, business, and school closures and increase the need for snow removal and emergency services related to severe winter weather events.

According to the 2018 Colorado State Mitigation Plan, climate change may increase the frequency of winter precipitation events, which could lead to increased heavy snowfall events in the County.

3.4.2.2.15 Wildfire (Taken from the MHP2019)

**Description**

Wildfires are an ongoing concern for Ouray County. Fire conditions arise from a combination of hot weather, an accumulation of vegetation, and low moisture content in the air. These conditions increase the potential for a wildfire to occur. Additionally, when combined with high winds, years of drought, and beetle killed trees, fire conditions are exacerbated. A fire along the urban/rural interface can result in major losses of property and structures. The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is defined as any area where man-made improvements are built close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation. Limited access in some parts of the County complicates evacuation and control options and constitutes serious life risk to residents and firefighters alike.

In wildland fire vernacular, hazard is defined as the physical situation with potential for causing damage to resources or assets, measured by burn probability and fire intensity. Risk is the overall measure of the possibility for loss or harm caused by wildfire. Risk is the combination of wildfire hazard and vulnerability. Fire danger refers to a combination of fuel moisture and weather conditions that combine with topography and other fuel characteristics to determine fire behavior as manifested in fire intensity and rate of spread. Fireline intensity is a function of rate of spread and heat per area; it is directly related to flame length and relates to the heat felt by a person standing next to the flames. Factors that contribute to fire risk are described below.

- **Fuel**—Vegetative fuels are characterized by size, continuity, and quantity and are often classified in terms of fire behavior fuel models (FBFM). These fuel characteristics determine responsiveness to weather conditions and ignition. Fuel sources are diverse and include ground fuels (roots, duff), surface fuels (forest litter, dead down twigs and branches, grass, shrubs), and aerial fuels (canopies of forest and brush). Structures and other associated combustibles are also considered fuel sources. Light surface and canopy fuels, such as cured grasses and drought stressed tree crowns, burn quickly and serve as a catalyst for rapid fire spread.

- **Topography**—An area’s terrain and land slopes affect its susceptibility to wildland fire spread. Fire intensities and rates of spread increase as slope increases due to the tendency of heat from a fire to rise via convection. The natural arrangement of vegetation throughout a hillside can also contribute to increased fire activity on slopes.

- **Weather**—Weather components such as temperature, relative humidity, wind, and lightning also affect the potential for wildland fire. High temperatures and low relative humidity dry out the fuels that feed the wildland fire, creating a situation where fuel will more readily ignite and burn more intensely. Wind is the most influential weather factor for fire intensity and the direction and rate of fire spread. Winds can be significant at times in Ouray County. In addition to high winds, wind shifts can occur suddenly due to frontal passage, temperature changes, or the interaction of wind with topographical features such as slopes or steep hillsides. Seasonal and episodic drought affects fuels’ susceptibility for combustion.
• **Ignitions**—Wildland fires are ignited by natural causes, predominately lightning, or human causes. Federal agencies categorize human caused fires based on their source including equipment, smoking, campfires, debris burning, railroads, and arson. Human caused ignitions are associated with travel corridors, population centers, recreational use, and commercial activities. A concern in Ouray County is that structure fires in rural areas may actually be sources of wildland fires, as response times can be significant in the more remote areas of the County.

Additionally, factors such as drought conditions, development, aircraft accidents, increase in outdoor activity, and forest health/management practices all contribute to wildfire risk in Ouray County. The impacts of the fir engraver beetle on the health of the white fir trees in Ouray County has been an ongoing concern. The beetle leaves stands of dead trees that may increase fuel for wildfire throughout the County.

**Location**

For the purposes of the MHP2019, the location of the wildfire hazard is analyzed in three ways based on the 2017 Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA), including:

1. Wildfire burn probability, defined as the probability of a wildfire burning a specified point or area. Burn probability is the combination of numerous individual fire growth potential simulations to create an overall fire growth potential map.
2. Wildfire intensity, defined as a quantitative measure of the potential level of intensity of a wildfire. Conventional fire behavior analysis outputs include two measures of fire intensity; flame length and fireline intensity. Both are used in the CO-WRA.
3. Location of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI).

Burn probability for the County is mapped in the MHP2019. Based on burn probability, the northern/central regions of the County gave the highest probability, while the southern portion of the County, particularly the areas above alpine, have the lowest burn probability (non-burnable). In general, the areas around the Town of Ridgway have a higher burn probability than the areas around the City of Ouray. Additionally, areas near the Loghill FPD have a moderate to high burn probability.

Much of the County has moderate to highest wildfire intensity, highlighting the potential for high-intensity fires. Again, the above-alpine regions of the County experience the lowest wildfire intensity. Generally, the jurisdictions do not have high wildfire intensity within the core of the jurisdiction, but moving outwards towards unincorporated county, wildfire intensity increases quickly. Nearly all of the Loghill Mesa FPD has the highest fire intensity. These values are mapped in the MHP2019.

There are WUI locations largely located through the central parts of the County and the southwest portions of the County. The City of Ouray contains a high density of structures in the WUI within the entire jurisdiction. Additionally, the Town of Ridgway contains high density of structures in the WUI towards the main street portion of town. Most of the higher densities of structures in the WUI in Loghill Mesa FPD are in the Census Designated Place of Loghill Village, just north of Ridgway. This information is mapped in the MHP2019.

Based on these three characteristics of burn probability, fire intensity, and locations of the WUI, it is evident that much of the County is vulnerable to wildfires. Areas of lower elevations, which are mainly associated with the northern central portions of the County, have higher burn probability and fire intensities. The WUI is largely located within the jurisdictions or Census Designated Places within the County, however there are WUI areas of low-density housing throughout the County that are in areas of higher burn probabilities and intensities.

**Extent**

In Ouray County, small fires can grow rapidly when adequate fuels coincide with weather and topography favorable to fire. Wildfires can last from several hours to several months. Generally, the fire season extends from early spring to late fall.

The CO-WRA created a Fire Intensity Scale (FIS) to quantify potential fire intensity based on high to extreme weather, fuels, and topography. It is similar to the Richter scale for earthquakes, providing a standard scale to measure potential wildfire intensity by magnitude. The FIS consists of five classes where the order of magnitude between classes is ten-fold. Table 3.4.3.2.15 describes the FIS.

**Table 3.4.3.2.15 CSFS Fire Intensity Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class 1 – Lowest intensity</th>
<th>Class 2 – Low</th>
<th>Class 3 – Moderate</th>
<th>Class 4 – High</th>
<th>Class 5 – Highest intensity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The extent of wildfires can also be described by their size. According to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, there are seven classes of wildfire sizes, categorized from A-G.

- **Class A** – One-fourth acre or less;
- **Class B** – More than one-fourth acre, but less than 10 acres;
- **Class C** – 10 acres or more, but less than 100 acres;
- **Class D** – 100 acres or more, but less than 300 acres;
- **Class E** – 300 acres or more, but less than 1,000 acres;
- **Class F** – 1,000 acres or more, but less than 5,000 acres;
- **Class G** – 5,000 acres or more.

**Previous Occurrences**

According to the CO-WRA data, there have been 156 wildfires on federal land from 1992 to 2015. Of these fires, 120 have been Class A, 31 Class B, 4 Class C, and 1 Class E. Additionally, of these wildfires, 94 have been lightning-caused, 34 human caused (including campfire, debris burning, equipment use, and smoking), 10 miscellaneous, and 18 missing or unidentified. According to the 2015 Ouray County Hazard Mitigation Plan, the largest wildland fire in Ouray County was the May 1999 Baldy fire at 1,326 acres. However, this is not in the CO-WRA database and is therefore not mapped. The largest fire included in the CO-WRA database in the County was the Red Creek Fire in the eastern unincorporated County, which was a lightning-caused fire burning 401 acres in June 2006.

Additionally, there have been 42 non-federal wildfires from 2009 to 2017. Of these fires, 32 have been Class A, 7 Class B, 2 Class C, and 1 Class D. Information regarding the cause of the wildfire is not available for non-federal fires.

When mapping historical fires (see MHP2019), it is evident the northern portion of the County has experienced the most previous wildfire, although wildfire occurrence is still prevalent in the southern portion of the County as well.

The 2018 fire season brought devastating wildfires to southwestern Colorado, particularly the 416 fire, which burned 54,000 acres north of Durango. Although the 416 fire did not impact Ouray County directly, smoke impacted the County. Additionally, the news of the fire impacted tourism to southwest Colorado, which contributes heavily to Ouray County’s economy in the summer months.

In October 2019, the Cow Creek fire burned 859 acres in the Uncompahgre wilderness, nine miles, south of Ridgway. Detailed descriptions of historical fires are located in the “MHP2019.”

**Probability**

According to the CO-WRA data, from 1992 to 2017, there have been 198 wildfires in Ouray County. This equates to a 100% chance of an annual occurrence, or a highly likely probability. The number, extent, and severity of these fires are subject to numerous climatic, weather, and stochastic factors. Historic trends and the condition of the local forest indicate the occurrence of a large fire is a matter of time.

**Future Conditions**

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated Ouray County have all experienced population growth in the last decade and are projected to continue to grow in population through 2050. With much of the County susceptible to wildfires, new developments, can substantially increase residents’ risk to wildfire. During a wildfire, growth increases the resources needed to protect development from burning, as well as increases firefighting costs. Any new developments in the County should evaluate their risk to wildfire and practice Firewise principles to reduce their potential losses.

Nearly all of the unincorporated County future growth zones are in either medium or high-risk areas to wildfire. The North Mesa Zone has substantial areas of high wildfire risk. Development in these areas should prioritize mitigation measures to decrease their losses in the event of a wildfire.
Warmer temperatures due to climate change have already influenced wildfires in the western U.S., contributing to an increase in frequency of high-intensity fire as well as a longer wildfire season. Higher temperatures can lead to dry vegetation, which provides fuel for wildfire. Dry vegetation is also exacerbated under drought conditions, which are also projected to increase in frequency due to climate change. Total area burned per year projected to increase across the Rocky Mountain West and Colorado. Additionally, Colorado's wildfire season is projected to increase by several weeks. These factors will lead to an increased risk from current levels to wildfire across the entire County. It will be important to plan for these projected changes when mitigating against wildfire in the County.

3.4.2.16 Windstorm (Taken from the MHP2019)

Description
High winds, often accompanying severe thunderstorms, can cause significant property and crop damage, threaten public safety, and have adverse economic impacts from business closure and power loss. Windstorms in Ouray County are typically straight-line winds. Straight-line winds are generally any thunderstorm wind that is not associated with rotation (i.e., is not a tornado). It is these winds, which can exceed 100 miles per hour, which represent the most common type of severe weather and are responsible for most wind damage related to thunderstorms. Since thunderstorms do not have narrow tracks like tornadoes, the associated wind damage can be extensive and affect entire (and multiple) counties. Objects like trees, barns, outbuildings high-profile vehicles, and powerlines/poles can be toppled or destroyed, and roofs, windows, and homes can be damaged as wind speeds increase. On type of straight-line wind is a downburst, which can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado and can be extremely dangerous to aviation. Since these winds are associated with thunderstorms, the most common time for straight-line winds or downbursts to occur in Ouray County is from April through September.

Air pressure differences during cold and warm seasons cause high winds in Colorado. The western part of the State typically doesn’t experience the Chinook winds that impact the Front Range, but Bora winds are common in western Colorado. Bora winds are cold winds caused by a strong low-pressure system coupling with a high-pressure system to the west.

Location
FEMA recognizes four wind zones. Ouray County falls into Zone 1. Wind speeds reach up to 130 miles per hour in Zone 1.

Additionally, winds speeds annual average is 80 meters in Colorado. It is evident that the western portion of the State has less extreme wind speeds thank the Front Range and Eastern Plains. However, the high peaks in southern Ouray County can experience higher wind speeds than lower elevations across western Colorado.

Overall, windstorms could occur anywhere in Ouray County. The unpopulated high-county areas will experience the highest wind events. The windstorms themselves can also occur over a large area. Bora winds can cause widespread rather than localized damage.

Extent
Wind can be categorized by the Beaufort Wind Scale as shown in Table 3.4.3.2.16 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force</th>
<th>Wind (Knots)</th>
<th>WMO Classification</th>
<th>On Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Less than 1</td>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>Calm, smoke rises vertically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Light Air</td>
<td>Smoke drift indicates wind direction, still wind vanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Light Breeze</td>
<td>Wild felt on face, leaves rustle, vanes begin to move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>Gentle Breeze</td>
<td>Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11-16</td>
<td>Moderate Breeze</td>
<td>Dust, leaves, and loose paper lifted, small tree branches move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>Fresh Breeze</td>
<td>Small trees in leaf begin to sway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22-27</td>
<td>Strong Breeze</td>
<td>Larger tree branches moving, whistling in wires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>28-33</td>
<td>Near Gale</td>
<td>Whole trees moving, resistance felt walking against wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>34-40</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Twigs breaking off trees, generally impedes progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>41-47</td>
<td>Strong Gale</td>
<td>Slight structural damage occurs, slate blows off roofs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>48-55</td>
<td>Storm</td>
<td>Seldom experienced on land, trees broken or uprooted, “considerable structural damage”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>56-63</td>
<td>Violent Storm</td>
<td>“considerable structural damage”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>64+</td>
<td>Hurricane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, straight-line winds associated with thunderstorms are considered “damaging” when they exceed 50 mph.
**Previous Occurrences**

According to the National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI), there have been 22 high wind, strong wind, and thunderstorm wind events in Ouray County from 1998 to April 2019. Of these events, 14 were high wind events, 7 strong wind, and 1 thunderstorm wind. The highest magnitude event was on January 25, 1999 in the Northwestern San Juan Mountain Zone, at 122 mph. The NCEI events are recorded by the NWS zone. The zone with the most wind event is the Northwest San Juan Mountain Zone, with 13 events. These events have resulted in $90,500 in total damages, with the most damaging event being a thunderstorm wind event in Colona on May 28, 2013, resulting in $60,000 in damages.

SHELDUS reports 29 wind events, causing $20,395 in crop damages and $360,876 in property damages, totaling $381,271 in damages from 1960 to 2017 (2017 dollars). This was the second highest number of hazard events reported by SHELDUS, behind winter storms. A full description of notable events can be found in the MHP2019.

**Probability**

Based on SHELDUS wind event data, there have been 29 events from 1960 to 2017, equating to a 51% annual chance of occurrence, or a likely probability.

**Future Conditions**

The City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated County have all experienced population growth in the last decade and are projected to continue to grow in population through 2050. This exposes more people across the County to impacts from Windstorms. Additionally, future residential or commercial buildings built to code should be able to withstand high winds in Ouray County.

3.4.3 Inventory of Assets

In addition to people, structures and infrastructures have the potential to be exposed to all hazards identified previously. Building inventories and values in have increase since the MHP2019 was adopted due to a revaluation and are based on assessments for the Ouray County’s Assessor’s Office from the 2021 tax year. Table 3.4.3.A and Table 3.4.3.B show the value of parcels with improvements. According to the Assessor’s data, the sum of all improvements in the County based on actual value from is $1,463,889,330 which is an increase from $1,158,769,500 in 2018. In order to get a complete estimate of building exposure the building content value is estimated and added. Contents exposure is estimated as a present of the improvement value (specifically, 50% of the improvement value for residential structures, 100% for agricultural structures, 100% for commercial and utility structures, 100% for unknown structures, 0% for vacant land, and 100% for exempt structures), based on standard FEMA methodologies. Total exposure (building and contents) is estimated at $2,327,175,905 which is an increase from $1,883,098,930 in 2018. Land values are not included in this analysis because land remains following disasters, and subsequent market devaluations are frequently short-term and difficult to quantify. Additionally, state and federal disaster assistance programs generally do not address loss of land or its associated value.

### Table 3.4.3.A Ouray County Property inventory by Jurisdiction updated 10.06.2021

| Jurisdiction         | Total Parcel Count | Improved Parcel Count | Improved Actual Value | Contents Exposure | Total Exposure  |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------
| City of Ouray        | 831                | 786                   | $263,419,190          | $160,692,860      | $424,112,050   |
| Town of Ridgway      | 792                | 709                   | $265,388,940          | $60,073,435       | $425,462,375   |
| Unincorporated County| 3,961              | 2,491                 | $935,081,200          | $542,520,280      | $1,224,086,605 |
| Total                | 5,584              | 3,986                 | $1,463,889,330        | $863,286,575      | $2,327,175,905 |

### Table 3.4.3.B Ouray County Property Inventory by Property Type Updated 10.06.2021

| Property Type | Total Parcel Count | Improved Parcel Count | Improved Actual Value | Contents Exposure | Total Exposure  |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------
| Agriculture   | 695                | 250                   | $115,151,750          | $115,151,750      | $230,303,500   |
| Commercial    | 216                | 353                   | $87,945,410           | $87,945,410       | $175,890,820   |
| Exempt        | 313                | 315                   | $57,378,880           | $57,378,880       | $114,757,760   |
| Residential   | 2,828              | 3,059                 | $1,201,205,510        | $600,602,755      | $1,801,808,265 |
| Utilities     | 23                 | 9                     | $2,207,780            | $2,207,780        | $4,415,560     |
| Vacant Land   | 1,509              | N/A                   | 0                     | 0                 | 0              |
| Total         | 5,584              | 3986                  | $1,463,889,330        | $863,286,575      | $2,327,175,905 |
3.4.3.1 Key Resources and Infrastructure
As part of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan planning process, critical infrastructure and facilities were identified for the county.

3.4.3.1.1 Key Resources
Key Resources are defined as facilities that provide a necessary service before, during, and after times of disaster. These generally include:
- Animal Shelters
- Carrier-Neutral Locations (Broadband)
- Emergency Operations Center
- Emergency Medical Service Facilities
- Fire stations
- Fuel Stations
- Governmental buildings
- Grocery Stores
- Law enforcement facilities
- Medical facilities
- Schools
- Shelters/Evacuation Centers

3.4.3.1.2 Critical Infrastructure
Critical infrastructure is defined as assets that are essential to the functioning of a society and economy. These include:
- Communication Towers
- Dams, water treatment and distribution, water storage, water supply
- Electric power lines, sub-stations
- Fiber Optic
- Generators
- Hydro power facilities
- Internet
- Natural Gas Distributors
- Propane Gas Facilities
- Sewer lines and wastewater treatment plants
- Cisterns
- Telephone facilities
- Transportation routes

3.4.3.2 Inventory Exposed/Impacts by Hazard
3.4.3.2.1 Avalanche
Avalanches pose a serious threat to the backcountry recreationists, and frequently close Colorado State Highway 550 over Red Mountain Pass. The closures inconvenience travelers and commerce, but serve to minimize life safety impacts as avalanche control work is done by CDOT. However, road closures due to avalanche activity can result in serious transportation disruptions due to the limited number of roads within the County. Colorado State Highway 145 at Lizard Head Pass in San Miguel County often experiences avalanche closures during the same time as Colorado Highway 550, thus obstructing all access to the County from the South and West. Stranded travelers or commuters are often faced with a lack of lodging availability. Backcountry avalanche incidents involve search and rescue teams and resources, which can put these personnel in areas of risk.

Additionally, Ouray County is known as a worldwide destination for ice climbing. Many of the climbs are at the bottom of avalanche chutes, thus climbers may not be aware of dangers lurking high above them.

The keys to limiting impacts to individuals recreating in the area are knowledge and awareness of the hazard and being properly equipped for self-rescue, if necessary, with tools such as locator beacons, shovels, and probes.

In addition, the County experiences challenges with managing the impacts of avalanches due to the multi-jurisdictional nature of the event. For example, the 2019 avalanches originated on USFS land, crossed CDOT highway, and then impacted the City of Ouray through debris clogging creeks.

3.4.3.2.2 Dam Failure
Dam failures can result in downstream flooding. Water released by a failed dam generates tremendous energy and can cause a flood that is catastrophic to life and property. Three Factors that influence the potential severity of a full or
partial dam failure are the amount of water impounded; the density, type, and value of downstream development and infrastructure; and the nature of the terrain between the dam and the downstream development. A dam failure event can dislodge trees and boulders, carrying them downstream into developed areas.

A catastrophic dam failure could challenge local response capabilities and require evacuations to save lives. Impacts to life safety would depend on the warning time and the resources available to notify and evacuate the public and could include major loss of life and potentially catastrophic damage to roads, bridges, and homes. Associated water quality and health concerns could also be an issue.

Ridgway Dam is the only high hazard dam in the County. If this dam were to fail, the Uncompahgre River valley downstream of the Ridgway Reservoir would be inundated. The greatest impact would be in Montrose County to the north of Ouray County. The proximity of this dam to potentially active faults has led the Bureau of Reclamation to regularly monitor the dam and micro seismicity of the area. The core of the Ridgway Dam has been designed to withstand an M 8.0 earthquake. Ridgway Dam has an electronic notification system that would alert the Bureau of Reclamation in the event of a problem with the dam from an earthquake. The abutments have been shored up and an inactive fault below the dam was filled in during construction. Seismic monitoring is ongoing.

Ouray Reservoir was an old power generating facility that has silted in. Lake Lenore is not listed in the state or federal databases, but this dam could impact the Dexter Creek drainage if it failed.

The Full Moon dam contains a small volume of water and was drilled for testing in 2007. The dam underwent repairs and improvements related to safety in 2013. Improvements to the outlet system allowed shutdown during an emergency and spillway improvements to double the capacity with additional rip rap to slow future erosion. Repairs were conducted by the bureau of Reclamation team from Provo, Utah, that specializes in dam repair. Expenditures for the project are estimated at $300,000.

Cornerstone dam in the northern County was recently constructed in 2006-2007 and is rated as a significant hazard dam. It could impact Government Springs Road and on home below it. Other homes further downstream could be damaged, but the risk is not considered life threatening.

Both Cornerstone and Ridgway dams have Emergency Action Plans.

All Jurisdictions contain a dam or are located downstream from a dam in the County, therefore all jurisdictions are at risk to the impacts from this hazard. The Town of Ridgway is downstream from two low hazard dams and the City of Ouray is downstream from one low hazard dam. Montrose (Montrose County) is downstream from the only high and significant hazard dams in the County. In addition, inundation areas for high hazard fare are available through Colorado Dam Safety. Based on this data, portions of northern unincorporated County, following Highway 550 into Montrose County, are at risk to dam inundation from the Ridgway dam, the highway could experience significant damages, which could cut off access to the County from the north. Based on this data, there are 84 parcels in the County in the inundation area.

Additionally, Colorado Dam Safety has performed several analyses of dam failure risk throughout the State. First, the social vulnerability of populations in the event of a dam failure were analyzed for high and significant hazard dams across the state. Social vulnerability was measured based on factors such as age (under 5/over 65), race and ethnicity, percent of population living in group quarters, population, population density, income, English speaking ability, percent of population living in mobile homes, and more. The only dam included in this analysis in Ouray County was the Ridgway dam, which received a social vulnerability score of 2.1, which equates to a “medium-high” social vulnerability. Colorado Dam Safety also analyzed population at risk to dam failure. For the Ridgway dam, 13,446 people were determined at risk, many of which are in Montrose County.

Lastly, Colorado Dam Safety conducted a first of its kind analysis to determine risk from high hazard dams during a range of release scenarios. Recent flooding event in Colorado in 2013 and 2015, and nationwide in 2017, have highlighted cases where excessive reservoir inflows cased dam spillway flows at dams to exceed normal rates and/or required controlled releases of water to lower reservoir levels. In some of these cases hazardous conditions developed in the channels and floodplains downstream of the dams and emergency actions required. Although all high hazard dams in Colorado have dam failure inundation maps to delineate flooding limits for dam failures, no mapping exists nor is it required to be developed for the range of releases that might be anticipated to occur during flooding events. The “Colorado High Hazard Dam Release – Downstream Floodplain Impacts Database and Ranking Tool” was created to begin to fill this gap. This database and ranking too provides a screening level assessment of the potential for hazardous conditions downstream, of high hazard dams throughout the state. It provides a ranking of high hazard dams where there is either a high, moderate or low likelihood of the existence of dangerous conditions created by dam and reservoir
release operations simultaneously with naturally occurring flood conditions. Overall, 367 dams were analyzed, and in Ouray County, the Ridgway dam ranked 159th. This indicates a relative medium risk for the dam compared to other dams in the State for downstream floodplain impacts.

3.4.3.2.3 Debris Flow
Debris flows can damage property, close roads, and cause injuries or death. A road closed due to debris flow activity can result in serious transportation disruptions due to the limited number of roads in the county. This has happened repeatedly along Ouray County Road 17 and Colorado State Highways 62, 145 and 550. The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Resolution No. 2017-037 designated Ouray County Road 17 as an Emergency Access Priority. Although all jurisdictions are at risk to the impacts of debris flows, the City of Ouray and the nearby Highway 550 corridor are the most impacted areas of the County. A debris flow within the City itself could block major streets, making movement with the City largely impossible and severely hindering emergency response. When Colorado State Highway 550 is closed, it severely reduces north/south access in and out of the County.

Debris flows originating from Portland and Cascade creeks, based on historic incidents, have posed a serious threat to the City of Ouray residents and residential and commercial property. The City of Ouray has done significant work on mitigating the debris flow hazard. The threat has been reduced somewhat by flumes that have been constructed to divert debris and flows through the City. There is still the potential for a large event to overwhelm these flumes, or for the flumes to be plugged with debris during an event, resulting in debris spilling onto local streets. The debris flow risk can also be significantly exacerbated by wildfires.

Most recent development on the debris fans of Skyrocket and Bridalveil creeks incorporate geotechnical investigations and recommendations to reduce potential impacts. Homes on the debris fans are protected to some degree by dredged channels with berms that divert flows. These are not engineered structures and could be susceptible to failure or overtopping during a large event. Skyrocket Creek threatens the Ouray Hot Springs Pool, which has been filled with debris in the past. The pool is a major economic engine for the City of Ouray and can have 300-400 visitors a time in the busy summer months. A worst-case scenario would be if a debris flow struck the crowded pool. Residential development on the Corbett Creek and Dexter Creek debris fans could also be potentially at risk. There are currently no warning systems on any of the problem drainages.

3.4.3.2.4 Drought
Drought impacts are wide-reaching and may be economic, environmental, and/or societal. The most significant impacts associated with drought in Colorado are those related to water intensive activities such as agriculture, wildfire protection, municipal usage, commerce, tourism, recreation, and wildlife preservation. An ongoing drought may leave an area more prone to beetle kill and associated wildfires.

Drought conditions can also cause soil to compact, increasing an area’s susceptibility to flooding and reduce vegetation cover, which exposes soil to wind and erosion. A reduction of electric power generation and water quality deterioration are also potential problems. Drought impacts increase with the length of a drought, as carry-over supplies in reservoirs are depleted and water levels in ground water basins decline. The following discussion highlights past impacts from drought events.

Ridgway Reservoir is a state and local asset vulnerable to drought, in terms of water supply, water quality, and recreation. The reservoir does not provide water supply to Ouray Residents. The water supplied throughout much of the County is from a diversion from the Gunnison Basin, but water from Ouray County is required in exchange for Gunnison Basin water. However, the reservoir is a popular attraction for camping, hiking, boating, winter sports, and birding, boosting the local economy.

In 2002, the drought-imposed fire restrictions impacted camping activity, and cancellation of the 4th of July fireworks display had economic repercussions. The 2002 and 2012 droughts threatened the municipal water supply for the City of Ouray. The City does not have senior water rights. Because of this, users downstream with senior water rights can call on the City to curtail its water usage. This happened in both 2002 and 2012. In 2012, the City acquired and repaired the Red Mountain Ditch to supplement its water supply. An augmentation plan was also developed to address this issue. It is reasonable to expect that the City will again be called on to curtail its water usage in the future, but the augmentation plan will help reduce the City’s vulnerability to drought. After the 2012 drought, Ouray County Water Users Association was founded. The Association, along with local partner organizations such as the Ouray county government, funded a water needs study by Wright Water Engineers in 2016. The study found significant supply gaps in agriculture, as well as some gaps in recreation, drinking and other uses, said Marti Whitmore, Ouray County’s representative on both the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and Colorado River District. A new group from Ouray County water stakeholders formed in the summer 2017, and was awarded an $83,200 grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board for a follow-up
study and creation of the Upper Uncompahgre Cooperative Stream Management Plan. The funding will help find solutions for how to fill those gaps. The 2012 drought also brought increased hay costs, a decrease in agricultural production, reduced cattle herds, and an increase in beetle-killed trees.

The 2018 drought brought extremely dry conditions into the summer months in the County. This led to Stage 2 fire restrictions, additionally, the City of Ouray cancelled their 4th of July fireworks show, causing economic repercussions. State 2 fire restrictions were enabled for the Uncompahgre National Forest and in the County. Additionally, Stage 3 fire restrictions were imposed on the San Juan National Forest, closing campgrounds, day-use areas, roads, and trails. No hiking or camping was allowed in the Forest during these closures. Although the San Juan National Forest is not in Ouray County, it borders the Uncompahgre National Forest and is an economic driver in the region. Such a widespread closure can impact the tourism economy in Ouray County. 2018 was the first time the San Juan National Forest was closed in its history.

The Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection Districts main concern with prolonged drought is the increase in fire danger. The district works closely with the West Region Wildfire Council to monitor the drought situation and the Sheriff to recommend the implementation of fire restrictions. Water rights for the two water services servicing the district are relatively senior and seem secure. Additionally, the district can fill firefighting apparatus at the Ridgway Reservoir if necessary.

Additionally, drought can cause loss of water in the Ouray Ice Park, which is a major attraction in the County and contributes to the local economy. At the time of this plan re-write, Ouray Ice Park Inc. (OIPI) and the City of Ouray are collaborating to determine different water sources for the Ouray Ice Park other than the municipal water. Overall, a severe drought will affect the entire economy, particularly in relation to tourism, water supply, and wildfire concerns. Drought is one of the few hazards that has the potential to directly or indirectly impact each and every person within Ouray County, as well as adversely affect the local economy.

3.4.3.2.5 Earthquake
It can be assumed all existing and future buildings and populations are at risk to the earthquake hazard. However, building codes can help reduce the risk to structures during an earthquake. Previous damages from earthquakes in Ouray County include cracked plaster, chimneys, and windows; fallen pictures from walls; broken dishes; and damages to the Ridgway School ceiling. It is possible for faults near Ouray County to produce a 6.25 magnitude earthquake. A 6.1 magnitude can cause impacts such as moving cars becoming uncontrollable, masonry fractures, and damage to poorly constructed buildings. Older buildings that are not constructed to modern day building codes are more at risk to these damages throughout the County.

An additional concern is Ridgway Reservoir. There have been several earthquakes near the reservoir in its history. According to Colorado Earthquake Information, 1867-1996, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the USGS, has monitored seismicity near Ridgway Dam since 1985. Seismicity near Ridgway Dam increased about seven-fold subsequent to reservoir filling, which may be associated with north-trending branch faults of the Ridgway Fault. The most persistent seismicity observed in the region occurs near Cimarron Ridgway, and area that includes the 1960 magnitude 5.5 event.

The MHP2019 identified that the Ridgway School District is concerned that the elementary school building may not adequately protect students or staff in the event of a major earthquake due to the age of the structure.

3.4.3.2.6 Extreme Temperatures

Extreme Cold
Extreme cold can occasionally cause problems with communications facilities and freeze-thaw cycles can severely damage roads as well as contribute to Rockfall. Several parts of the County, including Ridgway, Ouray, Elk Meadows, and Loghill Mesa, experience problems with frozen water lines. Water consumption in the City of Ouray can become excessive in wintertime as the City advises residents to leave water running to help prevent frozen pipes which are not buried deeply enough or not isolated properly. The Ridgway School District noted that extreme cold once caused the school to close as school buses would not start in temperatures of -37°F.

Most of the populations in Ouray County are accustomed to extreme cold temperatures and have adequate heating sources to combat the impacts of cold temperatures. However, residents in rural parts of the County rely on propane for heat. On December 24, 2018, Governor Hickenlooper issued a disaster emergency in response to an anticipated shortage of propane that could affect approximately 33,000 residents living in 20 counties that rely on propane for heating their home. The shortages was blamed on production issues and was determined that customers may not be able to receive enough propane to heat their homes. During this time, southern Colorado was expecting extremely cold temperatures
accompanying a winter storm. Ouray County was included in the emergency declaration. Without propane for heat, extreme cold could become deadly for Ouray County Residents.

Overall, due to the presence of extreme cold throughout the entire County, all jurisdictions are equally at risk to the impacts from extreme cold.

**Extreme Heat**

Typically, Ouray County does not experience extremely high temperatures. However, since residents are accustomed to more mild temperatures, days that are hotter than average in the summer months can impact residents who are not prepared or accustomed to these temperatures. Additionally, Ouray County experiences a large influx of tourist during the summer months, many who come to enjoy outdoor activities in the County. Tourist who are unprepared are vulnerable to extreme heat. Impacts of extreme heat on people include heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat exhaustion typically occurs before heat stroke. Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, headache, excessive thirst, muscle cramps, weakness, confusion or anxiety, drenching sweat followed by cold skin, slowed heartbeat, dizziness, and fainting. Heat Stroke symptoms include dizziness, confusion, weakness, confusion or anxiety, increased body temperature, confusion, and convulsions. Heat stroke can be fatal and should be treated immediately if these symptoms are experienced.

Typically, factors such as, chronic illness, weight, and medications increase people’s vulnerability to this hazard. Overall, in Ouray County, 6.6% (2021 data) of residents are under the age of five years; 4.07% (2021 data) of the City of Ouray residents are under the age of five years old; and 7.52% (2021 data) of the residents of Ridgway are under the age of five years old. In Ouray County, 23.27% (2021 data) of the residents are 65 years or older; 21.16% (2021 data) in the City of Ouray; and 17.59% (2021 data) in the Town of Ridgway. These age groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat. Air conditioning helps combat the impacts on extremely hot days, however, since many people come to Ouray County to enjoy the outdoors, they may be caught off guard and are vulnerable to extreme heat. It should also be noted, many homes and lodgers do not have air conditioning.

In addition to impacts to people, extreme heat can exacerbate other hazards, such as drought and wildfire.

### 3.4.3.2.7 Flooding

Floods have the potential to damage the Coty of Ouray (significant areas), Town of Ridgway (minor areas), and the unincorporated areas along the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries. While the City of Ouray has mitigated much of the impact of the 1% annual chance flood, the less likely 0.2% annual chance event could still cause significant impacts. Many tourist facilities are located along this river and could be at risk during a flood event. There is a campground located in the floodplain in the City of Ouray. Damage to the Weehawken Spring water transmission line can also have serious impacts to the City of Ouray given the City’s limited supply of water in storage. Over the years the County has made bridge and drainage improvements in areas prone to flash flooding and debris flow. Cutler Creek could be a source of potential problems with new housing development in vicinity of its debris fan. Additionally, there is concern that debris can block Corbett Creek and contribute to flooding in Ouray. Ridgway frequently has drainage problems from thunderstorms runoff depositing shale and pugging culverts. Roads closed due to flood can result in serious transportation disruptions due to the limited number of roads in the County. Additionally, mud and debris flows often accompany floods, exacerbating the impacts.

### 3.4.3.2.8 Hazardous Materials Incident

People and the environment are at the highest risk to hazmat incidents in Ouray County. As demonstrated by previous occurrences, drivers transporting hazmat on Colorado State Highway 550 are at a high risk to accidents that may lead to releases. Additionally, Colorado State Highway 550 runs through both the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway, putting both of those jurisdictions at risk if an accident were to occur nearby. Colorado State Highway 62 also runs through Ridgway, increasing the risk. Fixed facility releases are less common in the County due to lack of major facilities housing hazmat or waste. However, mine tailings are a potential for release.

A hazmat release can cause acute to chronic impacts on human health depending on the chemical released and level of exposure. Additionally, an incident causing an explosion or fire can cause injury or loss of life as well as damages to structure or infrastructure. A transportation hazmat release could cause road closures, which are a concern for the County due to the limited access in and out. Releases in the environment may require costly remediation and can cause environmental damages, which could impact tourism and recreation in the County. Populated areas could experience a higher amount of people exposed to the impacts of a release. If an event occurred near or at a facility of either school district, there could be significant impact on the staff and students. Therefore, the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and the School Districts are at a higher risk to the impacts of a hazmat release on people. A release in unincorporated County could still have significant impacts on the environment and infrastructure.
3.4.3.2.9 Imminent Threat
A mass shooting or other attack could cause death, injuries, structural damage, and economic damage in Ouray County. These impacts could be long-term as communities recover after an attack. An attack when large groups of people are concentrated in a small area presents significant risk, and all identified critical facilities in the County are also at risk to such an attack.

Governments are also vulnerable to cyber-attacks by hackers. Cyber-attacks can significantly impact the economy and safety of the County. Ouray County fights off cyber threats fairly frequently.

3.4.3.2.10 Landslide/Rockfall
Impact from landslides and rockfalls are typically isolated to the direct area, and many of the issues can be mitigated with proper awareness and engineering design. Landslides could create flood hazards by blocking up rivers or by contributing to dam failures. Landslides and rockfall hazards threaten several transportation corridors in the County. Rockfall can cause severe injuries and fatalities. If a landslide event were to cut off a major roadway, people could become stranded, deliveries of supplies could be delayed, emergency response could be hindered, etc. Landslides within and outside of the County also pose a threat to power lines and infrastructure. A landslide could impact power line infrastructure and thus contribute to extended power outages. Increased backcountry recreation in the County also exposes people to rockslide and landslide events. For example, the Camp Bird Road is subject to rockfall, which is a popular location for residents and tourist to recreate. This area has continued to experience increased use over the last several years. Additionally, it was noted rockfalls commonly originate from USFS owned lands in the County, and it is important to identify these hazard areas to help mitigate.

Based on previous occurrences and the hazard maps, it is evident that the City of Ouray, Colorado State Highway 550 in southern Ouray County, and Ouray County Road 17 are susceptible to landslides and rockfalls. These roads provide important access to and from the County, and the closure of these roads hurt businesses in Ouray County. Based on analysis from the March 2019 rockfall event, from a geological perspective there is a risk of rockfall to the residences on North Pin Crest Drive, and other similar locations along the base of the cliffs along Ouray County Road 17. A waterline for the City of Ouray is threatened by a landslide near Ouray County Road 361. One other landslide problem area includes the 11000 block of County Road 1 as it climbs the escarpment. The road is showing possible damage due to sliding foundation. Landslides and rockfalls have little impact on the Town of Ridgway.

3.4.3.2.11 Lightning
Lightning can cause deaths, injuries, and property damage, including damage to buildings, communications systems power lines, and electrical systems. It also causes wildland and structural fires. Damage from lightning occurs in four ways:

- Electrocution, severe electrical shock, and burns of humans and animals
- Vaporization of materials in the path of the strike
- Fire caused by the high temperatures associated with lightning
- Power surges that can damage electrical equipment

When people are struck by lightning, the result is deep burns at the point of contact (usually on the head, neck, and shoulders). Approximately 70% of lightning survivors experience residual effects such as vision and hearing loss or neuropsychiatric issues. These effects may develop slowly and only become apparent much later. Death occurs in 20% of lightning strike victims.

Aside from wildfire ignition, lightning cause intense but localized damage. In contrast to other hazards, lightning does not cause widespread disruptions with the community. Structural fires, localized damages to buildings, damage to electronics and electrical appliances, and electrical power and communications outages are typical consequences of a lightning strike. Additionally, indirect fatalities may result via electrocution when a person steps from a vehicle into standing water that was previously “charged” by a live power-line that was knocked loose by a lightning strike.

The indirect social and economic impacts of lightning damage are typically associated with the loss of electrical power. Since U.S. society relies heavily on electrical power, any disruption in the supply, even for a short time period, can have significant consequences. Wildland fires can also be an indirect result of a lightning strike.

Overall, all jurisdictions are at equal risk to the impacts of lightning. People recreating outside are at the highest risk to a lightning strike. Large influxes of people visiting Ouray County during the summer months exposes many people to lightning during the peak of the monsoon season, when most lightning strikes occur. Many people visit Ouray County for the outdoor beauty, and if they are not prepared for the risks associated with lightning in the high country, tourists can be particularly vulnerable to lightning strikes.
3.4.3.2.12 Mass Casualty Events/Incident (MCI)

The impact to people would be the most severe in a MCI. Tourism is a major economic driver in the County, and particularly the City of Ouray. This brings a large influx of people who are visiting, particularly to see the natural beauty in the County. This often means driving over Red Mountain Pass and the “Million Dollar Highway.” People driving the highway are vulnerable to accidents.

Tour bus crashes are more likely to occur during the tourist season, which is most busy June through August, and when vans and buses are transporting people between the Telluride ski area and Montrose Airport during the winter.

Additionally, a mine accident would largely impact people, causing injury or death. This could happen from an incident similar to the 2013 event from carbon monoxide poisoning, or from the physical impact of a mine collapse. There are thousands of historic mines throughout the County, and some can be accessed by visitors. Most are sealed off for public protection, but there are remote mines that are unsealed. Visiting historic mines is a typical tourist activity in the County, and if an incident occurred while tourists were visiting, injuries or fatalities could occur.

3.4.3.2.13 Public Health Emergencies

COVID-19

It can be argued that nearly the total population of 5,212 has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. At the time of this Plan re-write, approximately 8% of the population has been infected by COVID-19 and 5 residents have lost their lives. The entire county was placed under a stay at home order and mask mandates. Lodging businesses were forced to limit reservations and institute new cleaning regulations. Schools in Ouray County closed to in-person education from March 2020 to the end of the 2019-2020 School Year. Schools were able to stay open to in-person learning for the 2020-2021 School year but had to modify their day to day activities, cleaning, and class scheduling/rotations. At the time of this plan update, Schools remain open to in-person learning.

COVID-19 is infecting all ages. However, it seems to more detrimental to the elderly population. All 5 of Ouray County’s deaths from COVID-19 have been between 80-90 years old.

It is too soon to know the true financial impact of COVID-19 on Ouray County, its residents, and its businesses.

Pandemic Influenza

The total population of 5,212 could potentially be exposed to a pandemic flu outbreak. According to the Colorado Department of Public health and Environment’s (CDPHE) Internal Emergency Response Implementation Plan, susceptibility to the pandemic influenza virus strain will be universal, and disease affect approximately 30% of the State’s overall population.

Illness rate will be highest among school-age children (about 40%) and decline with age. Among working adults, an average of 20% will become ill during a community outbreak. In a severe pandemic flu, it is expected that absenteeism may reach 40% due to illness, the need to care for ill family members, and fear of infection. According to Ouray County Public Health Agency, the County has a lower than average vaccination rate for flu, making residents potentially more vulnerable to contracting the influenza virus.

The number of hospitalizations and deaths will depend on the virulence of the virus. Risk groups cannot be predicted with certainty. During the annual influenza season, infants, the elderly, the chronically ill, and pregnant women are usually at higher risk. But in contrast, in 1918 the pandemic, most deaths occurred among young, previously healthy adults.

If a pandemic flu event affected 30% of the Ouray population, approximately 1,564 people in the County could become ill. Local medical staff and resources would be quickly overwhelmed. Public fear and anxiety could cause some panic behaviors. The more densely populated areas of the County, such as the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and Loghill Mesa would likely be more susceptible to the spread of the flu. The schools would be negatively impacted during a flu pandemic. The flu can spread quickly in schools due to the increased density of people.

West Nile Virus

People who work or recreate outside are at a higher risk to West Nile Virus, although the whole population of the County is at risk. According to CDPHE, people of any age can get West Nile Virus. However, the elderly are at a greatest risk for severe disease. People with certain medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and people who have received organ transplants are also at greater risk for serious illness.

In Ouray County, 23.27% of residents are 65 years or older; 21.16% in the City of Ouray; and 17.59% in the Town of Ridgway. These age groups are more vulnerable to the severe impact of West Nile Virus.
Radon, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Methane Seeps
Radon, CO, and Methane Seeps all impact human health and safety. As mentioned previously, radon is a leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. Radon induced lung cancer impacts both children and adults alike, with all age groups having similar risk levels. Radon exposure has not been linked to other respiratory diseases, such as asthma. Radon can be tested for and mitigated in buildings to lower the risk of exposure in populations. Due to widespread exposure to radon in Colorado, all jurisdictions have a similar risks from radon exposure in Ouray County. Colorado statute requires all schools to test for radon and to maintain records of the test results for disclosure upon request. However, the statute does not require schools to mitigate high radon levels; it is up to the school district and its constituents to decide how to address mitigation issues. The Ouray Schools has a mitigation plan for Radon and Asbestos. The Ridgway School District does not have a mitigation project, nor do they know the last time they tested for Radon.

The health effects of CO depend on the concentration of CO in the air, how long a person is exposed, and the health status of the person exposed. Unborn babies, infants, and people with respiratory problem, chronic Heart disease, or anemia are most susceptible to the effects of CO poisoning. At low concentrations CO can cause fatigue and other flu-like symptoms. It can also cause chest pain in people with heart disease. At higher concentrations, CO can cause impaired vision and coordination, headache, dizziness, confusion, and nausea. Very high concentrations of CO can lead to loss of consciousness and death within minutes. The health effects of long-term exposure to low levels of CO are not well understood, but exposure to high CO levels during pregnancy is known to be associated with birth defect and fetal death. Exposure to moderate or high levels of CO over long periods of time has also been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Survivors of severe CO poisoning may suffer from heart and brain damage, learning and memory impairment, emotional and personal changes, and sensory and motor disorders. All jurisdictions have similar risks to impacts from CO exposure.

Methane seepages can cause sudden explosions which may cause injuries and fatalities as well as severe damages to structures. Additionally, if methane is contained in groundwater, it can make water unsafe to drink or in some cases, flammable. All jurisdictions in the County are at risk to the impacts of methane seeps. However, there is documented coal bed areas in the northern/central portions of the County putting those areas at a higher risk. This would include the Town of Ridgway and the Ridgway School District.

3.4.3.2.14 Severe Winter Storm
The threat to public safety is typically the greatest concern when it comes to impact of winter storms. These storms can also impact the local economy by disrupting transportation and commercial activities. Winter storms are occasionally severe enough to overwhelm snow removal efforts, transportation, livestock management, and business and commercial activities. Travelers on highways in Ouray County, particularly along remote stretches of road, can become stranded, requiring search and rescue assistance and shelter provisions. The County can experience high winds and drifting snow during winter storms that can occasionally isolate individuals and entire communities and lead to serious damage to livestock populations and crops. Winter storms also have the potential to disrupt the delivery of food and fuel into the County. Winter storms contribute directly to three other hazards in this plan: avalanche, extreme temperatures (cold), and mass transportation accident. Limited phone and call phone service in parts of the County mean that emergency reporting may be impossible during severe winter storm event.

Structural damage from winter storms in Southwest Colorado can result from severe snow loads on rooftops. Older buildings are more at risk, as are buildings with large flat rooftops (often found in public buildings such as schools). With the historic structures in the Town of Ridgway and City of Ouray, the potential for damage exists, but information to quantify the amount and extent is currently not available. The City has inventoried 74 unreinforced masonry buildings, most of which are historic structures that could be vulnerable to heavy snow loads. Impacts that are associated with extremely cold temperatures often associated with severe winter storms are discussed in the Extreme Temperatures hazard profile.

Overall, the southern portion of the County and the City of Ouray experience higher snow totals and more winter weather events that the northern portion, but all parts of the County experience severe winter weather every year and are vulnerable to its impacts. Additionally, as people continue to travel to Ouray County for backcountry recreation, they will continue to be vulnerable to the impacts of these winter storms.

3.4.3.2.15 Wildfire
Although wildfires are a natural part of forested ecosystems, they present a major threat to people and property in Ouray County. A wildfire can cause evacuations, injuries, and loss of life. Additionally, wildfires can cause severe damage to buildings and infrastructure in the County. Damages to homes and businesses can impact the livelihood of County Residents. A major wildfire can also impact visitors to the County in the summer months, when tourism is at its peak. Life safety and human health are serious concerns due to the limited evacuation routes and high influx of visitors to the
County during summer festivals. Additionally, smoke from wildfires can have negative impacts on human health. Wildfire smoke is a contributor to particulate matter, which is dangerous because it becomes lodged deep in the lungs and can enter the bloodstream, triggering asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, and, in some cases, causing lung cancer. Ouray County can be impacted by smoke from fires originating outside of the County boundaries, as experienced with the 2018 416 fires and the fires across the nation in 2021.

Although a natural process, can mar scenic view-sheds and watersheds, potentially reducing property values and negatively impacting the tourism-based economy that much of the southern half of the County depends on. Fire can be intensified by drought, as was during the 2002 and 2018 fire seasons. Fires can also contribute to higher risk of debris flows by destroying vegetation that anchors the soil. Fire can destroy wildlife habitat, potentially leading to more human-wildlife vehicle collisions as wildlife migrates during or after wildfire.

Wildfire risk and potential for losses has been exacerbated by increase in high-intensity wildfire that the western U.S. has experienced. In order to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire, mitigation measures must be comprehensive, and balance different needs such forest health, access to recreation, and development.

The WUI risk indicates a rating of the potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes in the WUI. It is evident Ridgway and Loghill Village have high-risk WUI areas. There is an additional cluster of high-risk WUI areas just south of the Loghill Mesa FPD and in the CDP of Portland. The City of Ouray also contains high-risk WUI areas on the outskirts of the City boundaries.

In addition to people and structures in the WUI, other assets at risk to wildfire in the County include drinking water, forest assets, and riparian assets. Based on the 2017 CO-WRA data, drinking water assets are measured by quality and quantity of public surface drinking water categorized by watershed. Forest assets are described as forested lands characterized by height, cover, and susceptibility/response to fire. Riparian assets are described as forested riparian areas characterized by functions of water quantity, quality, and ecology. Risk of each of these assets to wildfire was calculated during the CO-WRA. Overall, the risk to drinking water increases moving south through the County, although within the County itself the risk only reaches moderate levels. The risk to forest assets is also highest in the southern portion of the County, largely in Grand Mesa Uncompahgre National Forest. Wildfires in the National Forest may also directly affect tourism within the County, since many people travel to recreate in the forest. Higher riparian asset risks are found along streams and rivers throughout the County.

Overall wildfire risk for the CO-WRA was calculated based on the factors such as burn probability, fire intensity, WUI risk, drinking water asset risk, forest asset risk, and riparian asset risk. Overall, the highest risk in the County is in the north-central areas, within the Loghill Mesa FPD. There are also areas of high risk within Loghill Village CDP, just north Ridgway. Although the alpine forests surrounding the City of Ouray are typically considered lower wildfire risk, one wildfire in this area could cause major impacts. As demonstrated by 416 fire in the nearby San Juan National Forest, a large wildfire in the Uncompahgre National Forest surrounding the City of Ouray could significantly impact to the City, cause smoke related health impacts, impact roads and access in and out of the City, and possibly impact structures. Additionally, the City has significant structures in the WUI that are at a high risk to wildfire. Due to these factors, the wildfire risk to the City of Ouray is considered high.

In recognition of its high risks to wildfire, Ouray County is home to half West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) 2017 Firewise sites. Pleasant Valley Vista, Fisher Canyon South, and Loghill Mesa, all near Ridgway, are three of the more than 1,400 National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) Firewise sites recognized nationwide. Firewise sites meet the standards recommended for reducing wildfire risk through community mitigation efforts. Loghill Mesa has done extensive wildfire mitigation work, such as an annual chipping program for slash, a rapid curbside assessment of residents, and surveys to homeowners to understand and reduce wildfire risk. These efforts help mitigate the elevated risk to wildfire in the community.

Additionally, the County, in partnership with the CSFS and USFS, have treated Douglas fir trees around the City of Ouray to mitigate against beetles using pheromone packets. The pheromone packets were placed in high-use areas, such as trees around the Ouray Amphitheater and campground, Cascade Falls, and other popular trails and recreation areas near Ouray and Telluride. In addition to pheromones, active management is utilized to cut down dead and diseased trees and remove dead trees from the forest floor. Additionally, improving forest health by diversifying the age of trees as well as the species of trees will help to reduce the risk of the fir beetle decimating entire forests, and also overall reduce wildfire risk. Challenges arise due to forests being managed by multiple agencies as well as the remoteness and rugged terrain of forests in the County.

Details on individual communities’ risk to wildfire can be found in the 2011 Ouray County CWPP.
3.4.3.2.16 Windstorm

All current and future buildings and populations are at risk to wind in Ouray County. Wind can result in a variety of impacts to current and future buildings and populations including:

- Torn-off roofs and shingles
- Downed trees and limbs
- Debris generation

The availability of sheltered locations, such as basements, buildings constructed using tornado-resistant materials and methods, and public storm shelters, all reduce the exposure of the population to wind events. However, there are also segments of the population that are especially exposed to the indirect impacts of high-winds events, particularly the loss of power. These populations include the elderly or disabled, especially those with medical needs and treatments dependent on electricity. In terms of property losses caused by any high-wind hazard, the actual damages will depend on the building density and quality of construction in the impacted area. Buildings that are close to large trees or overhead powerlines are also at greater risk of suffering more extensive damage. Construction practices can help maximize the resistance of the structures to damage. High-wind events also have the potential to wreak havoc on above ground infrastructure such as power and communication lines. Downed power and communications transmission lines, coupled with disruptions to transportation, create difficulties in reporting and responding to emergencies. Additionally, high winds that occur on hot, dry days can cause dangerous fire conditions, and winds can cause fire to spread rapidly.

3.4.4 Estimation of Potential Human and Economic Losses

During the MHP2019, the Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database for the United States (SHELDUS) Version 17.0 was utilized to assess losses from the following hazards: avalanche, drought, flooding, hail, landslide, lightning, severe storm/thunderstorm, wildfire, wind, and winter weather. SHELDUS is a county-level dataset that allows for consistent comparison of losses across hazards. All loss information used in this Plan from SHELDUS is reported in 2017 dollars to facilitate even comparison between hazards. SHELDUS utilizes data from 1960 to 2017. It recognized that this data is not reported by jurisdiction, but can still provide value in consistent comparison across hazards at the county-level. A summary of SHELDUS data is reported below, and damages are additionally reported in each hazard profile.

From 1960 to 2017, Ouray County experienced a total of 104 hazard events equating to $14,558,159 (2017 dollars) in damages reported across all hazards. The County experienced more winter weather events (36) than any other hazard. This is followed by wind events (29). Of the damages, $7,656,291 were crop damages and $6,901,868 were property damages. Total number of events by hazard is displayed in Figure 3.4.4.A below and total damages is displayed in Figure 3.4.4.B:

Figure 3.4.4.A SHELDUS Total Events by Hazard
Winter weather caused the most damages from 1960 to 2017, causing $7,781,887 in total damages, representing approximately half of all damages. Flooding followed with $3,925,983 in total damages. Figure 3.4.4C shows damages by hazard.

These damages are further broken down by property and crop damage by hazard (Figure 3.4.4.D and Figure 3.4.4.E) respectively. Flooding has caused the most property damages in the county with $3,512,069 in damages. This represents approximately half of the total property damages across all hazards. Winter weather caused the next highest in property damages, with $2,462,414 in damages. For crop damages, winter weather caused the most in damages, with $5,319,473. Drought caused the next highest in crop damages, with $1,897,695 in damages.
Table 3.4.4 summarizes all of the above information in a table.

**Table 3.4.4 SHELDUS Summary Table**

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<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Crop Damage</th>
<th>Property Damage</th>
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<td>$25,611</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$1,897,695</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$3,512,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hail</td>
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<td>$120</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.4.4.D SHELDUS Property Damages by Hazard

Figure 3.4.4.E SHELDUS Crop Damages by Hazard
3.4.4.1 Estimation of Potential Loss by Hazard:

3.4.4.1.1 Avalanche

It is public safety that is threatened the most by this hazard. Those most vulnerable include individuals recreating in and traveling through or under avalanche hazard areas. While road closures help to mitigate impacts to travelers on Colorado Highway 550, CDOT snowplow drivers can still be exposed while clearing roads of snow or avalanche debris. Additionally, costs associated with the removal of avalanche debris can be significant. Avalanches inside and outside of the County can disrupt transportation in and out of the County, which negatively impact resident, businesses, and travelers, and may result in economic losses to local Businesses in the County.

3.4.4.1.2 Dam Failure

Since there has not been documented previous occurrences of dam failures in Ouray County, there are not annual loss estimates available for this plan. Significant losses could occur from a dam failure, including (but not limited to) building damage, flooding, infrastructure damage, and potential deaths and injuries.

Based on Colorado Dam Safety inundation data, there are 84 parcels located in the Ridgway Dam inundation limits. These parcels have $26,598,530 in total exposure value (improvement value plus estimated contents value). This represents a worst-case scenario assuming all parcels were impacted from a dam inundation event at the Ridgway dam.

3.4.4.1.3 Debris Flow

In Jochim’s analysis of past events, the damage has been more debris than water related. The Colorado Geologic Survey (CGS) report indicated that the 1981 and 1982 reports had damage and cleanup costs of $196,000 and $360,000, respectively. Those storms were considered to be 10 to 25 year storms, so the damage from a 100-year storm event would be much higher. The July 2018 event caused approximately $500,000 in damages.

The most recent GIS data is from 2015. In 2015, a GIS analysis was conducted to determine population at risk and total exposure and potential losses of structures located in debris fans. Overall, it was determined that 292 people are at risk to debris flows in the City of Ouray and 90 people in unincorporated Ouray County, for a total of 382 people at risk. It should be noted that population has grown since the 2010 population estimated uses in this analysis. Therefore, it can be assumed the population at risk is slightly higher that this analysis. Additionally, since the City of Ouray’s population sells during the summer tourism months, it was estimated that lodging-related tax revenues that could be lost to the City of a serious flood kept tourist away could be as high as $27,000. Since the analysis, the City of Ouray has restructured their lodging tax and in a busy summer month, the City of Ouray can bring in $500,000 a month in Lodging and Occupation Tax. Lastly, it was estimated that the City of Ouray contains $148,432,820 in total value of parcels located in debris fans and unincorporated County $38,822,795, for a total value of $187,255,615. It should also be noted that the property values in these areas has increased since this analysis. Therefore, it can be assumed that the total value is higher than this analysis.

Overall, people and structures in the City of Ouray and directly surrounding areas are most at risk to damaging debris flows in the County, However, there are debris fans located throughout the County, and any structure located near a debris fan or steep is at risk to losses from this hazard.

3.4.4.1.4 Drought

No quantitative loss information was available from previous drought events. However, potential losses could be significant, particularly related to impacts on local businesses from decreased tourism/recreation as well as impacts on the ranching community in parts of the unincorporated Ouray County.

Additionally, according to County-Wide SHELDUS data, drought has caused $1,897,695 in damages from 1960 to 2017, all of which were crop damages. This equates to $33,292 in estimated annual crop damage from droughts in the County.
3.4.4.1.5 Earthquake

The most appropriate loss estimation methodology for seismic hazards involve scenario modeling using FEMA’s Hazus loss estimation software. There are two levels of Hazus analysis, ‘Standard,’ which uses the default FMEA-derived datasets and damage functions, and ‘Enhanced,’ which uses independently compiled and accurately verified structure and infrastructure inventories and damage functions. The earthquake analysis conducted for the MHP2019 included a Standard level analysis using the latest version, Hazus-MH Earthquake Model V4.2. This risk assessment leveraged census tract data to conduct a Standard Hazus probabilistic scenario for Ouray County.

A 2,500-year return period probabilistic scenario was used for the analysis (probability of 2% of occurrence in 50 years). A 2,500-year return period was chosen because the new International Building Code (IBC) uses a 2,500-year map as the basis for building design. Based on Colorado Geologic Survey (CGS) data, the highest earthquake that could be expected to occur in Ouray County is a 6.25. This value was used in the probabilistic scenario in Hazus.

Hazus estimates that there are over 3,000 buildings in the county which have an aggregate total replacement value of $730 million (excluding contents). Hazus estimates that about 258 buildings will be at least moderately damaged. This is over 8% of the buildings in the County. There are an estimated two buildings that will be damaged beyond repair. Residential homes will be the most impacted.

The total economic loss estimated for the earthquake is $42.77 million, which includes building and lifeline related losses based on the County’s available inventory. The building losses are broken into two categories: direct building losses and business interruption losses. The direct building losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building and its contents. The business interruption losses are the losses associated with the inability to operate a business because of the damage sustained during the earthquake. Business interruption losses also include the temporary living expenses for those people displaced from their homes because of the earthquake. The total building-related losses were #23.61; 19% of the estimated losses were related to business interruption of the County. By far, the largest loss was sustained by the residential occupancies which made up over 69% of the total loss. Due to the fact the County is aggregated as on Census Tract, it is not possible to determine losses by jurisdiction. It can be assumed the highest losses will be in areas with a higher concentration of buildings, particularly the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and Loghill Mesa. Additionally, the losses and displaced residents would likely be highest in the Loghill Mesa community, which lies along the fault line in the County.

The model estimates that a total of 5,000 tons of debris will be generated. Of the total amount, Brick/Wood comprises 39% of the total, with the remainder being reinforced concrete/steel. If the debris tonnage is converted to an estimated number of truckloads, it will require 200 truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) to remove the debris generated by the earthquake.

Hazus estimated the number of households that are expected to be displaced from their homes due to the earthquake and the number of displaced people that will require accommodations in temporary public shelters. The model estimates two households to be displaced due to the earthquake. Only one person is estimated to seek temporary shelter.

Hazus also estimates casualties due to the earthquake at three different times of the day, including: 2:00 am representing a time when residential occupancy is at a maximum, 2pm representing a time when business sectors are at a maximum, and 5:00 pm representing peak commute time. At 2:00 am, there is an estimated two casualties, both of these being injuries that require medical attention but no hospitalization. At 5:00 pm there is also an estimated two casualties, both of these being injuries that require medical attention but no hospitalization. It should be noted that this analysis is based on the County’s 2010 population. If an earthquake were to occur during peak tourism time, the potential for casualties would be much higher.

A number of variables are included in Hazus analyses in order to arrive at the estimated values of loss due to earthquake. For this reason, it is important to note that the Hazus loss estimates detailed above should not be used as a precise measure, but rather viewed from the perspective of the potential magnitudes of expected losses.

Additionally, mobile homes in the County are at a high risk to damages from an earthquake. Ouray County contains 8.6% of its households as mobile homes, with the County of Ouray having 9.8% and the Town of Ridgway 0.5%.

3.4.4.1.6 Extreme Temperatures

Extreme Cold

The only extreme cold event with reported impact in Ouray County resulted in $100,000 in property damage from burst water pipes. This damage estimate may include other counties impacted by the event. There is not enough recorded damage data to include an annualized loss estimate for this hazard. Losses may include damages from frozen pipes as well as impacts to human health/loss of life due to extreme cold.
### Extreme Heat

There is no recorded damage information for the extreme heat in Ouray County. The most severe losses from extreme heat are related to human health from heat related illness. However, losses from secondary hazards, such as wildfire could be significant.

#### 3.4.4.1.7 Flooding

Planning level flood loss estimates were conducted by county for the 2018 Colorado State Hazard Mitigation Plan using Hazus-MH (Hazus) software. This data was utilized for incorporation into the MHP2019 and in turn for this Plan. Hazus is FEMA’s GIS-based natural hazard loss estimation software. The Hazus flood model results include analysis for Ouray County, modeling streams draining 10 square mile minimum drainage area, using 30 meter (1 arc second) Digital Elevation Models (DEM). Hydrology and hydraulic processes utilize the DEMs, along with flows from USGS regional regression equations and stream gauge data, to determine reach discharges and to model the floodplain. Losses are then calculated using Hazus national baseline inventories (buildings and population) at the census block level, in addition to critical infrastructure sited at the local level.

Hazus produces a flood polygon and flood-depth grid that represents the 100-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain represents a flood that has 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any single year. While not as accurate as official flood maps, these floodplain boundaries are available for use in GIS and could be valuable to Ouray County given it has not been digitally mapped by the NFIP. Hazus generated damages estimates are directly related to depth of flooding and are based on FEMS’s depth-damage functions. For example, a two-foot flood generally results in about 20% damage to a structure (which translates to 20% of the structure’s replacement value). The Hazus flood analysis results provide number of buildings impacted, estimates of the building repair costs, and the associated loss of building contents and business inventory. Building damage can cause additional losses to a community as a whole by restricting the building’s ability to function properly. Income loss data accounts for losses such as business interruption and rental income losses as well as the resources associated with damages repair and job and housing losses.

A number of variables are included in Hazus analyses in order to arrive at the estimated values of loss due to a flood. For this reason, it is important to note that the Hazus loss estimates detailed should not be used as a precise measure, but rather viewed from the perspective of the potential magnitudes of expected losses. Hazus Enhanced (Level II) analyses based on local building inventory, higher resolution terrain model, and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) could be used in the future to refine and improve the accuracy of the results.

### Maps and Results

According to the Hazus model output, at least 36 buildings would be at least moderately damaged by a county-wide 100 year flood. An estimated six buildings would be completely destroyed. All of these damages would be to residential buildings. Additionally, the model estimates 99 households (or 298 people) will be displaced due to the flood. Displacement includes households evacuated from within or very near the inundated area. Of these, 109 people will seek temporary shelter in public shelters. It should be noted this numbers are based on the 2010 population. Since then the population of Ouray County has grown so the number of people seeking shelter can be assumed to be slightly higher.

The total economic loss estimated for the flood scenario is $30.3 million (2019 property values), which represents 9% of total replacement value of the County’s building stock. Total economic losses are a combination of direct building losses and business interruption losses.

The building losses are broken into two categories: direct building losses and business interruption losses. The direct building losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building and its contents. Direct building losses were estimated to be $30.21 million. The business interruption losses are the losses associated with inability to operate a business because of the damage sustained during the flood. Business interruption losses also include the temporary living expenses for those people displaced from their homes because of the flood. The total business interruption losses were estimated to be $90,000. The residential occupancies made up 85% of the total loss.

According to the Hazus analysis, the highest flood depths will occur through the City of Ouray, Particularly on the southwest side of the City. The highest flood loses are projected to occur in the southwest portion of the City of Ouray. Ridgway is not estimated to experience as much losses as Ouray, but the highest amount of losses in Ridgway are projected to occur on the east side of town through the central parts of town.

Additionally, SHELDUS reports a total of $3,925,983 in flooding damages from 1960 to 2017 (2017 dollars), which equates to $68,876 in annual damages from floods. Of these damages, $3,512,069 were property damages and $413,914 were crop damages.
3.4.4.1.8 Hazardous Materials Incident
There are not recorded damage estimates for hazmat events in Ouray County. Potential losses include injuries and loss of life, as well as cleanup costs for environmental contamination. The jurisdictions are primarily vulnerable to transportation related hazmat incident and could experience more losses due to the dense populations and buildings.

3.4.4.1.9 Imminent Threat
Given the lack of historical loss data on terror events in the County, it is assumed that while one major event could potentially result in significant losses, annualizing those losses over a long period of time would most likely yield a very low annualized loss estimate for the County. Injury and loss of life would likely be the greatest impact from an imminent threat event. Cyber-attacks could cause major disruptions in local or county services that may result in monetary losses for the County.

On November 10, 2018 first responders around Ouray County conducted a full-scale emergency response drill at Ridgway Secondary School. The drill focused on emergency response to an imminent threat at the school. This was a multi-jurisdictional effort with 32 agencies and 198 participants that aided with the preparing for and testing systems to handle an imminent threat event at a school. This training also gave insight for the impacts and losses that could be associated with this type of imminent threat event.

3.4.4.1.10 Landslide/Rockfalls
According to the previous occurrences data, landslides/rockfalls have caused $1,035,000 in damages in the County from 1981 to 2019. This equates to $29,571 in annual damages. This may still be low estimates for damages from landslides and rockfalls in the County. For example, repairs alone to Colorado State Highway 550 from the January 2014 rockfall cost over $1 million. This does not include the economic impacts of the road closure, which was reported to be 60% of revenue lost by local businesses during the closure. Local businesses in the City of Ouray experience significant revenue during the summer months from tourism. If access is prohibited due to closures on Highway 550 or County Road 17 during this time, businesses are particularly vulnerable to loss of income.

A GIS analysis was performed with CGS landslide/rockfall hazard layer in the 2018 Colorado State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Due to the resolution of this layer, the analysis is intended to highlight geographic areas with highest potential losses due to this hazard, rather than smaller scale or parcel-level losses. According to this analysis, there are 4,636 total parcels in landslide/rockfall hazard areas in the County, with a total exposure of $883,877,220. In the City of Ouray, 911 parcels are in landslide/rockfall hazard areas (out of 997 total parcels) with an exposure of $299,065,955. The majority of the City parcels are in this hazard area, with the exclusion of the very southern boundary. In the Town of Ridgway, 27 parcels are exposed, with a value of $19,611,480. The majority of these parcels lie along the Uncompahgre River.

3.4.4.1.11 Lightning
Historically, lightning has not caused extensive losses to Ouray County. SHELDUS report $2,856 in damages from lightning from 1960 to 2017 (2017 dollars). This equates to approximately $50 in annual damages. Loss of life can also occur from lightning strikes. Ouray County has only experienced on death from lightning through 2021.

3.4.4.1.12 Mass Casualty Events/Incident (MCI)
In May 2010, Ouray County EMS produced a full-scale exercise that simulated an estimated worst-case scenario event. The scenario involved a school bus going off the side of County Road 1 down a 50-60-foot embankment, resulting in 20-30 patients and no fatalities. Emergency responders also had to address the needs of family members of the exercise “victims,” making the exercise much larger in scope. An estimated 120 people we involved on the emergency response side of the exercise. A similar training exercise was conducted in May 2008. There exercises serve as guidelines for the potential magnitude of a mass casualty incident in Ouray County.

Response to the March 22, 2014 plane crash in the Ridgway Reservoir took over 1,500 labor hours. The overall cost of the plane recovery was approximately $75,000.

3.4.4.1.13 Public Health Emergencies
Losses associated with all public health emergencies in this profile are primarily the impact to people, causing sickness and death. Additionally, pandemic flu can have direct economic impact through costs such as response costs (hospitalizations, drug costs, etc.) and an indirect economic impact such as loss of productivity at work/school. Methane seepages can also cause explosions damaging infrastructure. With a lack of recorded losses from a public health emergency in the County, it assumed all jurisdictions are at equal risk losses.

3.4.4.1.14 Severe Winter Storms
The National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) data provided little detail about damages from previous severe winter storm events in the County. However, according to SHELDUS, a total of $7,781,887 in damages gas
occurred from 1960 to 2017 (2017 dollars), equating to an annual damage estimate of $136,524. This is the highest amount of damages across all hazards reported by SHELDUS. It is evident winter storms have the ability to cause significant damages.

The southern portion of the County typically experiences the most extreme winter weather due to its high elevation, however, the entire County is susceptible to damages. Backcountry travelers that are caught in a winter storm in the isolated parts of the San Juan Mountains could be at a high risk for injury or death.

### 3.4.4.1.15 Wildfire

Wildland life poses a major public safety hazard in Ouray County. Life safety and human health are serious concerns, and there is a high influx of visitors during the prime wildland fire months that exacerbate these concerns. Wildfire has the potential to cause widespread and severe damage to watershed and property in the planning area.

To determine potential losses on parcels from wildfire in Ouray County, GIS was used to calculate the count and value of parcels in high and moderate WUI risk areas, as defined by the CO-WRA data. Moderate risk areas are equivalent to a WUI risk value of four, five, and six; and high WUI areas are equivalent to a WUI risk value of seven, eight, and nine. WUI risk was used because it was determined by the Local Planning Committee to most accurately portray the wildfire risk in the County. It should be noted that the CO-WRA was conducted at a 30-meter resolution, therefore for the purpose of the MHP2019, is best utilized as a community-scale or higher analysis. This is not intended to be a precise determination of potential losses at the parcel-level, but to recognize trends in order to focus mitigation efforts.

Neighborhood-level risk can be further evaluated in the 2011 Ouray County CWPP.

According to the MHP2019, overall, there are a total of 5,404 parcels in high or moderate WUI risk areas in the County with 2,815 in high risk areas and 2,589 in moderate risk areas. This equates to $1,796,943,875 in total exposure (improvements value plus estimated contents value). All jurisdiction in the County have parcels located in Moderate and high WUI risk areas. Table 3.4.4.1.15 summarizes this information. It should be noted that the Assessor’s office did a reevaluation and the total exposure for the County for all hazards increased from $1,883,098,930 in 2018 to $2,327,175,905 in 2021. If this table and GIS were to be done today, the Total Exposure would be higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th># Parcels Moderate WUI Risk</th>
<th># Parcels High WUI Risk</th>
<th>Total Parcels</th>
<th>Total Exposure Moderate WUI Risk</th>
<th>Total Exposure High WUI Risk</th>
<th>Total Exposure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loghill Mesa FPD</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>1,804</td>
<td>$229,191,115</td>
<td>$225,801,200</td>
<td>$517,992,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ridgway</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>$136,693,215</td>
<td>$264,790,485</td>
<td>$401,483,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Ouray</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>$55,643,995</td>
<td>$126,328,870</td>
<td>$181,972,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated County</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>2,007</td>
<td>$301,004,835</td>
<td>$301,004,835</td>
<td>$602,009,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Excluding Loghill Mesa FPD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,589</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,815</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,404</strong></td>
<td><strong>$917,925,390</strong></td>
<td><strong>$917,925,390</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,796,943,875</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, SHELDUS reports $4,576 in crop damages and $5719 in property damages totaling $10,295 (2017 dollars) in total damages from one wildfire event. It is recognized that there has been more wildfire in the County, and this may be a low estimate of the total damages from previous wildfires, making it difficult to draw annual losses.

### 3.4.4.1.16 Windstorm

Jurisdictional-specific loss information is not available for the County. However, the Northwestern San Juan Mountain Zone has experienced both the strongest wind speed and the most wind events in the County. This zone approximately covers the County’s southern high-country, which is largely undeveloped.

SHELDUS report 29 wind events, causing $20,395 in crop damages and $360,876 in property damages, totaling $381,271 in damages from 1960 to 2017 (2017 dollars). This equate to approximately $6,689 in annual damages.

### 3.5 Capability Assessment

The jurisdictions within Ouray County have limited response and recovery capabilities due to county size, population, location from major municipals, areas with limited access and limited emergency responder personnel. Further limitations in these capabilities are determined through annual plan reviews and exercises. A capabilities Assessment
conducted for the County previewed what planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, financial, and education and outreach capabilities the County has (or is lacking) for preventing hazard events, implementing mitigation projects, planning for hazard events, responding to hazards, and recovering from hazard events. The following are Ouray County’s Capabilities.

3.5.1 Prevention Capabilities

3.5.1.1 Firewise

Firewise USA® is a national recognition program that provides instructional resources to inform people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action to reduce their wildfire risk. There are 3 communities in Ouray County who have had their participation in the national Firewise USA® recognition program, Loghill Mesa since 9.19.2012, Pleasant Valley Vista since 12.30.2013, and Fisher Canyon since 8.10.2014.

3.5.1.2 StormReady

StormReady uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of extreme weather—from tornadoes to winter storms. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

Applying is easy. To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

The Town of Ridgway and Ouray County have both been participants in StormReady in the past. However, according to the weather.gov website, there are not any communities in Ouray County recognized as StormReady. Due to the weather hazards profiled in this plan. It is recommended the Town of Ridgway, County of Ouray, and City of Ouray consider participating in the StormReady program again.

3.5.1.3 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Given the flood hazard and risk in the County, and recognizing the important of the NFIP in mitigating flood losses, an emphasis will be placed on continued compliance with the NFIP by Ouray County, The City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. As NFIP participants, these communities have and will continue to make every effort to remain in good standing with NFIP. This includes continuing to comply with the NFIP’s standards for updating and adopting floodplain maps and maintaining and updating the floodplain zoning ordinance.

3.5.2 Capabilities for Implementing Mitigation

3.5.2.1 Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

As noted in the Ouray County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Comprehensive Plan Update 2019 the following Table 3.5.2.1 show the Planning and Regulatory capabilities, or lack of.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capability</th>
<th>City of Ouray</th>
<th>Town of Ridgway</th>
<th>Ouray County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Codes Year</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCEGS Rating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Rating System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Master Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Elevation Certificates
- Erosion/Sediment Control Program
- Floodplain Management Plan or Ordinance
- Flood Insurance Study
- Growth Management Ordinance
- Non-Flood Hazard-Specific Ordinance or Plan (e.g. Steep Slope, Wildfire, Snow Load)
- NFIP
- Site Plan Review Requirements
- Storm water Program, plan or Ordinance
- Zone Ordinance
- Other

### 3.5.2.2 Administrative and Technical Capabilities

#### Table 3.5.2.2 Ouray County and Jurisdictional Administrative and Technical Capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capability</th>
<th>City of Ouray</th>
<th>Town of Ridgway</th>
<th>Ouray County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplain Administrator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Planning:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Planner/Engineer (Land Development)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Engineer/Professional (Construction)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Resiliency Planner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Transportation Planner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Building Official</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS Specialist and Capability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Manager, Writer, or Specialist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warning System/Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- General</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Flood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wildfire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tornado</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Geological Hazards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.5.2.3 Financial Capabilities

#### Table 3.5.2.3 Ouray County Financial Capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capability</th>
<th>City of Ouray</th>
<th>Town of Ridgway</th>
<th>Ouray County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has Community Used any of the following to fund mitigation activities?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Utilities Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- System Development/Impact Development Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Stormwater Service Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.5.3 Planning capabilities

3.5.3.1 Ouray County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
The Ouray County Sheriff is the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for the unincorporated areas within Ouray County. The LEPC is a committee appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), as required by Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). It develops emergency plans for Local Emergency Planning Districts, collects material safety data sheet (MSDS) forms and chemical release reports. It also provides this information to the public. The LEPC is tasked with hazardous materials preparedness, response, related training and sits in a policy advisory position for the county.

3.5.3.2 Ouray County ESF8 (Emergency Support Function) group (Local)
The Ouray County Public Health director is the Ouray County ESF8 Lead. The ESF8 Group assesses public health, medical, and veterinary medical effects resulting from all hazards. Such tasks may include assessing exposures on the general population, including children, those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs; conducting field investigations, including collection and analysis of relevant samples; providing advice on protective actions related to direct human and animal exposures and on indirect exposure through contaminated food, drugs, water supply, and other media; issuing public health orders such as quarantine, isolation, or cease and desist orders and providing technical assistance and consultation on medical treatment, screening, and decontamination of injured or contaminated individuals. It also provides for disaster related health and behavior health needs through direct services and/or referrals as necessary.

3.5.3.3 The Ouray County Policy Group (Local)
The Ouray County Policy Group consists of County Administrator, City Administrator, Town Manager, Board of County Commissioners, Mayors, Councils, and other jurisdictional policy makers within the county of Ouray. The Policy Group makes policy decisions and policy recommendations during a disaster. They are situated apart from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and are not responsible for operational decisions. They do have an active liaison linking them to the EOC. The Policy Group will provide overall strategies while the incident response team is addressing the tactical issues. They be responsible to evaluate policy level decisions on approval of incident expenditures and for formal declaration of a disaster.

The group may be called upon to discuss formal declaration of local or County emergencies or disasters, discuss and or approval and commitment of County resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes, discuss delegations of authority and/or fund expenditure, cost share agreements between involved jurisdiction, formulation of directives to Municipal or County departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules and discussion of Continuity of Operation Plans. Other possible decisions involving issuance of official orders regarding population protection or temporary social restrictions, such as evacuation orders, establishment of curfews and enactment of price controls may need to be discussed and coordinated by this group.

3.5.3.4 West Region Health Care Coalition (Regional)
The mission of the West Region Health Care Coalition is providing collaborative planning and response to emergencies, in a multi-disciplinary approach, and to preserve the medical infrastructure of the region. West Region Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPR) Led by Mesa County Regional EPR team, mission is to prepare Colorado’s West Region communities to be resilient in the face of potential public health threats and hazards through coordination and collaboration. It is a multiagency, multi-disciplinary emergency planning and coordination group committed to improve all hazard preparedness and resiliency in the West Region.

3.5.3.5 West Region Wildfire Council (Regional)

West Region Wildfire Council was established in 2007 as a collaborative effort to support interagency efforts to develop and implement plans to better mitigate the threat of catastrophic wildfire to the communities and natural resources in the Colorado counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel
3.5.3.6 West Region All Hazards Planning & Response Board (Regional)

To facilitate regional planning and mutual aid assistance, the Emergency Manager and Ouray County Sheriff participates in the West Region All Hazards Planning & Response Board. The Board is a six county all hazard planning region located in the western portion of the State of Colorado. It is comprised of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties.

The Board’s mission is to prepare Colorado’s West Region communities to be resilient in the face of potential threats and hazards through coordination and collaboration. It is a multiagency, multi-disciplinary emergency planning and coordination group committed to improve all hazard preparedness and resiliency in the West Region, leading to fewer lives lost, reduced economic impacts in affected communities, improved response capabilities and faster recovery time.

3.5.4 Response Capabilities

3.5.4.1 Ouray County Incident Management Team

An Incident Management Team (IMT) is a rostered group of ICS-trained personnel consisting of an Incident Commander, Command and General Staff, and personnel assigned to other key ICS positions. The level of training and experience of the IMT members, coupled with the identified formal response requirements and responsibilities of the IMT, are factors in determining “type,” or level, of IMT.

The Ouray County Incident Management Team (OCIMT) will be deployed during complex emergency incidents to provide initial response to provide a command and control infrastructure in order to manage the operational, logistical, informational, planning, fiscal, community, and safety issues associated with complex incidents. OCIMT is a type 4 team and has been developed to handle a complex incident for the first 72 hours until Mutual Aid or other assistance can arrive.

The OCIMT is comprised of County Employees and County Residents trained in specific areas of response. Those interested in becoming members of the OCIMT are reviewed by the OCIMT Review Committee comprised of the Ouray County Sheriff, Ouray County Undersheriff, Ouray County Emergency Medical Services Chief, and Ouray County Emergency Manager. The OCIMT review committee will make a recommendation to the Ouray County Sheriff who will make final decisions and appointments to the OCIMT.

3.5.4.2 Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Group

The Emergency Manager is responsible for establishing and coordinating the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group. This is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary planning and coordination group committed to the development and implementation of all-hazards planning for preparedness, prevention, response and recovery from emergencies and disasters. Participation is open to all local and county agencies, departments, special districts, and businesses within Ouray County and surrounding areas. Typically, these agency representatives and agency heads are the individuals who will respond to staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when it is activated. The MAC Group typically meets at least once a quarter to discuss training, exercises and topics that effect all agencies such as emergency plans, radio communications, and up-coming ICS trainings and exercises.

The Ouray County MAC Group consists of policy makers such as chair of the County Commissioners, County Administrator, Sheriff, local police chiefs, fire chiefs, Public Health Agency Director, Health Care Coalition, Montrose Regional Health staff and more. Meetings of the MAC Group will be called by Emergency Management but can be requested by any agency administrator. In the event of an emergency or developing incident which has the potential to affect multiple jurisdictions/agencies the MAC Group should be notified via WENS or Email.

3.5.4.3 Emergency Dispatch

All Emergency Response agencies based in Ouray County are dispatched by WESTCO Dispatch located in Montrose Colorado. The exceptions to this are the state agencies (CDOT, State Patrol, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife) who are all dispatched by State Patrol. WestCO Dispatch provides 911/Non- Emergency Call Answering and Dispatch Services for Unincorporated Montrose County including Nucla Naturita Fire Protection District, Paradox Fire Protection District, Olathe Fire Protection District, National Parks (Black Canyon) and Law/Fire/EMS Agencies within Ouray County, the City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway.

3.5.4.4 Law Enforcement

Ouray County Sheriff’s Office serves and responds to emergency and non-emergent calls for service throughout the unincorporated areas of Ouray County and provides 24/7 response. The Sheriff’s office will also backup calls for the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and State Park whom all have their own law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff’s
Office also provides civil service to the entire county. State Patrol also patrols and provides 24 hour response to Ouray County.

3.5.4.5 Fire Protection and Extrication Response
Ouray County is comprised of 3 Fire Protection Districts and 1 partial Fire Protection District. Except for the Montrose Fire Protection District, who covers a portion of north Ouray County, all the fire districts are staffed entirely by volunteers. Each department has various equipment for their service area. A list of equipment that can be requested for mutual aid in an emergency is listed on the Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) in WebEOC, an online program, administered by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). Per DHSEM requirements, CRRFs must be reviewed and updated by agencies at least annually.

In addition to local fire departments, due to the large amount of federal public lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS) in Ouray County, fire resources are augmented and supported by both the BLM and USFS and they become primary agencies on any federal lands. The Ouray County Fire District are the Ouray Fire Protection District, who contracts with the City of Ouray Volunteer Fire Department, Ridgway Volunteer Fire Protection District, and Loghill Mesa Volunteer Fire Protection District.

Extrication response in Ouray County is done by both City of Ouray Volunteer Fire Department and Ridgway Volunteer Fire Protection District.

3.5.4.6 HAZMAT Response
Hazmat services are extremely limited in Ouray County. For large-scale hazmat responses, responders will request assistance from the Telluride Fire Department, State Patrol or another hazmat agency that are over four (4) hours in response.

3.5.4.7 Emergency Medical Service (EMS)
Ouray County has one ambulance district and one partial ambulance district. Ouray County EMS (OCEMS) covers a majority of the County while Montrose Fire Protection District covers the northern portion of the County. OCEMS is a volunteer service with 5 paid Advanced Life Support Personnel. OCEMS has two stations, one in the City of Ouray and one in the Town of Ridgway and they respond to 911 emergency calls 24/7/365.

3.5.4.8 Emergency Management/Emergency Manager
Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-33.5-707 each county shall maintain a disaster agency/Office of Emergency Management that has jurisdiction over the entire county. Unless a political subdivision has identified a Disaster Agency, the County Disaster Agency has jurisdiction over and serves the entire county. Pursuant to C.R.S 24-33.5-705.4, "Emergency Manager" means the director or coordinator of the local or interjurisdictional disaster agency.

Pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2021-048 the Board of County Commissioners confirm the designation of Ouray County as the agency with responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within Ouray County.

The County’s Office of Emergency Management is comprised of the Emergency Manager. The County Emergency Manager is under the direction of the Ouray County Sheriff operationally and Ouray County Administrator administratively. The Office of Emergency Management addresses planning efforts for the five phases of emergency management that include prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Emergency Management program is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the County’s, City of Ouray’s, and Town of Ridgway’s Emergency Operations Plans and other emergency management plans related to disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

3.5.4.9 The Center for Mental Health
The Center for Mental Health is a Community Mental Health Center that provides behavioral healthcare services in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties founded in 1964. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and are governed by a board of directors.

3.5.4.10 Evacuation and Warning Systems
3.5.4.10.1 Emergency Notification System
The County utilizes an emergency phone notification system to provide ‘general information’ based alerts as well as geographically specific emergency notification to residents. These alerts can be sent to landline phones, cellular phones and email addresses if the end user has opted in for this service. Commuters and visitors to the county may also sign up for the system via a mobile application. Residents may self-register for emergency alerts on the county website: http://www.ouraycountyco.gov/272/Emergency-Management.
3.5.4.10.2 Local Broadcast Media
The County also utilizes the Emergency Alert System to broadcast warnings over local radio stations and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) towers (where available). The authority to initialize this utility, and the message contained, lies with the Emergency Management Director and/or Sheriff only. Local media is also utilized whenever necessary but currently only publishes weekly.

3.5.4.10.3 Social Media
The County utilizes social media outlets such as Facebook to inform, warn and prepare the public. County general preparedness information alerts and incident updates are ongoing for all of these platforms. The authority to initialize this utility as a warning mechanism lies with the Incident Commander (IC), Sheriff, the Emergency Manager, or the designated County Public Information Officer (PIO) during an incident. To post preparedness information, contact the Emergency Manager or their designee.

3.5.4.11 Hazard and Critical Infrastructure Mapping
The County has a Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Technology (OIT) Department that provides mapping and database support to multiple County departments and services.

3.5.5 Recovery Capabilities
Recovery is both short and long-term and continues until all systems return to normal or near-normal operation. Short-term recovery restores vital life-support systems to minimum operating conditions. Long-term recovery may go on for months—even years—until the entire disaster area returns to its previous condition or undergoes improvement with new features that are less disaster-prone. This will involve damage assessments, plan revisions, and actions initiated to mitigate future emergencies or disasters by reducing or eliminating their probability of recurring.

3.5.5.1 Ouray County Disaster and Recovery Policy Group
The Disaster and Recovery Policy Group supports incident response and recovery objectives by providing subject matter expertise and evaluating legal ramifications and recommending to the BOCC policies and/or practices to support disaster response and recovery operations. The group coordinates and shares information through briefings and situational reports with the BOCC, EOC and/or Incident Command.

Depending on the type, scale, and severity of the incident, the Disaster and Recovery Policy Group may be assembled from the following or their designee:

- County Administrator
- County Assessor (ESF-14 Lead)
- Appropriate elected and appointed officials
- County Attorney
- County Department Executive Staff or Key Staff, as directed by the County Administrator.
- Emergency Manager

3.5.5.2 Long-Term Recovery Manager
The Long-Term Recovery Manager is assigned by the County Administrator or their designee with collaboration of the Ouray County ESF-14 Lead as outlined in the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan. When selecting the Recovery Manager, consideration should be given to technical skills, expertise and experience in similar types of disasters.

3.5.5.3 Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)
The Long Term Recovery Committee members shall be appointed by consensus of the Recovery Manager, County Administrator, ESF-14 Lead, and Emergency Manager. When selecting LTRC members, consideration should be given to type of disaster, subject matter expertise, local knowledge and functional experience. LTRC selection should utilize the “Whole Community” approach, ensuring that all segments of the community are represented or have a voice in the recovery process.

3.6 Mitigation Overview
Ouray County has a mitigation plan that was updated in 2019, approved by FEMA, and adopted in January 2020 by Ouray County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2019-049. This plan is titled Ouray County Multi-Hazard mitigation plan comprehensive update 2019, further known as MHP2019. The original plan was adopted in 2008 and was updated in 2013 and adopted in 2014 by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2014-040. The original Plan and both updates were also adopted by the Ouray City County and the Ridgway Town Council. The Plan is annexed to this Emergency Operations Plan.
The MHP2019 describes the Hazard Mitigation Overview as providing a blueprint for Ouray County to follow to become less vulnerable to its identified hazards. It is based on general consensus of the County’s planning team, the findings and conclusions of the Risk Assessment, and input from the public stakeholders. The Mitigation Strategy includes hazard mitigation plan goals, objectives, and hazard mitigation actions. The plan goals and objectives serve as the building principles for future mitigation policy and project administration and hazard mitigation actions serve as implemental items that support goals. The mitigation strategy includes a process for evaluating mitigation actions to ensure actions are feasible based on community capabilities, tied to a plan goals, and effective in reducing hazard losses for current and future structures and populations.

Ouray County has identified 3 main goals for mitigation. With each goal, objectives were also identified. These goals and objects reflect the current needs and priorities of the County and are intended to reduce long-term vulnerability and risk to all hazards identified in the MHP2019 and this Emergency Operations Plan. These goals are as follows:

- **Goal One**: Minimize Loss of Life and Injury from Anticipated Hazard Events
  - Objective 1: Educate citizens about natural hazard events and ways to protect themselves
  - Objective 2: Complete local-level community wildfire protection plans to include evacuation routes and procedures as well as re-entry procedures
  - Objective 3: Improve flash flood and debris flow warning and evacuation capabilities
  - Objective 4: Implement debris flow mitigation
  - Objective 5: Make travel safer on Colorado State Highways 550 and 62, Ouray County Roads, and major corridors through the County
  - Objective 6: Provide training and equipment to responders and government officials
  - Objective 7: Update and expand all-hazard emergency response plans
  - Objective 8: Update Building Codes

- **Goal Two**: Reduce the Potential Impact of Natural, Human-caused, and Technological Disasters on Public and Private Property, the Economy, Natural Environment, and Historic Resources
  - Objective 1: Reduce flood impacts to the residents and visitors of the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and the County
  - Objective 2: Reduce debris flow impacts to public, private, and historic structures in the City of Ouray
  - Objective 3: Reduce wildfire impacts to structures and response resources
  - Objective 4: Continue to reduce impacts of wildfire to future and existing development through land use planning, subdivision reviews, permitting, and building codes
  - Objective 5: Update mapping of hazard areas, including flood, debris flow, wildfire, rockfall, and avalanche
  - Objective 6: Use updated risk maps to improve the risk assessment in future updates to the MHP2019 and to provide public information
  - Objective 7: Reduce drought impacts
  - Objective 8: Provide training and equipment to responders and government officials
  - Objective 9: Update building codes

- **Goal Three**: Reduce the Potential impact of Natural, Human-caused, and Technological Disasters on Critical Facilities, Infrastructure, and Critical Support Services.
  - Objective 1: Protect critical facilities and assets at risk to flood, debris flows, or landslide
  - Objective 2: Protect critical facilities as assets at risk to wildfire
  - Objective 3: Protect necessary communication infrastructure from multiple hazards (wildfire, lightning, windstorm, flood, extreme temperatures)
  - Objective 4: Provide continuity of operation and continuity of government
  - Objective 5: Provide necessary support infrastructure
  - Objective 6: Review government capabilities for responding effectively to anticipated hazard events and upgrade where possible
  - Objective 7: Reduce the impact and risk of potential terroristic attacks on critical facilities, infrastructure, and services.

### 4 Planning Assumptions

Every effort has been made to plan for an emergency. In planning, some assumptions have to be made. The Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan is based on the following planning assumptions and conditions:
OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

- Participating agencies and localities, County and City departments and enterprises will respond to an incident to the extent of available resources. Once these resources have been exhausted, mutual aid will be requested. If these efforts are determined to be insufficient, requests will be made from the local to State and State to Federal government;
- It is assumed that all Ouray County departments and stakeholders will be familiar with this Plan;
- While the public expects government to aid and assist them during disasters, personal preparedness and self-help are paramount;
- Where appropriate, Ouray County departments and stakeholders are assumed to have in place current mutual aid agreements (or similar documents), establishing parameters and processes for requesting function specific assistance from other jurisdictions or organizations;
- Private and volunteer organizations, i.e., American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Colorado Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters, etc. will provide immediate life-sustaining relief which is not normally available from government resources to individuals and families. Local and/or State governmental agencies will assist these organizations by providing information, guidance and coordination of their relief efforts;
- With the increased possibility of terrorism and employment of weapons of mass destruction, any biological or technological incident must be approached as if it could be an act of terrorism;
- Multiple programs exist within the Federal government to assist states and local entities to respond and recover from disasters and emergencies. Each program has its own unique processes, procedures and routes of request;
- Events that cross jurisdictions may result in the establishment of a Unified Command (UC). Events with multiple locations or incident sites may result in the establishment of an Area Command (AC);
- Other jurisdictions and organizations will have their own current Emergency Operations Plan;
- Response personnel have the appropriate level of trainings and certifications.

5 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

All incidents start and end at the local level. A response will begin with the local agency and grow to incorporate additional departments and resources. The local jurisdiction, with authority over the incident, will remain command over the incident throughout.

If an incident is anticipated to grow beyond the capabilities of a local jurisdiction or if multiple jurisdictions will be involved in the response; such as to a wildfire, the Emergency Manager should be notified to assist with coordination of the efforts.

If county resources are not adequate to support the incident, Emergency Management will request assistance from the West All Hazards Region and/or DHSEM for additional assistance. As an incident progresses, a complexity analysis will be completed by Emergency Management to determine the scope of the incident and if activation of an Incident Management Team is necessary. If it is, that recommendation will be made to the County Administrator and Chair of Board of County Commissioners.

The general concept on which this document is based is from lessons learned and best practices from previous events concerning command and coordination. This includes both the immediate event and any effects to the surrounding area or communities. Each incident is unique and requires different prevention and response measures. Therefore, by adhering to the guidelines of NIMS and the National Response Framework (NRF), the County stands ready to meet these challenges.

Every County department or office may be required to respond to an emergency. If a department does not have a specific response role in a given emergency, that department may still be relied upon to support responding departments. The County Emergency Manager has responsibility for the direction and control of County resources during an emergency situation that has reached beyond the capabilities of a local jurisdiction.

Upon request, the Emergency Manager or designee will activate and manage the Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is the facility from which emergency response activities can be directed, coordinated and/or supported. The EOC structure is scalable, based on the magnitude of the situation. If a disaster exceeds County resources, assistance will be requested from the private sector, regional agencies, State of Colorado, and if required, federal agencies.
5.1 Phases of Emergency Management

Emergency operations involve much more than merely responding to an incident when it occurs. Regardless of the type of hazard, there are five stages in the emergency management process: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

5.1.1 Prevention

Prevention means actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. It involves actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. It involves applying “Prevention” activities to avoid an incident or to stop an emergency from occurring. Explanatory Material: Activities, tasks, programs, and systems intended to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as:

- Deterrence operations
- Heightened inspections
- Improved surveillance
- Disease prevention among people, domestic animals, and wildlife.

Examples of prevention activities include:

- Collect, analyze and apply intelligence and other information
- Conduct investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat and to implement countermeasures such as inspections, surveillance, security and infrastructure protection
- Conduct tactical operations to interdict, preempt or disrupt illegal activity; and to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators
- Conduct public health surveillance and testing procedures, immunizations and isolation or quarantine of individuals for biological and agricultural threats
- Deter, detect, deny access or entry, defeat and take decisive action to eliminate threats
- Conduct code enforcement, inspections and behavior modification to reduce risk
- Analyze threats created by natural hazards and develop action plans to reduce the threat to citizens and property

5.1.2 Mitigation

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. In order for mitigation to be effective we need to take action now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later (analyzing risk, reducing risk, and insuring against risk). It is important to know that disasters can happen at anytime and anywhere and if we are not prepared, consequences can be fatal.

Effective mitigation requires that we all understand local risks, address the hard choices, and invest in long-term community well-being. Without mitigation actions, we jeopardize our safety, financial security and self-reliance.

Mitigation involves the actions taken prior to an incident that reduce the chance of occurrence or the effects of a disaster. This stage includes flood plain management, public education campaigns, building and fire codes, defensible space programs for residential buildings, and preventative health care.

5.1.3 Preparedness

Preparedness involves the planning necessary to ensure that the effects of a disaster or an emergency will be minimized, and to assist local jurisdictions in developing appropriate response capabilities needed in the event of an emergency. To respond properly, a jurisdiction must have a plan for response, trained personnel to respond, and necessary resources with which to respond. Emphasis is on emergency planning, training, exercises and public awareness information sharing and programs. Examples of preparedness activities include:
• Development of plans and procedures, training and exercising
• Pre-establishment of incident command posts, mobilization centers, staging areas and other facilities
• Evacuation and protective sheltering
• Implementation of structural and non-structural mitigation measures
• Private sector implementation of business and continuity of operations plans
• Provision of mitigation activities which are a critical foundation across the incident management spectrum from prevention through response and recovery. Examples of key mitigation activities include the following:
  o Ongoing public education and outreach activities designed to modify behavior to reduce loss of life and destruction of property
  o Structural retrofitting to deter or lessen the impact of incidents and reduce loss of life, destruction of property and impact on the environment
  o Code enforcement through such activities as zoning regulation, land management and building and fire code inspection
  o Flood insurance and the buy-out of properties subjected to frequent flooding

5.1.4 Response
The response stage covers the period during and immediately following a disaster. During this phase, jurisdictions provide emergency assistance to victims of the event and try to reduce the likelihood of further damage. The local fire district, law enforcement agencies, search and rescue, emergency medical service (EMS) units and road and bridge crews are the primary responders. When the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, it provides county-wide support and coordination for the incident(s) and agencies through unified operations, planning, logistics and finance. The EOC through its planning section and policy group will develop a county-wide common operating picture for the support of the incident responders and citizens. Response activities can be categorized into Initial or Extended Response.

5.1.5 Recovery
Recovery is both short and long-term, and continues until all systems return to normal or near-normal operation. Short-term recovery restores vital life-support systems to minimum operating standards. Long-term recovery may go on for months—even years—until the entire disaster area returns to its previous condition or undergoes improvement with new features that are less disaster-prone. This will involve damage assessments, plan revisions, and actions initiated to mitigate future emergencies or disasters by reducing or eliminating their probability of recurring.

5.1.5.1 Short-Term Recovery
Short-Term Recovery begins shortly after the incident occurs and may go on for days and or even weeks. This phase of recovery addresses efforts to support basic human needs, Rapid Needs Assessments, initial damage assessments, the restoration of basic infrastructure, and the mobilization of recovery organizations and resources.

Examples of short-term recovery activities include:
• Providing mass care, including sheltering, food, water and other essential commodities for those displaced by the incident.
• Providing disability related assistance/functional needs support services.
• Conducting Rapid Needs Assessments, identifying the functional status of Critical Infrastructure, Essential Facilities and Vulnerable / At Risk Facilities. See Ouray County Rapid Needs Assessment Plan.
• Conducting initial damage assessments of homes, businesses, critical infrastructure and essential services.
• Ensuring that critical infrastructure priorities are identified and incorporated into recovery planning.
• Identifying, anticipating and mitigating cascading impacts and residual risk.
• Emergency debris removal from County right-of-way.
• Dissemination of emergency instructions and information to the public.
• Establishing case management and behavioral health services to those impacted by the disaster.
• Implementation of a process for assisting with the coordination of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers.
• Implementation of a process for managing undesignated donations, possibly including collection and distribution facilities and a multi-agency warehouse.
• Rescue and emergency care for pets and companion animals.
• Staffing and management of Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs) to provide a single location for people needing information and assistance.
• Reconnecting displaced persons with essential health and social services.

5.1.5.2 Long-Term Recovery
Long Term Recovery refers to the weeks, months and even years after the incident. This phase of recovery may address such issues as: cost recovery and reimbursement, revitalization of the impacted area; rebuilding damaged or destroyed structures and infrastructure; and a move to self-sufficiency, sustainability, and resilience.

Examples of long-term recovery activities include:
• Forming of a long-term recovery committee that is composed of government, NGOs and community organizations having a role to play in disaster recovery operations.
• Ensuring the right people are included within the Long-Term Recovery Committee and are supported by their home agency.
• Developing a post-disaster long-term recovery strategy that takes into account impacts, unmet needs, establishes a vision, identifies goals and metrics, and defines hazard mitigation and resilience priorities.
• Engaging the impacted community in the long-term recovery strategy process to educate and inform, and build buy-in and support.
• Repairing major transportation systems and roads.
• Continuing to provide case management and behavioral health services to those impacted by the disaster.
• Hiring of temporary full-time and part time positions to support disaster response and recovery needs. This may include specialized positions (subject matter experts), and non-specialized positions to augment county staff.
• Monitoring the health, safety and recovery issues caused by debris and implementing removal or handling strategies, as appropriate.
• Planning for long-term and permanent housing solutions.
• Implementing cost accounting procedures for activities and actions relating to the response and recovery to the incident.
• Coordinating project worksheets initiated under FEMA’s Public Assistance Program.
• Completing assessments of natural resources and developing plans for long-term environmental resource recovery.
• Addressing recovery needs across all sectors of the economy and community.
• Determining long-term human needs issues and service strategies.
• Continuing to collect information on progress, duration and impacts to County residents.
• Supporting public, private and community partnerships to strengthen recovery efforts.

5.2 Pre-Disaster Operations
During the preparedness and mitigation phases, county departments, agencies and first responders will work together to develop response plans, take mitigation efforts and collaborate on training and exercises to build and test response capabilities. This includes routine training opportunities, acquiring and maintaining response equipment, and expanding capabilities through steps such as adding staff or additional equipment assets.

County departments, first response agencies and municipalities conduct business as outside of disaster response as disasters and major emergencies are the exception and not the normal course of business for local, county, or state governments. First response agencies may utilize mutual aid agreements for response to incidents that strain their resources and for responder safety but the deployment of such resources is typically for only a few hours. This is also the time for jurisdictions to enact mitigation plans to mitigate the effects a natural or man-made disaster will have on citizens such as fire mitigation work to minimize the spread of wildfires or building additional domestic water storage capability for drought years.

5.2.1 National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS)
The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a comprehensive system that is designed to improve local response operations through the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the application of standardized procedures and preparedness measures. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and
communications operating within a common organizational structure, with command responsibility for the management of resources to effectively accomplish identified incident objectives.

While most incidents are generally handled on a daily basis by a single jurisdiction at the local level, there are important instances in which successful domestic incident management operations depend on the involvement of multiple jurisdictions, functional agencies and specific emergency responder disciplines. These instances require effective and efficient coordination across this broad spectrum of organizations and activities.

Pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2006-14, NIMS is the adopted organizational structure for both planning and managing emergency response and recovery operations in Ouray County. Employee are required to complete the most recent NIMS training for their positions outlined in Table 5.2.1:

**Table 5.2.1 NIMS Trainings Requirements by Position (Subject to Change)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Training Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incident Management Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCIMT</td>
<td>IS029, IS100, G191, IS200, G205, ICS300, G557, IS559, IS700, IS703, IS800, IS 2200, K2300, Position Specific Trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Administrator and CFO</td>
<td>IS029, IS100, IS120, G191, IS200, G205, IS235, IS240, IS241, IS242, G290, ICS300, IS402, G557, IS700, IS703, IS800, IS 2200, K2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Staff</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS402, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIO</td>
<td>IS029, IS100, IS120, G191, IS200, G205, G290, ICS300, IS402, G557, IS700, IS703, IS800, IS 2200, K2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Attorney</td>
<td>IS100, G290, IS402, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor's Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS559, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor Staff</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk and Recorder Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk and Recorder</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS402, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of County Commissioners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioners</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS402, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coroner</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS402, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Coroner</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Paramedic</td>
<td>IS029, IS100, G191, IS200, G205, ICS300, G557, IS559, IS700, IS703, IS800, IS 2200, K2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Life Support</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, ICS300, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Life Support</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers</td>
<td>IS100, IS700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Staff</td>
<td>IS100, IS700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Manager</td>
<td>IS029, IS100, IS120, G191, IS139, G191, IS200, G205, IS230, IS235, IS240, IS241, IS242, IS244, IS247, G270.4, IS271, G288, G290, ICS300, G318, G358, G393, IS400, IS402, G557, G559, IS700, IS703, IS800, IS 2200, K2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Head</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>IS100, IS200, IS700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In larger incidents, the ICS structure may be extended and supported by activation of the Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will be staffed to serve as the coordination point for supplemental resources, intergovernmental assistance, as well as some long-term planning and recovery activities. ICS principles are nationally accepted for addressing all types of hazards and for integrating multiple agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines into a coordinated relief effort.
5.3 Response to Disaster Operations

5.3.1 Operational Priorities

During an emergency response such as a natural disaster (wildfire, flood, blizzard, etc.), Ouray County first responders, departments and agencies will prioritize their operational objectives during response and recovery phases in the following order:

- Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public, responders, and recovery workers;
- Property protection – residential property, critical facilities and critical infrastructure;
- Environmental Protection
- Restoration of essential public utilities
- Restoration of essential programs
- When appropriate, conduct law enforcement investigations to resolve the incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and collect and preserve evidence for prosecution;
- Facilitate recovery for individuals, families, businesses, government and the environment.

Ouray County has resources and expertise available to assist with incident related problems. The County may modify normal operations and redirect resources in order to save lives, relieve human suffering, sustain survivors, protect property and assist in re-establishing essential services. Life-saving and life-protecting response activities have precedence over other emergency response activities.

Private, faith based, and volunteer organizations (i.e., American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Colorado Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters), and others can be available to provide basic necessity and life-sustaining relief which
is not normally available from government resources to individuals and families. Local and State governmental agencies will assist these organizations by providing information, guidance and coordination of the relief efforts.

5.3.2 Initial Emergency Response

The BOCC authorizes the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or their designees, to act as needed in the pre-disaster declaration time frame until an official emergency declaration can be made by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), or in their absence, the County Administrator.

The emergency authority of the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or their designees consists of ordering and mobilizing resources, as well as requesting mutual aid and/or spending to respond to an emergency or disaster. The Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or their designees will, as soon as practicable, make full notification to the BOCC and County Administrator of such actions taken during the pre-disaster declaration period. All disasters in the County will be managed under the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System.

5.3.3 Emergency Declarations/Activation on Emergency Operations Plan

In Accordance with C.R.S. 24-33.5-709 and pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2021-048

“The Board of County Commissioners (Board) confirms the designation of Ouray County as the agency with responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within Ouray County, which agency shall coordinate and cooperate with the municipalities, fire districts, and other mutual aid partners. This Plan is based on the concept that emergency functions for various groups involved in Ouray County government will generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources will be employed in both non-emergency and emergency circumstances. In an emergency circumstance, it is desirable, and always attempted, to maintain organizational continuity and to assign familiar tasks to personnel. However, in large scale disasters, it may be necessary to draw on people’s basic capacities and use them in areas of greatest need. Day-to-day functions that do not contribute directly to the emergency operation may be suspended for the duration of any emergency. Personnel and resources that would normally be required of those functions may be redirected to accomplish the emergency task. In keeping with the current strategy of integrated emergency management, this resolution accounts for activities before, during, and after emergency operations, and each department has emergency functions in addition to, or as a substitution to, its normal duties. Upon declaration of an emergency or disaster, the Board of County Commissioners, other elected officials, the County Administrator, department heads, and other county employees shall assume the roles and responsibilities assigned to them by the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan in support of response and recovery operations.

The Board, consistent with C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, titled Local Disaster Emergencies, identifies the County Administrator as the County’s “principal executive officer of a political subdivision” with statutory authority to declare an Ouray County emergency or disaster. That declaration shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the Board. In all events, the County Administrator shall make all reasonable efforts to convene, by any reasonable methods, a quorum of the Board within 24 hours of the initial declaration of emergency or disaster, and shall continue those efforts until a quorum is convened. Any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a Ouray County emergency or disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, shall be in writing, and shall be filed promptly with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder and with the State of Colorado Division of Emergency Management. Each Ouray County department head and their staff shall provide support to and cooperation with the County Administrator. The effects of an emergency or disaster declaration shall include enhanced authority for the County Administrator to redeploy Ouray County personnel or equipment from normal job duties to assist in emergency response, repurpose Ouray County facilities to support the emergency or disaster, suspend or temporarily alter personnel requirements, suspend or temporarily alter contracting authority requirements, and request and authorize assistance from all appropriate entities and individuals (e.g. local elected officials, other local governments, State of Colorado, federal government). In the event that the incident has exceeded (or is expected to exceed) Ouray County’s capacity and capability to effectively respond to and manage the incident, it may be necessary to request operational assistance from an (State or Federal) Incident Management Team (IMT). Requests for an IMT should be initiated through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and may include any necessary delegation(s) of authority and/or operational command, in consultation with other jurisdictions with overlapping operational responsibility (e.g. a fire district or municipality).”

The Board of County Commissioners may allocate emergency funds when costs of a disaster exceed authorized emergency response budgets.
The decision to make a declaration may be based upon emergency needs created by the incident, and/or damage assessment findings indicating the damages are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant assistance from the State. This authority is granted to a county by the Colorado Disaster Act. Once the state receives a county emergency/disaster declaration, the state then may make a declaration under the Stafford Act to the President who may grant a major disaster declaration. This in turn, may make available specific federal support programs for a defined period. After the county declaration is made, it must be ratified within seven (7) days by the full board and should be let in place while emergency response measures are conducted. Local declarations should be discontinued or allowed to expire at the point emergency response work is completed. State or federal declarations may be left in place during recovery activities. The Sheriff, the County Administrator, and/or the Emergency Manager may directly call upon any County Department able to assist in any emergency response. The Sheriff may call upon resources under control of the Sheriff to include the Search and Rescue Team, and any agency or entity under agreement with the Sheriff, as well as any mutual aid agency requested by the Sheriff.

5.3.3.1 Reason for Disaster Declaration
Some reason for a disaster declaration are, but not limited to:

- To gain access to TABOR emergency reserves
- To qualify for certain types of federal and state disaster assistance
- To activate local and inter-jurisdictional emergency plans and mutual assistance agreements
- To support the enactment of temporary emergency restrictions or controls (e.g., curfews, price controls)

5.3.3.2 Continuity of Operations for Board of Commissioners / Administrator
Pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2021-048:

“Until a quorum of the Board has been convened, pursuant to a declaration of emergency or disaster by the Ouray County Administrator, the County Administrator shall have the full legal authority of the Board. In addition, the County Administrator shall have the authority to activate the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan and to request assistance from each appropriate entity through the activation of their respective plans. After twenty-four hours has elapsed from the initial declaration of emergency, and if a quorum of the Board cannot convene within seven days, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on behalf of the Board shall be the following persons, in order: (1) the Chair of the Board; (2) the Vice Chair of the Board; (3) the third Commission Member of the Board; (4) the County Administrator; (5) the County Attorney; (6) the County Social Services Director; and (7) the County Human Resources Director. All authority vested in the County Administrator by this resolution and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 shall be exercised first by the County Administrator, but if the County Administrator is unavailable, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on his or her behalf shall be: (1) the County Attorney; (2) the County Social Services Director; (3) the County Human Resources Director; and (4) any other County Department Head designated to act in this capacity by the County Emergency Services Manager. Any emergency, interim successors shall relinquish such authority as directed by any person(s) higher in the emergency, interim lines of succession identified under this section when such person(s) becomes available.”

5.3.4 Local Coordination
Ouray County is responsible for large scale emergency response operations/coordinating in unincorporated areas of the County, and in cases where the emergency is located within an incorporated area, in cooperation with the municipalities of the City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway. Each of the Municipality Governments within Ouray County should establish both Chain of Command and Continuity of Operations (COOP) sections for their respective functions as part of their Municipal Emergency Operations Plans.

All local governments and special districts within Ouray County are responsible for coordinating with one another and for providing mutual aid within their capabilities and usually according to the established written Mutual Aid Agreements. If necessary, normal working operations may be suspended or redirected during an incident in order to support emergency response and control throughout the County.

Based on the assessment of emergency conditions by the designated Incident Commander(s), the Board of County Commissioners (and/or municipal leadership) will be notified and advised of the situation and the need to report to the County Emergency Operations Center.

5.3.5 Critical Infrastructure & Key Resource Protection
During an emergency or sudden disaster, the effects of the disaster can be intensified by damage to critical infrastructure which affects a much larger population than the actual disaster or emergency. Secondary to preservation of life,
protection of critical infrastructure and key resources throughout the county is essential to minimizing the effects of the disaster and getting the economy on the path to recovery.

5.3.5.1 Key Resources
Key Resources are defined as facilities that provide a necessary service before, during, and after times of disaster. These generally include:
- Animal Shelters
- Carrier-Neutral Locations (Broadband)
- Emergency Operations Center
- Emergency Medical Service Facilities
- Fire stations
- Fuel Stations
- Governmental buildings
- Grocery Stores
- Law enforcement facilities
- Medical facilities
- Schools
- Shelters/Evacuation Centers

5.3.5.2 Critical Infrastructure
Critical infrastructure is defined as assets that are essential to the functioning of a society and economy. These include:
- Communication Towers
- Dams, water treatment and distribution, water storage, water supply
- Electric power lines, sub-stations
- Fiber Optic
- Generators
- Hydro power facilities
- Internet
- Natural Gas Distributors
- Propane Gas Facilities
- Sewer lines and wastewater treatment plants
- Cisterns
- Telephone facilities
- Transportation routes

5.3.6 Evacuation and Sheltering
Certain emergencies and disasters will require the evacuation of residents from their homes or current location for life safety. This may occur in a variety of natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, blizzards, mud or rockslides or severe weather. Man-made events such as terrorist attacks, gas leaks, or law enforcement activities may also require residents or visitors to the county to be evacuated.

Impromptu events such as flash floods, and wildfires are hard to plan evacuation routes for and will be developed by first responders as the incident takes place. Residents and homeowners are encouraged to make their own evacuation plans with their families so they know where they will go in the event they have to leave their home/business at a moment’s notice. What routes will be taken, are there alternate routes and where will you go to be safe? Homeowners and business owners can be prepared by learning how to make an evacuation plan for their family at [https://www.ready.gov/evacuation](https://www.ready.gov/evacuation).

Ouray County has a great working relationship with the Western Slope Chapter of the American Red Cross. In the event a disaster requires evacuation of residents from neighborhoods, the American Red Cross will be notified to assist first responders and emergency management in managing evacuation needs. ESF-6, Mass-Care, Sheltering and Social Services is led by Ouray County Social Services and the American Red Cross. In the event of evacuation orders being issued, they will be called upon to help the county establish an evacuation center and start preparing a shelter if temporary shelter will be needed for residents.

5.3.6.1 Evacuation Centers
An evacuation center is a common community center with lots of parking and open space, such as a school, the fairgrounds, or another community building that the community will readily recognize and know how to get to when stressed. The Evacuation Center will serve as a central point of information for evacuees from Incident Command and first responders on what to expect from the expanding incident and what is expected of them and what they can expect
from first responders. If a disaster is going to displace residents from their homes, the American Red Cross can work to set up a shelter at one of the pre-designated shelters in Ouray County. The American Red Cross has completed site surveys and secured agreements with all these locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ouray Community Center</td>
<td>320 6th Ave, Ouray CO, 81427</td>
<td>292 Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray County 4H Event Center</td>
<td>22739 Hwy 550, Ridgway CO 81432</td>
<td>270 Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgway School District</td>
<td>1200 Green Street, Ridgway CO, 81432</td>
<td>150+ Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray Elks Lodge #492</td>
<td>421 Main Street, Ouray CO, 81427</td>
<td>125 Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouray School District R-1</td>
<td>400 7th Ave, Ouray CO, 81427</td>
<td>100+ Persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many of the county’s hazards will have little to no warning time for residents to evacuate. There may be times when residents have to evacuate on their own before an evacuation order is issued via the Emergency Notification System. When an incident allows pre-evacuation and/or evacuation notices to be issued, they will be sent via the County’s Emergency Notification System to areas that need to evacuate and the notification will include specific instructions of what to do, and where to go. If a resident needs assistance evacuating due to any number of factors including Access & Functional Needs, they can call 911 and request assistance from emergency responders.

5.3.6.2 Pets and Service Animals
It is the intention of Ouray County, its departments and all agencies utilizing this EOP that residents, visitors and other individuals in Ouray County before, during and after a disaster who may have access and functional needs will be treated the same as those individuals without access and functional needs. With this in mind, the sheltering and protection of companion or service animals is the primary responsibility of their owner during a disaster. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 requires local jurisdictions to provide assistance to individuals with service animals and for the sheltering and care of household pets and service animals during emergencies when a shelter has been established.

Pet and service animal sheltering and care in Ouray County has been assigned to Social Services, the American Red Cross, the Second Chance Humane Society, and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. These agencies should work together to pre-plan evacuation scenarios for pets and service animals, develop plans on how shelters will work with Red Cross models, develop a plan for animal registration, sheltering and return and how to coordinate with American Red Cross.

5.3.6.3 Livestock Evacuation Plan
Ouray County, especially north of the county, is steep in ranching history. As such, livestock operations across the County are not only a way of life for citizens but livestock are often the only source of income for ranchers. During a disaster, it is important for first responders and incident management officials to recognize the fact ranchers will likely prioritize their livestock’s welfare over self-evacuation to ensure the livestock and their livelihood are safe.

To ensure the needs of livestock producers are addressed and there is a representative speaking for the ranching/livestock community; the Ouray County Cattlemen’s Association should be consulted by the EOC for all incidents involving livestock evacuation or sheltering. Representatives from the livestock industry and incident managers need to come together to ensure animal rescue/evacuation operations occur in a way that best manages the safety of first responders, livestock owners and livestock.

The CSU Extension Agent, Second Chance Humane Society, Ouray County Cattlemen’s Association, Emergency Management, Ouray County staff and members of the public should work together to develop and implement a livestock animal evacuation and sheltering plan as part of the overall County Evacuation plan which also addresses evacuation needs for pets and service animals.

5.4 Recovery from Disaster Operations
A successful recovery is about the ability of individuals, businesses, local government and the community as a whole to rebound from their losses in a manner that sustains their physical, emotional, social and economic well-being. During a disaster, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be operational. The primary functions of the EOC are to provide resource support, situational awareness, and Emergency Support Function (ESF) coordination to response activities. This coordination includes short-term recovery efforts, which is consistent with the strategies found within the National Response Framework (NRF). The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) and best practice strongly recommends that local government, as part of their recovery planning, appoint a Local Disaster Recovery Manager whose primary role is to manage and coordinate the redevelopment and re-building of the community. For Ouray
OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

County, this position is designated as the Long-Term Recovery Manager and is appointed by the County Administrator or their designee. Roles and Responsibilities of Ouray County Government Departments are listed in detail in the Ouray County Disaster Recovery Plan.

5.4.1 Ouray County Disaster and Recovery Policy Group
The Disaster and Recovery Policy Group supports incident response and recovery objectives by providing subject matter expertise and evaluating legal ramifications and recommending to the BOCC policies and/or practices to support disaster response and recovery operations. The group coordinates and shares information through briefings and situational reports with the BOCC, EOC and/or Incident Command.

Depending on the type, scale, and severity of the incident, the Disaster and Recovery Policy Group may be assembled from the following or their designee:

- County Administrator
- County Assessor (ESF-14 Lead)
- Appropriate elected and appointed officials
- County Attorney
- County Department Executive Staff or Key Staff, as directed by the County Administrator.
- Emergency Manager

5.4.2 Long-Term Recovery Manager
The Long-Term Recovery Manager is assigned by the County Administrator or their designee with collaboration of the Ouray County ESF-14 Lead as outlined in the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan. When selecting the Recovery Manager, consideration should be given to technical skills, expertise and experience in similar types of disasters.

Responsibilities of the Long-Term Recovery Manager may include, but are not limited to:

- Reports directly to the County Administrator, ESF-14 Lead and Emergency Manager.
- Coordinating with the County Administrator, ESF-14 Lead and Emergency Manager in identification and selection of the Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) members.
- Providing leadership and coordination for the Long-Term Recovery Committee. The LTRC shall report directly to the Recovery Manager.
- Scheduling and facilitation of public meetings.
- Coordination of a multi-agency resource center.
- Establish a Disaster Assistance Center, in coordination with appropriate County Departments, State and Federal Agencies and NGO's.
- In coordination with the BOCC and County Administrator, developing the long-term recovery strategy for the County and providing disaster budgetary and financial implications information to policy makers.
- Identification, activation of and coordination with Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) to support long-term recovery. Each RSF may develop a description of the key planning considerations and assumptions, as well as identification of the stakeholders and organizations that will have a role in implementing the specific function.
- Identification of and application for appropriate grants.
- Developing a public information strategy, ensuring that those impacted by the disaster maintain awareness of the different types of disaster assistance available, and progress made throughout the recovery process.
- Initiating long-term recovery planning meetings with appropriate stakeholder agencies, and the public.
- Ensuring all appropriate agencies are kept informed of long-term recovery actions and major events.
- Coordinating with State of Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Management and FEMA to obtain public assistance funding, as warranted.
- Coordinating with the County Finance, Administration and participating County agencies to ensure that reimbursement documents for FEMA's public assistance programs are consistent with FEMA's reimbursement guidelines. Coordinating emergency aid agreements with other involved jurisdictions as permitted by the Board of County Commissioners or their line of succession as dictated by County Policy.

Disaster recovery actions begin early on and have a cooperative relationship with first response actions. These short-term recovery efforts are coordinated by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC coordinates short-term recovery through Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) while concurrently, the Long-Term Recovery Manager coordinates the Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) that may be activated. The EOC Manager and Long-Term Recovery Manager should develop a plan to coordinate information. In time, the EOC is shut down and the remaining long-term recovery efforts function under the Long-Term Recovery Manager.
5.4.2.1 Funding a Recovery Manager if County Administrator is Otherwise Committed

Local governments are expected to manage their own recovery after a disaster even if they do not have the expertise, staff or resources to do so. The newness and volume of paperwork and decisions can overwhelm senior or elected officials, particularly those serving in a part-time or volunteer capacity. A recovery manager can help the jurisdiction handle the diversity and volume (FEMA: Disaster Financial Management Guide).

Jurisdictions can take multiple approaches to fill recovery manager positions— for example:

**Pre-Disaster:**
- **Look for Employees** who do work similar to a recovery manager, such as in public works, and reallocate those employees to new recovery manager duties.
- **Combine Administrative Line Items** of several grants and hire a single recovery manager to manage all the grants as well as other recovery manager duties.
- **Leverage Emergency Preparedness Grant Funding** to fund a recovery manager to accomplish recovery planning and resilience building tasks.
- **Solicit Volunteers** from the community (such as a retired city manager, community planner, or county executive) to perform recovery manager duties and functions in a nonpaid status based on the jurisdiction’s law.

**Post-Disaster**
- **Use State Funding** to hire a recovery manager.
- **Reallocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or other flexible state funding** to fund a recovery manager.
- **Allocate a Portion of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding** for a recovery manager. NOTE: This must be included when the state submits its action plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **Use Economic Development Administration (EDA) Funding** to fund some recovery manager duties. Historically, EDA grants can fund disaster economic recovery duties, to include specific cross-cutting support areas such as natural resources, infrastructure and housing.
- **Use Social Service Block Grant Program Funding**. It is often combined with EDA grant funding to fund a recovery manager position (community and economic developer) to oversee implementation of projects funded by the two agencies.
- **Approach Local and Regional Foundations**. Leverage foundational support to provide the local cost share portion for a local recovery manager.

5.4.3 Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)

The Long Term Recovery Committee members shall be appointed by consensus of the Recovery Manager, County Administrator, ESF-14 Lead, and Emergency Manager. When selecting LTRC members, consideration should be given to type of disaster, subject matter expertise, local knowledge and functional experience. LTRC selection should utilize the “Whole Community” approach, ensuring that all segments of the community are represented or have a voice in the recovery process. LTRC members and appointed subcommittees shall report directly to the Recovery Manager.

Responsibilities of the LTRC will be disaster specific, and may include, but are not limited to:
- Considering the mid-to-long range social, behavioral health, economic, environmental, and political impacts of the disaster; coordinating the development and continual update of an impact and needs assessment.
- Identification and quantifying unmet needs of individuals and families. This should be coordinated with the appropriate RSF’s.
- Determining funding priorities, and making distribution recommendations to partner agencies and RSF’s.

Although not formally part of the disaster financial management team, critical stakeholders include elected officials and senior leaders. They must ensure their jurisdictions are operationally and fiscally prepared to respond to any type of disaster. This often includes establishing reserve funding accounts, pre-event contract mechanisms and response operation authorities. Consider engaging them as informal members of the team.

Jurisdictions may establish Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for the team’s roles and responsibilities and to coordinate with various managers responsible for response and recovery actions. Some jurisdictions may not have all the necessary expertise in-house, but they can leverage mutual aid agreements or contracts for subject matter experts who can serve on the team. Smaller jurisdictions can request assistance from their relevant council of government, planning council, or other regional support networks (FEMA: Disaster Financial Management Guide).
5.4.4 Recovery Support Functions
Long-term recovery tends to be longer in duration, involves key players outside of the typical emergency responder community, and includes complexities not typically covered in traditional Emergency Support Function (ESF) plans. To meet this broad range of challenges, Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) are planning constructs that fill the gap and support the coordination of long-term recovery issues not previously covered. Depending on the type and scope of the disaster, RSFs are activated and coordinated by the Long-Term Recovery Manager. Each activated RSF is responsible for understanding federal and state documentation requirements for their activities. Each RSF is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate documents are archived. Each RSF has a designated lead agency that provides leadership, coordination and oversight for that particular RSF. The lead agency for each activated RSF shall report directly to the Recovery Manager. (Depending on the type of disaster, the lead agency for the RSF could be local, state or federal).

The following Table 5.4.4 lists RSFs that may be activated to support long-term recovery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSF Title and Description</th>
<th>Lead County Departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for Individuals, Households and Small Business</td>
<td>County Clerk, County Attorney, Public Health, Social Services, Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Protection</td>
<td>Public Health, Social Services, County Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage Assessment</td>
<td>Road and Bridge, Land Use, Assessor, Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris Management</td>
<td>Road and Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations Management</td>
<td>Public Health and Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Community Recovery</td>
<td>Land Use, Administration, GIS, Public Health, Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Recovery (Natural)</td>
<td>Land use, Vegetation Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Recovery (Public Health)</td>
<td>Public Health, Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Public Health, Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard Mitigation</td>
<td>Emergency Management, Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic and Cultural Resources</td>
<td>GIS, Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Public Health, Social Services, and Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Systems</td>
<td>Road and Bridge, IT, Facilities Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Public Health, Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reentry</td>
<td>Sheriff and Road and Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>Public Health and Social services and Sheriff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>Public Health, Social Services, Administration (HR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Cost Recovery Accounting</td>
<td>Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>All County Departments and Agencies involved, Recording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Affairs</td>
<td>County PIO, Admin, Long Term Recovery Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Regardless of whether a department is listed in this matrix, all county departments will likely have some role in the recovery process.

5.4.5 Damage Assessment
Documentation is the key to recovering emergency response and recovery costs. Damage assessment data is critical in establishing the basis for eligible state and federal disaster assistance programs. For a state or federal disaster declaration, it is the responsibility of the jurisdiction impacted to collect documentation of disaster costs incurred and submit them to the appropriate state or federal agency for processing. Under federal disaster assistance programs, documentation must be obtained regarding damage sustained to:

1. Roads, bridges and culverts
2. Water control facilities
3. Public buildings and related equipment
4. Public utilities
5. Facilities
6. All recreational and park facilities
7. Educational institutions
A Damage Assessment team made up of Road and Bridge, Land Use, Assessor, Environmental Health Officer (or Public Health Director) and Administration and any other members they see fit, will conduct a Damage Assessment as soon as it is safe to do so.

6 ASSIGNMENT OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Essential Services
Ouray County government will continue to provide essential services in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare during an emergency or disaster event.

During a declared emergency or disaster event, the Board of County Commissioners Chair or any commissioner in the absence of the chair has emergency authority to act on behalf of the BOCC.

6.2 Responsibility Overview
It is important to remember that ALL responsibilities are just that. A listed responsibility does not mean that the Department Head, Appointed Officials or Elected Official has to physically do the task. They are just tasked to make sure the task get done.

The key to all emergency tasks in a county with limited resources is ask for help and delegate.

However, when thinking about the delegation process, it is crucial to remember the planning necessity:

“Incidents begin at the County or local government level (this includes special districts) and will remain the responsibility of the local government throughout the incident and through the recovery phase. Generally, local jurisdictions (up through the county) should not plan on the arrival of significant State resources ordered for 72+ hours after the incident. Federal resources may not arrive until 96+ hours after the incident.”

Ouray County is responsible for the tasks until help is asked for and then arrives and help will not start mobilizing until requested.

6.3 General Responsibilities Department Heads and Elected Officials
As members of the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), all County employees are designated as disaster service workers during a declared emergency or disaster and may be required to perform certain emergency services at the direction of their supervisor.

All County Department Heads, Appointed Officials and Elected Officials will be notified regarding emergency or disaster event issues that might impact their area of responsibility. Each department head and elected official shall work within the framework of this plan and supporting Annexes and have the following general responsibilities:

• Be prepared to respond adequately to all emergency or disaster events;
• Ensure that employees within their department have their FEMA recommended training;
• Consider potential emergency or disaster events as related to his or her regular functions, particularly those functions essential in times of emergency or disaster;
• Design preparedness measures to permit a rapid and effective transition period following initial indication of a potential emergency or disaster event;
• Protect property, mitigate damages and facilitate recovery for individuals, communities, businesses, governments and the environment;
• Designate a member to represent their department during EOC activation and needed EOC support trainings. Designees must have the ability to direct Department resources, have departmental decision-making abilities and authority to allocate department funds as needed to support the incident;
• EOP members may be required to respond outside of normal work hours.

6.4 Essential Function Responsibilities
All County Department Heads, Appointed Officials and Elected Officials shall ensure the continuity of essential functions within their departments, also known as a COOP Plan, in any emergency or disaster event by providing for:

• Succession Planning of their office and keeping on file an Emergency Delegation of Authority in accordance with applicable law;
• Safekeeping of essential resources, facilities and records;
• Establishment of emergency operating capabilities;
• Plan for the use of essential emergency resources as well as alternative resources that may be used to meet essential demands during and following an emergency or disaster event;
• Participate in activities to continually assess the importance of various facilities and resources to essential community needs; integrate preparedness and response strategies and procedures as needed.

6.5 Agency Roles and Responsibilities
All offices (of elected officials), departments, agencies and organizations with responsibilities identified in this section of the plan are responsible for developing internal procedures and Standard Operating Plans (SOP’s) for carrying out these roles and responsibilities and for the development of Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans for their department or agency. Each department has been assigned a section to report to within ICS/ESF when directives are received.

In the case for agencies that are not under the county jurisdiction, they can be requested resources. They play a huge role in Emergency Response but must be requested by ESF Leads, IC, or EOC Manager if the emergency or Disaster is within the unincorporated areas within Ouray County.

6.5.1 Ouray County Emergency Management
• The Ouray County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for the County’s emergency management, planning and operations and coordinating with the emergency management representative(s) from municipalities
• The Emergency Operations Center when activated per this plan, does not assume or take command of the scene or incident. Rather, the EOC is a place for agency coordination and support of the incident and the response and initial recovery operations. Command of the incident remains with the IC and ICS structure and the EOC will provide coordination and collaboration between local, county, state and federal agencies involved.
  ○ Unless otherwise indicated, the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will coordinate response and resource requests and initial recovery operations. During multiple incidents, the EOC will help to prioritize support and resources based on state and local requirements and alleviate requests for information into the County Communications Center.
• Ouray County is responsible for emergency operations and coordination amongst all agencies and departments in the County as well as with regional partners.
• If the disaster or emergency becomes large enough to request state or federal assistance, the County Office of Emergency Management and EOC will coordinate with DHSEM for such requests and serve as the primary point of contact with DHSEM for assistance.

6.5.2 Law Enforcement
• The Ouray County Sheriff is responsible for maintaining law and order throughout Ouray County. The Sheriff’s Authority and duties cannot be delegated.
• Depending on the location of the emergency, local police departments may have jurisdiction over the incident or emergency. If not lead agency, may be called upon to provide mutual aid and assistance to another police department, the Sheriff’s Office, a state or federal law enforcement agency.
• Respond to emergency incidents or events to ensure maintenance of law and order in unaffected areas of the county/city.
• Provide or assist with traffic control as needed by the incident.
• Assist in alerting or warning the general public and assisting in evacuation orders and evacuating citizens.

6.5.3 County Administrative Staff
• Support County Administrator to procure emergency-related supplies and materials, and administer vendor contracts for services and equipment;
• Support County Administrator to track resources, keep records, and document disaster-related costs and financial commitments;
• Participate with other departmental representatives on the county damage assessment team at the EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams as needed;
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Ouray County Administrative Staff will work from the Ouray County 4-H Event Center and will need computers, telecommunications and internet access

6.5.4 Fire Districts/Departments
• Four fire districts serve Ouray County. Each fire district is responsible for providing all services related to fire prevention and suppression as well as support of EMS and law enforcement services as needed or requested.
• Assessment of emergency conditions and determination of required levels of assistance from County and outside sources;
• Fire Districts assume responsibility and authority for structural and/or wildfires within their district boundaries and providing mutual aid response to neighboring districts or public land agencies.
• Establish and activate Incident Command System upon arrival on-scene of an active structure or wildfire to include designating an Incident Commander and Incident Command Post.
• The Incident Commander or deputy IC should maintain continuous communication with dispatch and upon activation of the EOC, the EOC via the Communications Department or EOC Manager.
• Establishment of communications with County Emergency Management for purposes of providing situation reports and forwarding requests for State assistance through the County Emergency Manager;
• Assist in implementation of emergency evacuation operations;
• Provide assistance in rescue operations as needed or requested in response to a disaster or emergency. This may include extrication of patients from motor vehicle collisions, gas leaks, hazmat response, fire suppression, water rescues and off-road rescues.
• Provision of fire suppression, fire causation, and arson investigation services;
• Provide a representative to the unified ICP and EOC;
• Assist the EOC/Sherriff’s Office or other departments in disseminating information to the public, providing evacuation operations, fire protection for emergency shelters and structure protection.
• Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of equipment that is available for deployment locally (within the County), regionally, state-wide, and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through WebEOC each year.
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.5.5 Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS)
• Ouray County has two EMS districts, Ouray County Ambulance District (OCEMS) and Montrose Fire Protection District (MFPD). OCEMS covers the majority of the County while MFPD covers the North End of the County. The two districts are responsible for responding to all emergency and non-emergent medical and trauma calls for service within Ouray County;
• EMS Directors should work with Emergency Management and the EOC and Ouray County MAC Group and West Region Emergency Trauma Council (WRETAC) to develop mutual aid plans, and mass casualty plans for EMS transport;
• During an incident, assign an EMS liaison to the Incident Command Post or EOC as required and if an incident heavily involving EMS and the triage and transport of patients, an EMS director should be part of Unified Command.
• Provide stand-by EMS service to fire districts in the event of structural or wildland fire operations and response.
• Assist the Ouray County Sheriff and the Ouray County Public Health Agency in identifying residents with Access and Functional Needs in the case of a population evacuation;
• Set up rehabilitation for all emergency responders;
• Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of equipment that is available for deployment locally (within the County), regionally, state-wide and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through Emergency Management and WebEOC each year.
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, OCEMS will work from mobile units, the EOC, or the Ouray County 4-H Event Center.

6.5.6 Ouray County Coroner’s Office
• Assist with Emergency Operations and/or support as needed;
• The Ouray County Coroner’s Office is responsible for all duties associated with deceased individuals within the boundaries of Ouray County
• Acquire expanded mortuary services and/or body storage when required based upon the incident. Activate mutual aid plans with regional coroner’s offices and mortuaries for support in event of a mass fatality event;
• Protection of personal effects with the deceased at the time of death;
• Work with Emergency Management and County Administration on the maintenance of the Mass Fatality Management Plan
• Identification, verification, autopsies (if determined by Coroner, as necessary) and disposition of deceased persons;
• Responsible for the investigation of all deaths outside medical facilities under the attendance of a licensed physician, providing notification of next-of-kin and retaining custody of the body to schedule an autopsy and other necessary investigations before final disposition of the body of the deceased to an appropriate funeral home;
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Coroner will operate from a home office.

6.5.7 Ouray County Public Health Agency
• Ouray County Public Health Agency will have jurisdiction and responsibility for all matters of public and environmental health within the geographical boundaries of Ouray County;
• The Public Health Agency is responsible for directing, coordinating and controlling public health and environmental health concerns;
• Upon notification or identification of a public health concern and need, the Public Health Agency will prioritize community needs and coordinate appropriate resources to respond and meet those needs;
• Plan for, provide and supervise nursing services in reception areas in temporary shelters until relieved by qualified personnel;
• Assistance to ICP/EOC staff in assessing overall health and medical resource needs during response and recovery operations and maintenance of situation status information within the ICP/EOC;
• Plan, Coordinate and exercise Pandemic response plans, point of distribution plans and emergency response plans related to Public Health in coordination with Emergency Management and ESF-8 partners;
• Environmental Health Officer (or Public Health Director) serves as a member of the County Damage Assessment Team;
• Identify biological and chemical hazards and mitigation of same in a joint effort with the Designated Emergency Response Authority (D.E.R.A.) or other appropriate resource;
• Serve as a resource for residents, non-residents and visitors to the County with Access and Functional needs that need assistance or evacuation assistance.
• Provide technical guidance and coordinate experts to assist in the response phase to evaluate public water sources in the event of a disaster and issue guidance to local water companies, municipalities and the EOC/PIO for distribution.
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• Provide immunizations as appropriate and necessary as determined by County Public Health Agency;
• Coordinate with the Incident Commander and establish Unified Command in the event an incident involves Public or Environmental Health. Assign a Public Health Agency staff member, preferably the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to the EOC to act as a liaison to the Public Health Agency and assist in planning for health and medical needs during the response and recovery operations;
• Conduct public health surveillance and testing procedures as needed;
• Coordinate and lead the Emergency Support Function – 8 (Public Health) response during disasters and emergencies;
• Meet with the Ouray County Board of Health/Ouray County Board of County Commissioners and provide regular updates on all health and medical matters.
• Perform functions as required by Colorado State Statute, Colorado Department of Public Health and Federal Department of Human Services.
• Collect and distribute data and prepare releases related to public health, environmental health, infectious or communicable diseases.
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Public Health Building, Ouray County Public Health will operate from the Ouray County 4-H Event Center or the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility, and will need computers, internet, telecommunications, and a refrigeration and a freezer unit for vaccines.

6.5.8 Ouray County Road and Bridge Department
• The Road & Bridge Department is responsible for maintaining all county owned roadways and bridges in unincorporated Ouray County.
• During an emergency, road & bridge may be called out to inspect a roadway or bridge for safety concerns and if compromised provide barriers to close the roadway and/or bridge for public safety.
• Provide transportation and support of emergency response and recovery efforts (e.g., movement of county personnel, equipment and supplies to designated staging areas);
• Removal of debris, clearance of public right-of-ways, and planning for street/route recovery operations, with priority assigned to critical emergency services lifelines;
• Provision of personnel and heavy rescue equipment in support of search and rescue operations;
• Provide water trucks in the event of wildfires or domestic water outages to haul water for fire suppression efforts and non-potable water.
• Provide heavy equipment such as road maintainers, water trucks, front end loaders, excavators and/or dozers during a disaster to assist with wildfires, floods, flash floods, emergency road repair, evacuations and rescue operations;
• Provide staff, equipment or assistance for emergency repairs to public buildings, utilities, EOC or other critical infrastructure in Ouray County;
• Restoration of damaged County roads and bridges and other public services and facilities that fall under the daily maintenance requirement of County Road and Bridge responsibilities;
• Road crews will expedite restoration of roadways that are damaged during a disaster if the roadway:
  o Is the only ingress/egress for a neighborhood;
  o If the roadway is a major artery for the county and closure of the road would cause extended response of emergency personnel or public safety hazards such as closure of an evacuation route;
• Provide emergency traffic control measures including placement of cones, barriers or markings in dangerous areas in coordination with dispatch, fire departments and the Sheriff’s Office;
• Remove downed trees and other debris from county roadways and rights-of-way to facilitate public ingress/egress from neighborhoods and emergency rescue operations and movement of supplies;
• Participation with other departmental representatives on County damage assessment team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams, primarily County-owned transportation infrastructure, as needed;
• Maintain an accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) list of equipment that is owned and available for use by Road & Bridge. CRRF forms must be updated through Emergency Management and WebEOC each year;
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• In the case of displacement from the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility, Road and Bridge will conduct operations out of the Ouray County 4-H Event Center and will conduct office administration from mobile units.

6.5.9 Ouray County Information Technology (OIT)
• The Ouray County IT department should work with Emergency Management for the rapid establishment of an EOC at the Land Use Building or another designated location in the event of a Level 1 or Level 2 activation;
• Coordinates needed actions to provide telecommunications, and the restoration of the telecommunications infrastructure for the Ouray County government;
• Supports all County agencies and County EOC in the procurement and coordination of telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (OIT) industry during the duration of an incident;
• Work with the EOC, County Administration, BOCC and other Department heads for IT related needs related to network access, Wi-Fi, printers, VoIP phones and other IT related services;
• Serve as the point of contact for purchases of any IT related services or hardware (computers, switches, phones, etc.) requested by the Command Post, Emergency Management or Departments during a response to a disaster;
• Coordinate and manage firewall and remote access to County administered networks and services for County Staff who may be forced to activate alternate facilities or work from home during an emergency;
• Participate in latest security training and deploy upgrades and enhancements to computer and network security across County departments including security training for end users.
• Mobilize or obtain computers for use in new/temporary facilities in the event that one or several offices need to be relocated;
• Maintain ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.5.10 Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
• Provide situational and incident maps to the IC or Emergency Management or response workers as needed. These maps may include, but are not limited to, available data showing approximate property boundaries,
approximate structure locations, property ownership, other pertinent property data maintained by the Ouray County Assessor’s Office, geographic features, USGS topography or other utilized data or data collected by operations personnel;

• Provide services during the incident when possible such as – scanning and printing large scale maps and documents, coordinate of GIS data acquisition from other counties, agencies and databases in support of the incident.
• Upload and download GPS waypoints, tracks and shape files for Incident Staff.
• Update GIS databases and online Maps or an incident-specific workspace for Command and General Staff at the EOC/Command Post.
• Maintain ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.5.11 Ouray County Health Care

6.5.11.1 Montrose Regional Health

As mentioned previously in this Plan, Ouray County does not have a hospital in the County and is served by the Regional Hospital, Montrose Regional Health. Though Ouray County does not have jurisdiction over the hospital some reasonable expectations can be listed:

• Provide 24/7 emergency care;
• Serve as Ouray County’s hospital provider and urgent care provider;
• Can assist Ouray County in a medical surge event with personnel or services;
• Coordinate with ESF-8 and Emergency Management during preparedness, training and exercise efforts to prepare hospital and clinic staff for emergency situations and training in Incident Command.
• Provide Surge Trailer and supplies;
• Participate in county and regional training exercises and host exercises internally to rehearse emergency training and test policies and procedures;
• Share information with Ouray County Public Health Agency regarding reportable diseases and mandatory reporting as required per State & Federal law and regulations;
• Provide a liaison to the EOC during EOC activations to assist in planning and operational expertise regarding the hospital and medical care;
• Develop and maintain emergency operations plans for the hospital and associated clinics and exercise the plans internally and with first response partners. Participate in education and training exercise at the local, regional and state levels
• Assist Ouray County Public Health Agency and other ESF-8 partners, Emergency Management and other partners in the planning, mitigation and response efforts to pandemic and biological threats. This includes maintaining at least a 6-week supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on hand for all hospital staff and list of qualified vendors and items for emergency orders.
• Assist the Public Health Agency in developing local and regional supply caches and communicate supply needs to the Logistics division and designate the hospital’s supply unit leader as a liaison to the EOC and county logistics section to communicate resource status and needs and help vet medical supplies and vendors;
• Develop plans and activate planning related to pandemic preparedness, emergency supplies, testing and medication/vaccine distribution;
• Report daily bed counts and any reportable diseases/incidents to CDPHE and EMResources as required by CDPHE.

6.5.11.2 Community Hospital (Grand Junction)

Community Hospital in Grand Junction Colorado is the hospital that does all of Ouray County’s autopsies and pathology. Though Ouray County does not have jurisdiction over the hospital some reasonable expectations can be listed:

• Provide pathology investigations,
• Acts as the morgue for Ouray County;

6.5.11.3 Medical Clinics

Like the Hospitals, Ouray County does not have jurisdiction of the local medical clinics. However, through conversations and planning, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

• Private medical clinics and Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers in Ouray County can help with preparedness and response efforts by building strong relationships with the County ESF-8 group, participating in local training and exercises and coordinating planning efforts with emergency management and other organizations;
• Clinics should provide a liaison to the ESF-8 group during EOC activations to help coordinate response efforts and logistical/staffing support for the emergency;
• Provide medical staff for response/assignment to various areas of the county during an emergency/disaster including evacuation points, evacuation shelters, the hospital, emergency room, urgent care, EMS station and other clinic locations;
• Assist Ouray County Public Health and other ESF-8 partners, Emergency Management and partners in the planning, mitigation and response efforts related to pandemic, epidemic and other biological threats;
• Each clinic should develop plans and emergency supply caches of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff to last at least 6 weeks for full capacity and have identified lists of vendors to order supplies from.

6.5.11.4 Center for Mental Health
Like the Hospitals, Ouray County does not have jurisdiction of the Center for Mental Health. However, through conversations and planning, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

• Assist with providing emergency mental health with those displaced from homes and family;
• Assist first responders with mental health resources;
• Provide a 24-hour, free support line to the community.

6.5.12 Ouray County Social Services Department
• Ouray County Social Service is responsible for advising the Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Management and Board of County Commissioners on all social services needs and concerns within the county, including incorporated areas;
• Social Services serves as the lead for Emergency Support Function – 6 in the EOC;
• Contribute to and provide guidance in the establishment and maintenance of mass care and sheltering annexes to the EOP on how the County can best provide assistance to the public prior to during and after an emergency or disaster;
• Work with the American Red Cross and Emergency Management to identify suitable emergency shelters in Ouray County and maintain a master list of shelters and contact information and ensure the list is provided to Emergency Management.
• Assist in the coordination of overall efforts of volunteer organizations and other volunteers;
• In coordination with Incident Command, management of resources of emergent or spontaneous volunteers (i.e., match available resources with individual needs);
• Administration of Individual and Family Grant Program in presidentially declared disasters in Ouray County;
• Working with County Administrator, coordinate available County staff to accomplish emergency functions;
• Maintenance of ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• Responsible for sheltering displaced families;
• Identify and maintain a list of suitable food points of distribution to enable families and groups to receive emergency distribution of food and water in the event of a disaster;
• Provision of resources for stress counseling/crisis counseling for disaster victims and disaster relief workers, as needed;
• Implement the Individual/Family grant program and administer food stamp programs per state and federal law/guidelines following a state and/or Federal emergency disaster declaration;
• Provide staff to assist emergency personnel and Emergency Management at evacuation points for the registration of incident victims, evacuees and tracking information about missing family members;
• Provide technical assistance and personnel in the EOC as liaisons and guides for Social Services support. Work with logistics on the ordering and shipment of emergency food supplies, sheltering needs and other social services related needs;
• Provide assistance in the writing and maintenance of an Emergency Evacuation Plan, provide assistance for individuals with access and functional needs;
• In the case of displacement from the Social Services Building, the Social Service office will operate from the Ouray County 4-H Event Center or the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility, and will need computers, telecommunications and internet.

6.5.13 Ouray County Fairgrounds / Ouray County 4-H Event Center
• Serve as a Point of Distribution (POD) for state and federal resources;
• Provide shelter if needed;
  ○ Commercial kitchen may be utilized to provide food for sheltered citizens
• Serve as a point of animal and livestock collection;
• Provide a Casualty Collection Point (CCP) if needed;
• Provide a staging area;
• Provide for a heliport or base;
• Allow for twenty-four hour parking during a declared emergency;
• In the case of displacement from the Fairgrounds / Ouray County 4-H Event Center, the local schools will fill these Responsibilities by agreement with the Ouray County School District and the Ridgway School District.

6.5.14 Facilities and Maintenance
• Perform damage assessments to county facilities following an emergency and perform emergency repairs to the facilities to get them in a condition that are safe to utilize or make a determination if a facility has suffered extreme damages and cannot be brought back to operating condition without significant construction;
• Respond to emergency situations involving county facilities and provide overnight access, damage assessments, address utility outages/issues such as gas leaks, broken pipes, power outages, leaking roofs, damaged buildings, etc.;
• Support and coordination of utilizing County facilities and other buildings as emergency shelters;
• Provide assistance to Emergency Management, EOC or other department staff in moving equipment, and establishing the EOC or other command centers at county owned facilities;
• Assist the Road and Bridge department in removal of debris and the clearance of public rights-of-way with priority assigned to critical emergency lifeline routes;
• Provide the EOC with cleaning supplies and toiletries to ensure operations for as long as needed;
• Problem-solve for power, water and heat needs for County properties;
• Maintain county shelters and provide personnel to maintain them;
• Maintain oxygen generator system;
• Provide assistance in cleaning, setting up, moving equipment, office furniture or other equipment to ready county facilities for disaster response and service to the community such as for community events, evacuation centers, command posts, logistic staging areas or distribution centers.
• Provide technical assistance on county facilities and help provide access and modifications as necessary at facilities.
• May be called upon to help with debris management and removal at county facilities and/or provide assistance to County road and bridge or other agencies for reopening critical infrastructure, roadways and other essential services.
• Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor serves as a member of the logistics section in the EOC.
• Maintain ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Maintenance office will operate from mobile units with a hub office in the Ouray County 4-H Event Center.

6.5.15 Ouray Mountain Rescue Team
• Provision of trained personnel and equipment in support of search and rescue operations of the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office;
• Traffic control assistance to fire, EMS and uniformed law enforcement personnel, crowd control assistance, assistance with site security as assigned by the Ouray County Sheriff or Emergency Management Director;
• Provide Emergency Locator Transmitter Search Team requests through the EOC if needed.

6.5.16 Animal Control within Ouray County
Ouray County does not have an Animal Control Department. However agreements are in place for the following

6.5.16.1 Sheriff Department Responsibilities
• Establish measures for animal control, including the coordination of animal relief measures, their care and the search for their owners;
• Assist the animal shelter manager with problems associated with displaced persons bringing pets to shelter facilities.

6.5.16.2 Domesticated Animals
Ouray County has an agreement in place take and shelter Cats and Dogs as Ouray County’s Primary Response. Montrose County Sheriff’s Animal Control can be called upon as a secondary measure.
6.5.16.3  Wildlife
Colorado Parks and Wildlife assist Ouray County in the case where animal control is need for wildlife (e.g. deer, bear, elk, and mountain lion).

6.5.17  Communications Center (Dispatch)
- Maintain communications before, during and after an emergency or disaster in Ouray County;
- Work with Emergency Management, the Sheriff and County Administration to write and maintain a Continuity of Operations Plan for dispatch services;
- Provide input to Emergency Management and work with the Emergency Manager on the update and implementation of the West Region Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) plan;
- Provide support to the EOC during an activation through remote or in-person support and staff as required by the incident;
- Maintain roster of all support agency contact persons, make necessary notifications, activate support agencies and maintain ongoing phone and radio communications in support of the emergency missions;
- Can dispatch regional assets requested by incident command in small scale incidents.

6.5.18  American Red Cross / Salvation Army
- Provision of immediate assistance to disaster victims, including food, water, shelter, clothes, physical and mental health counseling and referrals;
- Establishment and management of emergency shelters for mass care, in cooperation with Ouray County Emergency Management and affected municipalities, including registration, feeding, lodging, and responding to public inquiries concerning shelter residents (establish public inquiry telephones);
- Provision of temporary and immediate housing for displaced disaster victims;
- Provision of food, beverages and other assistance to emergency response personnel and emergency relief workers;
- Provide training to volunteers prior to emergency or disaster declaration
- Provide on-site training to volunteers during an emergency or disaster declaration
- Provision of damage assessment information upon request;
- Coordination of mental health services (in cooperation with Ouray County Human /Social Services Department;
- Assist with Emergency Operations as needed.

6.5.19  Colorado Department of Transportation
- Can supply heavy equipment
- Can provide traffic control on State Highways
- Can assist Road and Bridge with road maintenance when requested

6.5.20  Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Provide perimeter security for scene;
- Provide security for shelter;
- Provide security for Emergency Operations Center;
- Provide access and egress for emergency vehicles and needed personnel (establish one-way routes);
- Provide Hazardous Material Incident response;
- Provision of law enforcement, traffic control, and access control within the disaster area(s) and in any other needed areas of the County;
- Provide a representative to EOC and or ICP as needed.

6.5.21  School Districts
- Responsible for all planning and decisions related to the safety and security of students and staff in all school district facilities across Ouray County;
- School District Administration personnel should be involved in the Incident Command Post and/or EOC in the event of an incident affecting a School such as an Active Shooter or other emergency requiring shelter in place or evacuation of a school/property;
- Prepare and maintain an Emergency Management Plan for the School District in accordance with State and Federal Education and emergency management guidelines;
- Provide for the safety and protection of pupils and school personnel, through planning and training exercises with local public safety organizations;
• Coordinate with Emergency Management, in cooperation with American Red Cross, to provide schools as temporary shelters, when needed;
• Work with Emergency Management, Ouray County Social Services and the American Red Cross for activation of emergency shelters at School District properties as identified by the American Red Cross;
• Coordinate with Social Services and American Red Cross for feeding and housing of displaced persons at school-based emergency shelters and/or evacuation points;
• Provision school buses for evacuation of individuals with access and functional needs during an emergency or disaster;
• Provide buses for evacuation and transportation, when needed;
• Development and maintenance of Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations Plans;
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.5.22 Colorado State Patrol
• Promote safety and provide enforcement of Colorado’s title 42 traffic code on highways during and after an emergency or disaster in Ouray County;
• Respond to and investigate motor vehicle collisions on State Highways and County Roadways within unincorporated Ouray County;
• During an emergency or disaster and evacuations, provide scene security at roadblocks and close highways or roadways except to authorized personnel;
• Respond to and manage hazardous materials incidents on State Highways and Public Roadways in Unincorporated Ouray County;
• Respond to and assist with Civil Unrests;
• Provide dignitary planning and protection details.

6.5.23 Public Utilities
• Utility companies and private industry play an important role in emergency preparedness, response and recovery;
• Utility companies such as electric, gas and phone infrastructure are considered to be critical infrastructure and should be protected before, during and after incidents and repairs and restoration of services will be a top priority;
• Companies should identify liaisons to work with Emergency Management and other first responders and provide 24/7 contact information to dispatch for emergency notifications. To foster strong working relationships, these agencies will be invited to Multi-Agency Coordination Groups so agencies and industry reps can develop strong working relationships before an incident occurs;
• During disaster response/emergencies, when possible companies should deploy a liaison to the EOC or a direct line to a representative to best maintain open lines of communication about restoration of service, outage areas, damage estimates and other needs.
• Assist in issuing emergency warnings, outage notices and responding to service calls, outage reports and safety disconnects of gas/power for residents;
• Develop and maintain emergency operations plans and participate in training/exercises with local officials and collaborate on planning such as Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and filing any required Tier II reports for hazardous substances;
• Determine availability, quantity, and procedures to obtain sandbags in coordination with emergency management;
• Clear emergency routes and arterial streets of debris to facilitate movement of emergency equipment Provide material for earthen dikes in cooperation with Public Works;
• Provide potable water for drinking, if required;
• Advise resource members of anticipated needs and support required;
• Coordinate and compile damage reports from damage assessment teams and advise coordination and control group

6.5.24 Water Districts
• Responsible for the distribution of domestic drinking water to residents within a defined geographic area in the county;
• Responsible for immediately notifying county (Environmental Health, OEM, Dispatch), State (CDPHE) and/or Federal (EPA) authorities of incidents affecting water supply, piping, distribution, treatment or other issues affecting water system per notification timelines established in law;
• Serve as technical advisers to incidents in the water source area for their district regarding source water issues, water quality, treatment or distribution issues in their service area;
• Provide service area and addresses for emergency notification to customers affected by outage or water quality alerts to Environmental Health, CDPHE and Emergency Management;
• Assist officials in issuing emergency warnings/alerts to customers and clients;
• District leadership should provide Ouray County GIS with shape files to GIS’ specifications of the water district’s boundaries and residential and commercial customers serviced by the district as well as location of main shut off valves, transmission lines and treatment tanks and source water area if possible. This information will be treated as Official Use – Sensitive Information and not subject to CORA requests and may only be released per State/Federal law;
• During domestic related water emergencies, districts should provide a representative in the EOC to answer questions, provide technical assistance and input on the water system;
• Water districts should develop and maintain their own emergency plans, develop emergency notification procedures and public awareness programs. Included in this planning should be plans for things such as: supply outages, source water contamination response, boil order notices, equipment/infrastructure failure and distribution plans in event of supply outages or equipment failure;
• Water districts are responsible for complying with state and federal laws related to water quality, testing, notifications and planning as defined by CDPHE and EPA.

6.5.25 Auxiliary Communication (AuxCom)
• The AuxCom volunteers will be activated in support of the EOC to set up the infrastructure for the EOC and provide support to ESF-2; Communications;
• During a disaster, AuxCom Members can utilize 800 MHz, High Frequency HAM and VHF Public Safety band radios in the EOC to communicate with other amateur radio operators across the Western Slope as well as send messages via radio to the State EOC in Denver.

6.5.26 Hazardous Response Teams
Hazmat services are extremely limited in Ouray County. For large-scale hazmat responses, responders will request assistance from the Telluride Fire Department, State Patrol or another hazmat agency that are over four (4) hours in response. Roles for these teams are as follows:
• Prevent, minimize, or mitigate a release of Oil or Hazardous Materials;
• Detect and assess the extent of contamination (including sampling and analysis and environmental monitoring);
• Stabilize the release and prevent the spread of contamination;
• Analyze options for environmental cleanup and waste disposition;
• Implement environmental cleanup;
• Store, treat, and dispose of oil and hazardous materials

6.5.27 Local Municipalities- Mayors and Councils
• Local municipal jurisdictions should establish and review their disaster policies and procedures as they relate to the municipality and statutory authorities and responsibilities;
• For incidents within city limits that fall to the jurisdiction of the town such as water main breaks, sewer breaks, domestic water outages, critical infrastructure failure, flooding, etc.; the Mayor or other chief elected official will be in charge of directing the municipality’s efforts and chain of command including enacting mutual aid, declaring a local disaster and requesting assistance from the County;
• Develop, review and maintain disaster finance policies, purchasing policies and Continuity of Operations Plans to ensure local government can still function and perform critical services regardless of emergency situation;
• Elected council members, mayors and other senior town officials may be called upon to do public presentations and be the face of the town or town agency during an emergency. Elected officials and senior municipal staff members should consider FEMA and other public information courses to help prepare for public inquiries;
• Coordinate with the County Joint Information Center (JIC) and Joint Information System and activate/utilize PIOs from the county and region to help support emergency response and send trained PIOs from the town to support other incidents in the County/West Region.

6.6 Individual Roles and Responsibilities
In a disaster or emergency, having clear definition of a department’s responsibility helps staff clearly communicate what their priorities are and prioritize tasks as it relates to the incident objectives and serving the citizens of Ouray County. The following is a summary of areas of responsibilities and roles that County level departments may be
tasked with during an emergency or disaster event. Department heads and elected heads should understand this list is not all encompassing, as every incident is fluid with different circumstances and leadership in each department should be ready to adjust operations accordingly.

All county departments are responsible for:

- Working to ensure all staff have a current County issued ID badge (Salamander technologies) with an up-to-date photo and the ID isn’t expired;
- Ensuring Human Resources has a correct list of all employees, titles and pay rates (hourly, overtime and exempt) each year and that the list is provided to Emergency Management to update and maintain the Salamander ID Credentialing system. Titles and pay rates and certifications are important as the system tracks hours worked and the cost to the county for paying employees;
- Supporting an EOC activation and daily operations to ensure the County is providing for the safety and protection of all residents, non-residents and visitors;
- Ensuring that they have an up-to-date Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan that clearly establishes an ongoing chain of succession and/or delegation of authority for each department and division. Department heads and elected officials should make sure their staff are trained on the line of succession and duties in an emergency response as an emergency is sudden and may strike at any time, day or night and affect operations and the ability of the department to work out of remote or new office space depending on the needs and requirements of the emergency;
- Developing internal alert and notification procedures for departmental personnel;
- Tracking incident-related costs incurred by the department in coordination with the EOC Finance Section and/or County Finance Director. This includes staff time, overtime, purchases, contracts initiated or modified, copies, mileage and use of county or personal vehicles for duties and other expenses as required to be tracked by Finance;
- Every department head and elected official is responsible for submitting expenditure reports in accordance with financial management practices as outlined in this plan, finance policies and per FEMA guidelines for the incident;
- Ensuring vehicles and or other equipment assigned to the department that may be required in an emergency situation are equipped and ready to go in accordance with department policies;
- Notifying the EOC Manager and/or Emergency Manager of resource shortfalls in your department and what affects the shortfalls will have on the incident;
- Assigning staff to the EOC as required by this plan or requested by the County Administrator.
- Ensure staff who are required to participate in emergency response complete the required FEMA NIMS and ICS Training outlined in Table 5.2.1;
- Allow staff who may be called upon in an emergency to work in the EOC to participate in training exercises and courses;
- Each department, office, and agency should development and maintenance of standard operating procedures (SOP’s) to achieve their roles and responsibilities outlined in this Plan;
- Department heads and elected officials should provide information and coordination public announcements, official statements or press releases through the EOC and the Public Information Officer and/or Joint Information Center (JIC) during an EOC activation.

6.6.1 Ouray Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

- Approval and commitment of County resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes;
- Formulation of directives to County departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed (implemented by County Administrator);
- Approve emergency financial purchases as requested and warranted by the emergency or disaster and per the Ouray County Purchasing and Disaster Policies.
- Serve as members of the Policy Group with local, regional, state and federal agency representatives or agency heads during the activation of the Emergency Operations Center and have authority to direct resources as required and necessary consistent with this plan;
- In coordination with Incident Command, issuance of official orders regarding population protection or temporary social restrictions, such as evacuation orders, establishment of curfews, and enactment of price controls;
- In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will meet at the Ouray County 4-H Event Center for regular BOCC meetings and at the designated policy group post for emergency meetings.
6.6.2 Ouray County Clerk and Recorder

- Provide for the safekeeping of vital records including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines, master equipment lists, etc.;
- Participate with other departmental representatives in the establishment and maintenance of an incident-related financial recordkeeping system;
- Receipt and filing of any orders or proclamations declaring, continuing or terminating a Ouray County emergency or disaster;
- Maintain ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
- In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Clerk and Recorder’s Office personnel will work from the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility or from the Ouray County 4-H Event Center, and will need computers, access to the backups, internet access and telecommunications;
- State law permits a temporary facility to be established within the city of Ouray (the county seat) for the Clerk and Recorder’s operations.

6.6.3 County Treasurer

- Assume duties as registrar;
- Provide and maintain financial records;
- Maintain ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
- In the case of displacement from Ouray County Courthouse, the Treasurer’s Office personnel will work from the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility or the Ouray County 4-H Event Center, and will need computers, internet, telecommunications and ten-key adding machines;
- State law permits a temporary facility to be established within the city of Ouray (the county seat) for the Ouray County Treasurer’s operations.

6.6.4 Ouray County Emergency Manager

- The Emergency Manager is responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of local pre and post-disaster services per C.R.S. 24-33.5-707 within both unincorporated and incorporated Ouray County;
- All municipalities, departments, agencies, directors and special districts within the county are responsible for developing their own internal procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s), and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans. The County Emergency Manager will assist municipalities in the planning and coordination of their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as an annex to the County EOP;
- Assessment of emergency conditions and determination immediate and ongoing needs or assistance from County and/or outside sources;
- Assess the emergency situation and make recommendations to the County Administrator and/or Sheriff concerning needs for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews or other temporary social restrictions;
- Coordination of resources to support the needs and requests presented by incidents;
- Activation, and serves as manager of the Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC);
- Provide technical support to EOC staff and other county personnel with respect to resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions as needed;
- Coordination of mutual aid documentation and assistance resources;
- Emergency situation assessment and recommendations to Sheriff and County Commissioners concerning the need for local disaster declarations travel restrictions, curfews or other temporary social restrictions.
- Implementation of available public warning measures;
- Provision of emergency public information and establishment of procedures for releases of disaster-related information to include casualties;
- Establishment of locations for temporary shelters, in cooperation with American Red Cross;
- Establishment of communications with Colorado EM for purposes of providing situation reports and forwarding requests for State assistance via WebEOC and other resources;
- Notification of emergency personnel (maintenance of contacts outside Sheriff’s Office);
- Preparation of situation reports and damage assessment reports for Emergency Manager, County Commissioners and State Emergency Management;
- Coordinate support for resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation and other emergency management functions, as needed;
• Plan maintenance, training and exercises;
• Plan maintenance, scheduling and conducting of training and exercises;
• Maintain list of NIMS trainings for all county employees;
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Emergency Manager will operate from the Emergency Operations Center or out of a home office.

6.6.5 Ouray County Administrator

• Formally declare an emergency or disaster in accordance with this plan, Ouray County Resolution #2021-048 and C.R.S 24-33.5-709, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) and issue emergency declarations as needed and requested by Emergency Management, the Ouray County Sheriff or County Administrator to preserve and protect life, public safety and property;
• The Ouray County Administrator is responsible for the coordination of Ouray County departments and staff in support of a disaster or emergency. The Administrator receives or solicits requests for assistance from the EOC/ Emergency Management and/or the Incident Command Post and coordinates requests for resources and staff from internal sources first and external sources second;
• Serve as a liaison between the EOC, Emergency Manager and the Board of County Commissioners and other elected/agency heads that comprise the Policy Group on decisions critical to the mission such as evacuation orders, purchasing decisions, matters of public policy;
• Coordinate, commit and direct Ouray County government activities in support of an emergency or disaster relief efforts;
• Issuance of directives to County departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed;
• Coordinate with and provide guidance and wording for official press releases to the County Public Information Officer and Emergency Manager and support as needed;
• Provide personnel for structure and facility inspections to determine safety of individual structures (businesses, residences and public buildings) and to identify needed repairs or to implement condemnation procedures when necessary;
• Intergovernmental liaison and initiation of formal request for outside assistance from other local jurisdictions;
• Development and maintenance of Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations plans;
• Provide assistance to the Sheriff and the BOCC as needed;
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• Approval of County resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners;
• Participation on County damage assessment team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams, (primarily for County owned facilities), as needed;
• Facilitate restoration of County public facilities, services and utilities;
• Serve as a point of contact and coordinate with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) during response and recovery and provide expertise on business recovery to the Board of County Commissioners.
• Maintain ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the County Administrator will operate from the Ouray County 4-H Event Center, the Administrator’s office in the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility, or Emergency Operations Center, and will require telecommunications, computers and network access to a copier.

6.6.6 Ouray County Sheriff

• The Sheriff, Undersheriff or designee will serve as the Law Enforcement Representative to the EOC under Emergency Support Function – 13;
• Serves as Code Enforcement Director for Ouray County;
• The Ouray County Sheriff is responsible for maintaining law and order throughout Ouray County. The Sheriff’s Authority and duties cannot be delegated;
• The Sheriff should coordinate with Emergency Management and the EOC as well as the Incident Commander or Unified Command team to gather situational awareness, and recommendations from on-scene command. Those recommendations should be relayed to the policy group and EOC regarding decisions on things such as local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, evacuation orders, shelter in place orders or other temporary social restrictions;
• Implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS), including determining the locations of Incident Command Post (ICP) and establishing necessary positions and functions (i.e., planning, finance, logistics, operations and public information);
• Assessments of emergency conditions and determine resource needs. Needs can be filled with requests from county, mutual aid or outside agency resources;
• Implementation of available public warning measures;
• Conduct and coordinate search and rescue operations thru Ouray County Mountain Rescue;
• Assess the need for the use of the Emergency Spending Authority;
• Collect information from partners and the situation and make determinations as to whether evacuations are required based upon the current or future circumstances of the emergency for the preservation and protection of life and public safety and provision of instructions to law enforcement personnel regarding evacuation operations;
• Provision of law enforcement, traffic control, and access control within the disaster area(s) and in any other needed areas of the County;
• Provision of aviation support to include, but not limited to, Search & Rescue, rapid transportation and aerial observation;
• Provision of security measures at ICP, EOC, temporary emergency shelters, temporary morgues, and in evacuated, disaster or emergency-impacted areas, if available;
• Coordination of Wildland Fire suppression in unincorporated areas of Ouray County;
• Coordination of assisting law enforcement aiding within Ouray County;
• Serve as the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for hazardous material incidents within the unincorporated Ouray County;
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• Hazardous materials training, planning, response and cleanup in cooperation with fire agencies;
• Make photographic or video record of damage;
• Investigative support to National Transportation Safety Board/FAA and other investigative agencies in manmade disasters;
• Commitment of personnel as directed to assist with evacuation, shelters, Coroner’s Office or other needed locations to support their operations;
• Establishment of measures for animal control, including the coordination of animal relief measures, the assurance of their care, and the search for their owners;
• Review and activate and update law enforcement mutual aid agreements to ensure county resources are available to the Incident Commander as needed during an incident;
• Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of equipment that is available for deployment locally (within the County), regionally, state-wide, and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through WebEOC each year;
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Sheriff’s Office will operate from mobile units or out of the EOC.

6.6.7 Fire Chiefs
• Activation and management of the Municipal Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if needed;
• Coordination of mutual aid assistance;
• Provision of emergency public information and establishment of procedures for releases of disaster-related information to news media, to include casualties;
• Emergency situation assessment and recommendations to County and/or municipal officials concerning the need for local disaster declarations travel restrictions, curfews or other temporary social restrictions;
• Fire Chiefs serves as the lead point of contact for the fire department and incident commander or member of unified command for fires in their jurisdiction;
• Fire Chief directs resources on fires including personnel and apparatus, orders resources via logistics and the EOC and enacts mutual aid agreements. Responsible for negotiating cost share agreements with fire agencies at the local, regional, state and federal level and negotiating fire response contracts;
• Fire Chiefs may be appointed as the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for hazmat and extremely hazardous substance response within city limits. The designation of the DERA varies from municipality to municipality;
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.6.8 Ouray County Human Resource Director
• County Payroll department will support finance director with accounting related tasks associated with accounts receivable and accounts payable during disaster declarations, manage payroll and be the point person for timesheet and documentation related to payroll for all county departments;
• Work with the Emergency Manager during non-disaster times to enter all new hires into the WENS and Salamander systems so their credentials and contact information is accurate and up-to-date in event of an emergency;
• The Human Resources Director will assist during a disaster/emergency in providing documentation and records regarding worker’s compensation along with tracking equipment damage claims. The director will also assist the County Administrator in communicating changes in work hours, restrictions, or policies to County Employees during a disaster or emergency;
• Provide assistance to the EOC and county departments in volunteer management including verifying qualifications, background checks if required, ID cards, time cards and liability waivers;
• Ensure adequate timesheets are kept and recorded for all Volunteers from the start of the incident;
• Ensure adequate timesheets are kept and recorded for all County Employees from the start of the incident;
• Prepare medical care compensation information for injured County employees through Worker’s Compensation Plans;
• Assist the County in returning to its normal productivity, while also ensuring that the reputation of the organization is kept intact;
• Assist in developing, maintaining, updating, and implementing the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP);
• In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Ouray County Human Resources will work from the Ouray County 4-H Event Center (or other location as directed) and will need computers, telecommunications and internet access.

6.6.9 Ouray County Finance Director/CFO
In Ouray County, County Administrator serves as the CFO of Ouray County. Their roles and responsibilities are as follows:
• Prepare documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources;
• The finance department will provide assistance in the review and update of the EOP, disaster finance policies, county purchasing policy and policies related to tracking of all expenses, time and mileage by County staff and incident staff during an emergency so the County and appropriate agencies can seek reimbursement through Public Assistance if necessary;
• Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners;
• The Finance Director will serve as the Finance Section Chief during an Emergency or Disaster and the EOC and Incident Management System is active. The finance director will work in the EOC and provide assistance for the:
  o Tracking of all expenses per FEMA, DHSEM and DOLA guidelines;
  o Work with Emergency Management for time tracking through the Salamander system;
  o Work with Department Heads, County Administration and Emergency Management to compile, prepare and present supporting information and documentation for county requests to the State of Colorado and FEMA public assistance programs as appropriate;
  o Participation on County damage assessment team at EOC and on local-state field damage survey teams, as needed;
• Establish and maintain an incident related financial record keeping system;
• Maintain ability to manage or assist response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.6.10 Ouray County Planning Director
• Provision of personnel for structure and facility inspections in conjunction with municipal partners to determine safety of individual structures (businesses, residences and public buildings), including during rescue operations, and identify needed repairs (or to implement condemnation procedures when necessary);
• Participation with other departmental representatives on County Damage Assessment Team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams, as needed;
• Following natural disasters and wildfires, assist the EOC, OEM and Assessor’s Office in conducting damage assessments and recording damaged personal property and then participating in public hearings to be a resource for the public;
• Participate in long-term disaster recovery and hazard mitigation planning and enforcement to ensure the compatibility of community redevelopment plans and hazard mitigation measures with comprehensive County Land Use Code and other community development plans;
• Provide public education materials related to community disaster recovery and reentry by citizens into disaster-impacted structures and neighborhoods (e.g., safety of stored goods, removal of mildew, cleaning of smoke damages, etc.);
• Maintenance of departmental ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
• Update codes for preventive measures in the future;
• During recovery phase, present at public meetings and be a resource for affected and displaced individuals and provide resources for recovery operations including rebuilding of roads, driveways and/or rebuilding of private structures;
• Based on the nature of an emergency, may be required to meet with BOCC and planning commission and adjust the land use code and application requirements to expedite recovery and document damages for FEMA;
• In the case of displacement from the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility, the County Planner will operate from the Ouray County Courthouse or the Ouray County 4-H Event Center, and will need computers, telecommunications and internet.

6.6.11 Ouray County Assessor
• Along with the Damage Assessment Team, and once safe to do so, Assessor’s will respond into the field and perform preliminary damage assessments and maintain a list of all parcels in the affected area and whether they were damaged or not. If damaged, appraisal staff will note the extent to which the property and/or residence is damaged and provide an estimate to Incident Management, the Board of County Commissioners and Emergency Management;
• During a disaster such as a wildfire or flood; the Assessor’s office will provide assistance to the EOC and Incident Command Team or command post in the identification of parcels, owners, contact information and maintaining an official record of property damage;
• Coordinate with the County Planner to update Property Codes and Regulations for preventive measures in the future;
• The Assessor’s Office staff will work on developing and maintaining a damage assessment plan in cooperation with Administration and Emergency Management; that adheres to state and federal guidance from DHSEM and FEMA;
• Following a disaster and damage estimates, Assessor’s Office staff will update property records to reflect any re-evaluations of the property and loss of structures to maintain official records per training and guidance from FEMA, state and federal laws;
• In the case of displacement from the Assessor’s Office, the Assessor’s Office personnel will operate from the Courthouse or the Land Use / Road and Bridge facility and will need computers, internet, telecommunications, scanners, and access to their servers;
• State law permits a temporary facility to be established within the city of Ouray (the county seat) for the Ouray County Assessor’s operations.

6.6.12 Ouray County IT Director
• IT Director should participate in MAC Group meetings and planning for county continuity of operations for all departments. Today’s work environment requires robust technology services for all departments and IT related outages of servers, internet, VPNs and other services can cripple departments. The IT director should work with Emergency Management and all elected and department heads on backup plans/continuity of operation plans for disaster situations;
• IT Director and IT department should work with department heads and elected officials on planning and budgeting for upgrades to critical services, hardware, software and remote work capabilities for employees;
• Participate in latest security training and deploy upgrades and enhancements to computer and network security across County departments including security training for end users.
6.6.13 Ouray County Attorney

- The County Attorney and his/her staff will provide advice and counsel to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, Sheriff, Emergency Management, EOC and other County officials before, during and after a disaster in Ouray County;
- Draft and/or review emergency contracts, memoranda of understanding and inter-governmental agreements.
- Preparation of legal documents (disaster declarations, resolutions or regulations required to facilitate emergency operations);
- Serves in the EOC as a legal representative for the County and review contracts and purchase requests from logistics and other Emergency Supports and work as requested to support the policy group, county administrator and Emergency Management;
- Maintain ability to manage or assist with response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System;
- The County Attorney may operate from a home office or the Land Use Building, the EOC, the Ouray County 4-H Event Center, or as otherwise directed.

6.6.14 Public Information Officer

- Fulfill the duties of the Incident Public Information Officer when designated by the Incident Commander/Unified Command. Provide PIO support to the County and Emergency Operations support through the drafting of official releases, statements and interviews if necessary;
- Help coordinate and activate the Joint Information System and Joint Information Center (JIC) if required by the incident and Incident Command Team;
- Prepare and distribute Social Media releases and graphics and photographs of the incident for public awareness and agency partners;
- Assist the EOC and responsible County departments in the activation of a Call Center/hotline or event specific email and Facebook page;
- Participate in Command Meetings and provide input and guidance related to media relations, statements and public information needs;
- Work with agency liaisons to gather intelligence and release vetted statements to partner agencies for distribution;
- Maintain a list of Press Contacts (including local, state, and national).

6.6.15 Communications Coordinator

- Coordination of volunteer amateur radio resources used for backup communications;
- Maintain operational radio communications;
- Coordination of all wired and radio communications in conjunction with the EOC and communications center;
- Provision of communications staff support for field Command Post(s) and/or EOC as needed;

6.6.16 Ouray County Engineer

- The purpose of the County Engineer is to provide technical and engineering services and support to other County departments;
- The County Engineer develops plans for water and sewer expansion and improvements, roadway and drainage improvements, and various County projects;
- The County Engineer deals with State and Federal permitting agencies, manages and administers construction projects and submits applications for State and Federal funding for road, water, sewer, and landfill projects.

7 EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS AND COMMUNITY LIFELINE

The Ouray County Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and Community Lifeline Section outlines the structure that agencies will follow in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the coordination format which departments, agencies and special districts will follow to manage an emergency incident in Ouray County.

The National Response Framework (NRF), written by FEMA, established the Emergency Support Functions or commonly known simply as ESFs to structure the federal government’s response to disasters. The ESF structure includes 15 ESFs which exist to guide the coordination and response of federal agencies, departments and support agencies such as non-governmental agencies.
The National Response Framework, 4th Edition v. 2019 incorporated the FEMA Community Lifelines concept and stresses the importance of the lifelines at all levels of response. The NRF states, “Stabilizing community lifelines is the primary effort during response to lessen threats and hazards to public health and safety, the economy and security. Together, the community lifelines reframe incident information to provide decision makers with root cause and impact analysis” (FEMA, 2019).

Besides for the county and its multiple departments, there are local fire, EMS and law enforcement agencies, the coroner’s office, public health, hospital, state and federal agencies as well as municipalities and other agencies that need to be coordinated with during a disaster response. Therefore, Ouray County will utilize the Emergency Support Function (ESF) and Community Lifeline structure provided by FEMA to bring all these organizations together for coordinating county response in support of incident operations and to best support community needs and quickly restore critical services for residents so recovery can begin.

This Section outlines what the FEMA Community Lifelines are and how they will be supported by the ESFs as well as the primary and supporting agencies for each ESF and their general mitigation, response and recovery responsibilities. The ESF model was chosen because while it is a federal government standard, the State of Colorado and many counties in the State also utilize the ESF model and this will lead to greater efficiency when state and federal partners respond to assist Ouray County in a disaster.

This Plan does NOT identify a specific plan for agencies and departments to respond to specific threats or hazards such as a wildfire or flood as every incident is unique and it is impossible to dictate the duties of every agency for every event that may occur in Ouray County. Rather, the ESF and Community Lifeline model identifies agencies and the common response and recovery responsibilities, planning and operational considerations that will be implemented within the incident command model to respond to any incident in Ouray County.

No one agency, county department or individual is capable of responding to or managing a disaster by themselves. As outlined in this Plan; the EOC activation level and needs of an incident will dictate what ESFs are activated and respond to support the EOC and incident response.

### 7.1 Primary & Secondary Response function Matrix for ESFs

The following Table 7 shows the ESFs assigned to Ouray County. ESF-1-15 are standard FEMA ESFs and ESF-2A, Finance, was added for Ouray County at the request of the Finance Section Chief.

#### Table 7: ESF assigned to Ouray County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESF #</th>
<th>ESF FUNCTION</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD</th>
<th>SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>SUPPORTING AGENCIES:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESF-1</strong></td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>Ouray County Road &amp; Bridge</td>
<td>County Administration, Emergency Management, Public Information, BOCC, Finance, Maintenance and Facilities</td>
<td>CDOT, Municipal Public Works, OSD R-1 – Transportation, RSD R-2 Transportation, Fire Departments, Colorado State Patrol, Private Contractors</td>
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<td>Ouray County Engineer</td>
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<td><strong>ESF-4</strong></td>
<td>FIRE SERVICES</td>
<td>Ouray County Sheriff</td>
<td>County Administrator, BOCC, Emergency Management, Public Health, Road &amp; Bridge</td>
<td>Ouray Volunteer Fire Dept., Ridgway Fire District, Loghill Mesa Fire District, Montrose Fire District, DHSEM</td>
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<td>Fire Chiefs</td>
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<td>ESF-5</td>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ouray County Emergency Management</strong></td>
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<td>West Region Wildfire Council</td>
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<th>ESF-6</th>
<th><strong>MASS CARE HUMAN SERVICES &amp; SHELTERING</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ouray County Social Services</strong></th>
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<td><strong>American Red Cross</strong></td>
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<th>ESF-7 A</th>
<th><strong>LOGISTICS &amp; RESOURCE SUPPORT</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ouray County Emergency Management</strong></th>
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<th><strong>FINANCE SUPPORT</strong></th>
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## OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

### Environmental Health
- Facilities and Maintenance
- Road & Bridge
- Public Health
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- CO State Patrol
- Telluride Fire
- Grand Junction Fire Dept.
- West Region All Hazards
- State & Federal Agencies
- Private Sector

### ESF-11 AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
- CSU Extension
- Ouray County Public Health Agency
  - County Administrator
  - BOCC
  - Sheriff’s Office
  - Vegetation Management
  - PIO/JIC
  - Dispatch
  - Finance
  - Facilities and Maintenance
  - Road & Bridge
  - Public Health
  - 4H Event Center/Fairground
  - DHSEM
  - CDPHE
  - CO State Patrol
  - West Region All Hazards
  - CO Brand Inspectors
  - State Vet Office
  - CO Humane Society
  - State & Federal Agencies
  - State Forester
  - NRCS
  - Cattlemen’s Association
  - Private Sector
  - Local Vets

### ESF-12 ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
- Ouray County Facilities and Maintenance
  - County Administrator
  - BOCC
  - Sheriff’s Office
  - PIO/JIC
  - Finance
  - Road & Bridge
  - Emergency Management
  - 4H Event Center/Fairground
  - WestCO Dispatch
  - DHSEM
  - Colorado Energy Office
  - CO Oil & Gas Commission
  - West All Hazards Region
  - CenturyLink
  - AT&T/Verizon/T-Mobile
  - TDS Telecom
  - State & Federal Agencies
  - OurayNet
  - Clearnetworx
  - Private Sector

### ESF-13 LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY
- Ouray County Sheriff
  - County Administrator
  - BOCC
  - Emergency Management
  - PIO/JIC
  - Dispatch
  - Finance
  - Road & Bridge
  - Coroner
  - City of Ouray
  - Ridgway Marshal
  - DHSEM
  - CO POST Board
  - CBI
  - 7th Judicial District Attorney
  - Regional Law Enforcement
  - West All Hazards Region
  - TCR Police Academy
  - State & Federal LEO Agencies
  - Private Sector

### ESF-14 LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY/ ECONOMY & DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
- County Administrator
  - BOCC
  - Emergency Management
  - PIO/JIC
  - Finance
  - Road & Bridge
  - Sheriff’s Office
  - 4H Event Center/Fairground
  - Facilities and Maintenance
  - City of Ouray
  - Town of Ridgway
  - DHSEM
  - DOLA
  - CSU Extension
  - American Red Cross
  - Fire Departments
  - State & Federal Agencies
  - Public Health
  - Healthcare Agencies
  - WR Healthcare Coalition
  - WRETAC
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Private Industry
  - Financial Services/Banks

### ESF-15 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
- County Administrator
  - BOCC
  - Emergency Management
  - Finance
  - Public Information Officer
  - OIT
  - WestCO Dispatch
  - DHSEM
  - DOLA
  - American Red Cross
  - Fire Districts
  - Public Health
  - Municipal/Agency PIOs
  - OSD R-1
  - RSD R-2
  - West Region PIO Team
  - CDPHE
  - State & Federal Agencies
This section of the Plan covers the Emergency Support Functions and Community Lifelines and describes how county departments, first response agencies, municipalities and partner agencies will work together in support of the Emergency Operations Center through the incident command system and use the FEMA Community lifelines to quickly restore critical services for residents of Ouray County.

7.2 ESF Notification and Activation

The Ouray County EOC activates individual ESFs based on the size and scope of an incident or disaster as it is developing. The activation procedure for the EOC is outlined in the EOC section of this Plan. The Emergency Manager will notify the Primary Agency/Department responsible for an ESF and it is the primary agency’s responsibility to notify additional agencies within that ESF of the activation. Each ESF lead is required to develop standard procedures and notification protocols (including adding relevant staff members to WENS) and maintaining up-to-date rosters and contact information.

7.3 ESF Continuity of Operations

ESFs and lead agencies as identified in this Plan may be transferred to another governmental agency based on the size and scope of the incident and needs of the incident. Any transfer of primary responsibility for an ESF must be done after consulting with the lead agency/department and the other agencies involved and them agreeing to the change.

7.4 ESF General Roles and Responsibilities

Each ESF section identified within this Plan identifies the primary and support agencies/departments pertinent to the ESF. A lead agency has been designated for ESFs with multiple agencies/county departments within that ESF. The ESF lead directs supporting agencies and departments in preparedness planning and coordination/collaboration during response activities.

7.4.1 ESF Lead Responsibilities:

The ESF Lead for each ESF has an ongoing responsibility to ensure all agencies associated with that ESF are prepared and ready to respond in event of a disaster. The ESF Lead must be prepared to take an active role in leading other agencies throughout the mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery phases. The role of the Lead ESF agency and representative in the EOC is to approach work through a unified command mindset as all agencies must collaborate to plan and respond to serve the whole community of Ouray County.

When an ESF and the EOC is activated in response to an incident/disaster, the lead ESF agency/county department is responsible for:

- Responding to the County EOC and serving as the point of contact for that ESF and collaborating with other ESF’s and coordinating resources and needs with the EOC and EOC Manager;
- Support the EOC Manager and others in the response by working closely with staff;
- Maintaining open lines of communication with field resources associated with their ESF and communicating issues such as supply or staff shortages to the EOC manager and other ESF leads in the EOC;
- Coordinating support and resources within their area of command for the incident such as the Public Health coordinates resources related to health incidents and the Sheriff’s Office coordinates law enforcement activities;
- Participating in EOC briefings and provide details related to the ESF’s actions within the operational period and needs for the next operational period and a daily report by set deadlines for the EOC situational report.

7.4.2 Primary ESF Agency Responsibilities:

An agency designated as an ESF primary agency’s main objective is to accomplish the mission for the ESF. When activated, a primary agency is responsible for:

- Providing staff and/or arranging for staff from supporting agencies in the ESF for EOC support throughout the duration of the incident or until your ESF is deactivated;
- Managing requests for assistance from supporting agencies and managing the activation of agency/department specific Mutual Aid Agreements relevant to the incident;
- Build and maintain relationships with support agencies and the private sector and non-profit organizations to maximize the use of staff and other available resources;
- Conduct situational and readiness assessments periodically throughout the response period and reporting needs for new equipment, personnel or specialized equipment before they are needed so logistics and other ESFs can work to fulfill the request(s);
- Work with County Legal and/or agency legal department to execute contracts and purchase goods and services needed for the ESF’s area of expertise and response responsibilities;
• - Coordinate and report all purchases and expenses/donations to the finance section and complete all finance tracking reports to FEMA standards.

7.4.3 Support ESF Agency Responsibilities:
A support agency or county department is an entity with specific capabilities or resources that support a primary agency or department in executing the mission of an ESF. When an ESF is activated, support agencies and departments will be responsible for:
• Conducting field level operational support of the ESF as requested by the EOC Manager and/or lead ESF to support the incident consistent within the agency’s own authority and resources.
• Participate in planning sessions regarding incident management and during times of non-emergency when the EOC isn’t activated; work with Emergency Management and the Lead ESF to develop operational plans, policies & procedures, job aids or other documents to assist staff and agencies during a response when activated.
• Report relevant observations, needs, accomplishments and challenges to the Lead ESF and/or Situational unit for inclusion in the daily situation report.
• Provide staff, equipment and other support as needed by the incident commander or requested by the lead agency, EOC Manager or Logistics Section Chief.
• Work with staff to keep staff trained and ready to respond to an incident and know ESF and emergency response policies and procedures.

7.5 Community Lifelines – A Response Priority
FEMA in 2019 unveiled a new concept for Emergency Management related to the identification and prioritizing restoration of Community Lifelines during the response phase. A Community Lifeline per FEMA “enables the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security. (FEMA – V2.0 – 11/2019).

Lifelines are the most fundamental services that, when disrupted cause ripple effects through a community and if not restored quickly, can affect the ability of the community and agencies to respond and contain the situation and begin recovery.

Not every emergency or disaster will impact all of the lifelines or components. In fact, a disaster that does impact all lifelines is likely one of a major disaster requiring a federal declaration and will far exceed Ouray County’s local capabilities and lifelines won’t be restored without state and federal assistance.

7.5.1 Definition of FEMA Lifelines
FEMA in the 2019 version of the National Response Framework and other documentation identified the below seven (7) areas as critical lifelines which if affected impact response and recovery efforts in communities. Each of these seven lifelines has subcomponents or areas that compose the main lifeline and then sub-components.

1. Safety and Security
2. Food, Water & Shelter
3. Health and Medical
4. Energy
5. Communications
6. Transportation
7. Hazardous Materials

See Figure 7.4.1 below for more information on the Lifelines and their Components.

The Lifelines, components and sub-components as they specifically relate to Ouray County and the areas that each ESF should monitor and report issues with and work to restore have been identified within each ESF section later on in this plan. The primary ESF agency should familiarize themselves with the Lifelines and start planning on how they can best monitor these lifelines and implement plans to quickly restore them for the public.
7.5.2 ESF and Lifeline Relationship

The National Response Framework establishes the framework and relationship between ESFs and the Community Lifelines. ESFs exist to deliver core capabilities to stabilize Community Lifelines to minimize impacts to the community and residents. It is important to note—the FEMA Community Lifelines and their components do not directly cover all aspects of a community which are disrupted by a disaster such as natural, historical and cultural resources or financial issues. (FEMA, 2019)

The Ouray County EOC and Emergency Management encourage the prioritization and reporting of impacts to Community lifelines by all levels of government, private sector, special districts and other partners. The following Figure 7.4.2 shows how Community Lifelines should be assessed and restored during an incident response.
Figure 7.4.2 FEMA Community Lifeline Application of Community lifelines to support Emergency Management

The Community Lifelines do not replace Emergency Support Functions. Rather, the lifelines should be viewed as a way for decision makers at all levels to quickly assess the impacts of a disaster on the community and identify areas that we need to focus resources to restore those lifelines to prevent further impacts to residents, infrastructure and the community.

Per the National Response Framework v. 2019, the community lifelines should be used by decision makers at all levels to determine the scope, complexity and impacts of a disaster and applying the lifelines does the following:

- Prioritize, sequence and focus response efforts toward maintaining or restoring the most critical services and infrastructure.
- Utilize a common icon to facilitation communication across stakeholders and the public.
- Promote a response that facilitates unity of effort across the whole community.
- Clarify which components of the disaster are complex (red) and or complicated (yellow) requiring cross sector coordination and collaboration.

7.5.3 Community Lifeline Status Coding
ESF-leads, emergency management, and others should report the status of lifelines by using the below identified color chart established by FEMA which allows for quick assessment of lifelines by all levels at a glance. The priority will be to restore any lifelines that are red to yellow or green as quickly as possible.

- Status Unknown
  Indicates the extent of disruption and impacts to lifeline services is unknown
- Stable
  Lifeline services are stabilized, re-established or not impacted.
  Note – Lifelines showing Green may still be severely impacted but their condition is stable.
- Functional, but inadequate for consistent service
  Lifeline services are disrupted but a solution is in progress and an estimated time to stabilization has been identified
- Unstable, inadequate level of service
  Lifeline services are disrupted, and no solution has been identified or is in progress. The lifeline is unstable.

To determine the status of a lifeline, ESF leads should use the following assessment matrix:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIFELINE ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>What is going on?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>What is going to happen as a result of this impact?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>What do we need to do now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limiting Factors</td>
<td>What is going to happen as a result of this impact?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA To Green?</td>
<td>How long will it take to restore?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.6 FEMA Core Capabilities by Mission Area
FEMA has identified core capabilities that exist across all levels of government in each of the five emergency management mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. These core capabilities are
not exclusive to the county or a municipality and should be the priorities of all primary, supporting and unified ESF agencies in support of the Community Lifelines.

**Figure 7.5 - FEMA Core Capabilities by Mission Area**

Source: https://emilms.fema.gov/is_0552/groups/12.html

7.7 **ESF Specific Roles and Responsibilities**

7.7.1 **ESF-1 Transportation**

ESF-1, Transportation will provide for the centralized management and coordination of transportation resources in Ouray County in support of unincorporated Ouray County, municipalities, and special districts for any minor to major emergency or disaster. The Transportation ESF will be led by the County Road & Bridge Superintendent and the County Engineer or their designee. The Transportation lead will provide direction for all ESF-1 agencies including objectives and needs as requested by Incident Command, Operations, Logistics, Finance, policy group and ESF-5.

The Transportation ESF is responsible for coordinating resources and personnel to best serve the County as a whole, Ouray County residents and first responders. This involves working with Incident Command on needs and plans to deploy resources into and out of the incident and ensuring transportation networks and vehicles are safe. ESF-1 also serves the incident by performing supply runs and retrieving critical resources from neighboring or regional jurisdictions and picking up incident supplies and delivering them as needed by the Operations Unit.
In the event of damage to transportation infrastructure, road & bridge and engineering will assess the damage and report the resources and repairs necessary to repair the infrastructure to the EOC. Repairs will require County Administration and/or BOCC approval before commencing.

Open communication should be maintained with ESF # 5 – Emergency Management to report status of roads, infrastructure etc. and receive requests for damage assessments and/or status request. The ESF-1 lead should also work closely with ESF-7 – Resource Support & Logistics in the EOC for tracking all equipment, personnel and time/materials used in the response to the incident.

Ouray County Road & Bridge and the local municipal departments of Ouray and Ridgway do not have a robust inventory of equipment. Even then during a large disaster not all of this equipment may be available or accessible for deployment. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and their crews, equipment, vehicles, variable message signs, COTrip.org and other resources are integral to fulfilling the mission and needs of ESF-1. The Colorado State Patrol is also integral to supporting local law enforcement with road closures, detours and traffic control during an incident. Requests for CDOT and CSP will be made via the EOC.

7.7.1.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.1.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Maintain a comprehensive resource list of transportation equipment available for deployment in Ouray County and update that list at least annually in WebEOC under CRRF agreements for agencies;
- Review policies and attend training related to County and agency specific purchasing/procurement policies and disaster purchasing policies; specifically policies and requirements for contracting and emergency purchases;
- Maintain an inventory with values and photos of transportation infrastructure within agency jurisdiction to include culverts, bridges, roadways and airport infrastructure. Have a documented maintenance/inspection and replacement plan for critical pieces of equipment, bridges and culverts, etc.;
- Maintain a comprehensive resource list of transportation vendors and suppliers to include business and after business hour contacts.

7.7.1.1.2 Response
- Once activated, lead ESF representative responds to EOC and coordinates with supporting agencies in the field for resource needs. EOC contact utilizes contacts and professional network to fill requests for equipment, personnel and parts locally then regionally before requesting order through Logistics;
- Coordinates all requests for equipment and personnel with Logistics for coordination and tracking and the finance section for cost approval;
- Respond and conduct damage assessments to County, state and/or municipal roads & bridges;
- Coordinate using the Incident Command System (ICS) during response and share updates regarding transportation issues and needs with the incident commander and EOC Manager and other ESFs as appropriate in the ESF;
- Complete and share status updates with the EOC manager and Situation Unit leader by set deadlines for inclusion in daily situation report;
- Facilitate the mobilization, operation and demobilization of equipment, vehicles and personnel for vehicles/equipment requiring advanced training or special licenses;
- Perform traffic control as needed for the incident including checkpoints, detours and road closures using staff and road barriers/signage and cones. Assist law enforcement in maintaining flow on essential routes and identifying alternate routes for detours;
- Work with the School District and other entities such as Western Slope Rides, Jeep Tours etc. to provide transportation for incident support staff, first responders and evacuation support to the public;
- Monitor transportation infrastructure for damage and report changes and closures to incident command and the EOC. Infrastructure to monitor for damages should include county roads, state highways, bridges, culverts, irrigation canals, and ability of transit companies to get people with access and functional needs around the county.
- Perform minor to major road repairs and cost estimates to the EOC and Incident Command as well as log hours, vehicle usage and material costs per FEMA standards.

7.7.1.1.2 Recovery
- Coordinates and documents to FEMA standards requests for transportation resources associated with recovery such as equipment for debris removal and restoration of damaged roads/bridges.
7.7.1.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-1 should monitor and work to restore the following Community Lifelines and report status updates to the EOC and Emergency Management for situational awareness and daily reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Safety and Security" /></td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Energy" /></td>
<td>Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Transportation" /></td>
<td>Highway/Roadway Mass Transit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.7.1.3 Ouray County Map
A map of all major roadways in Ouray County is included below. For more information on Ouray County Roads, improvement plans, roadway standards and other maps, please visit https://ouraycountyco.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2476/2014-014-Exhibit-A---Ouray-County-Road-Map?bidId=
7.7.2 ESF-2 Communications

ESF-2, Communications is responsible for coordinating the restoration of telecommunications, data and radio communications in the community. This includes internet, cell phone, landline, and radio communications for the public and government/public safety agencies. Recent disaster activations have proven that relieving the call load into Dispatch and the EOC during a disaster is critical to efficient operations of both centers. To do this, the quick establishment of a call center and a hotline is the most effective way for the public to call in and get information.

The Colorado Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) can provide mobile radio repeaters for the Digital Trunked Radio (DTR) system and the wireless cell phone providers have the ability to deploy Cells on Wheels (COWS) and other local communication devices in the event of a community or county wide outage to restore communications.

All Emergency Response agencies based in Ouray County are dispatched by WESTCO Dispatch located in Montrose Colorado. The exceptions to this are the state agencies (CDOT, State Patrol, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife) who are all dispatched by State Patrol. WestCO Dispatch provides 911/Non-Emergency Call Answering and Dispatch Services for Unincorporated Montrose County including Nucla Naturita Fire Protection District, Paradox Fire Protection
District, Olathe Fire Protection District, National Parks (Black Canyon) and Law/Fire/EMS Agencies within Ouray County, the City of Ouray and Town of Ridgway. Dispatch is staffed 24/7 and additional staff can be brought in to supplement staff in dispatch. The Alert & Warning Plan as an annex to the EOP will be followed for public safety alerts & warnings to the public.

Communication with the public is encouraged by multiple avenues to reach those who do not have social media. Avenues that we currently have available for communication include the OurayCountyco.gov website, WENS, Facebook, community bulletin boards, NOAA Weather radio, local radio stations, CodeRED, and public safety employees with PA systems or neighborhood canvases.

ESF-2 is responsible for coordinating communications between dispatch and first responders in the field and the EOC and other involved entities such as communication companies. ESF-2 will work with AuxCom volunteers for the operation of the EOC Radio boxes which include 800 MHz DTR, VHF and HF radios as well as EOC phones. If a communication degradation, interruption or outage affects a part of Ouray County; the dispatch Supervisor or designee as lead of ESF-2 will designate an individual to respond to the EOC and serve as ESF-2 lead and provide technical expertise or connect the EOC with a technical adviser on how to restore communications for the incident.

The Ouray County IT department also plays an integral role in Communication system maintenance, prevention and restoration before, during and after an emergency. The County IT department will lead county department efforts to equip staff with remote access capabilities, audio/visual capabilities in the EOC and other county facilities, telephone VoIP support, tech support for the EOC and all departments through security measures, laptops, and other measures. IT should be consulted for upgrades and preventative maintenance to county systems and to help get county departments operational in the event a disaster affects operations and they are forced to move to an alternative site.

The private sector owns and operates most of the United States’ communications infrastructure, including cell towers, fiber optic communication lines, TV, internet and phone lines or broadcasting equipment. The same applies in Ouray County with multiple corporations operating communications equipment in Ouray County such as OurayNet, Clearnetworks, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, CenturyLink and others. ESF-2 will work through planning and coordination to involve private sector entities in planning and provide critical information for incident planning and decision making during an incident; including involving them as necessary in planning efforts at the EOC.

### 7.7.2.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

Below are common duties assigned to ESF-2 Communications before and during an EOC activation and during a disaster/local emergency. Additional duties may be assigned or not all duties may be needed depending on the size and scope of the emergency.

#### 7.7.2.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Work with Emergency Management to develop a local communications committee who will develop and maintain a local Ouray County Communications Plan that will address public safety radio channels, programming and distribution of radios and an inventory of all radios in the county;
- Work with the Emergency Manager and West Region to maintain the West Region Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan;
- Work with Emergency Management and State OIT to expand and maintain public safety radio systems including but not limited to VHF, and State DTR system;
- Establish and maintain relationships with local agencies, state agencies, private/commercial communication companies and amateur radio operators;
- Build and maintain strong working relationships between local first response agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, private sector/commercial communications & wireless companies and other service providers;
- Work to expand and maintain the communication network and expand its capabilities in Ouray County through additional radio towers, maintaining radio channels, DTR talk groups and internet access;
- Work with Emergency Management to maintain a detailed equipment inventory for public safety radios and other critical communications equipment and contact lists for business and after hour business contacts for

#### 7.7.2.1.2 Response & Recovery

- Provide personnel support to the EOC when activated;
- Coordinate with EOC staff, PIO and Incident Command to determine the need for AuxCom radios to be set up in the EOC and location and if an expanded dispatch center is necessary;
- Determine what the current state of telecommunications are in the county and if any systems have been disrupted and what an anticipated plan is for restoring communications. Provide updates to IC, EOC Manager and PIO as needed;
• Coordinate with supporting agencies on the availability of telecommunication/radio resources and what the current and anticipated needs are and any outages if known;
• Coordinate the delivery/repair of telecommunication, radio and computer systems with IT, GIS, State OIT, and telecommunication providers and keep Incident Command, EOC and Appropriate ESF's updated;
• Coordinate mutual aid and private sector assistance for communications and assist logistics with overall incident mutual aid/private sector coordination and communication;
• Maintain radio logs and perform dispatch/911 duties as normal and document in CAD mileage, on/off duty times and trip details for documentation purposes;
• Identify and report unmet needs to the EOC Manager/Emergency Manager who will coordinate with Logistics and if necessary, request state or federal assistance through the state EOC;
• Coordinate damage assessment for all communications infrastructure in Ouray County and establish priorities for repairs so that the priority goes to systems that serve first responders and the EOC;
• Participate in EOC Briefings and submit significant updates to the Situation Unit for the daily situation report;
• Provide support to other ESFs as needed/docmented within the County EOP;
• Coordinate communications to/from responders in the field and Incident Command Post;
• Manages the operation and coordination of radio channels across the 800Mhz, VHF and if needed, the High Frequency HAM frequencies in the EOC and/or via dispatch;
  o Dispatchers coordinate with fire, EMS and law enforcement and log activities in the Computer Aided Dispatch program and forward requests for resources to the EOC;
  o Coordinate and de-conflict incident radio frequencies in disaster area of operation;
• Dispatchers/AuxCom Volunteers while working radio stations and telephones receive operational updates from units in the field and relay messages and critical information to the EOC Manager, Incident Command and appropriate ESF;
• Provide radio expertise and training for personnel as required which includes requesting authority for use of state and regional Mutual Aid (MAC) channels and communicating communication needs with OIT and the State EOC;
• Document and report any damages to the public safety communication system to the Emergency Manager, Colorado Office of Information Technology and State EOC via WebEOC updates and direct communication;
• Provide technical assistance for communication equipment during response, recovery and mitigation activities. Supports the temporary reestablishment of basic public safety communications infrastructure and initial commercial telecommunications infrastructure.

7.7.2.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-2 Communications will be responsible for monitoring and reporting status changes in the following community lifelines and components to the EOC and situation unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Law Enforcement/Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Services</td>
<td>Search and Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Services</td>
<td>911 and Dispatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>911</td>
<td>Responder Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alerts, Warnings, and Messages</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.7.3 ESF-3 Public Works & Engineering

ESF-3 is responsible for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery operations and damage assessments to critical infrastructure, county infrastructure (includes city infrastructure upon request) and restoration of essential utilities and public works services.

ESF-3 should develop relationships with primary and supporting agencies to provide public works and engineering related support for any incident that occurs in Ouray County. ESF-3 will assist the EOC and other ESFs with damage assessments to transportation infrastructure, critical infrastructure and vital facilities and work to restore transportation routes as soon as possible or close roadways what are beyond repair to ensure public safety.

Ouray County is responsible for coordination of recovery efforts following a disaster. Engineering, Road & Bridge and other County Departments will support that mission based on personnel and equipment available and will coordinate efforts with the EOC. Staff will work with the private industry and public utility companies to restore services such as water, sewer, irrigation and gas lines to communities and during the recovery phase will coordinate and direct debris removal.

Private Sector and Nongovernmental Organizations

While many critical facilities such as domestic and wastewater treatment plants are public infrastructure owned by local governments, many of the critical infrastructure facilities in Ouray County are owned and operated by the private sector, public utilities or special districts. Therefore, ESF-3 – Public Works & Engineering and supporting agencies should work with the private sector, individuals and other organizations to mitigate risks to these infrastructure assets, perform damage assessments following an incident and perform emergency repairs or salvage operations during recovery operations.

Critical Infrastructure

ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering is a broad encompassing Emergency Support Function to include critical infrastructure, public roadways (transportation), drainage and storm water systems and a variety of other facilities across the County. The following have been identified as vital facilities and infrastructure that Public Works & Engineering will need to support in a disaster response:

Critical Services:
- Animal Shelters
- Carrier-Neutral Locations (Broadband)
- Emergency Operations Center
- Emergency Medical Service Facilities
- Fire stations
- Fuel Stations
- Governmental buildings
- Grocery Stores
- Law enforcement facilities
- Medical facilities
- Schools
- Shelters/Evacuation Centers

Critical infrastructure:
- Communication Towers
- Dams, water treatment and distribution, water storage, water supply
- Electric power lines, sub-stations
- Fiber Optic
- Generators
- Hydro power facilities
- Internet
• Natural Gas Distributors
• Propane Gas Facilities
• Sewer lines and wastewater treatment plants
• Cisterns
• Telephone facilities
• Transportation routes

Debris Management
• In an emergency, large amounts of debris and waste is produced, the debris must be disposed of properly and crews should be aware of the potential for hazardous materials;
• Depending on where the emergency/disaster occurs, crews may need to establish temporary storage areas or landfills until all debris can be collected and properly sorted and disposed of;
• The focus of debris management by county, city and state crews will be on public lands and roadways first, with the goal of opening and restoring transportation corridors for responders and the public. Debris removal/cleanup on private property will not be a priority or the objective of crews unless a ditch/canal/waterway is obstructed on private property with debris and allowing the obstruction to remain will cause further damage to additional properties or create a life safety risk. Private property owners will rely on insurance and private contractors to remove and dispose of debris. The county will develop a plan and identify where private citizens and landowners can dump debris removed from their property and distribute such information via ESF-15 Public Information;
• Ouray County Road & Bridge with support of the different municipal public works departments will be the primary resource for debris removal and management. If debris is too extensive or outside the scope of capabilities for road & bridge crews/equipment then private industry can be contracted to provide assistance.

7.7.3.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities
7.7.3.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
• Design, construct and maintain county roads and provide maintenance as specified by contract on U.S. Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management Lands;
• Maintain an inventory of equipment for entry into WebEOC CRRF database each year that can be deployed to assist in an emergency situation;
• Maintain a database of county owned infrastructure including but not limited to: miles of paved roads, miles of dirt roads, culverts, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure.

7.7.3.1.2 Response & Recovery Duties:
• Provide personnel support to the EOC when activated;
• Coordinate damage assessment for critical/county infrastructure such as roadways and bridges and establish priorities for repairs so that the priority goes to systems that serve first responders and the EOC;
• Participate in EOC Briefings and submit significant updates to the Situation Unit for the daily situation report;
• Collect and share roadway status reports with the EOC and debris management reports from across the county;
• Engineering and Road & Bridge Foreman assign staff to complete tasks as required;
• Mobilize and utilize equipment ranging from equipment, ATVs, front end loaders, trailers, pickups, semi-trucks, dump trucks, road maintainers, etc. to assist in moving people, supplies, and debris removal;
• Report damaged roads, culverts, bridges etc. to GIS;
• Work with Logistics unit in the EOC and/or Emergency Management to source resources (personnel, equipment or supplies) related to critical infrastructure, roadways and/or public works through local mutual aid agreements, CO-WARN and other resources to get resources to support the mission;
• Coordinate and provide technical expertise to the county departments related to emergency contracts and repairs to critical infrastructure and prioritizing life-saving/critical construction needs;
• Coordinate debris removal, storage, sorting, hauling, weighing and recovery with the EOC, county departments and contractors.
• Coordinate the repair and restoration of damaged county facilities and/or government owned infrastructure;
• Provide technical expertise to the EOC and departments as it relates to engineering, CAD plans, road design and repair and other services as needed for construction management or damage inspection;
• Work with ESF-13 – Law Enforcement and Security to direct and mitigate traffic congestion on and around closed roads and help open and prioritize evacuation routes;
• Work with ESF-4 – Firefighting to deploy equipment to aid in fire line construction, mitigation efforts and/or firefighting efforts;
• Provide equipment to support emergencies requiring heavy equipment such as water trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, etc.;
• Provide technical and mechanical support to the EOC and municipal districts as directed by County Administrator and BOCC for the assessment and/or repair of domestic water, wastewater and utility services;
• Coordinate with Emergency Management, Environmental Health, Colorado State Patrol, and other agencies related to environmental hazard response, cleanup and containment efforts;
• Implement emergency measures to protect county and state roadways, public facilities, and equipment and to mitigate damages to private property through mitigation efforts such as sandbagging, water diversion, ditch cleaning/construction, Jersey barrier installation, etc.

7.7.3.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-3, Public Works and Engineering should monitor and report major changes in the following lifelines to the EOC and Situation Unit Leader for communication to the Incident Commander and elected officials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Government Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Water, Shelter</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Highway/Roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mass Transit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.7.4 ESF-4 Fire Services
ESF-4 is responsible for the mitigation planning, detection, response to and suppression of structure, wildland, vehicle, and grass fires in Ouray County. Fire services provide personnel, equipment, training and supplies in support of local fire departments and supporting agencies. Fire departments in the county may be asked to provide or respond to provide mutual aid to another department or the USFS or BLM. Additionally, ESF-4 may be called upon to provide personnel, equipment or expertise in support of other ESF’s and their roles and community lifelines such as Public Safety and Hazmat depending on the nature and location of an incident/disaster.

The Fire Services will respond based on jurisdiction and resource availability. Ouray County has 3 Fire Protection Districts with defined districts and 1 district from Montrose County CO, which covers the northern portion of the County. They all will respond to cover areas that are county responsibility after coordination with the Ouray County Sheriff. Fire departments will prioritize public and firefighter safety during suppression efforts but will endeavor to protect as much private property as possible during a wildfire/urban interface response.

7.7.4.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities
7.7.4.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Maintain fire resource inventories and report inventories of equipment and apparatus to CO DHSEM and DFPC via WebEOC and CRRF per timeline established by DFPC/DHSEM and OEM on an annual basis;
- Maintain and develop mutual aid plans with neighboring jurisdictions;
- Participate in and offer input/guidance to DFPC for the County’s Operating Plan;
- Work with community members, partners, non-profits, the Wildfire Council, DFPC, CO State Forest Service, USFS, Emergency Management, elected officials and others to develop mitigation plans and implement fire mitigation actions on private and public lands in Ouray County.

7.7.4.1.2 Response
- Provide an ESF lead and representatives to respond to and support the EOC when activated;
- Establish communication and coordination between the Incident Commander/Unified Command at the ICP and the EOC;
- Determine current and expected firefighting needs based on information provided by ground crews, the IC staff or dispatch;
- Identify subject matter experts for fire service and consult or have respond to EOC;
- Participate as lead agency in planning, section and branch meetings during operational period;
- Report damage assessments, situational assessments and community lifeline statuses to the EOC and elected officials and participate in public information briefings as needed;
- Agency fire chiefs should request mutual aid and air assets for fire response through dispatch and/or EOC communication channels as established by the incident and track resource requests and associated costs for the requesting agency;
- Work with ESF-13 and the Ouray County Sheriff/Emergency Management for evacuation orders and status updates for residents;
- Work with ESF-2 to develop communication plans for the incident to meet incident objectives and interoperable communications amongst agencies assisting in response efforts.

7.7.4.1.3 Recovery
- Assist in completing damage assessments and giving tours of fire-damaged areas to dignitaries and elected officials and explaining fire behavior;
- Retain official records and submit to the documentation unit for retention;
- Work with finance section and logistics section to finalize and close out all resource requests and determine incident costs and complete paperwork as needed for FEMA;
- Participate in hot-wash and after-action review of the incident and participate in improvement plan efforts;
- Work with the LEPC, CDPHE and Environmental Health on assessment of hazardous substance spills and reports and Tier II Facility damage assessments.
### 7.7.4.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-4 should monitor and report significant changes in the following community lifelines to the EOC and Situation Unit Leader for daily situation updates.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Food, Water, Shelter</td>
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<td>Energy</td>
<td>Power, Fuel</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>Infrastructure, Responder Communications</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Highway/ Roadway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials</td>
<td>Facilities, HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants</td>
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### 7.7.5 ESF-5 Emergency Management

ESF-5/Emergency Management supports all local departments, agencies and non-governmental organizations during preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. ESF-5 helps to direct information flow from responders in the field and the responsible jurisdiction to other partners through activation of the EOC, message dissemination and public alert & warning. During response, ESF-5 activates and directs the EOC and provides support to various ESFs within the EOC.
During recovery, ESF-5 transitions to a support and planning role with elected officials and other representatives of the local government/official. During all phases, ESF-5 is responsible for coordinating multi-agency coordination (MAC Group), planning, and development of mutual aid plans. Training and exercise plans and coordination with state directives is also an important task that ESF-5 manages.

Emergency Management is a continuous and on-going function that relies on the continued coordinated efforts of all government agencies, elected officials and departments in Ouray County. This coordination starts with the MAC Group and is tested and developed through training, exercises and planning efforts.

7.7.5.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.5.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Develop and maintain Ouray County’s EOP through partnerships with county departments and response agencies;
- Develop and maintain City of Ouray’s EOP through partnerships with county departments and response agencies;
- Develop and maintain Town of Ridgway’s EOP through partnerships with county departments and response agencies;
- Direct county planning efforts related to Emergency Management to include but not limited to: EOP and associated annexes, EOC operational plans, mutual aid agreements, Hazard Mitigation Plans, LEPC Hazardous Materials Response;
- Lead the county Mutual Aid Coordination Group (MAC) and develop and maintain relationships between agency directors and administrators and foster relationships between agencies;
- Provide coordination and support to agencies to develop plans, host training and conduct exercises to test existing plans and capabilities.

7.7.5.1.2 Response
- Manage the EOP and activate the County EOC to a level that corresponds with the incident that is developing to best support mission response;
- Coordinate and activate staff to respond to the EOC including activation of ESF leads;
- Maintain contact and coordination with EOC staff, Incident Command, dispatch, affected jurisdictions and elected officials;
- Provide situation reports to County Administrator, Sheriff and Board of County Commissioners and other elected officials;
- Requests status reports as appropriate from affected jurisdictions to relay to the EOC Situation Unit Leader or to compile the situation report at the end of the operational period;
- Notify West Region Emergency Managers and CO Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) Regional Field Manager of initial and updated situation reports and resource needs and if there is any anticipated impact to residents or other counties;
- Conduct EOC briefings and manage the EOC. If EOC tasks and incident becomes too complex, will coordinate to request an EOC Manager from DHSEM or another Emergency Manager to act as EOC Manager;
- Implement cost tracking, resource ordering policies and procedures to mobilize county resources, procure supplies and mutual aid as needed;
- If applicable, request a Disaster Declaration from the County Administrator and Board of County Commissioners;
- Work with the PIO and Dispatch to draft, coordinate and active public alert & warning messages such as shelter in place, evacuation or pre-evacuation notices and press releases for the media and social media;
- Collect, validate and analyze information with the Ouray County PIO and Joint Information Center;
- Ensure briefings are conducted for EOC staff members and involved agencies;
- Serve as the point of contact for the county and agencies to DHSEM and the State EOC and west region emergency managers;
- Coordinate with the situation unit to update situation reports and distribute updates to agency partners
- Work with logistics to review and coordinate requests for resources and forward requests that can’t be met locally up to the State EOC via WebEOC;
- Serve as the WebEOC local administrator and CRRF administrator.
7.7.5.1.3 Recovery
- Lead agencies in the development of the After Action Report (AAR) for the incident and conducting a hot-wash immediately following the incident or during demobilization. The AAR should be co-directed with the responsible agency;
- Coordinate with BOCC, County Administrator and responsible jurisdiction to identify recovery goals, objectives and community leads and determine if recovery can be handled amongst existing staff or if a recovery manager will be needed;
- Coordinate with agencies and lead MAC Group and other recovery-based discussions with partners including local jurisdictions, elected officials, chambers of commerce, private industry and financial industry representatives.

7.7.5.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
Emergency Management will monitor and support all Community Lifelines and share updates to the MAC and Policy Groups via daily situational briefings.

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<tr>
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<td>Community Safety</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Responder Communications" /></td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
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7.7.6  ESF-6 Mass Care, Human Services & Shelter

ESF-6 is responsible for the coordination and operation of non-medical mass sheltering and care services such as evacuation sheltering, organizing feeding operations for evacuees/responders, providing emergency first aid stations at designated sites, collecting and relaying information to victims and family members and coordinating bulk distribution of emergency relief supplies. Typically ESF-6 is activated during the response to a natural disaster such as wildfire, flood or severe winter weather in partnership with the American Red Cross to establish temporary sheltering for citizens and travelers who need shelter. ESF-6 however is also responsible for coordinating long-term housing needs of victims of natural disasters, as well as complying with the PETS Act and developing sheltering, evacuation and housing for pets, livestock and service animals. Volunteers, volunteer organizations, the school district and community are key partners in this effort.

ESF-6 will be activated when sheltering, feeding or mass first aid needs are warranted by the emergency. Incident Command and first responders should communicate early on if they anticipate evacuation needs so Public Information and Emergency Management can work with the School District, American Red Cross and other agencies to open and prepare shelters and evacuee points. These locations should be communicated to the public with directions as soon as possible in an emergency. The Sheriff’s Office and area law enforcement can be contacted to provide security at shelters, which in are all listed above in section 5.3.6.1.

7.7.6.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.6.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation

• Maintain a sheltering trailer of evacuation/sheltering supplies in a state of readiness in event of a disaster;
• Work with Emergency Management, Social Services and Public Health to provide evacuation, sheltering and preparedness training to volunteers, first responders, government officials and the general public;
• Identify suitable emergency shelter facilities and conduct American Red Cross shelter site surveys;
• Build and maintain relationships amongst agencies, distributors, non-profit organizations and volunteer groups that can be utilized in evacuation, sheltering and/or mass care operations.

7.7.6.1.2 Response

• Provide personnel support to the EOC when activated;
• Upon activation by Emergency Management or the EOC – triage the situation and need for mass care and sheltering with American Red Cross;
• If sheltering is warranted, ESF leads should coordinate on best shelter location and coordinate with the shelter facility owner and reach an agreement regarding the facility. American Red Cross activates volunteers and staff retrieves sheltering trailer from NW region or another trailer in the West Region to provide sheltering supplies and equipment;
• Identify logistical needs and communication those needs to the Logistics Section and Emergency Management;
• Work with Ouray County Facility and Maintenance to activate and set up shelters and/or evacuation points to include cots, tables, chairs, audio/visual equipment and information boards;
• Coordinate potable water, food and restroom/shower facilities with Ouray County Public Health Agency and Environmental Health;
• Coordinate public information needs with the County PIO/Joint Information Center;
• Identify and communicate un-met sheltering needs to the EOC and if assistance is needed from the State EOC/State Human Services the request should be forwarded to the EOC Manager for relay via WebEOC to the State EOC;
• Provide updates on the Food, Water and Sheltering Community Lifeline and others as noted below to the Situation Unit Leader and EOC manager for situational awareness;
• Document mass care, sheltering and feeding operations and coordinate with the EOC and finance unit for documentation and cost share/reimbursement requests;
• Support other ESFs as outlined within the EOP.

7.7.6.1.3 Recovery
• Coordinate emergency and recovery social services, welfare and sheltering services after the disaster into recovery phase. Assist with social services, state and federal recovery individual assistance applications.
• Identify and share any unmet mass care, sheltering, or social services needs and be a resource for individuals with access and functional needs in Ouray County.

7.7.6.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-6 will monitor and report status changes in the following Community Lifelines to the Situational Unit Leader and EOC.

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<td><img src="image4" alt="Food" /> <img src="image5" alt="Water" /> <img src="image6" alt="Shelter" /> <img src="image7" alt="Agriculture" /></td>
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7.7.7A ESF-7A Logistics & Resource Support
ESF-7A, Logistics is the heart of the Emergency Operations Center and helps the response get the resources they need and properly document and track all resources deployed to assist in the response. ESF-7A upon activation by the Emergency Manager will respond to the EOC and meet with staff for situational updates. Additional staff will be requested to support logistics based on the size and scope of the disaster.

The coordination of resources and logistical support is a core function of the Emergency Operations Center and all ESFs should support and utilize the Logistics section. In addition to being an ESF, Logistics is a command position within the EOC command chart and is responsible for securing resources such as equipment, supplies, PPE, staff or vehicles through mutual aid agreements, volunteer organizations and procurement procedures in accordance with the Disaster Finance Policy. The Logistics section is responsible for entry of resources into WebEOC and receiving/reviewing and handling all resource requests.

Though there are 2 ESF-7s they stand alone and one is not under another in an organization chart. Logistics works very closely with Finance in most Counties. The Finance Section Chief has requested an Emergency Support Function for Finance, which is why it was pulled out of logistics.

7.7.7A.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities
7.7.7A.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
• Develop and maintain an up-to-date directory of equipment in the county which may be used in an emergency response such as pickups, SUVs, squad cars, fire trucks, ambulances, ATVs, road & bridge equipment and dump trucks. These will be entered into WebEOC via the CRRF process;
• Develop procedures and forms for resource requests and ordering in Ouray County and via the EOC and Emergency Management;
• Develop and maintain a resource management plan with assistance from DHSEM and regional partners and the MAC Group;
• Establish emergency purchase authorization procedures and authorized vendors before an incident and have a list of contacts and contracts for equipment and other critical supplies which may be need during a disaster.

7.7.7A.1.2 Response
• Receive and prioritize requests for emergency supplies, equipment or services related to an incident response. Respond to the requests in a timely order and seek additional information or forward the request for approval to Finance and other divisions.
• If approved to order/request a resource such as equipment that is available via Mutual Aid, place the order for the resource and document the transaction and equipment specifics in accordance with county and FEMA documentation requirements.
• Maintain detailed logs of resource requests and disbursements and finance approvals as well as daily/hourly burn rates for resources to provide updates to elected and appointed officials for incident costs.
• Provide updates for Situation Reports and daily briefings and monitor critical lifelines as indicated in this plan and report changes in lifelines to EOC Manager and Incident Command.

7.7.7A.1.3 Recovery
• Continue to process and prioritize resource requests as they relate to response and recovery efforts;
• Maintain detailed records of resource requests and activities per FEMA/DHSEM/County Standards for Public Assistance reimbursements of what equipment is being used and its purpose as well as in-kind resource donations.

7.7.7A.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-7A, Logistics will monitor and report changes to all lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

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7.7.7B  ESF-7B Disaster Finance Support

In addition to being an ESF, Logistics is a command position within the EOC command chart and is responsible for Prepare documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources. The Finance Section Chief will work in the EOC when it is active and meeting in-person. ESF-7B Lead will join the Finance Section Chief in the EOC and support them.

Though there are 2 ESF-7s they stand alone and one is not under another in an organization chart. Logistics works very closely with Finance in most Counties. The Finance Section Chief has requested an Emergency Support Function for Finance, which is why it was pulled out of logistics.

7.7.7B.1.1  Preparedness and Mitigation

- Provide assistance in the review and update of the EOP, disaster finance policies, county purchasing policy and policies related to tracking of all expenses, time and mileage by County staff and incident staff during an emergency so the County and appropriate agencies can seek reimbursement through Public Assistance if necessary;

7.7.7B.1.2  Response

- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners;
- Provide assistance for the:
  - Tracking of all expenses per FEMA, DHSEM and DOLA guidelines;
  - Work with Emergency Management for time tracking through the Salamander system;
  - Work with Department Heads, County Administration and Emergency Management to compile, prepare and present supporting information and documentation for county requests to the State of Colorado and FEMA public assistance programs as appropriate;
  - Participation on County damage assessment team at EOC and on local-state field damage survey teams, as needed;
- Establish and maintain an incident related financial record keeping system;
7.7.7B.1.3  **Recovery**
- Support County Administrator in their role as the Recovery Manager.
- Maintain ability to manage or assist response and recovery support operations using command and management principals as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

7.7.7B.2  **Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore**
ESF-7A, Finance will monitor and report changes to all lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

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<td>Mass Transit</td>
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7.7.8 ESF-8 Public Health & Medical

Ouray County Public Health Agency will serve as the lead agency for ESF-8 and will be responsible for identifying and evaluating the impact of a natural/man-made disaster on the public health and well-being of Ouray County. As mentioned previously, almost any disaster or emergency event can have a nexus to public or environmental health therefore, ESF-8 will be activated by the Health Director, Environmental Health Director or Emergency Manager for events such as the following:

- Disease outbreak requiring epidemiological investigation, surveillance and quarantine/isolation;
- Laboratory services;
- Environmental health issues involving chemical spills, air quality, hazardous substances, source water contamination, domestic or wastewater breaks, outages and food borne illness/outbreaks;
- Behavioral health care support for community members and/or responders;
- Animal disease outbreaks in conjunction with the Colorado State Veterinary office and Colorado State University, CDPHE and other health agencies;
- Healthcare system surges to the hospital, clinics and/or EMS;
- Mass casualty and/or mass fatality incident;
- Wildfires, floods, or other disasters requiring evacuation and sheltering

Public Health upon activation of ESF-8, should deploy personnel such as the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Coordinator to the EOC to serve as a liaison between the EOC and Public Health DOC if either/both are activated. ESF-8 will coordinate with regional and state public health staff from Mesa County Public Health, the West Region Healthcare Coalition and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and follow established public health plans and procedures. Supporting agencies such as EMS, the Coroner’s Office, medical clinics, Center for Mental Health and Health Care Coalition should follow their agency plans, procedures and legal responsibilities and will report required information to Public Health and assist as needed to secure and stabilize healthcare services in Ouray County during and following a disaster. Agencies should consult with medical directors and CDPHE for any waivers or direction needed related to emergency orders.

Public Health is responsible for ensuring comprehensive public health and medical response following an emergency/disaster across incorporated and unincorporated areas of Ouray County.

Healthcare providers, first responders and agencies assisting in public health response must consider residents and visitors in the county with access and functional needs and disabilities who will be exacerbated by the disaster. These individuals should be a priority for response efforts. Organizations that provide services to these individuals are encouraged to actively participate in the county, training and exercise process and share information about these individuals with the EOC and responders for quick response and mitigation of future healthcare injuries.

7.7.8.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.8.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Review, update and draft emergency plans related to public health response to emergency events and exercise plans in accordance with CDPHE and regional public health plans and exercise plans.
- Distribute public health plans, procedures and information to medical and public health partners to include but not limited to county administration, public information, emergency management, clinic, hospitals, EMS, fire, law enforcement and health care coalition and WRETAC representatives.

7.7.8.1.2 Response
- Provide staff, equipment, supplies, PPE, technical expertise and other resources during a disaster to partners to stabilize public health during the response and recovery phases of a disaster;
- EMS should assist by providing pre-hospital triage, treatment and transport and where applicable community paramedicine care to residents to avoid surging the healthcare system in Ouray County and surrounding regional hospitals.
• EMS and medical providers should coordinate the transportation and movement of patients to other regional or state-wide hospitals and provide reports as to the status of EMS resources to the EOC and ESF-8 leads so coordination can occur with the State EOC, regional and state-wide partners for medical transport;
• ESF-8 partners should monitor and report changes to the Community Lifelines and components as indicated within this plan to the ESF-8 lead so these changes can be included in situational updates to the EOC via the Situation Unit Leader and/or EOC Manager;
• Provide food handling and sanitation inspections before, during and after a disaster at food distribution points, restaurants, mass feeding events, and other sites as necessary;
• Coordinate public information warnings, advisories and instructions for the public related to public health information such as water boil orders or sanitation issues and coordinate the dissemination of information to the public with ESF-15;
• Ensure continuity of operations for medical care services and availability/distribution of critical medical supplies and medications.
• Ensure medical treatment for disaster response and mass casualty incidents including pre-hospital (EMS).
• Provide statutory required public health response and preparedness for communicable disease prevention and control. Including but not limited to diseases surveillance, investigation, epidemiological investigations, containment/quarantine and coordination of public messaging;
• Provide statutory required environmental health services related to health inspections, emergency spill reporting, containment, and water quality;
• Coordinate with hospitals and all healthcare providers in the county and on the regional level as needed in response to public health events and complete statutory or state mandated reporting requirements;
• Coordinate laboratory and testing services as needed;
• Respond to and provide technical expertise, guidance and testing information as well as public information guidance related to domestic water treatment, delivery and consumption issues or wastewater infrastructure failures;
• Plan and prepare for and work alongside CDPHE, Colorado State Veterinary and CSU Extension for the control and eradication of contagious or potentially economically devastating animal or plant infestation/disease outbreak;
• Work with the Coroner’s office during response to any mass fatality event to expand temporary morgue space when morgue facilities at the Mesa View Mortuary/coroner’s office exceed capacity;
• Provide updates to Emergency Management, the EOC, Board of Health, Board of County Commissioners, State and Regional public health as requested and necessary;
• Track and record costs and all purchases in accordance with county policies and forward them to the Finance Section Chief for approval and recording;
• Behavioral health providers should assess behavioral health needs in the community and responders during and following a disaster and provide personnel, and needed resources to address behavioral care services in the community;
• Work with ESF-6 Mass Care and Sheltering to provide health care assistance for mass care and shelters, especially as it relates to access & functional needs, individuals requiring oxygen and other specialized medical care and behavioral health.

7.7.8.1.3 Recovery
• Continue to monitor, assess and report changes to the Community Lifelines as the recovery process begins. Emphasis should be applied to individuals with access and functional needs, home-bound patients, and behavioral health needs of residents and responders;
• The aftermath of a disaster often highlights the impact of the disaster on the community and disruption of critical lifelines such as power, domestic water, wastewater treatment, telephone, internet, and gas service. Water, wastewater and power outages can have severe impacts on public health ranging from food spoilage, loss of critical medical equipment and medicine storage/oxygen delivery, drinking water outages and backups of sewage;
• Following a disaster, minor to severe life-threatening injuries are possible for members of the public and first responders and other personnel. Critical lifelines for restoring calm and keeping medical services flowing are the local hospital and medical clinics as well as EMS.

7.7.8.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-8 should monitor and report changes to the following lifelines and components to the EOC.
7.7.9 ESF-9 Search & Rescue
The Ouray Mountain Rescue Team may be activated by a jurisdiction or agency needing individuals to help conduct search & rescue activities, unarmed security, or provide traffic control and direction at events such as public health testing or vaccinations. Any request to activate Search & Rescue must be routed through the Ouray County Sheriff or if unavailable, the Undersheriff.

Upon activation, the Search & Rescue Captain will be notified and request the team respond to a specific destination to assemble the necessary equipment. A roster of search & rescue members participating in the assigned mission will be maintained by the Commander and if possible, dispatch to ensure accountability for all members involved in search & rescue efforts. Communications will be routed through Dispatch or Active911 so major events can be recorded.

7.7.9.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities
7.7.9.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Review, update and train on the duties of ESF-9 and this Plan as well as participate in Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meetings.
- Ensure members are trained in basic incident command training – ICS 100, 200, 700 & 800.
• Maintain an inventory of deployable equipment including radios, vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc. and report the list of vehicles and assets with an engine to Emergency Management for entry into the WebEOC CRRF system each spring.
• Develop and maintain Mutual Aid Agreements with agencies for assistance during response to events.

7.7.9.1.2 Response
• Coordinate with the Sheriff and/or Incident Command to determine the specific SAR duties and needs for the mission. The SAR Command will be the responsible individual for identifying what capabilities are needed, when, where and the anticipated duration and how long the SAR team can sustain efforts;
• Communicate SAR needs to the EOC and Emergency Manager who will request needed resources through local and regional mutual aid or agreements before submitting a request to the State Emergency Operations Center;
• Coordinate the need for state and federal SAR/USAR teams with Incident Command, Emergency Management and Fire;
• Provide situational updates on SAR efforts to the Situational Unit Leader and/or EOC Manager for inclusion in daily situation briefings and situation report;
• Identify any unmet needs for the incident and share those needs with the EOC /Emergency Manager or Incident Commander so requests for assistance and resources can be routed through the Regional Field Manager for DHSEM and/or State EOC;
• Document all expenses, donations, personnel time and equipment used in efforts for the mission in accordance with Disaster Finance and FEMA requirements as outlined in the EOP.

7.7.9.1.3 Recovery
• Coordinate with the EOC and other agencies and Sheriff’s Office for any search & rescue or staffing needs during the start of the recovery phase of the disaster such as staffing an evacuation point, re-entry road block assistance, damage assessment etc.

7.7.9.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
Search & Rescue, ESF-9 will monitor and report changes to the following lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Safety and Security" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Search and Rescue" /> <img src="image" alt="Community Safety" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Health and Medical" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Patient Movement" /> <img src="image" alt="Fatality Management" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Communications" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Responder Communications" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.7.10 ESF-10 Hazardous Materials
Per Colorado Revised Statutes, § 29-22-101, et seq. the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office is the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for hazardous material response incidents within unincorporated Ouray County. ESF-10,
Hazardous Materials is responsible for coordinating local, state and federal response in support of a current and/or anticipated hazardous material response in Ouray County. This ESF will work closely with other ESFs, subject matter experts from state and federal agencies and the private sector to ensure the proper response to contain and mitigate risk to the community from hazardous substances. ESF-10, Hazardous Materials may be called upon by other ESFs and agencies for decontamination, sampling and PPE needs during response and recovery operations related to hazardous material spills and/or health disasters affecting humans and/or animals.

7.7.10.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.10.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Establish and meet as the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to involve members of first response agencies (fire, EMS and law enforcement), communications, public health, emergency management, local industry representatives, the press and members of the public;
- Per the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), the County via the LEPC is responsible for drafting and reviewing the County’s Hazardous Materials Response Plan;
- Conduct training and exercises related to the Hazardous Materials Response Plan;
- Maintain a list of all EPA rated Tier II Facilities in Ouray County that manufacture, or store on-site Extremely Hazardous Substances and per state and federal laws such as ECPRA are required to report hazardous chemical inventories over designated threshold quantities established by the EPA and/or CISA to local and state officials.

7.7.10.1.2 Response

- Ensure personnel support the EOC when activated;
- Establish and maintain contact/coordination with Incident Commander/Command Post to determine specifically hazardous material response and recovery needs – what is needed, where, when and the duration;
- Identify and contact mutual aid and regional hazardous material resources in support of current/future needs;
- Ensure downwind/downstream impacts are considered in planning and operational tasks and necessary steps are taken to mitigate the spread of the substance(s) and future contamination. Per State and Federal law/regulation, source water providers downstream of spills must be notified;
- Ensure local and state Public and Environmental Health staff have been notified and that the responsible entity with responsibility for the spill is identified for state and federal agency notifications;
- Report hazardous material resource needs to Emergency Management/local EOC who if no resources exist locally, will relay the request to the State EOC for state and federal partners;
- Coordinate the reception of private sector, state and federal hazmat response and recovery resources with the incident command post staff;
- Track expenses, donations and hazmat response and recovery asset times, hours, mileage and equipment used per Disaster Finance Policies and the EOP;
- Support other ESFs.

7.7.11.1.2 Recovery

- Direct, supervise or ensure the cleanup of Hazardous Material spills in the county per State and Federal Statute.
- Work to recuperate response and cleanup costs associated with hazardous substance spills per State and Federal law.
- Support county departments, ESFs and outside agencies in the recovery of critical infrastructure and hazardous material facilities.

7.7.10.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-10, Hazardous Materials will monitor and report changes to the lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Services</td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
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7.7.11 ESF-11 Agriculture & Natural Resources

ESF-11, Agriculture and Natural Resources, is responsible for the planning for the evacuation, shelter, feeding and welfare of domestic pets, service animals, companion animals and livestock in Ouray County during and following a disaster. This may include natural disasters such as wildfires, floods or landslides or an animal/species specific infectious disease.

In the event of an emergency involving pets, service animals and/or livestock, the ESF-11 group will be responsible for helping coordinate the selection and activation of pet shelters across the county and requesting logistical support for the transportation and housing of pets/livestock. Animal welfare and safety, ownership documentation and identification of pets and personal property will be a top priority for this group. Residents in the path of a disaster forced to evacuate need to feel comfortable that their pets and livestock will be cared for. ESF-11 should work closely with community leaders, ESF-15 (Public Information), the EOC, and law enforcement to coordinate the evacuation or moving of pets and livestock out of the path of a natural disaster whenever possible. ESF-11 can accomplish its goals by working with volunteers, animal welfare organizations, county staff, ranchers and neighboring counties as well as veterinary staff to provide services to domestic pets and livestock.

Additionally, ESF-11 should develop plans and locate individuals within the community who may be subject matter experts on natural and cultural resources and communicate the location and identity of these resources to incident commanders so they can be preserved whenever possible. This includes physical structures such as those on the national historic registry, as well as other locations, which may have a cultural or historical significance to the community.

7.7.11.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.11.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Review the PETS Act and draft an animal evacuation and sheltering plan with feedback from local veterinarians, pet supply stores, facility owners, members of the public, Ouray County Cattlemen’s Association and local elected and appointed officials;
- Develop mutual aid agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with local animal supply and/or trucking companies to assist in handling the logistical needs of animal/livestock evacuation during a disaster;
- Review and exercise plans through tabletop or other exercises;
- Recruit volunteers and identify a list of resources available in the event of a disaster that can be used for the evacuation, care and sheltering of animals.

7.7.11.1.2 Response
- Ensure personnel support the EOC when activated;
• Coordinate with Incident Command and the EOC to determine specific animal care issues and need for animal evacuation, sheltering and care;
• Work with local veterinarians on the identification of injured or ill animals and determine treatment plans or whether animals need euthanasia and assist owners in caring for their animals;
• Coordinate with local and state veterinarians, the state vet office, labs, and local and state health departments related to disease outbreaks in animals and the sampling of tests from animals and the implementation of quarantine efforts for live animals or the proper disposition of deceased animals due to disease and/or death from the disaster to ensure environmental and public health during a disaster;
• Support and direct animal related evacuations for individuals displaced from their homes and seeking shelter or who need shelter for their animals;
• Communicate animal related issues and resource needs to the EOC/Emergency Management for coordination via Mutual Aid and/or requests via WebEOC to the State EOC;
• Coordinate reception of state and federal animal response and recovery resources such as the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT);
• Coordinate documentation, shelter and care of animals as needed.

7.7.11.1.3 Recovery
• Track and document animal response and recovery activities and support until no longer needed.

7.7.11.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-11, Agriculture and Natural Resources will monitor and report changes to the lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food, Water, Shelter</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.7.12 ESF-12 Energy & Public Utilities
ESF-12, Energy & Public Utility is reliant upon private companies who provide services for residents in a defined area or across Ouray County. ESF-12 will be coordinated by Ouray County Maintenance and Facilities as an internal agency but lead agencies for restoration of services will fall to private industry such as DMEA, Black Hills Energy, propane companies, telecom, and data companies. ESF-12 related agencies/companies are responsible for the collection of damage assessments of public utilities in the field following and/or during the response to an incident/disaster.

These providers will provide evaluate damage assessment reports and share information on energy, utility and critical infrastructure damages with the EOC and what estimations the impacts will have on the community as well as an estimated timeline/cost for repair. ESF-12 covers any facility or agency that is involved in the production, refining, transportation, generation, transmission, conservation, building, distribution or maintenance of energy or a public utility within Ouray County.

Agency representatives from public utility companies will serve as subject matter experts and communicating with regulatory bodies per state and federal regulations and are responsible for coordinating delivery of fuels, electricity, data and communication services for residential, government and commercial customers. As restoration of public utilities is a private sector responsibility, Facilities and Maintenance and Road & Bridge Superintendent will coordinate between these agencies and the EOC and provide county resources or city resources; where applicable, to the agencies to assist in facilitating restoration of services.

7.7.12.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities
7.7.12.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
• Attend Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group meetings and develop relationships with agency administrators, Emergency Management and elected officials who will be coordinating response efforts during a disaster. Formulate relationships so private industry representatives aren’t meeting government agency representatives for the first time when a disaster happens;
• Participate in training and exercise programs offered by local agencies to practice response to utility based scenarios or use injects related to public utilities;
• Work with emergency management, law enforcement and private sector liaisons such as critical infrastructure owners and elected officials to discuss how to mitigate effects/damage to infrastructure and public utilities to minimize interruption of services. Discuss priorities for security and access control to critical infrastructure;
• Coordinate tours of critical infrastructure/public utility infrastructure with first responders and elected officials so local fire, EMS and law enforcement are familiar with equipment and how to work with the private sector to restore services and minimize interruptions;

7.7.12.1.2 Response
• Work to restore services to residents as quickly as possible following an outage. This may require coordination with County Road & Bridge, city municipal public works, or other local, state or federal agencies.
• Gather information and damage reports and share these updates with the EOC for situational reports and briefings;
• Work with emergency management, law enforcement, fire, EMS and other private sector liaisons and critical infrastructure owners to assess damage to infrastructure, and determine needs and priorities for restoring services;
• Support and coordinate public service restoration activities with incident command and EOC;
• Identify and report any shortfalls for service restoration or specialized needs to the EOC/Emergency Management so they can be communicated to the State EOC;
• Track and document response costs in accordance with the EOP and FEMA requirements such as personnel time, mileage/hours of equipment use.

7.7.12.1.3 Recovery
• Continue to provide and support restoration of services to businesses and residents;
• Compile final reports for damage assessments to utility infrastructure and share reports with the EOC/Emergency Manager.

7.7.12.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-12, Energy & Public Utilities will monitor and report changes to all lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Water, Shelter</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Power, Fuel</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
7.7.13 ESF-13 Law Enforcement & Security
ESF-13, Law Enforcement & Security is responsible for the protection of life and property by enforcing state laws, court orders, regulations and county ordinances. This includes the movement of persons from threatened or hazardous areas and the issuance of Evacuation orders by the Sheriff. Law enforcement is also responsible for critical infrastructure protection, security planning, response to investigate breaches into buildings and sensitive areas, crime scene security, traffic control and enforcement, and more. Law enforcement is responsible for these activities before, during and after a disaster or incident.

Local law enforcement personnel and administration at the Sheriff’s Office and local police departments have a primary responsibility for public safety and security for citizens within their jurisdiction and use of ICS for large incidents. In event of a terrorist threat or incident, local law enforcement will be responsible for scene security and local activities but the responsibility of investigating the terrorist actions will fall to the United States Attorney General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and/or other federal agencies.

ESF-13 will be activated with almost every major incident to ensure public safety and security capabilities are met within the community. The role of the ESF-13 leads is to coordinate with field supervisors and agencies and get support resources needed in support of the incident. ESF-13 may be activated for minor activities such as road blocks, traffic control, scene security, threat assessments or be asked to assist with evacuations, delivery of messages to homeowners, and screening entry into secure areas.

The Sheriff or designee will maintain close coordination with regional, state and federal agencies to determine best resources for the incident and assistance needed. Additionally, the Sheriff and/or designees can communicate with the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) and other intelligence agencies about any potential threats of violence.

7.7.13.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.13.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Attend Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group meetings and develop relationships with agency administrators, Emergency Management and elected officials who will be coordinating response efforts during a disaster;
- Participate in training and exercise programs offered by local agencies to practice response to scenarios and test county/local response plans;
- Provide training needs for Incident Management, Incident Command and other Emergency Management specialized training to Emergency Management for inclusion in County and West Region Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) for the three-year planning cycle;
- Coordinate tours of critical infrastructure/public utility infrastructure with private industry owners so staff are familiar with equipment and how to work with the private sector to restore services and minimize interruptions to the public and investigate any criminal actions at such facilities;
- Coordinate public safety and security support (includes personnel and equipment) to Ouray County agencies to prepare for, respond to and recover from any real or potential threat/incident.

7.7.13.1.1 Response
- The Sheriff’s Office will maintain statutory authority to ensure preservation of public order, prevention of criminal activity, preservation and collection of evidence and criminal investigations;
• Provide for the timely and appropriate decision to evacuate or shelter in place at-risk populations during emergencies. Evacuation will be highly dependent on the circumstances and the hazard. The determination to direct the public to evacuate must be made quickly based on facts and clear guidance must be provided such as identifying effective traffic routes and where evacuated individuals should evacuate to.
  o The Sheriff may order an evacuation under State Statute and the Sheriff’s authority to keep the peace pursuant to C.R.S. 30-10-516 and can be enforced by criminal sanctions and an individual who disobeys an evacuation order does so at his/her own peril and assumes all inherent risks involved;
• Develop a situation assessment of all law enforcement needs within the county for response to the emergency/disaster. Report situation report to the Incident Commander and EOC for situational updates and planning;
• Serve as the liaison with municipal, state and federal law enforcement agencies to determine needs, gaps and mutual aid or specialized team requests;
• Support and coordinate law enforcement activities with Incident Command – if a law enforcement operation such as an active shooter, the Sheriff may be Incident Commander and ESF-13 can be designated to another command level staff official;
• Communicate resource needs to Emergency Management/EOC and document requests for additional state or federal assistance with the EOC or if the Sheriff/IC will be making direct agency notifications and contacts;
• Ensure all law enforcement related activities, costs and paperwork are tracked and documented in accordance with the EOP and FEMA guidelines and planning support/staffing is scheduled until no longer needed by Incident Command or Operations;
• Coordinate with ESF # 15 and ESF # 5 for critical information dissemination of public safety/security messages through mass notification systems/media;
• Facilitate and coordinate multi-agency/function public safety activities such as evacuation of areas, traffic, looting and riot-control;
• The Sheriff or another law enforcement chief, or acting incident commander should request any specialized resources (staff or equipment) that they need such as SWAT, Bomb Squad, Drone, Explosives, etc.;
• Provide security for the Incident Command Post (ICP), EOC, and other critical infrastructure or government facilities to ensure continuity of operations and operational security;
• Evacuation related key responsibilities:
  o Coordinate an evacuation point and sheltering support with Emergency Management, Social Services, American Red Cross, and Public Information;
  o Issue a formal evacuation order under appropriate authority and coordinate with Emergency Management and Public Information to distribute evacuation order with clear directions to the public and media. Provide clear guidance to populations who may need evacuation assistance and/or may be unable to comply with the order;
  o Close roads and work with road and bridge to create efficient evacuation routes and traffic management using all available means such as creating one-way exit for home owners and other routes are designated for emergency vehicles only;
  o Coordinate with Social Services, Public Health and others at the EOC to ensure evacuation/transportation needs are addressed in planning and communicated to field staff (first responders);
  o Coordinate and staff check-points on evacuation routes to control access to disaster areas and utilize the Salamander Live/Track System to scan and verify identifications of responders or residents entering per directions from the EOC/Incident Command Team;
  o If a situation requires a shelter in place action instead of an evacuation, the Sheriff in coordination with other ESFs should provide specific instructions on the threat and actions to take through all available public means;
  o Voluntary vs Mandatory Evacuation Order:
    ▪ Voluntary Evacuation Order - the Sheriff or another government official strongly urge and recommend person in a designated evacuation area gather their belongings and relocate to a safer location for their own safety. Personal discretion is allowed but not advised. An individual who disobey a voluntary evacuation order does so at his/her own peril and assumes all inherent risks involved;
    ▪ Mandatory Evacuation Order - The Sheriff or Chief Executive Officer of a Municipality orders all persons in a designated evacuation to relocate to a safer location for their own
safety. Personal discretion is not a deciding factor. A mandatory order will apply to the public in general with exceptions for public safety, disaster response, critical workforce or essential personnel. However all individuals will be expected to seek adequate shelter outside the evacuation area prior to the onset of dangerous conditions. Persons who refuse to comply with a mandatory evacuation order will not be arrested nor will they be forcibly removed from their home. However, it should be communicated that rescue personnel and equipment should not be expected after the onset of dangerous conditions and that their safety cannot be guaranteed if they fail to adhere to an evacuation order. An individual who disobeys a mandatory evacuation order does so at his/her own peril and assumes all inherent risks involved.

7.7.13.1.3 Recovery Tasks:
- Coordinate staff to work with the EOC and recovery manager for law enforcement related duties and needs;
- Coordinate staffing for public safety and security to protect infrastructure, facilities and/or areas to start recovery process;
- Conduct criminal investigations/evidence collection as needed based upon the size and scope of the incident;
- Finalize personnel and equipment tracking with finance and emergency management to ensure all law enforcement related activities, costs and support are documented properly.

7.7.13.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-13, Public Safety & Security should monitor and report changes to the following lifelines and components to the Situational Unit Leader/EOC for inclusion in briefings and situation reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Law Enforcement/Security, Fire Services, Search and Rescue, Community Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Water, Shelter</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Infrastructure, Alerts, Warnings, and Messages, 911 and Dispatch, Responder Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Highway/Roadway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.7.14 ESF-14 Long-Term Community Recovery and ESF-14 Economy & Damage Assessment

ESF-14, Damage assessment and recovery is responsible for beginning the recovery phase as soon as possible so the community, citizens and businesses can start re-building and recovering from the disaster. Recovery operations can begin simultaneously alongside response efforts and in many times they do. ESF-14 is responsible for two major tasks – assessing and documenting all damages to personal, government and infrastructure property according to FEMA standards and starting economic recovery in the county and local businesses.

ESF-14’s function will vary based on the severity of the incident and the impacts to the community and local residents and businesses. The effort will be led by the County Administrator and the County Assessor’s Office. These three County Departments are essential to understanding the scope of damage to the community and helping re-building in the short term and long term. During a disaster, the County administrator and Assessor will be utilized in the response phase to serve as liaison between the county, EOC and incident command team to local businesses to assess community needs, supply chain issues, and gaps in deliverable goods to the public. ESF-14 will report findings to the EOC and work with leaders in private industry to identify solutions to supply chain gaps and/or financial strains and how we can work to alleviate those issues.

The Assessor’s Office will be responsible for coordinating and directing damage assessment activities during response and recovery operations. This may include field visits by assessor office staff to document damage to private property, commercial property, government property and/or infrastructure such as bridges and culverts. As the Assessor is tasked with performing property valuations, staff will need to research property records and document per damage assessment guidelines from FEMA, the before and after condition of each property involved and the extent of damage to the property and whether it was completely destroyed and compile a report for the County Commissioners and other elected officials, DOLA, Emergency Management and property owners showing damaged parcels, and any potential impact on property valuation and property taxes going forward.

The main work of ESF-14 begins as recovery begins and these lead County Departments with assistance from supporting agencies will coordinate with the EOC/Emergency Management, elected officials, county administration, members of the public and private industry business owners and identify short and long-range recovery needs and goals. These goals should cover all affected agencies, departments and areas of the community, both public and private. In general, the elected officials such as BOCC will guide discussion on recovery goals and departments will work to implement those goals and be liaisons to property owners and provide community support and help coordinate state and federal disaster assistance efforts.

ESF-14 will work with Emergency Management, County Administration and relevant partners in government and private industry to develop and maintain a Recovery Plan for Ouray County to be included as an annex to the County EOP.

7.7.14.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.14.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Attend training and learn about recovery planning and operations through courses hosted by CO Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM), FEMA and other entities. Work with the finance director and Emergency Management to develop an understanding of state and federal recovery programs and the National Response Framework;
- Develop and maintain a Recovery plan for Ouray County that will serve as an annex to the Emergency operations Plan;
- Develop and maintain relationships between government, private industry and non-governmental organizations in Ouray County and the Western Region/Region 10 to help facilitate response efforts in support of business operations during an incident and to start recovery following an incident/disaster.
7.7.14.2 Response

- Assess the social and economic consequences/impacts in the impacted area and report impacts to community lifelines and businesses to the EOC and begin identifying plans for long-term community recovery issues and immediate needs.
- Work with local, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and industry representatives to conduct market disruption and loss analysis and develop a plan for the community.
- Work with Operations Staff and incident management to get Assessor’s Office staff and other county staff/volunteers out into the field to begin documenting damage assessments and compiling report data with damage estimates for elected officials, DHSEM and the State EOC.
- Work with DOLA to identify financial assistance opportunities for local and county departments to assist in the response and initiation of recovery efforts and serve as a liaison between the EOC, county, private industry/business owners and DOLA.
- Responsible for calculating the damage threshold for Ouray County and whether damages sustained in the County have risen to the level of a Presidential Disaster Declaration level.

7.7.14.3 Recovery

- Assemble a rapid assessment and damage assessment team comprised of representatives from Assessor’s Office, Planning & Economic Development, Sheriff’s Office, Road & Bridge, Facilities and Maintenance, Engineering, and IT;
- Assess damages to County buildings and infrastructure and/or municipal buildings for development of Continuity of Operation Plans and if COOP plans need activated and what services can be provided from existing county/municipal government buildings;
- Begin assessment of critical infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, fuel stations, restaurants, etc. so repairs can be formulated for critical businesses;
- Assemble a damage assessment team for assessment of residential and business establishments that is composed of support agencies, relevant community representatives such as contractors, building inspectors, plumbers, electricians, public utilities, etc.;
- Coordinate damage assessment resources with the EOC and if assistance is needed from the State, DHSEM and/or additional agencies;
- Upon assessing the county-wide impact, provide a report to Emergency Management, County Administrator and the Board of County Commissioners regarding assistance needed, damage estimates and possible requests for state and/or Presidential Disaster Declarations per the County EOP and State procedures;
- Provide Finance officer with damage assessment reports detailing damage and estimated cost of repair to county buildings and then total county-wide damage assessment and costs and estimated impact to tax revenue in subsequent years;
- Provide situation reports during EOC briefings and for inclusion in the situation report;
- Coordinate and provide details to the State EOC and EOC as requested or as needed.

7.7.14.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-14, Damage Assessment & Recovery should monitor and report changes in the following community lifelines to the EOC and Situational Unit Leader.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Lines</th>
<th>Components</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Government Services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
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7.7.15 ESF-15 External Affairs and Public Information

The Incident Command System established the Public Information Officer (PIO) as an essential part of the command team. That’s because dissemination of information to the public, stakeholders, partner agencies and internal staff is critical to a mission’s success or failure. While for many agencies including the county, PIO duties are handled by a single person, the role of ESF-15 is to activate Public Information Resources and be available to assist in generating press releases, scheduling press conferences, press tours, media staging and related tasks for the incident at the direction of the Incident Commander.

As an incident grows, so does the complexity and the need for more information to be distributed to members of the public, media, community and government partners and first responders. This is more work than one person can manage supporting both the Incident Commander/unified command and the Emergency Operations Center. Therefore, it is recommended that whenever possible a team of Public Information Officers work together to activate the Joint
Information Center (JIC) at a physical location where multiple PIOs can work together to coordinate information dissemination.

Once the JIC is operational, local, state, federal, and other agencies including NGOs should coordinate news releases, press conferences, official statements and interviews concerning the specifics of the emergency response through the Joint Information Center (JIC). By default, the JIC manager will be the County Public Information Officer (PIO) unless the incident is occurring entirely within the jurisdiction of a municipality, special district, state or federal agency, at which time the lead PIO for that agency/district/town will take over as the JIC manager for the incident.

Public Information Officers can be utilized for critical public affairs/messaging including but not limited to: press releases, scheduling interviews, designing graphics, sharing information on social media sites, answering public questions, establishing call centers, running citizen word of mouth campaigns, facilitating public meetings and de-conflicting information from the Incident Commanders/Unified Command and agency needs.

7.7.15.1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.15.1.1 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Establish a Joint Information System (JIS) amongst local, county, state and federal agency PIOs so that relationships can be built before an incident and best practices can be shared;
- Work with Emergency Management, County Administration and IT to plan for a Joint Information Center (JIC) at a location that is supporting of the EOC but can enable press access without access to sensitive operational details at the Incident Command Post or EOC;
- Develop and maintain media distribution lists and contact information for local and regional media to use at the ICP and EOC;
- Coordinate training for PIO and JIC personnel and exercises to ensure readiness. Participate in the County or Regional Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) to provide feedback for a 3-year training and exercise plan for local staff related to PIO duties.

7.7.15.1.2 Response

- Provide PIO to the Incident Management Team to serve as Incident PIO and depending on size of incident may also support the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). As incident expands, there should be a dedicated PIO in the EOC and one dedicated to the Incident Command Post;
- Ensure media releases are consistent, accurate and timely and approved by Incident Command/Unified Command;
- Arrange and coordinate media requests for interviews with appropriate officials at times and locations that don’t interfere with response operations;
- Coordinate media staging areas with the EOC, law enforcement and other supporting agencies to ensure media needs are met but they aren’t interfering with emergency operations, personnel or having access to restricted areas of the EOC, JIC or ICP;
- Work with Emergency Management and Law Enforcement to issue press credentials to news media and coordinate field trips into damage areas to document damages or response activities in a safe manner. Trips require the approval and sanctioning of the Incident Commander, Safety Officer and other officials;
- Identify and report PIO resource shortfalls to ESF-5 or ESF-7 for documentation and request via local, regional or state wide mutual aid first then through WebEOC requests to the State EOC;
- Coordinate PIO logistical support and needs for resources and if needed, place orders through ESF-7, logistics for equipment, supplies and personnel;
- Activate and staff a call center as needed for the incident utilizing volunteers, county and municipal staff. Identify a Call Center Coordinator to manage the call center and report to the PIO or JIC Manager and to ESF-5;
- Coordinate social media and website updates and whenever possible, develop an incident website or post to a website to provide a resource for individuals who may not have access to social media. Include pertinent information such as evacuated areas, shelter sites, public debriefing, meeting locations, situation status, etc.
- Manage a schedule of scheduled media briefings, publish the schedule to media and coordinate the setup and cleanup of briefing room at an area outside of the EOC and ICP;
- Maintain files/copies of all public information releases, photos, citizen complaints, CORA requests, and other documents produced during the incident. These should be forwarded to the Documentation Unit Leader for retention;
- Monitor media broadcasts to ensure accuracy of reports and establish methods for correcting erroneous information and controlling the spread of rumors;
• If needed, activate a team of volunteers to scrub social media sites for information and help spread accurate information and dispel rumors;
• Provide Public Information related updates at EOC/Command Staff briefings and for the daily situational reports while differentiating between internal, official use information and publicly available information;
• Support other ESFs as needed during an incident.

7.7.15.1.3 Recovery
• Support the County, Board of County Commissioners, ESF-5, and supporting agencies in drafting press releases, advertisements, scheduling events and sharing recovery information for citizens while considering Access & Functional Needs and ADA requirements.

7.7.15.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-15, Public Information will work with ESF-5 and other ESFs to monitor all Community Lifelines. While specific components don’t apply except for the status of government services and overall community safety, the PIO should be aware of changes to the status of all lifelines so they can communicate appropriately with internal and external stakeholders and the media.

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8 DIRECTION, CONTROL, & COORDINATION

8.1 Activation of the Emergency Operation Plan

Once promulgated by the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, this Plan will be the active plan for planning, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. All other previous Emergency Operations Plans and Emergency Preparedness Plans will be obsolete. This plan will be implemented in part or in totality to:

- Plan and run exercises and training;
- Used to outline the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and trainings that should be developed by County agencies and departments;
- Used as a reference when developing mission specific Annexes (e.g. Recovery Plan, Evacuation Plan, ESF Plan, etc.);
- Used as a reference and copy when developing or updating Municipality or Regional EOPs;
- Response to incidents in or affecting the unincorporated areas of Ouray County;
- Response to requests for assistance due to resources being exhausted or additional assistance from a local municipality or governing body of a special district within Ouray County;
- Response to a Public or Environmental Health Emergency that is affecting Ouray County, regardless of whether located in a municipality or unincorporated area or neighboring county that affects Ouray County citizens and resources;
- Response to non-routine life safety issues in or affecting Ouray County.

The plan may be activated by the Emergency Manager, Public Health Director, County Sheriff or County Administrator without an emergency declaration and the EOP may be implemented as deemed appropriate by Emergency staff for the situation or at the request of an on-scene Incident Commander (IC). While a declaration is not needed to activate the plan, the plan will automatically be activated in the event an emergency declaration is issued by Ouray County. Declarations should include language directing offices, departments, staff, and agencies to utilize and follow the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan.

8.2 Incident Management

Direction and control of the incident prior to, during and after an emergency or disaster rests with the elected leadership of the legally recognized jurisdiction impacted at the local level. Unless a delegation of authority is completed, this authority continues throughout each stage – mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery of emergency operations. Even under a delegation of authority, statutory requirements for the responsible jurisdiction must be completed by the jurisdiction during the incident.

Regardless of the emergency or disaster event that agencies are responding to, each agency, department, or jurisdiction maintains control and authority over their staff and physical assets such as technology, equipment, hardware and vehicles. An agency director, chief elected official or other individual with authority to commit resources on behalf of an agency makes the final determination of how much resource support will be offered to an incident and how best to utilize their staff and resources to serve the citizens but maintain legally required services.
8.3 Incident Levels

The Federal NIMS/ICS system establishes a typing system for incident response as an aid to categorize the size and magnitude of an emergency/disaster. Ouray County will utilize these levels when describing an incident to responders, state and federal officials and the media.

A Type 5 incident is the smallest and least complex incident, and a Type 1 incident is the most complex. These types illustrate the different levels of responsibility for the emergency and are based on the premise that unless the incident is an act of terrorism under investigation by the Federal Government or occurs on State and/or Federal lands, the local agency and first responders will be supported by state and federal agencies.

**Figure 8.3 FEMA Incidents Types**

**Source FEMA IS2200 Course**

8.3.1 Type 5 Incident

8.3.1.1 Command Structure
- Local first responders and on-scene incident commander if any.

8.3.1.2 Characteristics
- One or two single response resources with up to 6 response personnel, the incident is expected to last only a few hours, no ICS and General Staff positions activated other that Incident Commander;
- Emergency Manager may be notified and monitor response and assist with coordination and/or dispatch efforts and notifications to Command Staff and Elected Officials;
- Everyday incidents and response to emergencies throughout Ouray County. This may involve fire, EMS and law enforcement. The incident is typically resolved within a few hours;
- Examples: Two Vehicle Accident Scene, Trapped Person, Isolated Power Outages from Storms, Minor police investigation;
- EOC is not activated;
- Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is not generated or required.

8.3.2 Type 4 Incident

8.3.2.1 Command Structure
- Several single response resources required, select ICS Command and General Staff activated only as needed;
- On-Scene Incident Commander;
- First Responders;
- Additional Responders requested;
- Ouray County EOC may be activated at a level 4 to monitor the incident;
- Ouray County Incident Management Team may be activated.
8.3.2.2 Characteristics
- Incident Commander runs scene and additional positions are only activated if needed;
- Emergency Manager should be notified and Emergency Manager monitor response and assist with coordination and/or dispatch efforts and notifications to Command Staff and Elected Officials;
- Incident is limited to one operational period;
- A written IAP is not generated but the incident should be documented and a log of all personnel generated.
- An agency administrator may have briefings, and complete a complexity analysis on the event. The agency administrator is responsible for operational planning such as objectives and priorities for the Incident.
- Example: Multi-Vehicle accident, small grass fires, minor search and rescue call out for injured or missing person.

8.3.3 Type 3 Incident
8.3.3.1 Command Structure
- Some or all ICS Command and General Staff are activated;
- First Responders;
- Additional resources requested;
- Mutual Aid agreements activated;
- Ouray County Incident Management Team (Type 4 Team) shall be activated to match the complexity of the incident for the first 72 hours;
- An incident complexity analysis reveals the incident will exceed local capabilities to manage and a Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is recommended to take over incident command through initial actions with significant resources committed or an extended response is needed until containment is achieved and the incident can transition back to locals or the incident expands and is transitioned to a Type 2 IMT;
- Ouray County EOC shall activated.

8.3.3.2 Characteristics
- Resource requirements will exceed the initial response resources;
- May extend into multiple operational periods;
- Incident is likely to have significant community impact and is likely to cause local municipalities and/or the county to declare a local emergency disaster;
- ICS positions are added to match the complexity of the incident;
- Ouray County EOC is activated and PIO is handling incident public affairs and the JIC may be established;
- The incident is extending into multiple operational periods;
- Mutual aid is required and state or federal partners are requested to assist;
- A written IAP is required for each operational period;
- Examples: Large Wildfire/grass fire, winter storm, widespread power outage, domestic water outage or boil orders, hostage situation, officer involved shooting, school shooting, etc.

8.3.4 Type 2 Incident
8.3.4.1 Command Structure
- All ICS Command and General Staff positions are filled;
- Ouray County EOC is at full activation;
- PIO is handling incident public affairs and the JIC shall be established;
- Ouray County Incident Management Team (Type 4 Team) shall be activated to match the complexity of the incident for the first 72 hours;
- An incident complexity analysis reveals the incident will exceed local capabilities to manage and a Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is recommended to take over incident command through initial actions with significant resources committed or an extended response is needed until containment is achieved and the incident can transition back to locals or the incident expands and is transitioned to a Type 2 IMT;
- Initial Responders;
- Additional Responders;
- Mutual Aid is activated.
8.3.4.2 Characteristics

- Regional or National resources will be required;
- The incident will extend into multiple operational periods;
- Incident exceeds the capabilities for local control and is expected to last an extended duration and multiple operational periods;
- May become a declared state emergency or disaster;
- The Joint Information Center is activated full time and staffed by local, county, state and possibly federal partners. A designated JIC manager is appointed;
- A written IAP is required for each operational period and a large incident command post is required to support the incident;
- A complexity analysis shall routinely be completed by the Incident Management Team and/or Ouray County Emergency Management and DHSEM Field Manager;
- If on private/county owned property, the Board of County Commissioners and Policy group retain oversight for the incident. There will be County management briefings and a delegation of authority from the County to the IMT for management of the incident (except for duties that can’t be delegated by law);
- If on state or federal land, the agency with jurisdiction will maintain oversight for the incident and will involve the County Commissioners and Administration in briefings (i.e. – Fire on BLM or USFS lands that then spreads to private lands);
- Guideline for operations personnel are less than 200 per operational period and typically less than 500 personnel on the incident total;
- Examples: large wildfire that is threatening structures, uncontained and possibly already burned structures. Acts of terrorism, major flooding where a large number of citizens are affected and/or damage to critical infrastructure.

8.3.5 Type 1 Incident

8.3.5.1 Command Structure

- National level resources are required;
- All ICS Command and General Staff positions are utilized and Branches shall be established;
- Local responders are assisting agencies requested for mutual aid and regional and state-wide resources are hired to assist;
- Ouray County EOC is fully activated as is the State EOC with Joint Information Center;
- Ouray County Incident Management Team (Type 4 Team) shall be activated to match the complexity of the incident for the first 72 hours;
- An incident complexity analysis reveals the incident will exceed local capabilities to manage and a Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is recommended to take over incident command through initial actions with significant resources committed or an extended response is needed until containment is achieved and the incident can transition back to locals or the incident expands and is transitioned to a Type 2 IMT or Type 1 IMT;

8.3.5.2 Characteristics

- This incident is the most complex and is an incident of national significance and requires federal assistance and resources to safely and effectively manage;
- The incident will extend into multiple operational periods;
- The incident will have a significant impact on the County and additional staff are needed to support Emergency Management, administrative and support functions;
- Evacuations of large areas and large shelter activations are likely with significant threat to human life and personal property;
- Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period or total;
- Examples: massive wildfire burning thousands of acres with no containment, national pandemic, major dam failure, major act of terrorism.
8.4 Jurisdictional Authority

8.4.1 Local Control
Initial response is provided by local first responders and directed by on-scene incident command. Activities may include rescue, firefighting, emergency medical services, crime scene investigations, traffic control, evacuations, and emergency public information releases. On-Scene command may establish Unified Command to integrate jurisdictional authority and responsibilities of participating organizations such as fire, EMS and law enforcement.

8.4.1.1 Incorporated Area
When an incident that occurs within the boundaries of an incorporated town/city (City of Ouray or Town of Ridgway), and falls within the legal authorities of an incorporated town; the town has the jurisdictional authority and primary incident management responsibility and is responsible for costs incurred during the incident.

The exception for Ouray County is Fire and EMS. The City of Ouray does have a fire department and there is a contract with the Ouray Fire Protection District that dictates Ouray Volunteer Fire Department cover the whole Ouray Fire Protection District. However, the Town of Ridgway does not have a fire department and fire suppression is done by Ridgway Fire Protection District. Neither the City of Ouray nor the Town of Ridgway have EMS capabilities. EMS for both municipalities is covered by Ouray County EMS.

8.4.1.2 Unincorporated Area
An incident that occurs in unincorporated Ouray County will fall to the management of the County. If an incident impacts both unincorporated and incorporated areas of Ouray County, unified command will be established between the affect municipalities and the County and they will share responsibility unless the County Commissioners/Administrator agree to take over responsibility for the incident.

8.4.1.3 Federal/State Public Lands
The state or federal agency with ownership/jurisdiction over public lands in unincorporated Ouray County will maintain management over any incident on their lands. County departments/agencies may provide initial response efforts until federal/state agency resources can arrive and relieve local resources.

8.4.1.4 Public Health Event
The Ouray County Public Health Agency is the only public health department in Ouray County and has responsibility for all incidents that impact both personal and environmental health in Ouray County. Their jurisdiction encompasses unincorporated and incorporated Ouray County and staff members work closely with regional public health and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment for response to public/environmental health emergencies. To cover the environmental health response, Ouray County Public Health Agency utilizes Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

8.4.2 Regional Support
Regional support for incidents can be requested/come from organizations such as the West Region All Hazards Planning & Response Board which is comprised of Emergency Managers from the West Region. Additionally, the West Region Healthcare Coalition (WRHCC), the Mesa County Regional Public Health team, the West Central Healthcare Alliance, the Regional PIO groups and other West Region groups are available to provide support at a regional level during an incident.

During an incident affecting Ouray County, these entities may be called upon as an individual group or as a cohort to assist Ouray County agencies during the incident. Assistance may be in the form of logistical support, expertise, operational planning, resources or public information assistance.

Regional partners will be secondary to local jurisdictions and in a supporting role unless their agency/group has a stake in the incident and jurisdiction (such as regional public health) who will then be involved in Unified Command.

Ouray County Emergency Management works closely with Regional Emergency Managers from Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Hinsdale, San Miguel and Mesa Counties on planning efforts and Homeland Security Funds. To the extent possible, the County EOP will be updated to reflect similar terminology, response policies and efforts within the region to allow for easy integration of regional staff into the Ouray County response model and EOC.

8.4.3 State Agencies
State agencies such as the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) and Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) are a few of the agencies who should be notified of an incident and coordinated with as the incident progresses during the response phase. Regional staff for
each of these agencies will respond to provide assistance and guidance or remote support to the County, local jurisdiction and/or EOC during an incident. The DHSEM regional field manager and DFPC battalion chief will serve as the County’s local representative to state resources and assistance during incident and will help with prioritizing needs to the State EOC.

Emergency Management will be responsible for receiving all local/county Emergency Declarations and filing them promptly with the Ouray County Clerk & Recorder and DHSEM via the Regional Field Manager. Upon receipt of a local/county emergency declaration, DHSEM will communicate the status to the State Emergency Operations Center, Director of DHSEM and the Governor’s Office and if necessary, request a State Emergency Declaration and assistance from the State. If a disaster in Ouray County is of such magnitude that it requires federal assistance; the State through DHSEM and the State EOC will serve as the primary agency for requesting/facilitating federal assistance.

Additional assistance can be provided during an incident’s response phase from state agencies including from: Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, State Human Services and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. Every disaster or emergency is different and the extent of state agency involvement will vary based upon the nature and severity of the incident.

8.4.4 Federal Agencies
During response to an incident, federal agencies may provide aid or have jurisdiction and control over response to an incident or emergency. Wildfires on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or U.S. Forest Service Land (USFS) are emergencies that will be federal jurisdiction. Once a fire is confirmed to be on federal public lands, the Montrose Interagency Dispatch should be notified immediately so federal partners can assess the situation and assign resources and coordinate with local officials including fire districts, Emergency Management, county administrator and elected officials.

Other emergencies and disasters may fall under the jurisdiction of federal agencies, who are likely to have an extended response due to our geographic location. Examples include: plane crashes or train derailments which fall under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Explosions or of terrorism fall within the jurisdiction of the ATF, FBI and Division of Homeland Security.

Most these agencies are located in Denver and/or Salt Lake City and some have satellite offices in Grand Junction. If an incident commander, elected official, emergency management or other responder believes an emergency/disaster falls within the jurisdiction of a federal agency, the appropriate agencies should be notified as soon as possible. Local law enforcement and first responders should be aware than an extended delay of up to 72-hours may take place before federal partners arrive on-scene.

Local jurisdictions should be aware that federal law dictates the response and involvement of federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in local and state emergencies. FEMA will NOT respond and provide assistance unless an emergency/disaster arises to the level of a major disaster and there is a Presidential Declaration.

If an emergency is of such magnitude that it qualifies as a “major disaster” as defined by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)), DHSEM will be notified who will communicate the situation to the Governor to make a request to the President of the United States for a Federal Declaration. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies will then work in support of the State and local jurisdictions.

8.4.5 Private Sector and Volunteer Groups
Volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross, and other Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) will coordinate with the EOC for operations and needs for volunteers.

During an emergency or disaster in Ouray County, the private sector will be critical to effective response and to minimize loss or destruction of property and life. The private sector includes public utilities such as SMPA, Black Hills Energy, domestic water companies, construction companies with heavy equipment, delivery companies, restaurants, hotels and more. The private sector will be critical to providing resources during the response and recovery phase and keeping businesses open during an emergency will be a priority.

8.5 Delegation of Authority
During response to an incident, such as a wildfire or another Type III to Type I incident, the county, a municipality or a special district may be required to delegate authority to another agency or an incident management team for management of the incident and give the IMT/agency authority to order resources and direct response activities. For
wildfires, this is specified in the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). The AOP is a document which guides annual fire response and responsibilities for fire districts, the County and Sheriff’s Office, CO Division of Fire Prevention and Control and Federal Land Agencies (USFS, BLM, NPS, etc.).

A Delegation of Authority is a statement provided to the Incident Commander by the agency executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility for incident management. The Delegation of Authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, cost share terms and other considerations or guidelines as needed.

A Delegation of Authority is required for an IMT team or other agency to assume command. Statutorily responsible duties such as those of the Sheriff cannot be delegated to another agency.

8.6 Incident Command System (ICS)

As mentioned previously throughout this Plan, Ouray County will adhere to the Incident Management System (ICS) per the guidelines set forth by the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Ouray County Resolution 2006-14, and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5.

Incident Management falls to the on-scene Incident Commander (IC) as defined by NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) and the IC will be responsible for directing the command and control of specific activities at the incident site. The initial Incident Command/Unified Command at an incident site will be from the service having primary jurisdiction (police, fire, EMS, Public Health, etc.). As an incident expands, the primary jurisdiction may change. If jurisdictional boundaries become unclear or in the event of an incident that crosses multiple jurisdictions/agencies; a Unified Command team should be formed.

Incident Command will coordinate with the Emergency Manager as much as possible so agency coordination can occur and updates can be provided to elected officials, DHSEM and other state agencies. The ICS structure consists of five (5) primary components:

- Command Staff
- Operations Staff
- Planning Staff
- Finance Staff
- Logistics Staff

Persons assuming the role of an Incident Commander shall be routinely trained in NIMS, ICS, and have a strong fundamental knowledge of the response for that particular incident. Other skills a commander should exhibit:

- Strong communication skills;
- A high-level knowledge of incident management best practices and systems;
- Problem-solving skills;
- The ability to make quick, confident decisions;
- Be able to dedicate the entire operational period to the incident;
- Previous experience with major incidents (either as a participant or an observer);
- Leadership skills—the ability to take command in a high-stress situation;
- Listening and synthesis skills.

8.6.1 FEMA National Response Framework – Incident Command Chart

The following chart from FEMA, shows the Incident Command System structure with the command and general staff followed by units, branches, down to strike teams, task forces and single resources:
8.6.2 Roles and Responsibilities of Incident Commander and General Staff
This Sections extracted from ICS 300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents

8.6.2.1 Incident Commander
The Incident Commander is technically not a part of either the General or Command Staff. The Incident Commander is responsible for:
- Having clear authority and knowing agency policy.
• Ensuring incident safety;
• Establishing an Incident Command Post;
• Setting priorities, and determining incident objectives and strategies to be followed;
• Establishing the ICS organization needed to manage the incident;
• Approving the Incident Action Plan;
• Coordinating Command and General Staff activities;
• Approving resource requests and use of volunteers and auxiliary personnel;
• Ensuring after-action reports are completed;
• Authorizing information release to the media;
• Ordering demobilization as needed.

8.6.2.2 Command Staff
The Command Staff is assigned to carry out staff functions needed to support the Incident Commander. These functions include interagency liaison, incident safety, and public information.

Command Staff positions are established to assign responsibility for key activities not specifically identified in the General Staff functional elements. These positions may include the Public Information Officer (PIO), Safety Officer (SO), and Liaison Officer (LNO), in addition to various others, as required and assigned by the Incident Commander.

8.6.2.3 General Staff
The General Staff represents and is responsible for the functional aspects of the Incident Command structure. The General Staff typically consists of the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections. In some incidents the General Staff may also include the Intelligence/Investigations Function, either operating under a staff section, or as a stand-alone section.

General guidelines related to General Staff positions include the following:
• Only one person will be designated to lead each General Staff position;
• General Staff positions may be filled by qualified persons from any agency or jurisdiction;
• Members of the General Staff report directly to the Incident Commander. If a General Staff position is not activated, the Incident Commander will have responsibility for that functional activity;
• Deputy positions may be established for each of the General Staff positions. Deputies are individuals fully qualified to fill the primary position. Deputies can be designated from other jurisdictions or agencies, as appropriate. This is a good way to bring about greater interagency coordination;
• General Staff members may exchange information with any person within the organization. Direction takes place through the chain of command. This is an important concept in ICS;
• General Staff positions should not be combined. For example, to establish a "Planning and Logistics Section," it is better to initially create the two separate functions, and if necessary for a short time place one person in charge of both. That way, the transfer of responsibility can be made easier.

8.6.2.4 Safety Officer Responsibilities
• Identify and mitigate hazardous situations;
• Ensure safety messages and briefings are made;
• Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts;
• Review the Incident Action Plan for safety implications;
• Assign assistants qualified to evaluate special hazards;
• Initiate preliminary investigation of accidents within the incident area;
• Review and approve the Medical Plan;
• Participate in planning meetings.

8.6.2.5 Liaison Officer Responsibilities
• Act as a point of contact for agency representatives;
• Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and agency representatives;
• Assist in setting up and coordinating interagency contacts;
• Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential interorganizational problems;
• Participate in planning meetings, providing current resource status, including limitations and capabilities of agency resources.

8.6.3 Unified Command
During the response to some incidents, the nature of the emergency may encompass the authority of multiple jurisdictions such as fire, EMS, law enforcement, and public health. Incident Command is scalable and flexible and can
combine local, county, state and federal agencies into the same organization system. According to FEMA, Unified Command is “In incidents involving multiple jurisdictions, a single jurisdiction with multiagency involvement, or multiple jurisdictions with multiagency involvement, unified command allows agencies with different legal and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility or accountability.”

During Unified Command, the agencies appoint a spokesperson for the group and the spokesperson then communicates the Unified Command’s position and directions to the EOC, agency representatives and the media. Unified Command should be formed with agency heads/elected officials or individuals with authority to make decisions for their agency and commit agency funds and resources. Unified Command representatives establish incident objectives and manage/coordinate EOC operations through a delegation process.

8.7 Ouray County Incident Management Team

An Incident Management Team (IMT) is a rostered group of ICS-qualified personnel consisting of an Incident Commander, Command and General Staff, and personnel assigned to other key ICS positions. The level of training and experience of the IMT members, coupled with the identified formal response requirements and responsibilities of the IMT, are factors in determining “type,” or level, of IMT. (ICS 300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents)

As mentioned in section 3.5.4.1, The Ouray County Incident Management Team (OCIMT) will be deployed during complex emergency incidents to provide initial response to provide a command and control infrastructure in order to manage the operational, logistical, informational, planning, fiscal, community, and safety issues associated with complex incidents. OCIMT is a type 4 team and has been developed to handle a complex incident for the first 72 hours until Mutual Aid or other assistance can arrive.

The OCIMT is comprised of County Employees and County Residents trained in specific areas of response. Those interested in becoming members of the OCIMT are reviewed by the OCIMT Review Committee comprised of the Ouray County Sheriff, Ouray County Undersheriff, Ouray County Emergency Medical Services Chief, and Ouray County Emergency Manager. The OCIMT review committee will make a recommendation to the Ouray County Sheriff who will make final decisions and appointments to the OCIMT.

8.8 Incident Action Planning Process

The incident action planning process and IAPs are central to managing incidents. The incident action planning process helps synchronize operations and ensure that they support incident objectives. Incident action planning is more than producing an IAP and completing forms—it provides a consistent rhythm and structure to incident management.

Personnel managing the incident develop an IAP for each operational period. A concise IAP template is essential to guide the initial incident management decision process and the continuing collective planning activities. The IAP is the vehicle by which leaders on an incident communicate their expectations and provide clear guidance to those managing the incident. The IAP:

• Informs incident personnel of the incident objectives for the operational period, the specific resources that will be applied, actions taken during the operational period to achieve the objectives, and other operational information (e.g., weather, constraints, limitations, etc.);
• Informs partners, EOC staff, and MAC Group members regarding the objectives and operational activities planned for the coming operational period;
• Identifies work assignments and provides a roadmap of operations during the operational period to help individuals understand how their efforts affect the success of the operation;
• Shows how specific supervisory personnel and various operational elements fit into the organization;
• Often provides a schedule of the key meetings and briefings during the operational period.

The IAP provides clear direction and includes a comprehensive listing of the tactics, resources, and support needed to accomplish the objectives. The various steps in the process, executed in sequence, help ensure a comprehensive IAP. These steps support the accomplishment of objectives within a specified time.

The development of IAPs is a cyclical process, and personnel repeat the planning steps every operational period. The Operational Period Planning Cycle (Planning P) is a graphic depiction of this cycle. Personnel develop the IAP using the best information available at the time of the Planning Meeting. Personnel should not delay planning meetings in anticipation of future information.

In the Planning P, the leg of the “P” describes the initial stages of an incident, when personnel work to gain awareness of the situation and establish the organization for incident management. During the initial stage of incident management,
the Incident Commander typically develops a simple plan and communicates the plan through concise oral briefings. In the beginning of an incident, the situation can be chaotic and situational awareness hard to obtain, so the Incident Commander often develops this initial plan very quickly and with incomplete situation information. As the incident management effort evolves, additional lead time, staff, information systems, and technologies enable more detailed planning and cataloging of events and lessons learned. The steps of the planning process are essentially the same for the first responders on scene determining initial tactics and for personnel developing formal written IAPs.

Incident personnel perform the steps in the leg of the “P” only one time. Once they are accomplished, incident management shifts into a cycle of planning and operations, informed by ongoing situational awareness and repeated each operational period.

The following are brief descriptions of the meetings and briefings that are repeated each operational cycle until the conclusion of the incident or event.

- **Objectives Development/Update:** The IC/UC establishes the incident objectives for the initial operational period. After the initial operational period, the IC/UC reviews the incident objectives and may validate them, modify them, or develop new objectives.
- **Strategy Meeting/Command and General Staff Meeting:** After developing or revising the incident objectives, the IC/UC typically meets with the Command and General Staff, and sometimes others, to discuss the incident objectives and provide direction.
- **Preparing for the Tactics Meeting:** Once the approach to achieving or working toward achieving the incident objectives is determined, the Operations Section Chief and staff prepare for the Tactics Meeting by developing tactics and determining the resources that will be applied during the operational period.
- **Tactics Meeting:** In the Tactics Meeting, key players review the proposed tactics developed by the Operations Section and conduct planning for resource assignments. The OPS Section Chief leads the Tactics Meeting, and key participants include the LOG Section Chief, Safety Officer, a Planning representative and others invitees.
- **Preparing for the Planning Meeting:** Following the Tactics Meeting, staff collaborate to identify support needs and assign specific resources to accomplish the plan.
- **Planning Meeting:** The Planning Meeting serves as a final review and approval of operational plans and resource assignments developed during and after the Tactics Meeting. At the end of the Planning Meeting, Command and General Staff confirm that they can support the plan.
- **IAP Preparation and Approval:** Based on concurrence from all elements at the end of the Planning Meeting, the Incident Commander or Unified Command approves the plan.
- **Operational Period Briefing:** Each operational period starts with an Operational Period Briefing. Incident supervisory and tactical personnel receive the IAP during the briefing. Members of the Command and General Staff present the incident objectives, review the current situation, and share information related to communications or safety. Following the Briefing, supervisors brief their assigned personnel on their respective assignments.

8.9 **Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

Definition: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines an Emergency Operations Center as:

“The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction.”
8.9.1 EOC Locations

Ouray County has identified physical locations to bring together all ESF and essential functions during a prolonged disaster or emergency to a location cohesive to interoperability and communication to promote better documentation, collaboration and resource mobilization for supporting the incident in the field. The EOC is a location designed to support the incident in the field by providing key personnel, Finance, GIS, ESF’s and other stakeholders and partners a location to support Incident Command’s mission. The Ouray County EOC will be managed by the Emergency Operations Center Manager. All locations are multi-use locations used as conference rooms/training areas which are open rooms with movable furniture which can be converted to an EOC quickly in the event of an activation. The County EOC will be a central clearing house for resource requests.

8.9.1.1 Primary Location

Ouray County Land Use and Road and Bridge Building—primarily in the Conference Room.

111 Mall Road – Ridgway CO 81432

If additional Space is required for response to the incident, Operations will expand to the following locations:

- **Ouray County EMS Station 2** | 251 Railroad St.—Ridgway CO 81427
- **Ouray County 4H Event Center** | 22739 US-550, Ridgway, CO 81432

8.9.1.2 Alternate Locations

In the event the primary EOC at the county campus is unavailable, the County will activate the EOC at one of the following locations. They are ordered in list of preference, and have formal agreements with Ouray County but this may change based on the location of the emergency and incident management needs.

- **Ouray County Sheriff Department (Level 3 or 4 Incidents)** | 421 6th Ave—Ouray CO 81427;
- **Ouray County 4H Event Center** | 22739 US-550—Ridgway CO 81432;
- **City of Ouray Community Center** | 320 6th Ave—Ouray CO 81427;

8.9.1.3 Future Locations

It is the hope to have formal agreements in place before the next EOP update is due with the following locations. Each of these have voiced that they would be will to be alternate locations but there are no formal agreements in place at the time of this Plan Update:

- **Ridgway Town Hall** | 201 N Railroad St—Ridgway CO 81432;
- **Ridgway Secondary School** | 1200 Green Street—Ridgway CO 81432;
- **Ouray Combined Schools** | 400 7th Ave—Ouray CO 84127;
- **Ouray Elks Lodge #492** | 421 Main St—Ouray CO 84127;
- **Divide Ranch Clubhouse** | 151 Divide Ranch Cir, Ridgway, CO 81432
- **Log Hill Station 2** | 434 Ponderosa Drive, Ridgway CO 81432

8.9.2 EOC Activation

The Ouray County Emergency Operations Center can be activated at any level based on several factors:

- The size or expanding size of an incident and anticipation of need for additional resources;
- Multi-jurisdiction response or request for mutual aid;
- The incident is or has already overwhelmed a local jurisdiction and they have requested county assistance;
- Incidents that are occurring in a neighboring county which affect resources and/or personnel and infrastructure in Ouray County;
- A statewide or nationwide incident such as pandemic, large wildfire affecting logistics and supply chains and/or act of terrorism;
- Active or imminent threat to lives and property in the County from a natural disaster or impending emergency;
OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

- Incident of increasing complexity;
- Threat or hazard risk to lives or property.

8.9.3 Authority to Activate the EOC
The Ouray County Emergency Operations Center can be activated at the request of:
- Ouray County Emergency Manager;
- Ouray County Sheriff or Undersheriff;
- Incident Commander (IC) of any incident in the County;
- Ouray County Administrator.

Any municipality/special district in Ouray County requesting county assistance may ask for the EOC to be activated. The request for such activation must be made through the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or County Administrator.

When the decision is made to activate the EOC, the Emergency Manager or their designee will send out a notification via the WENS notification system to the agency representatives needed for that level of activation. The notification should include a brief synopsis of the emergency, the location of the EOC, a reporting time and required equipment.

8.9.4 Activation of the EOC
Depending on the Complexity of the Incident, the Ouray County EOC can operate in a virtual mode (staff working remotely) or in a physical location. Some agency partners and staff do not have to be physically in the EOC to work. However, in complex dynamic incident (IE Plan Crash; fast moving wildfire; flood; civil unrest) where decisions need to be made instantly like purchasing and resource requests, consistent press updates, evacuations and/or damage assessment, key members of the EOC (ESF-5, ESF-6, ESF-7A, ESF-7B, ESF-13, ESF-15, and Finance) should be present, in-person, and available to make key decisions within seconds. The Ouray County EOC is always in a remote monitoring phase by the Emergency Manager and activation will increase the level at which staff from other county departments and agencies are involved.

County EOC activation levels may be changed by the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, Undersheriff, County Administrator, Public Health Agency Director or their designee. Changes in level of activations will be reported in WebEOC and shared with the DHSEM Regional Field Manager. As an emergency or disaster evolves, the EOC Manager will continually evaluate the activation level and staffing requirements and adjust accordingly.

8.9.4.1 EOC Activation Levels
The Ouray County Emergency Operations Center can be activated at several levels. Not all activations require the response from every ESF or function of the EOC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EOC Activation Level</th>
<th>Activation Scope</th>
<th>Activation Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Full activation of the EOC. All ICS EOC support positions and ESFs report to the EOC.</td>
<td>Major natural or manmade event - All departments assisting in response. Citizens in need of assistance and/or sheltering. Recovery may be long term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Partial activation of the EOC, only requested ICS EOC support positions and ESFs report to the EOC.</td>
<td>For short term operations involving limited agencies, such as Public Works, Fire and Police.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Emergency Management staff and ICS EOC support positions as needed, monitoring potential hazard development when there is advance notice and/or a planned event.</td>
<td>Center is open; gaining situational awareness and monitoring the event(s). Conference calls may be occurring with Emergency Management and/or other county agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Activation is virtual</td>
<td>Gaining situational awareness and monitoring the event(s).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.9.4.2 Personnel and Staffing
Depending on the incident type and nature, County departments and partner agencies will be contacted to fill roles in the EOC. If an incident encompasses a municipality/directly affects one or more municipalities; municipalities are expected to assist in filling positions in the EOC.

If an incident expands and additional staffing is needed, an Emergency Declaration gives the County Administrator the authority to temporarily re-assign county staff from one department to another or the EOC to provide staffing resources during the response phase of the emergency.
8.9.4.2.1 Level 4 Activation Staffing
- No staff on site at EOC; Emergency Management monitoring virtually

8.9.4.2.2 Level 3 Activation Staffing
- Emergency Management;
- Law Enforcement Representative(s)

8.9.4.2.3 Level 2 Activation Staffing
- Emergency Management (ESF-5);
- Logistics Section Chief (ESF-7);
- Public Information Officer (ESF-15);
- Operations Section Chief/Law Enforcement Representative(s) (ESF-13);
- Fire Operations Liaison (as needed) (ESF-4);
- Medical Operations Liaison (as needed) (ESF-8)

8.9.4.2.4 Level 1 Activation Staffing
- Emergency Management/Planning Section Chief (ESF-5);
- Logistics Section Chief (ESF-7);
- Operations Section Chief/Law Enforcement Representative(s) (ESF-13);
- Communications (ESF-2);
- Fire Operations Liaison (ESF-4);
- EMS Operations Liaison (ESF-8);
- Public Information Officer (ESF-15);
- Public Health (ESF-8);
- Mass Care (Red Cross and/or Social Services) (ESF-6);
- Public Works (County and State if applicable) (ESF-3);
- Transportation (ESF-1)
- Financial Officer, Documentation (ESF-14);
- IT/GIS (ESF-2);
- EOC Deputy Manager (ESF-5);
- Appointed Officials (ESF-15);
- State and Federal officials (as required by statute or incident type) (ESF-15);
- Other considerations for EOC staffing representatives:
  - Subject matter experts and/or private sector representative;
  - Field Staff/Runner(s), whose primary purpose is to physically take pertinent information to different locations (i.e. field ICPs). This may be necessary due to congestion/technical problems on phones and radios, and/or sensitive information.

8.9.5 Deactivation of the EOC
Each incident or disaster is unique and requires a specific response from the county and its partners. The length the EOC is activated is dependent upon the needs of the incident and its personnel. An EOC may be activated for a few hours, a few days or a few months depending on the type and size of the incident. The decision to reduce EOC activation levels falls to the Emergency Manager and County Sheriff in consultation with the Incident Commander or Unified Command Team. It may be desirable to continue EOC operations into the start of the recovery phase to allow county staff and outside agencies to assist with disseminating information to the public and developing plans for long-term recovery.

Once notification has been made to limit hours/staff or close the EOC, notification will be distributed to the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Group. If the situation changes, the EOC may be re-opened at any time.
8.9.6 Ouray County EOC Organization Chart
8.9.7 Ouray County Community Lifeline Organization Chart

![FEMA Lifeline Organization Chart for Ouray County](chart.png)

Red Designates Community Lifeline Lead - Refer to Section on Community Lifelines and ESFs for full lists of agencies under each ESF and Lifeline.

8.9.8 EOC Organization-EOC Staff

8.9.8.1 EOC Manager
- The EOC Manager is typically the Emergency Manager but in large incidents, may be delegated to a trained EOC manager from a Type III or larger Incident Management Team or an Emergency Manager from the West Region or any region in the State of Colorado;
- The duties of the EOC Manager are to ensure the EOC is running smoothly, ESF leads and agency representatives have the equipment and supplies needed to accomplish their duties and collaborate with agencies and communicate the objectives of Incident/Unified Command to the EOC. The EOC Manager delegates tasks, receives requests for assistance/equipment from the field and assigns them to logistics or the appropriate ESF to fill. The EOC Manager provides leadership, direction and oversight to the EOC as it relates to activity tracking, objectives, document and records management, adhering to finance procedures and cost tracking, ensuring finance and legal and policy group members are involved in discussions. The EOC manager also serves as the point of contact for the policy group (County Administrator, Board of County Commissioners, Mayors, etc.) and communicates their needs, questions and complaints to the EOC and respective agencies;
- The EOC manager assesses information, runs complexity analysis and ensures information is correct and if additional assistance or activation levels are warranted requests additional assistance;
- The EOC/Emergency Manager assembles team members in the EOC and through virtual operations, sets meetings, and establishes a clear communication and command structure. The two top priorities for the EOC manager are: up to date information and a current operational plan.

8.9.8.2 Public Information Office (PIO)
- As stated in more detail under roles and responsibilities, The PIO coordinates and manages the County’s public information to internal and external messaging including local, regional and federal agencies and local, state and national media if required. The PIO develops press releases, coordinates information sharing through the JIC/JIS, clears official releases through incident command and manages media briefings and interviews as well as monitors/posts information’s to social media.

8.9.8.3 EOC Safety Officer
An EOC Safety Officer has the same roles for the EOC and the ICS Safety Officer has for the Command Team:
- Identify and mitigate hazardous situations;
- Ensure safety messages and briefings are made;
- Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts;
- Review the Incident Action Plan for safety implications;
- Assign assistants qualified to evaluate special hazards;
8.9.8.4 Liaison Officer
- Liaisons should serve as the central point of contact with critical organizations that aren’t necessarily ESF leads such as non-profits, the volunteer manager, public utility companies and medical facilities.
- Act as a point of contact for agency representatives;
- Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and agency representatives;
- Assist in setting up and coordinating interagency contacts;
- Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential interorganizational problems;
- Participate in planning meetings, providing current resource status, including limitations and capabilities of agency resources.

8.9.8.5 Operations Section Chief Responsibilities
The Operations Section Chief is responsible for managing all tactical operations at an incident. The Incident Action Plan (IAP) provides the necessary guidance. The need to expand the Operations Section is generally dictated by the number of tactical resources involved and is influenced by span of control considerations. The Operations Section Chief is typically filled by the lead agency managing response activities for the specific type of incident. Major responsibilities of the Operations Section Chief are to:
- Assure safety of tactical operations;
- Manage tactical operations;
- Develop the operations portion of the IAP;
- Supervise execution of operations portions of the IAP;
- Request additional resources to support tactical operations;
- Approve release of resources from active operational assignments;
- Make or approve expedient changes to the IAP;
- Maintain close contact with IC, subordinate Operations personnel, and other agencies involved in the incident;
- The Operations Section Chief directs and receives reports from the seven (7) community lifelines which represent Operations Branches – Public Safety, Health & Medical, Communications, Transportation, Hazardous Materials, Energy and Food, Water and Shelter. Each of these Community Lifeline Branches is led by a lead Emergency Support Function (ESF) and supporting ESFs who will develop and implement plans for their respective fields of expertise.

8.9.8.6 Planning Section Chief Responsibilities
The Planning Section Chief is responsible for providing planning services for the incident. Under the direction of the Planning Section Chief, the Planning Section collects situation and resources status information, evaluates it, and processes the information for use in developing action plans. Dissemination of information can be in the form of the IAP, in formal briefings, or through map and status board displays. Major responsibilities of the Planning Section Chief are to:
- Collect and manage all incident-relevant operational data;
- Supervise preparation of the IAP;
- Provide input to the IC and Operations in preparing the IAP;
- Incorporate Traffic, Medical, and Communications Plans and other supporting materials into the IAP;
- Conduct and facilitate planning meetings;
- Reassign personnel within the ICS organization;
- Compile and display incident status information;
- Establish information requirements and reporting schedules for units (e.g., Resources and Situation Units);
- Determine need for specialized resources;
- Assemble and disassemble Task Forces and Strike Teams (or law enforcement Resource Teams) not assigned to Operations;
- Establish specialized data collection systems as necessary (e.g., weather);
- Assemble information on alternative strategies;
- Provide periodic predictions on incident potential;
- Report significant changes in incident status;
- Oversee preparation of the Demobilization Plan.
The Planning Section has five primary units: GIS/Mapping, Situation/Documentation Unit, Resource Unit, ESF-14 Damage Assessment and Technical Experts. Depending on the size of the incident, one individual may fulfill multiple roles or a unit may not be needed. The scale and number of people needed to support planning will be determined by the Planning Section Chief and EOC Manager.

8.9.8.7 Logistics Section Chief Responsibilities

The Logistics Section Chief provides all incident support needs with the exception of logistics support to air operations. The Logistics Section is responsible for providing:

- Facilities;
- Transportation;
- Communications;
- Supplies;
- Equipment maintenance and fueling;
- Food services (for responders);
- Medical services (for responders);
- All off-incident resources. Major responsibilities of the Logistics Section Chief are to:
  - Provide all facilities, transportation, communications, supplies, equipment maintenance and fueling, food and medical services for incident personnel, and all off-incident resources;
  - Manage all incident logistics;
  - Provide logistical input to the IAP;
  - Brief Logistics Staff as needed;
  - Identify anticipated and known incident service and support requirements;
  - Request additional resources as needed;
  - Ensure and oversee the development of the Communications, Medical, and Traffic Plans as required;
  - Oversee demobilization of the Logistics Section and associated resources.

8.9.8.8 Finance/Administration Section Chief Responsibilities

The Finance/Administration Section Chief is responsible for managing all financial aspects of an incident. Not all incidents will require a Finance/Administration Section. Only when the involved agencies have a specific need for finance services will the Section be activated. Major responsibilities of the Finance/Administration Section Chief are to:

- The Finance Section Chief and finance section receives all requests for equipment, personnel and specialized equipment/services and reviews the cost and budget and determines if the item(s) requested fall within purchasing policy for the County or if the item is the responsibility of another agency. If the responsibility of an agency, finance will coordinate with the agency head/representative with spending authority to approve or deny the request for the item(s) or personnel;
  - If requests are denied, Finance Section Chief should work with IC and the requesting Agency/ESF/Lifeline to come up with a budget to solve the problem being denied assistance;
- Provide financial and cost analysis information as requested;
- Ensure compensation and claims functions are being addressed relative to the incident;
- Gather pertinent information from briefings with responsible agencies;
- Develop an operating plan for the Finance/Administration Section and fill Section supply and support needs;
- Determine the need to set up and operate an incident commissary;
- Meet with assisting and cooperating agency representatives as needed;
- Maintain daily contact with agency(s) headquarters on finance matters;
- Ensure that personnel time records are completed accurately and transmitted to home agencies;
- Ensure that all obligation documents initiated at the incident are properly prepared and completed;
- Brief agency administrative personnel on all incident-related financial issues needing attention or follow-up;
- Provide input to the IAP.

The default Finance Section Chief will be the County’s Finance Director. If multiple agencies/jurisdictions are involved in the incident response with financial obligations, each agency or special district should designate their finance director or another employee authorized to act on behalf of the agency with financial authority to serve in the EOC. Together, these individuals shall comprise the Finance Section and be responsible for reviewing and approving or denying financial purchases and maintaining documentation to FEMA standards. The purpose of shared finance section roles is each agency is responsible for the costs incurred by their agency or the costs per a signed cost-share agreement and a shared-finance section ensures proper review and approval/denial of purchase or contract requests.
8.10 Departmental Operations Center (DOCs)
A Department Operation Center (DOC) can be established and activated by an individual County department to coordinate and control actions specific to that department during an emergency event/disaster. A DOC is a physical location or room similar to an EOC. However, the DOC exists to manage departmental resources and maintain public services during the disaster/emergency.

A department head/elected official retains the authority to activate a DOC based on the department’s mission during an emergency and need to complete or provide necessary or legally required services. When a DOC is activated, its operations are subordinate to the allocation of resources and management of public information countywide by the EOC. A DOC will work to restore the department’s critical business functions, those legally required to be provided and the department head should share objectives, strategies and status updates at regular intervals to the EOC.

When a DOC and the EOC are activated, the department will provide a liaison from the department to the EOC. It is important to note that because DOCs are primarily for departments that play a role in the immediate response during a disaster or continued long-term response to a disaster; not all departments will have or need a DOC.

8.11 Tactical and Operational Control of Response Assets
Response assets will remain under the operational control of the agency in which they belong. Individual field incident commanders always retain tactical control of resources assigned to incidents. For example an ambulance from OCEMS used for a fire, will remain under the operational control of OCEMS. Ouray County departments, County first responder agencies and municipalities should provide as many resources and logistics as possible during an Emergency response. This includes but is not limited to:

- Personnel;
- Emergency vehicles;
- Buildings/work space for personnel;
- food, drink, lodging services if necessary;
- Specialized equipment.

Assisting agencies shall retain administrative responsibility of mobilized resources, to include:

- Staffing;
- Training
- Equipping
- Providing Workers Compensation Coverage
- Providing Liability Insurance
- Updating WebEOC, CRRF, IROC, and/or EMResource status

8.12 Multi-Agency Coordination Group
Multi-agency coordination occurs whenever personnel from different agencies that have legal responsibilities to abate the emergency are involved in the response. While informal arrangements among agencies can be made to work, it is more effective to establish MAC System procedures in advance in a planned and organized fashion

The Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary planning and coordination group committed to the development and implementation of all-hazards planning for preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery from emergencies and disasters. Participation is open to all local and county agencies, departments, special districts, and businesses within Ouray County and surrounding areas. Typically, these agency representatives and agency heads are the individuals who will respond to staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when it is activated. The MAC Group typically meets at least once a quarter to discuss training, exercises and topics that effect all agencies such as emergency plans, radio communications, and up-coming ICS trainings and exercises.

The Ouray County MAC Group consists of policy makers such as chair of the County Commissioners, County Administrator, Sheriff, local police chiefs, fire chiefs, Public Health Agency Director, Health Care Coalition, Montrose Regional Health staff and more. Meetings of the MAC Group will be called by Emergency Management but can be requested by any agency administrator. In the event of an emergency or developing incident which has the potential to affect multiple jurisdictions/agencies the MAC Group should be notified via WENS or Email.

8.12.1 Roles and Responsibilities
- Assist with plan updates, plan writing, and plan editing;
• The MAC Group will work together to fill the ESF roles in the Emergency Operations Center;
• Support incident management policies and priorities;
• Facilitate logistics support and resource tracking;
• Make resource allocation decisions based on incident management priorities;
• Coordinate incident-related information;
• Coordinate interagency and intergovernmental issues regarding incident management policies, priorities, and strategies.

8.12.2 Situation Assessment
The Situation Assessment function includes the collecting, processing, and display of all information needed to make resource allocation decisions in support of emergency operations. This information helps to identify and determine operational needs for the development of the Incident.

Situation assessment may take the form of:
• Consolidating situation reports;
• Traffic conditions;
• Receipt of intelligence-related information;
• Damage assessments
• Incident maps and status boards;
• Weather report or forecasts;
• Resources assigned, available and out of service;
• Geospatial Information System data.

8.12.3 Incident Prioritization
The MAC System is to review the intelligence gathered from the situation assessment in order to assist the Incident Command in establishing incident priorities. When scarce resources are requested for assignment to multiple incidents, an approved methodology should be applied that includes the following variables:
• Situation Status: Current and projected situation, needs and prognosis;
• Resource Status: Available and committed resources;
• Considerations: Incident review factors;
• Scoring System: Incident rating scale;
• Priority List: A concept for listing incidents in priority order;

8.12.4 Scarce Resource Allocation
The third MAC System function involves implementing the incident priority list in order to allocate available scarce resources. A three-step process can be used to address this activity:

Step 1: Identify and List the Requested Scarce Resources
1.1 Consult with staff coordinating requests for assistance;
1.2 Gather and describe the requested resources that are considered scarce;
1.3 List the number of units or single resources being requested.

Step 2: Identify the Incidents / Jurisdictions Requesting Assistance
2.1 Identify the incidents / jurisdictions that are requesting assistance;
2.2 Include contact information for follow up coordination.

Step 3: Identify the Jurisdiction / Agencies with Available Resources
3.1 List the jurisdictions / agencies with resources that meet the requested need;
3.2 Each assisting jurisdiction / agency should list the number of committed and available resources within their authority;
3.3 Assign available resources based on the established priority list;
3.4 Document if unable to fill (UTF) the request and coordinate with the EOC to request assistance from other sources as appropriate.

8.12.5 Information Sharing
By virtue of the situation assessment, personnel in the EOC or MAC Group share information on incidents within their area of responsibility, as well as provide agency /jurisdictional contacts for media and other interested organizations. Incident information is coordinated and disseminated for both internal and external use. Internal dissemination may
include participating MAC Group agencies, EOCs, private industry and critical infrastructure partners, other federal, state, tribal, local, and volunteer agencies, elected and appointed officials and Public Information Officers (PIO). External dissemination includes sharing information with the news media through a Joint Information System (JIS) / Joint Information Center (JIC).

8.12.6 Coordination with Elected and Appointed Officials
Keeping elected and appointed officials at all levels of government informed is another function of the system. Maintaining the awareness and support of these officials and decision-makers, particularly those from jurisdictions within the affected area, is extremely important, as scarce resources may need to be moved to a higher priority incident.

Elected and appointed officials may participate in MAC System activities and should have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for successful emergency management and incident response. These officials can include administrative and political personnel, as well as department or agency administrators/executives who have leadership roles in a jurisdiction, and legislators and chief executives, whether elected (e.g., governors, mayors, sheriffs, and county executives) or appointed (e.g., county administrators and city managers).

Elected and appointed officials may also be called upon to help shape and revise laws, policies, and budgets to aid in preparedness efforts and to improve emergency management and incident response activities.

8.12.7 Coordination between MAC System Components
A critical part of the MAC System is outlining how each component (EMS level EOCs and MAC Groups) communicates and coordinates with each other. Gaps or disconnects can negatively impact scarce resource support to emergency operations in the field.

Personnel involved in multi-agency coordination supporting an incident may be responsible for incorporating lessons learned into their procedures, protocols, business practices, and communications strategies. These improvements may need to be coordinated with other appropriate emergency management and/or public safety organizations.

8.13 Consideration and Integration of Other Local EOPs within the Jurisdiction
Planners achieve unity of purpose through coordination and integration of plans across all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and individuals and families. This supports the fundamental principle that, in many situations, emergency management and homeland security operations start at the local level and expand to include Federal, state, territorial, tribal, regional, and private sector assets as the affected jurisdiction requires additional resources and capabilities. Plans must, therefore, integrate vertically to ensure a common operational focus. Similarly, horizontal integration ensures that individual department and agency EOPs fit into the jurisdiction’s plans, and that each department or agency understands, accepts, and is prepared to execute identified mission assignments. Incorporating vertical and horizontal integration into a shared planning community ensures that the sequence and scope of an operation are synchronized. (CPG 101.V2)

A shared planning community increases the likelihood of integration and synchronization, makes planning cycles more efficient and effective, and makes plan maintenance easier.

Within the boundaries of Ouray County, there are three jurisdictions with stand-alone EOPs. Ouray County’s EOP (this Plan) mainly covers the unincorporated areas of Ouray County. The City of Ouray EOP covers the City limits of the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway covers the Town limits of the Town of Ridgway. The following Response Agencies/EFSs are an exception; whether they are in the incorporated area or unincorporated areas, the County EOP has jurisdiction:

- ESF-4: Fire Districts
- ESF-5: Emergency Management
- ESF-8: Public Health, EMS, Coroner
- Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group
- Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC)

All three Jurisdictional Plans are written and maintained by Ouray County’s Office of Emergency Management/Emergency Manager with input from the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination team and Local Jurisdictions. The Ouray County EOP (this Plan) is written as above with input from all jurisdictions. The Plans for the municipalities mimic the Ouray County Plan for the most part with Roles and Responsibilities divided based on that jurisdictions staff. As long as all three jurisdictions have 3 separate plans it is crucial, to keep in mind that if there is a substantial update in one plan, the other two should be updated at the same time or very soon after. The reason for this, is if there is any event larger than a type 5, due to the extremely limited personnel and resources within Ouray County,
response agencies and ESFs from all three jurisdictions could be responding. It is vital that they are responding to a similar EOP.

9 INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION

9.1 Identified Critical Information Requirements

Obtaining situational awareness is one of the most critical tasks following an incident or catastrophic disaster. Information collection consists of the processes, procedures, and systems to communicate timely, accurate, and accessible information on the incident’s cause, size, and current situation to the public, responders, and additional stakeholders (both directly affected and indirectly affected). Information must be coordinated and integrated across jurisdictions and across organizations; among Federal, State, and local governments; and with the private sector and NGOs.

Additionally, education strategies and communications plans help to ensure that lifesaving measures, evacuation routes, threat and alert systems, and other public safety information are coordinated and communicated to numerous audiences in a timely, consistent manner. Like obtaining situational awareness, public information includes processes, procedures, and organizational structures required to gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate information. (Alameda County Emergency Operations Plan 2012)

9.2 Process for Information Collection and Reporting of Critical Information

All information acquired by Ouray County should be analyzed and confirmed prior to disseminating it further and prior to providing direction to staff or making other decisions based on the information. As part of the analysis, information should be dated, given a credibility rating, and compared to other information collected for the same or similar subject matter. When activated, the Ouray County EOC will serve as the central point for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information related to the incident and county needs. The flow of information sharing and intelligence reports should take place as follows:

Information will be collected from a variety of sources. Per ICS, the Planning Section at each operational location will be charged with collecting information. The following lists a few examples of potential sources of operational information:

- On-scene responders;
- ICS 214- Activity Logs;
- City, Town or County departments;
- Public agencies and non-governmental organization partners;
- Television, radio, and print media;
- Social media;
- Victims of the emergency or the general public;
- Subject matter experts.

9.2.1 Field Level Reporting

First responders in the field should report to their division/group lead who will report to the Incident Command Post. The Incident Command Post will relay information to the EOC or dispatch will relay requests to the EOC where they will be deconflicted to ensure we don’t have duplicate requests for resources and any conflicting intelligence reports.

9.2.2 County Emergency Operations Center Reporting

The Ouray County EOC will summarize and deconflict reports received from the field and Department Operation Centers. EOC staff will coordinate and collaborate with local, state and federal agencies as well as non-profits, NGOs and private sector businesses. Information collected during an incident will be de-conflicted and managed by the Situation Unit Leader who will prepare a daily situation report. The situation report will be proofed by the EOC Manager and Incident Command before being distributed to agency partners. Partners receiving the update will be determined by the EOC Manager/Emergency Manager but will typically include agencies in the MAC Group and those directly affected by the incident.

The County EOC will be responsible for entering updates in WebEOC and communicating with the DHSEM Regional Field Manager, DOLA and the State EOC.
9.2.3 State Emergency Operations Center Reporting
The State EOC will receive local reports and distribute as necessary to state agencies and officials such as DHSEM Director and the Governor’s Office. The State EOC will manage state response and EOC activations based upon needs and requests received from the county level.

9.3 Process for Analyzing and Filtering of Information to make it Actionable
Analytics can help in a variety of capacities for emergency response: Accurate data is incredibly important in assisting business leaders, first responders, healthcare professionals, and essential workers to perform their jobs. Furthermore, all data from emergency scenarios can be leveraged to help future planning and preparedness for upcoming disasters.

After information has been collected, it must be analyzed to determine its operational relevance. Emergency management personnel (or Planning Section personnel, if the EOC is activated) will analyze information that is received and prepare intelligence reports for leadership.

9.3.1 Media Monitoring and Rumor Control
During an emergency, the potential for dissemination of false or misleading information is high. This can lead to operational difficulties for responders and confusion among the public. Misleading information can be produced from several sources including television, radio, print, and especially, social media. Accordingly, the City will establish a media monitoring and rumor control element in its Joint Information Center (JIC) (if activated) or EOC.

Media monitoring will be conducted in close coordination with the County’s public information partners such as the Town of Ridgway, the City of Ouray or Regional Partners.

9.4 Process used for Information Sharing

9.4.1 Sharing Information Locally
Ouray County will utilize the following for sharing of information locally:
- Agency and Policy Group Liaisons;
- The Joint Information System;
- The Joint Information Center;
- The Ouray County EOC,
- Community / Town Hall Meetings,
- Press Conferences;
- Press Releases.

9.4.2 Sharing Information Regionally and Statewide

9.4.2.1 Slack
All emergency managers in the West All Hazards Region have access to the Slack System. Slack is a proprietary business communication platform. Slack offers many IRC-style features, including persistent chat rooms (channels) organized by topic, private groups, and direct messaging. Using Slack, Emergency Managers have the ability to instant message the other Emergency Managers in the region and DHSEM West Region Field Manager. It allows them to give instant update to the region with a single text-style message.

9.4.2.2 WebEOC
Official status updates regarding an incident and the daily situation report will be reported to Regional Boards, DHSEM, and the State EOC via WebEOC. Information sharing and significant events outside of the situation report will be reported via WebEOC according to policies and procedures dictated by DHSEM who owns and maintains the system. Agency representatives assigned to the EOC should work with the Emergency Manager and/or DHSEM Regional Field Manager to ensure their WebEOC Account is active and up to date.

9.4.2.3 ReadyOp
Regional Counties (except for Ouray at the time of this Plan update) utilizes the ReadyOp system to communicate instant notifications to internal staff and first responders throughout their Counties. ReadyOp is on an annual contract through the West Region All Hazards Planning Board which consists of Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale, San Miguel and Ouray Counties. As a regional system, the Emergency Manager can activate notifications at the request of a neighboring county or vice versa. ReadyOp allows Emergency Management, dispatch or an agency representative with a login, to send texts, emails, automated phone calls, alerts or a combination of text/email/automated call all at the same time to a wide array of individuals. The Dispatch console and gateway feature allows agencies, when set up through
Emergency Management, to communicate via 800 MHz or VHF radio channels via the secure ReadyOp app on their phone.

Until Ouray County starts using ReadyOp for these functions, Ouray County Emergency Manager can reach out to the Emergency Managers throughout the region and request information be pushed out on ReadyOp.

9.5 Process used for Dissemination to Policy Group ESFs and Public

Message dissemination is categorized into internal messaging and public messaging. Internal messaging refers to messages crafted for responders and partners, while public messaging refers to messages crafted for public dissemination.

9.5.1 Public Information Officer

Public Information Officers (PIOs) support their agency’s Director. In respect to emergency management, the lead PIO supports the EOC Director or the Incident Commander in the field as a member of their command staff. The PIO advises leadership on all public information matters relating to the management of the incident. The PIO handles inquiries from the media, the public, and elected officials; emergency public information and warnings; rumor monitoring and response; media monitoring; and other functions required to gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate accurate, accessible, and timely information related to the incident, particularly regarding information on public health, safety, and protection.

9.5.2 The Joint Information System (JIS)

The Joint Information System (JIS) is the broad mechanism that organizes, integrates, and coordinates information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging activities across multiple jurisdictions and/or disciplines with the private sector and NGOs. It includes the plans, protocols, procedures, and structures used to provide public information. Federal, State, tribal, territorial, regional, local, and private sector PIOs and established Joint Information Centers (JICs) at each level of SEMS are critical elements of the JIS.

9.5.3 Joint Information Center (JIC)

The JIC is a central location that facilitates operation of the JIS. It is a location where personnel with public information responsibilities from multiple agencies, departments, and other local governments perform critical emergency information functions, crisis communications, and public affairs functions. JICs may be established at various levels of government, at incident sites, or can be components of Federal, State, tribal, territorial, regional, or local multi-agency coordination (MAC) groups (e.g., MAC Groups or EOCs). For incidents requiring the activation of the EOC, Alameda County intends on establishing a JIC to coordinate messaging for the Operational Area. Depending on the requirements of the incident, JICs can be established at the Field level to support the incident commander. The activation of the JIC is coordinated by the County Administrator’s Office.

9.5.4 Internal Messaging

Public information representatives in the JIC (if activated) or EOC will assist in conveying information as necessary to the Policy Group. Additionally, the Planning Section will maintain and update an Incident Action Plan (IAP), which will contain critical information and intelligence updates for responders and partners.

Other methods of internal information dissemination include the County-wide emails and WENS messages.

9.5.5 Message Development and Approval

Messages intended to be disseminated to the public or to other agencies or organizations may be developed by subject matter experts working in support the County’s response efforts. These messages are reviewed by the PIOs at the JIC to correct inaccuracies and to maintain consistency in messaging. Approval of the messages is in most cases granted to the head of the agency that is claiming responsibility for the release of the message. If it is a message on behalf of Ouray County, the message must have direct approval by the County Administrator unless it is from the Office of an Elected Official.

9.5.6 Methods of Dissemination

Counties use various mechanisms to disseminate public information. Among them are:

- Local, Regional, Statewide, and National press release via contact lists;
- Press Conferences;
- Website Updates;
- Social Media;
- Radio;
• Emergency Alert System;
• Emergency Notification Systems;
• IPAWS

Additional methods are used for those with access and functional needs.

9.6 Process for Information Storage and Retention

9.6.1 Electronic Messaging

Electronic Messaging is a set of communication processes used to relay information among the users of computers. Electronic Mail (E-Mail) is one form of Electronic Messaging. Electronic Messaging messages, delivery information, and addresses. The computer programs that implement Electronic Messaging on desk top computers often include other functions such as calendar, notes, task assignments, appointments, telephone messages, possibly forms routing, and publication distribution. Most, if not all of the packaged functions are intended to facilitate the communication of information among people. The combination of messages and services is referred to as an Electronic Messaging System. Such systems allow for the creation, routing and delivery of pieces of electronic information. Electronic Messaging can take place among a few people located within an office or it can be expanded to occur internationally.

The retention of records stored in electronic records systems, including Electronic Messages, is governed by C.R.S. 24-80-101 to 24-80-115 (State Archives and Public Records Law). Electronic Messages are to be retained and deleted in accordance with these statutory procedures. As a practical matter, Electronic Messages should be removed from the Electronic Messaging system to be located with other documents having similar retention characteristics.

“Colorado State Archive” suggest Users of Electronic Messaging systems are responsible for the appropriate use of the systems. The following suggestions should assist users in determining appropriate use of the Electronic Messaging systems:
• The Electronic Messaging systems are intended for business purposes only. You should only use the Electronic Messaging systems to conduct official State of Colorado business.
• If you are preparing an Electronic Message which you do not want to be forwarded, clearly mark the message "Do Not Forward - For Your Eyes Only". If you wish to forward a message, it is always good etiquette to ask for the author’s permission.
• Do not use Electronic Messages for private or confidential matters. There is no guarantee of privacy or confidentiality. There are other avenues of communication available for matters requiring privacy and/or confidentiality.
• Although we are used to a mail system which is quite private, the privacy afforded employees using Electronic Messaging systems is minimal. Since the Electronic Messages could easily be public records, the only privacy a state employee can expect is that privacy afforded through disclosure exemption of the C.R.S.
• Recent court rulings have given employers broad rights to view the contents of employee Electronic Messaging mailboxes. The reason for viewing include but are not limited to the following; to monitor Electronic Messages for enforcement reasons or to access in an employee's absence.
• A good rule of thumb should be to never use an Electronic Messaging system to send a message that would be the source of embarrassment to either the sender, recipient or agency if the message were to be seen by others.
• Each department should develop and distribute a policy concerning Electronic Messaging. This can avoid misunderstandings and conflicts concerning Electronic Messaging issues.
• Password security at the terminal is very important. Leaving a terminal "signed on" or leaving the password available in an obvious place, gives any "passer-by" the opportunity to send an Electronic Message which appears to be authored by whoever left the terminal (password) unsecured.

9.6.2 Social Media

Social media content is one of the latest recordkeeping challenges. Social media refers to any number of platforms where an account holder can post written messages, images, audio, video or multimedia files with the intention of sharing that information with others.

Examples include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Flickr, Google+, and others. Much of the challenge has to do with the shared control of the information being posted to the social media platform. The progression to social media is different than traditional record retention it is almost always controlled by a non-contracted third party entity. These entities are not subject to regulations that cover government agencies and, therefore, offer no guarantees that the municipality will be able to retain control of or capture all content posted. (Colorado State Archives).

There is no definitive answer as to if posts are considered public record. It depends on how social media is utilized by the County. Generally, if the posts contain substantive communication or unique/original announcements, notices, or
communication about particular issues or initiatives, the posts should be considered records. If the posts are duplicates of documentation already retained by the County, the posts are likely not records that need to be captured and retained.

The retention period is based on the content of the posts and not the format. Some posts may be considered a news release, meeting notice, or other informational notifications. These are subject to the same retention requirements as a paper or electronic version.

If a Government or Jurisdiction interacts (through comments) with the public via social media then, it is a record and should follow the proper retention periods. Some social media applications will allow users to disable public comments. Using these features can help with volume and retention issues.

9.6.3 Paper and Electronic Preservation

There is no foolproof, single step for permanent preservation of electronic records. In addition, electronic storage media is inherently unstable, and computer hardware and software become obsolete quickly due to technological obsolescence.

For paper records, preservation means placing the document into a managed filing system from which it can be retrieved for the duration of the retention period. For electronic records, this means transferring an electronic document from an operational environment into a managed recordkeeping system and renewing, copying to new media or transferring to new systems as needed to ensure accessibility and readability in the appropriate context for the entire retention period.

Long-term preservation of archival information in digital format may not be practical because of the rapid obsolescence of computer hardware and software. Preservation of records with long retention periods solely in digital format should be considered only if:

- The value of the data and the benefits of digital preservation are clear and substantial.
- Preservation in a fixed form such as paper or microfilm is not an option because a digital format is needed to support significant business requirements.
- Conversion of the data to static form will diminish its value or make it unusable.
- The information is born digital.

9.6.4 Storage Media

The following is recommendations from the "Colorado State Archives Records Management Services":

“If the retention period is longer than 10 years, consider the long-term cost and requirements for maintaining the record in electronic format for the entire retention period compared with the cost to keep it in paper or microfilm form.

With reasonable care, good quality paper can last for more than 100 years. Absent a disaster, paper deteriorates slowly, leaving time to take action before information is lost. Storage in paper form may sometimes be the cheapest storage solution and may make sense for low reference records that have retention periods longer than 10 years.

Microfilm that meets industry standards and has reasonable care can also last more than 100 years. There are warning signs of deterioration and time to recopy before images are lost. Microfilm is eye readable and widely accepted for archival storage of records. It may make sense for preservation and disaster recovery for low reference records that have retention periods longer than 10 years.

Without migration, computer-based records can be expected to last as little as five years (the average service life of hardware and software required to read and process electronic records) and no more than 20 years. There are no warning signs of impending failure. Digitization of records makes the most sense for records that are needed frequently, those that are shared by simultaneous users or those requiring ease of access. An electronic format may not be appropriate for the entire retention period and for long-term archival storage unless a paper or microfilm version is also retained for the entire retention period.

Regardless of the storage media used, verify the accessibility and readability of the content every 5 to 10 years to ensure that the data has not been compromised.

Records Destruction, whether you retain records in paper, microfilm or electronic form, you must have the ability to dispose of records at the end of the records retention period. You must also have the ability to place a hold on records destruction in the event of a legal proceeding regardless of the records storage format.

To ensure the integrity of electronic records, collect and maintain indexing information and the following types of metadata (information about the records):
10 COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 Internal Communications/Notifications
Ouray County utilizes the Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS); Cellular Phones, and Email to communicate instant notifications to internal staff and first responders throughout Ouray County. WENS is on an annual contract through Ouray County. WENS can be utilized to quickly notify staff of an emergency/disaster and what steps to take. EOC activation levels with staff for each ESF are being built into WENS for easy notification.

WENS allows Emergency Management, dispatch or an agency representative with a login, to send texts and email alerts or a combination of the two wide array of individuals.

10.2 Communications to the State EOC/DHSEM
Like with information sharing, communications with the state could utilize WebEOC. Official status updates regarding an incident and the daily situation report will be reported to DHSEM and the State EOC via WebEOC. Information sharing and significant events outside of the situation report will be reported via WebEOC according to policies and procedures dictated by DHSEM who owns and maintains the system. Agency reps and county department heads assigned to an ESF/role in the EOC should develop a working knowledge of the system. WebEOC is a system used across Colorado and provides situational awareness in the incident management system, tracks IMT staff, equipment, incident costs and incident resource requests to ensure a common operating picture amongst local, county and state agencies.

Intelligence information related to a potential or active terrorist threat or major criminal activity that may occur or is occurring should be reported by law enforcement executives through the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) and to appropriate state and federal law enforcement agencies.

10.2.1 Primary, Alternate, Contingent and Emergent (PACE) with the State EOC
During a disaster or major emergency, communications, power and other infrastructure may be offline or destroyed which will slow down, or prevent external communication from the Ouray County EOC to the State EOC in Centennial. The following are the preferred methods of communication between the County EOC and the State EOC.

- **Primary**: Telephone – State EOC landline or DHSEM Staff member at State EOC;
- **Alternate**: WebEOC Message and/or Email;
- **Contingent**: Email to DHSEM Staff member;
- **Contingent**: Slack Chat to Regional Field Manager/Text Message with Field Manager;
- **Contingent**: State DTR Radio via State OEM Talk groups
- **Emergent**: High Frequency (HF) Amateur Radio operated by AuxCom/ARES

10.3 External Communications

10.3.1 Media
Public Information activities for the County EOC will be coordinated by ESF-15, External Affairs and the County PIO or the JIC if activated. ESF-15 will de-conflict information from multiple agencies, ensure a consistent and appropriate statement is coordinated and timely, accurate releases are shared with the public and media outlets.

Whenever possible, it is encouraged that the JIC be activated and coordination on public releases in a large or developing incident take place via the Joint Information System (JIS) in Ouray County with multiple Public Information Officers assisting to minimize the workload on a single PIO.
The PIO/JIC will utilize email distribution lists, phone calls and social media as ways to distribute official releases to the media. The PIO/JIC will be responsible for arranging interviews with agency heads, incident management and other incident response partners and volunteers.

10.3.2 Routine Information for Public

During routine, daily operations of emergency management, the Sheriff’s Office and county departments, information will be shared with the public via several sources. County departments have the ability to have information releases posted to the County website, to departmental Facebook/Instagram pages, through press releases to local media and articles or paid advertisements in the local newspapers (Ouray County Plaindealer, The Watch, Montrose Daily Press and Durango Herald).

Information for the public during routine and emergency information will be shared on the following websites and social media pages:

- Ouray County website—Ouraycountyco.gov
- Ouray County Facebook—Facebook.com/ouraycountygov
- Ouray County Emergency Management Facebook--facebook.com/OurayCountyEM
- Ouray County Sheriff’s Office Facebook—Facebook.com/ouraycountysheriff
- Ouray County Public Health Agency Facebook—Facebook.com/OurayCountyPublicHealthAgency
- Ouray County Road and Bridge Facebook—Facebook.com/OurayCountyRoadandBridge

Ouray County will also request the Municipalities share information on their websites and Facebook pages:

- City of Ouray:
  - Website—CityofOuray.com
  - Facebook—Facebook.com/CityOfOuray
- Town of Ridgway:
  - Website—townofridgway.colorado.gov/
  - Facebook—Facebook.com/TownOfRidgway

10.3.3 Emergency Alerts for Public

10.3.3.1 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

The IPAWS program was established in 2006 by Presidential Executive Order 13407. According to FEMA, there are now over 1,500 federal, state, local, tribal and territorial alerting authorities that can use the IPAWS console to send public alerts and warnings in their jurisdictions.

The Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is FEMA’s national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System, and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Weather Radio.

State, local, territorial, and tribal alerting systems such as emergency telephone networks, giant voice sirens, and digital road signs may also receive alerts from IPAWS-OPEN, and future alerting technologies and systems can easily be integrated into IPAWS.

Use of the IPAWS system by local jurisdictions is limited to life-threatening emergencies and only Emergency Management has access to the IPAWS console to launch alerts due to strict training and message composition requirements. The West Region Emergency Managers all have access to the console and can launch an IPAWS alert for a neighboring jurisdiction.

10.3.3.2 Emergency Alert System

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires radio and TV broadcasters, cable TV, wireless cable systems, satellite and wireline operators to provide the President with capability to address the American people within 10 minutes during a national emergency.

Broadcast, cable, and satellite operators are the stewards of this important public service in close partnership with state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities.

FEMA, in partnership with the Federal Communications Commission and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is responsible for implementing, maintaining and operating the EAS at the federal level.

EAS Details:

- Messages can interrupt radio and television to broadcast emergency alert information;
• Messages cover a large geographic footprint. Emergency message audio/text may be repeated twice, but EAS activation interrupts programming only once, then regular programming continues;
• Messages can support full message text for screen crawl/display, audio attachments in mp3 format, and additional languages;
• It is important for authorities who send EAS messages to have a relationship with their broadcasters to understand what will be aired via radio, TV and cable based on their policies. Policies vary from station to station.

10.3.3.3 Wireless Emergency Alerts
Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are short emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial public alerting authorities that can be broadcast from cell towers to any WEA-enabled mobile device in a locally targeted area. Wireless providers primarily use cell broadcast technology for WEA message delivery. WEA is a partnership among FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and wireless providers to enhance public safety.

WEAs can be sent to your mobile device when you may be in harm’s way, without the need to download an app or subscribe to a service. WEAs are messages that warn the public of an impending natural or human-made disaster. The messages are short and can provide immediate, life-saving information.

Types of WEAs:
• **Presidential Alerts** are a special class of alerts only sent during a national emergency.
• **Imminent Threat Alerts** include natural or human-made disasters, extreme weather, active shooters, and other threatening emergencies that are current or emerging.
• **Public Safety Alerts** contain information about a threat that may not be imminent or after an imminent threat has occurred. Public safety alerts are less severe than imminent threat alerts.
• **America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alerts** are urgent bulletins issued in child-abduction cases. Rapid and effective public alerts often play a crucial role in returning a missing child safely. An AMBER Alert instantly enables the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child.
• **Opt-in Test Messages** assess the capability of state and local officials to send their WEAs. The message will state that this is a TEST.

FEMA Tips for EEAs:
• Follow the action advised by the alert. The message will show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. The message will be no more than 360 characters. You can get more details from your local authorities, local news or trusted social media sources;
• WEAs have a unique tone and vibration, both repeated twice. WEA messages are free and will not count towards texting limits on your wireless plan;
• Wireless providers are selling devices with WEA capability included. To find out if your phone can receive WEA alerts, contact your wireless provider. All the major providers participate in WEA on a voluntary basis;
• If you are on a phone call when a WEA is sent in your area, the message will be delayed until you finish your call;
• WEAs do not track your location. They are broadcast from area cell towers to mobile phones within the defined geographic location. Every WEA-capable phone within range receives the message;
• WEAs are not affected by network congestion.

10.3.3.4 NOAA Weather Radio
NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 1000 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S.
Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz): 162.400 MHz; 162.425 MHz; 162.450 MHz; 162.475 MHz; 162.500 MHz; 162.525 MHz; and 162.550 MHz.

10.3.3.5 Local Emergency Notification System (ENS)
The West Region Counties of Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, Hinsdale and San Miguel Counties have subscribed as a region to an Emergency Notification System (ENS) provider to send telephone, text message and email based emergency notifications for local emergencies.

The West Region has contracted with CodeRED to provide emergency notifications in the West Region through 2022 at which time regional Emergency Managers and Emergency Telephone Authorities will evaluate if the region wants to remain with CodeRED or switch to another vendor.

Emergency Notifications can be launched by Emergency Management 24/7 when a public threat, life safety or other emergency is occurring in Ouray County and critical, timely information needs to be communicated to residents within a defined area of the County or the entire County. In addition, other Emergency Managers from the region, at the request of Emergency Management or Ouray County Sheriff, can also launch a message on behalf of Ouray County.

Emergency Notifications are ONLY sent at the request of Incident Command, County Sheriff, County Undersheriff, Public Health Director, or local/county/state government official and can be sent to any area in Ouray County including residents in and outside of city/town limits.

Emergency alerts are sent by Ouray County to the public for:
- Missing/endangered children or adults;
- Law enforcement activity such as shots fired, barricaded suspects, an armed suspect fleeing from law enforcement, dangerous individuals, etc.;
- Gas leaks;
- Major water main breaks or domestic water boil orders;
- Emergency road closures;
- Wildfire evacuations and pre-evacuation notices;
- Flooding or potential for flooding;
- Public Health Orders affecting a large group of residents (Stay at home orders)
- Other emergency situations which may affect life safety or personal property.

The local ENS System sends alerts to all landline telephones in Ouray County but residents, business owners and visitors with cell phones and VOIP phones must register their devices and addresses with CodeRED to receive alerts. Registration for alerts is free and available online at Ouraycountyco.gov by clicking on the Register for Emergency Alerts icon on the homepage. Residents without access to the internet or who require assistance in registering, can contact Emergency Management or the Sheriff’s Office front desk in person or via telephone for assistance during normal business hours.

10.3.4 Alert and Public Notification Agreements
Ouray County Emergency Telephone Service Authority (OETSA) AKA 911 Board, signed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Montrose County and the Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA) on February 4, 2014 for the purchase and use of CodeRED as a regional ENS System and access to the IPAWS Open Console. This IGA has been renewed annually since 2014 as the West Region Board of Emergency Managers has voted to remain with OnSolve/CodeRED as the Emergency Notification Provider for the West Region through at least 2022. In 2022, the West Region, All Hazards Planning & Response Board and local Telephone Service Authorities will vote to remain with OnSolve or pursue a new company.

Ouray County through Montrose METSA is a partner in the CO West Region Interoperable System and the IPAWS Open Platform for Emergency Networks. The latest MOU with FEMA for IPAWS access was renewed March 10, 2020. The primary point of contact is the Montrose County Sheriff’s Office and Emergency Management and Delta County Emergency Management is the alternate point of contact.

10.3.5 Communication Support
WestCO dispatch, which is located in Montrose Colorado, handles all 911 emergency calls and non-emergent calls for service related to law enforcement, EMS, fire and other public safety agencies including calls for agencies in neighboring counties and routine messages or non-emergent requests for state agencies. The dispatch center is staffed 24/7/365 by
dispatchers who handle phone calls and radio traffic for first responders as well as dispatch call logs through computer aided dispatch. In the event of a communication outage, dispatch has the ability to shift staff and calls to other locations to maintain continuity of operations and 911 service.

In the event fiber optic or 911 lines are cut and isolate one or more communities, dispatch has a protocol in place to send dispatchers to pre-determined locations or have 911 and non-emergent calls routed to certain phones. In the event of disruption of services at the dispatch center or a massive 911 outage; 911 services can be rerouted to a neighboring dispatch center for coverage. Neighboring dispatch centers affected by an outage or cut can also have lines rerouted to Montrose County for emergency dispatching.

- Neighboring Dispatch Centers/Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP):
  - Colorado State Patrol – Montrose, CO
  - Delta Dispatch – Delta, CO
  - Gunnison Dispatch – Gunnison, CO
  - Grand Junction Regional Dispatch Center – Grand Junction, CO
  - San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office – Telluride, CO
  - Colorado State Patrol - Craig, CO

10.4 Regional Communications Network and Interoperability

Ouray County Law enforcement agencies, Montrose Fire Protection District, Coroner, and Emergency Management primarily communicate with dispatch via the State of Colorado Digital Trunked Radio System (DTR) which operates in the 800 MHz frequency range. EMS and Ouray Volunteer Fire Department, Ridgway Fire District, and Log Hill Fire District utilize VHF as their primary radio communications. However, the fire departments are slowly working towards switching to the 800 Mhz. VHF is utilized in remote areas of the county with poor DTRS signals and for ground to air communications with helicopters. In the event of a DTRS radio network outage, units are instructed to revert and utilize the VHF radio. Not all vehicles or departments have functioning VHF narrow band public safety radios though.

10.4.1 Interoperability

The State DTRS system allows for a network of talk groups across the regions of Colorado. These talk groups are specifically programmed for the region and include local agency level channels, county Mutual Aid Channels (MAC Channels) as well as regional tactical and regional MAC Channels. This structure has a strict programming guidance and design maintained by the Colorado Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) out of Denver and programming and access to channels is limited to trained programmers and is public safety sensitive. The network of channels, MAC Group and programming across provide interoperability across counties, regions and agencies.

The West All Hazards Planning & Response Board completed a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TIC) in 2010. This plan outlines the regional communication strategy for the West Region as it relates to public safety radio communications and interoperability. This plan outlines channel priorities and uses and is considered to be Public Safety Sensitive and is not available for public release.

11 ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Authorities and Policies for Reassignment of Employees Duties

As members of the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), all County employees are designated as disaster service workers during a declared emergency or disaster and may be required to perform certain emergency services at the direction of their supervisor.

Pursuant to Ouray County Resolution #2021-048 “This plan is based on the concept that emergency functions for various groups involved in Ouray County government will generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources will be employed in both non-emergency and emergency circumstances. In an emergency circumstance, it is desirable, and always attempted, to maintain organizational continuity and to assign familiar tasks to personnel. However, in large scale disasters, it may be necessary to draw on people’s basic capacities and use them in areas of greatest need. Day-to-day functions that do not contribute directly to the emergency operation may be suspended for the duration of any emergency. Personnel and resources that would normally be required of those functions may be redirected to accomplish the emergency task. In keeping with the current strategy of integrated emergency management, this resolution accounts for activities before, during, and after emergency operations, and each department has emergency functions in addition to, or as a substitution to, its normal duties. Upon declaration of an emergency or disaster, the Board of County Commissioners, other elected officials, the County Administrator,
department heads, and other county employees shall assume the roles and responsibilities assigned to them by the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan in support of response and recovery operations.”

As listed in the Roles and Responsibilities it is the role of the Board of County Commissioners to “formulate directives to County departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed.” It is the role of County Administration to insure the “issuance of directives to County departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed.” And it is the role of the Human Resources Director to “assist the County Administrator in communicating changes in work hours, restrictions, or policies to County Employees during a disaster or emergency.”

Request for employees’ reassignment can come from the Incident Commander, Emergency Operations Center Manager, Board of County Commissioners, County Sheriff, and/or County Administrator. Adoption of this Plan will create the following new procedure for requesting assistance from County employees, temporary hires, or volunteers during an Emergency:

- Formal request for reassignment of employees, temporary hiring of employees or requests to utilize volunteers shall be submitted to the EOC via a Resource Request form (213RR). ESF-7A Logistics Support will then submit the request to Operations, ESF-7B Finance Support, Incident Command, County Administrator and the BOCC Chair for approval. Once approved, the request will be given to the County Administrator and Human Resource Director for fulfillment.

Upon a request for assistance from county employees, temporary hires, or use of volunteers during an emergency / disaster response has been made, every effort should be made to ensure adequate assistance for the emergency while maintaining continuity of essential functions within the County departments/Offices. Essential functions are only those organizational functions and activities that must be continued under any and all circumstances as prescribed by the Colorado Constitution. Day-to-Day operations that are not identified as essential, may be placed as a lower priority than the emergency response and some functions may be able to be suspended or prioritized on a temporary basis as needed in an emergency situation and/or recovery.

11.2 Responder Personnel Compensation

County Employees will be paid their normal wage or salary during an emergency or disaster. Pursuant to “Section 2-10 Over-time” of the Ouray County Personnel Manual:

- Employees will not be compensated for hours worked beyond thirty-six (36) hours a week for full-time employees, or as directed by the department supervisor for part-time and contract employees, without prior approval of the department supervisor. The department supervisor may approve compensatory time to be taken, or may approve payment at the normal hourly equivalent rate for time in excess of thirty-six (36) hours, but less than forty (40) hours, depending on budgetary constraints. Over-time pay is only paid for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours a week, as provided by state and federal law and regulations. Over-time pay will be limited to hours approved in advance by a department supervisor and the County Administrator.

Pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2015-033:

“Overtime pay will be provided to both exempt and Non-exempt personnel requested to respond to a declared emergency in accordance with the Emergency Preparedness (Operations) Plan.”

Assisting agencies shall retain administrative responsibility of mobilized resources, to include staffing. This includes paying staffing and billing the County for agreed upon reimbursement through MOUs or agreement before deployment.

11.2 Emergency / Disaster Workers’ Compensation Policies

Workers’ compensation is a government-mandated system that pays monetary benefits to workers who become injured or disabled in the course of their employment. Workers’ compensation is a type of insurance that offers employees compensation for injuries or disabilities sustained as a result of their employment. County employees are covered under the County’s Worker’s Compensation Policy pursuant to the Ouray County Personnel Policy “Section 7-7 Leave involving Workers’ Compensation.” Volunteers during an emergency or disaster will be required to sign a waiver to waive the rights of Workers’ Compensation. Assisting agencies shall retain administrative responsibility of mobilized resources, to include Workers’ Compensation. In turn, when a county employee is deployed to assist other jurisdictions, the County will be responsible for that employee’s Workers’ Compensation Coverage.
11.3 Emergency / Disaster Insurance Policies
Assisting agencies shall retain administrative responsibility of mobilized resources, to include liability insurance. Ouray County agencies will follow local and state guidelines for insurance on all County-owned response vehicles and equipment.

11.4 Emergency / Disaster Time Keeping Policies
11.4.1 Personnel
At the time of the emergency County employees and responders should be tracking their time. Ouray County has developed timesheets specifically for emergency and all county departments and offices should have access to them. Time worked/deployed should be tracked by paid personnel and volunteers. Time should be tracked as close to the exact time as possible. Tracking of personnel time, work/rest, and equipment costs shall be the responsibility of the Requesting Party. The Responding Party will be responsible for invoicing the Requesting Party after demobilization as per any financial agreement by both parties.

11.4.2 Equipment
At the time of the emergency, agencies should be tracking the use of their equipment. Ouray County has developed timesheets specifically for tracking emergency equipment usage. Time and mileage should be tracked as close to the exact time or mileage as possible. The jurisdiction having authority is responsible for tracking all resources assigned to the incident and their costs. In the absence of a State of Colorado Disaster Declaration, the reimbursement relationship is between the ordering jurisdiction and the sending agencies/organizations.

11.5 Emergency / Disaster Records Retention Policy
11.5.1 Sheriff’s Office
The Sheriff’s Office Records Retention Schedule falls under the Authority of C.R.S. 24-80-103. The policy states that that all public officers of political subdivisions consult with the department of personnel (i.e. Colorado State Archives) concerning the retention and disposition of records. In order to expedite this process, the Colorado State Archives has developed the Colorado Sheriffs’ Record Retention Schedule. The schedule has been approved by the State Archivist of Colorado, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the State Auditor. The policy can be found online on the county.

Retention periods are based on legal requirements and/or on common usage and industry standards to meet typical administrative, operational or reference requirements. The retention time period indicates the minimum length of time that the record copy should be retained before disposal can take place. Typically, some kind of approval process is in place to authorize the destruction of records in accordance with the Records Retention Schedule.

Evaluate records for continuing legal, fiscal, administrative or historical value and determine whether they are the subject of any legal holds before proceeding with the authorized destruction. It is permissible to either destroy obsolete records at the end of the retention period or to wait until the end of the year in which they become eligible for destruction. The Sheriff may dispose of duplicates in accordance with the following guidelines:

11.5.2 Treasurer’s Office
Ouray County Treasurer’s has been approved to follow the Colorado County Treasurer Records Retention Schedule from the Colorado State Archivist. The Colorado County Treasurer Records Retention Schedule is intended to provide a comprehensive records retention schedule for most records that are typically kept by any County Treasurer. Generally these are records documenting and ensuring accountability for the receipt and expenditure of public funds. The schedule may list records that an individual County Treasurer does not currently have but that it may have in the future.

Retention periods are based on legal requirements and/or on common usage and industry standards to meet typical administrative, operational or reference requirements. The retention time period indicates the minimum length of time that the record copy should be retained before disposal can take place. Typically, some kind of approval process is in place to authorize the destruction of records in accordance with the Records Retention Schedule.

Evaluate records for continuing legal, fiscal, administrative or historical value and determine whether they are the subject of any legal holds before proceeding with the authorized destruction. It is permissible to either destroy obsolete records at the end of the retention period or to wait until the end of the year in which they become eligible for destruction. The County Treasurer may dispose of duplicates in accordance with the following guidelines:

- **Duplicate copies created for administrative purposes:** Retain for 1 year and then destroy.
• **Duplicate copies created for convenience or reference:** Retain until no longer needed for reference or 1 year, whichever is first, and then destroy.

• **Duplicate copies should not be retained longer than the record copy:** §6-17-104, C.R.S., provides a default retention period of three years for records that State law requires to be retained when no retention period is otherwise specified.

For more information go to [https://archives.colorado.gov/records-management/county-records-management](https://archives.colorado.gov/records-management/county-records-management)

### 11.5.3 Public Trustee

Ouray County Public Trustee has been approved to follow the Colorado Public Trustee Records Retention Schedule. The Colorado Public Trustee Records Retention Schedule is intended to provide a comprehensive records Retention schedule for most records that are typically kept by any Public Trustee. Generally these are records documenting and ensuring accountability for the receipt and expenditure of public funds. The schedule may list records that an individual Public Trustee does not currently have but that it may have in the future.

Retention periods are based on the same legal requirements as listed above in the Treasurer’s Section.

For more information go to [https://archives.colorado.gov/records-management/county-records-management](https://archives.colorado.gov/records-management/county-records-management).

### 11.5.4 Other County Departments

The Treasurer and Public Trustee are the two county Offices listed as approved Colorado Public Trustee Records Retention Schedule. All other County Departments and Offices will follow state and federal laws as they pertain to all public records retention as it pertains to information and communications related to disasters and/or emergency preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and/or recovery.

### 11.6 Emergency / Disaster Policy for Volunteers

Volunteer Management during a disaster/emergency is critical to the management of community members who want to volunteer their time to help their community. Recent events in Ouray County such as the 2014 Plane Crash and the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic have shown that the Ouray County Community will come together in times of crisis and step forward to help each other.

Depending on the magnitude and scope of a disaster, the need for volunteers and volunteer management will vary so this plan will not attempt to guide all aspects of volunteer management. Volunteers will be required to sign a waiver of liability for general liability. To assist the EOC, County Administration and emergency responders in response to the disaster and serve the needs of the community; Ouray County will identify one to two individuals to serve as volunteer coordinators during times of disaster and emergency. These individuals can be county employees, community members, business owners, non-profit managers or part of large non-governmental organizations such as the American Red Cross or the Telluride Foundation.

In general, the Volunteer Coordinator(s) should be someone who:

- Is familiar with Ouray County and the civic organizations that make up the communities of the County;
- Is familiar with first responders and the County and has a good working relationship with County staff and first responders and the public;
- Is able to commit to long shifts in the EOC and serve as a direct liaison to the Planning Section, Ops Section Chief, EOC Manager and Policy Group;
- Is organized and computer savvy—organization is required to manage lists of volunteers, sign up new ones, track paperwork, hours, mileage and duties. Organization requires entering data into computers, drafting updates for the situation report, accessing Salamander for IDs and lots of emails and phone calls;
- Has no criminal background and can pass a background check and is trustworthy and understand that there is sensitive, confidential planning and operational information discussed in the EOC which cannot be shared at times.

The Volunteer Coordinator(s) will serve under the Ops Section Chief and will actively recruit volunteers, manage spontaneous volunteers, assist volunteers in completing paperwork and acquiring the necessary personal protective equipment, signing insurance forms/waivers and taking care of volunteer needs. This may include getting food and drink or lodging for volunteers, transportation to and from areas and making requests to the Logistics Section for needs.
Effective disaster financial management requires strong project and portfolio management skills. The County should define and execute the steps necessary to meet its recovery vision and goals, while balancing competing demands of scope, time, cost, quality, resources and risks.

From a disaster financial management perspective, project management entails accurately managing the complex disaster budget to ensure all bills are paid; releasing funding according to schedule; tracking and reporting expenditures to inform the project sponsor on the use of finances; performing financial analysis; and maintaining accurate financial records and documents in preparation for audits. Figure 12 relates the Project Management Institute’s five project management process groups—Initiate, Plan, Execute, Monitor and Control and Close—to disaster financial management.

During an emergency or disaster response, emergency purchases of equipment, requesting of resources/personnel and other supplies is needed at a rapid pace and can get expensive. The lead for administering financial policies and procedures is the Ouray County Finance Officer / County Administrator, The County’s financial role and related responsibilities encompass four primary functional activities during an emergency:

- **Financial Policy:** Provide policy guidance and establish procedures to authorize the commitment and payment of funds or to facilitate the receipt of monetary donations. Provide recommendations and guidance to and receive direction from the Policy Group on County-wide financial matters.
- **Employee Compensation:** Account for personnel time during the emergency response and recovery efforts and ensure that employees continue to receive pay, health insurance, and retirement benefits.
- **Accounts Payable:** Track and process payments of vendor purchase orders, contracts, claims, and other payments during the emergency.
- **Cost Recovery:** Ensure that an accurate accounting of the cost of responding to the emergency (including both response and recovery) is maintained. This includes accounting for personnel time, the cost of services provided, and for acquiring and maintaining response facilities, materials, and equipment. This also includes the documentation of damage or injury claims for all departments and managing the issuance of disaster reimbursement claims submitted to the State and Federal government.

Large purchases and resource orders should be carefully considered and discussed with the Incident Commander/Unified Command and Administration before purchase. From the start of an incident, all departments, staff and agencies should remember DOCUMENTATION must be a priority to ensure accurate costs of the incident response are tracked and the County and Municipalities remain eligible for FEMA Public Assistance and other State/Federal assistance. This requires every department keep detailed records on expenses, employee hours worked, mileage driven in personal and/or county vehicles, job tasks and other requirements as specified by FEMA.

### 12.1 Authorities for Disaster Spending, Procurement and Contracting

- The “Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for: Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants” was adopted on March 27, 2006 pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2006-023 and amended on March 21, 2017 pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2017-007.
- Ouray County Resolution 2015-053 established an Emergency Management Fund and has created a new line-item entitled MJ Excise Tax within the fund to deposit monies to be allocated for Declared Disaster Response and Pre-disaster Mitigation efforts from the MJ Excise Tax Fund. The BOCC may appropriate funds on an annual basis to the Emergency Management Fund into the MJ Excise Tax line-item to achieve a fund balance accumulation over time in an amount adequate to cover several days of a complex, declared emergency or-
disaster; and pre-disaster mitigation efforts. The intent for this fund is “most especially to accumulate funding to be used for this purpose as recommended in the Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan and in other Emergency Operations Plans for Ouray County and is not intended to be used for operations or regular staff salaries.

- Ouray County Resolution 2020-030 grants authorization to the Ouray County Sheriff to procure resources not to exceed $25,000.00 annually during an emergency. The Sheriff shall notify the Ouray County Administrator at the earliest opportunity of the emergency acquisition and the costs associated with such acquisition, and shall provide documentation supporting the purchase as soon as possible thereafter and in any event within 24 to 48 hours. The County Administrator shall advise the Board as soon as possible after notification by the Sheriff of the emergency acquisition and shall determine whether such emergency acquisition shall be placed on the next available Board agenda for advisement purposes and ratification when necessary. This resolution shall be revisited annually to determine its effectiveness and may be readopted annually to serve the best interest of the County.

- The “Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for: Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants” allows for Emergency /Disaster Event Procurements:

  “In the presence of a declared Emergency / Disaster Event, procurements may be made by the Board of County Commissioners or its designee whom may approve an emergency purchase up to but not exceeding $150,000. This type of procurement is exempt from the Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards and Grants; and therefore does not require obtaining of an informal bid, formal bid, or Request for Proposal (RFP). However, documentation and procedures required by state and/or federal agencies for reimbursement should be followed to the extent possible.

  Emergency / Disaster Event Procurements Definition: Emergency / Disaster Event Procurements may be made when there is "Declared Disaster" by the Board of County Commissioners caused by an eminent or immediate threat to public health, welfare or safety caused by a sudden, urgent, usually unexpected incident, natural disaster, or occurrence that requires an immediate reaction and assistance.”

### 12.2 Emergency Procurement and Spending

With the exception of the Ouray County Sheriff to procure resources not to exceed $25,000.00 annually during an emergency and the Emergency /Disaster Event Procurement not to exceed $150,000.00, all purchases, emergency or non-emergency must follow the “Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for: Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants.” However, exceptions to the policy can be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Board of County Commissioners. The following Table 12.2 is the Price Matrix for Purchasing and Contracting: This policy is intended to provide procedures and guidelines necessary for the conduct of purchasing and contracting activities for Ouray County. This policy has been designed to:

- Comply with the State of Colorado, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended,
- Encourage maximum competition on a basis of fair and equal opportunity to those qualified and interested bidders,
- Provide a uniform procedure for the procurement of material, equipment, supplies and services,
- Ensure that the County is getting the "best overall value" for taxpayer dollars, and some of the factors considered when determining the "best overall value" are:
  - Price
  - Warranty
  - Service
  - Availability
  - Past Performance
  - References
- Apply to all County Departments including elected officials and their designee(s) as indicated on the Authorized Signatures list.
Table 12.2: Ouray County Price Matrix for Purchasing and Contracting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Who has the authority to make this purchase?</th>
<th>What Purchase method may be used?</th>
<th>Who has the Authority to review and/or approve this level of expenditure?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $500</td>
<td>*Elected Official</td>
<td>Competitive Pricing from multiple sources is encouraged</td>
<td>Elected Official Department Head County Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500 - $4,999.99</td>
<td>*Elected Official</td>
<td>Purchase or service must be supported by informal verbal bids. Telephone quotations are acceptable, as are faxed, mailed, and electronic quotations</td>
<td>Financial Officer/County Administrator will review for departmental budgetary availability and to ensure quotes are attached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000 - $24,999.99</td>
<td>*Elected Official</td>
<td>Purchase or service must be supported by informal written bids. Faxed, mailed, and electronic quotations are acceptable</td>
<td>Financial Officer/County Administrator will review for departmental budgetary availability and to ensure quotes are attached. Final approval by the County Administrator is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 and over</td>
<td>*Elected Official</td>
<td>Formal sealed bids are required. The bid must be advertised in the legal paper of record at least 14 days prior to the dates set for opening. Bids are opened under dual control.</td>
<td>Board of County Commissioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request for Quotation</td>
<td>*Elected Official</td>
<td>Formal sealed bids are required. The bid must be advertised in the legal paper of record at least 14 days prior to the dates set for opening.</td>
<td>Board of County Commissioners Service Contracts, leases and lease purchases must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Or designated representative as indicated on the Authorized Signatures list.

12.3 Process for Emergency Contracting

Per the amendment to the Policy and Procedures Manual for: Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants pursuant to Ouray County Resolution 2017-17, “The Finance Office / County Administrator (FOCA) shall have the authority to undertake procurement, solicit bids and proposals, make written determinations and recommendations for the County, and supervise County purchasing functions. The FOCA shall maintain a list of vendors and update the list periodically. The FOCA will work to ensure budgetary compliance. All bids and quotations of any kind must be current (within a six-month window).”

Prospective suppliers or services may be prequalified for particular types of supplies, services and construction. "Request for Qualifications" will be solicited and advertised in order to establish a prequalified vendors list. Upon establishment of a prequalified vendors list for a particular supply, service or construction, requests for proposals or requests for quotations may be submitted to individuals or companies on this list.

12.4 Process for Contracting Land Use Agreements

In the event of a natural disaster, such as a flood or wildfire, Ouray County, through the Land Use Department, will work with property owners to begin the process of rebuilding and restoring lost structures and any associated infrastructure. Property owners will deal individually and directly with the Land Use Department to procure proper building and/or septic permits to begin the process of rebuilding.

The Ouray County Land Use Department and the Building Inspector will work closely with property owners, builders, engineers, and architects to assess the level of damage to a property or structure(s) and determine the safety as well as
the suitability for new construction. When necessary, the Land Use Department will hire additional temporary contract staff to assist in any potential exponential increase in service calls or permit applications.

Should supplemental funding, such as grant funding, become available from local, State, or Federal agencies, the Land Use Department will coordinate the dissemination of pertinent information with such agencies to assist and expedite this process for property owners affected by the disaster.

12.5 Process for Tracking Costs

Finance has the ability to reserve Account Codes to be assigned to an emergency as required. When an emergency occurs, either the County Manager or the Director of Emergency Management will notify Finance, and one of the reserved accounts will be designated to the emergency. Finance will then send out an email to the entire County from the Finance EOC email address. The email will have instructions for expense reporting, including but not limited to the Emergency Name, Account Code, Pay Codes, and the latest version of the 213RR Form. Personnel involved in the emergency will be asked to submit their documents related to tracking expenditures regularly to the Finance EOC email or at a convenient drop-off location at the EOC if electronic delivery isn't possible.

Each support agency is responsible for monitoring staff hours using its own tracking system and requesting financial reimbursement for staff hours incurred in association with ESF #7 operations. The EOC will provide appropriate forms and provide guidance to complete forms for efficient tracking and reimbursement.

12.5.3 Salamander System

The Salamander Credentialing and ID system is adopted statewide. Locally it is used by Search and Rescue, EMS, Fire Departments, State Patrol, Emergency Management and the Sheriff Office. It is also utilized by other counties in the region Countywide. Salamander comes with a variety of options for use, including tracking resources and assigning critical resources a tag when distributed for use through the EOC. Two additional options include:

- RapidTag for safety check-in & re-entry ID for members of the public. RapidTag Evac works by tracking movement of people during a mass incident and is best suited for use during evacuation.
- The Salamander Track App can identify resources in route and on scene, their current location, and assignment.

12.5.2 Tracking Personnel

Tracking the flow of resources is a complex project, including the documentation of personnel hours worked, overtime authorization, and flexing of staff schedules; this would also include identifying essential personal and potential overtime costs. Employees must be very descriptive when reporting the activities they perform concerning the emergency efforts—especially any activities outside the EOC. Example: If employees meet with other personnel or other emergency responders outside the EOC, then they must document the topic of the meeting, duration, attendance, and location. The recommendation is to track staff time in 10-minute increments, if possible. However, if, for example, staff is in a meeting for 2 hours, describe the purpose of the meeting and attendees. Or, if you are working in the EOC, identify the type of work staff were doing, such as "4 hours in EOC working on sheltering activities." (La Plata County EOP).

This includes staff time, overtime for exempt and non-exempt employees, and volunteer time.

12.5.3 Tracking of Equipment, Supplies, Purchases, and Contracts

Expenditures for cost tracking and recovery are documented during the incident response and will continue through the incident recovery and close out period through WEB EOC. Each supporting agency is responsible for tracking its own costs associated with ESF #7A and #7B operations using Standard procedures established by the support agency’s standard accounting and tracking procedures. This includes staff purchases, contracts initiated or modified, copies, mileage and use of county or personal vehicles for duties and other expenses as required to be tracked by Finance.

Tracking of equipment mileage and/or hours will be done through the salamander system.

12.6 Establishing Burn Rates

Burn rate is used to determine the rate at which hours (allocated to a project) are being used, to identify when work is going out of scope, or when efficiencies are being lost. During multi-jurisdictional incident responses, jurisdictions should remember the agency requesting additional resources, staff, specialized resources, etc. is financially responsible for all costs incurred outside of pre-arranged mutual aid agreements or cost share agreements with such requests, not the county. The Finance Section (Finance Section Chief and their staff and ESF-7B and their staff) of the EOC is therefore critical to financial documentation and tracking of burn rates for equipment and personnel by receiving all requests for equipment, specialized equipment and staff timesheets.
To support the tracking of all costs of the emergency, a Daily Departmental Disaster Finance Report will be required from each elected official, appointed official or department head with personnel assigned to work in support of the event.

The purpose of the report will be to accurately track the personnel, equipment and supplies utilized for the event and to provide a calculation to the State of Colorado, Incident Command, and EOC with a “daily burn rate” of costs in support of any available state or federal disaster relief.

Personnel, vehicle, and equipment burn rates will be calculated by FEMA rates entered into WebEOC and the Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF).

In the event there is a FEMA Mission Assignment, an accurate burn rate is essential. Agencies cannot spend more than the authorized amount in an MA. Continual monitoring of expenditures in relation to approved funding throughout the term of the MA is essential.

12.6 Process for Disaster Reimbursement

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) administers the State’s Emergency Assistance Grant Program. Through this grant program, Colorado may provide financial assistance for costs incurred by local governments (city, county, or special district) and individuals as a result of a disaster event that has resulted in the proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor. Federal resources for emergency and disaster relief are authorized by Congress through the Robert Stafford Act, which establishes FEMA’s disaster assistance programs as well as a national framework for emergency response. Implementation of the provisions of the law is supported through formal agreements among Federal and State agencies.

Each department head must maintain complete documentation to support justification for purchases to be eligible for reimbursement. All expenditure, income, donations and procurement transactions should follow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) procurement guidelines as well as Ouray County and/or agency purchasing policies.

Bills/receipts should be submitted in a timely fashion to finance. The County Finance Department along with supporting Special Districts and Municipalities are responsible for the documentation of ALL emergency related expenditures using generally accepted accounting and procurement policies.

Department Heads and agency administrators should be ready to prepare and retain documentation including but not limited to:

- Sign-in sheets for personnel, volunteers and members of the public/media. An ICS-211 form can be used for this as well as the Salamander Live program which scans responder/employee ID cards and tracks hours and costs associated with hours worked and equipment used;
- Timecards and certified time sheets and employee records showing the normal and overtime rate of every employee working on the disaster. Time sheets must show time spent on normal duties vs overtime duties and if their duties were re-assigned to work on the disaster response;
- Incident complexity analysis and damage assessment reports;
- Photographs and videos of the incident response;
- Incident command logs and daily activity reports for EVERY person. All staff and volunteers should complete and ICS 214 form and a Ouray County Disaster Timesheet to track their daily activities;
- Purchase orders, invoices, receipts, and cost recovery forms.

The following are some recommendations from FEMA that the County will follow related to Disaster documentation and finance tracking to ensure we can apply for FEMA Public Assistance and receive the maximum reimbursement possible.

- Costs and revenues from the emergency incident should be tracked separately from day-to-day operating expenses/income;
- Detailed records must be maintained for every vehicle and piece of heavy equipment used in response to the emergency:
  - Mileage logs for personal and county/department owned vehicles.
  - Vehicle info and insurance info.
  - FEMA requires reporting showing justification for travel – who drove the vehicle, starting and ending mileage, total mileage driven, fuel used and cost, starting and ending time, the purpose of the trip, and the destination. If the vehicle is used in debris removal, the weight of the debris that was removed.
• Employee/volunteer and contract labor hours should be tracked separately from vehicle, equipment and other expenses.

• When applicable, all vehicles/equipment and personnel should be assigned a Salamander ID card or barcode that assigns the proper FEMA rate to track expenses and personnel and equipment should be checked in/out for movements on the incident via Salamander and on paper logs. The burn rate (hourly, mileage or daily rate) will be calculated based on the latest FEMA rates and the designated system for personnel will be the Salamander Live/Track system utilized by both Ouray County and the State of Colorado. Vehicle and equipment burn rates will be calculated by FEMA rates entered into WebEOC and the Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF).

• Supply requests, (213RR forms), purchase orders, invoices and other documentation must be maintained and turned into finance and the documentation unit.

• Cost for supplies and materials must include documentation of exactly where resources were used and for what purpose and all non-competitive procurements must be justified.

• Documentation showing that costs were reasonable and justified. If purchases are made of high value equipment or specialized equipment that will remain the property of a County Department or agency, the item’s Serial # or VIN should be recorded and proof of responsible department tracked and added to the County’s inventory if valued over $5,000.

In concurrence with the EOC, each support agency will file for reimbursement of costs it incurs through its own agency’s accounting and reimbursement filing system.

12.7 Financial Records Retention

The County, County Offices, County Department and Agencies will follow all Federal, State, and Local protocols related to records retention. See section “9.6: Process for Information Storage and Retention” for more details.

12.8 FEMA Mission Assignments

If FEMA is assisting, there will be a Mission Assignment (MA). A key FEMA responsibility is to work in conjunction with the State/Tribe/Territory in disaster response to identify unmet needs and, when appropriate, to direct or "mission assign" the appropriate agency to fulfill these needs. An MA is not a grant or contract to another Federal agency. Rather, an MA is a reimbursable work order for a specific task that can be performed before and/or after a declaration. MAs are the mechanism for utilizing a Federal agency’s unique resources in life-saving and life sustaining activities in disaster response. Mission Assignments are issued only for emergency work, not permanent restorative work or long-term studies. Examples of emergency work include: Debris clearance to allow safe passage of emergency vehicles and debris removal to eliminate health and safety hazards. (FEMA IS-0293: Mission Assignment Overview)

The two categories of MAs are:

• **Federal Operations Support (FOS)**-Requested by a Federal agency to support Federal operations. The FOS is for any type of support to Federal Operations and is requested by the Federal Government. It is 100% federally funded and is eligible before or after a declaration.

• **Direct Federal Assistance (DFA)**-Resources provided to affected State and local jurisdictions when they lack the resources to provide specific types of disaster assistance. The DFA is for resources beyond the State’s capability to provide or contract for and is requested by the State. It is subject to cost share provisions—normally 75% Federal share and 25% State share which is then shared with the local jurisdiction through a cost share agreement. DFA is only available after a declaration.

Under 44 CFR 206.208, the period of performance time limit for the completion of a DFA Mission Assignment is 60 days after the date of declaration. Based on extenuating circumstances, FEMA may extend the 60-day limit (usually the FEMA Regional Administrator or FCO). In addition to determining the period of performance, an MA requires a cost estimate. Building a good cost estimate is based on knowing eligible and ineligible costs.

12.9 Disaster Finance Management Plan

Ouray County Administrator / Finance Director, ESF-7B lead, and Emergency Management shall work together to develop a formal Disaster Finance Management Plan to annex to this Plan.

13 LOGISTICS

Unlike business logistics, which allow for an efficient flow of goods and services from manufacturer/retailer to consumer, emergency management logistics involves the efficient flow of relief services and information from the point of origin (i.e., relief distribution centers) to a destination point near affected areas where people are living under
emergency conditions. Emergency logistics can be viewed as a very complex dynamic process which consists of many interdependent tasks with complex objectives and constraints.

13.1 Mutual-Aid and Regional-Aid Agreements

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-33.5-705.4(1)(b) and 24-33.5-713, Ouray County has entered into Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring Montrose, San Miguel and Delta Counties as well as various jurisdictions to help provide critical resources in the event of a disaster/emergency.

The County Emergency Manager will assist jurisdictions and agencies in developing mutual aid/automatic aid agreements with agencies and jurisdictions within Ouray County as well as surrounding counties. The goal is to have documented mutual aid plans established before an incident and the agency head will activate the plan as agreed upon to expedite or assist in response efforts. All Mutual Aid agreements under the County Jurisdictions, must be approved and signed by the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners before it is utilized.

The purpose for a mutual aid agreement is because no single jurisdiction, department or agency in rural Ouray County is going to have all the personnel, equipment or materials necessary to respond and effectively manage a major emergency or disaster. Mutual aid agreements allow an agency to request personnel, equipment or equipment from a neighboring department at an agreed upon rate. Often these agreements have clauses in them that the neighboring jurisdiction will send resources for up to 12 or 24 hours under Mutual Aid for FREE but if the incident continues past 24 hours, then an agreed upon rate will be charged to the requesting agency. The WebEOC Colorado Rate Resource Forms (CRRF) are often used as the base cost for personnel and equipment as CRRF forms use FEMA approved hourly/equipment rates.

Elected authorities are ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety and security of citizens within their jurisdiction. A local municipality or special district is responsible for emergency operations and coordinating with their divisions and staff and within their jurisdiction. Local agencies and districts must not only plan for responding to an incident which they have jurisdiction over but also activating mutual aid resources from other agencies or providing their resources to another jurisdiction in need of assistance per Colorado Revised Statutes 24-33.5-705.4(1)(b) and 24-33.5-713 (Delta County Emergency Operations Plan).

13.1.1 West All-Hazards Region / DHSEM Field Service Region

Ouray County is in the West All Hazards region which is composed of Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Ouray, San Miguel and Hinsdale Counties. The All-Hazards Region controls regional Homeland Security grant funds for the region and the executive board is governed by emergency managers from each county. The West All Hazard Region counties also compose the West Region Healthcare Coalition (WRHCC) and the Regional Public Health team from Mesa County Public Health which is affiliated with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

In addition to the West All Hazards Planning Region, Ouray County is part of the CO Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) West service area. The service area is managed by a field manager from DSHEM and is composed of Garfield, Mesa, Pitkin, Delta, Gunnison, Montrose and Ouray counties.

In the event of an emergency and request for regional staff and assets, requests will be made to these counties first and then put out to other areas of Colorado if no resources are available or resources have been exhausted regionally. The exception to this is if a specialized piece of equipment, such as fire truck, is only available in WebEOC from another region in Colorado. On large and developing incidents where regional assistance is anticipated and/or state assistance and activation of the EOC, the DHSEM Regional Field Manager should be notified and updated on the incident.

**DHSEM West Region Field Service Manager**

Drew Petersen  
drew.petersen@state.co.us  
(970) 633-0201  
STATE EMERGENCY LINE—303.279.8855

Ouray County is also located in the Uncompahgre River Region for the Colorado Division of Fire Protection and Control (DFPC) along with Montrose and San Miguel Counties. In the event of a large and developing where regional assistance is anticipated and/or state assistance and activation of the EOC, the DFPC Fire Management Officer FMO Manager should be notified and updated on the incident. This is also true if there is a fire of any size on Colorado State Land. At the time of this Plan update, the FMO for the West region is vacant and in the process of being filled:

**DFPC Uncompahgre River Region Fire Management Officer**

FMO Vacant  
Temporary Contact: Battalion Chief Luke Odom, luke.odom@state.co.us  
State DFPC assistance line 303.279.8855  
Interagency Dispatch—970.249.1010
13.2 Identification of Resource Gaps based on defined Threats/Hazards

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, the Town of Ridgway and special districts in the County do not have an extensive list of resources, especially specialized resources that may be needed in certain emergencies or disasters. Examples of resources that Ouray County and local agencies/special districts do not have and will have to be requested from neighboring agencies through mutual aid or other means include but are not limited to: Hazmat response/cleanup teams, SWAT and Bomb Squad teams, specialized subject matter such as Epidemiologists, water engineers, leak detection equipment, etc. An important planning and response consideration for all agencies is that no county, special district or even the state has every resource that may be needed to respond to all emergencies and disasters. Depending on the nature of the emergency or disaster, the resource gap may be personnel, which can be requested via Emergency Management and the logistics section of the EOC.

As an incident is developing and if the incident commander/unified command determines specialized resources or resources that exceed the capabilities of those in Ouray County are needed to ensure a safe and effective response; resource gaps should be communicated to agency administrators to discuss the financial costs of resource orders and with Emergency Management. If the resource(s) are needed and authorized, the requesting agency should follow the procedures outlined in this plan to request the resources via a Resource Request through the EOC/Emergency Management and have the request documented.

13.3 Mutual-aid Agreement Procedures, Processes and Review

13.3.1 Activating Mutual Aid Agreements

Once a County Department, Agency or Special District’s capabilities are exceeded, they should request mutual aid from agencies within Ouray County first, then notify Emergency Management if they are requesting assistance from a neighboring county. If a local municipality or special district feels an incident/disaster is exceeding their resources and/or capabilities to respond, the agency head or chief elected official may request county assistance through the Emergency Manager or Sheriff.

Non-routine requests for out of county support or resources should be processed through the EOC if activated or the Emergency Manager.

Every department, agency and municipality participating in an incident is responsible for complying with resource ordering through the Ouray County EOC when active. Coordinating resource ordering through a central point ensures the county and local governments/special districts will receive all possible reimbursement from state and federal resources during the recovery phase.

13.3.2 Development & Maintenance of Mutual Aid Agreements

Copies of Mutual Aid Agreements and Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) for Emergency Response should be filed with the County Administrator and will be available to Emergency Management, Sheriff, EMS Chief, and EOC upon request. It is the responsibility of local jurisdictions such as municipalities, fire districts, EMS districts and law enforcement agencies to negotiate, coordinate and renew mutual aid agreements for their departments.

Ouray County Emergency Manager will be the primary department within Ouray County for reviewing and updating Mutual Aid Agreements with jurisdictions related to emergency/disaster response. These agreements will be reviewed and updated per the terms of the agreements or as determined necessary. Ouray County Emergency will assist in any way possible and will be relied upon for suggestions.

Emergency Management will coordinate with agency heads, elected officials and neighboring jurisdictions or other emergency managers to update Mutual Aid Agreements and IGAs and present any proposed changes to the Ouray County Attorney’s Office. Following review of agreements by the County Administrator and the County Attorney’s Office, any agreement committing the County or its departments to resources for mutual aid should be presented to and signed and approved by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

13.4 Resource Management

13.4.1 Ordering

When activated, the Ouray County EOC will prioritize county resources for response to the incident. County owned resources will be considered a pool of available resources which may be allocated to the incident based upon priority needs. Each department and department head maintains control of its resources until requested by the EOC for assignment by the EOC.
The Logistics, Operations and Planning Section Chiefs will have primary responsibility for coordinating the management of resources for the incident and will have authority to establish priorities for equipment, personnel and other resources as well as have access to any County Resource necessary to support the objectives of the incident.

When resources are disputed between departments/divisions or in response to an emergency; the Emergency Manager or County Sheriff will assist in making final resource allocation decisions. In addition to following the County’s response priorities as identified above, resources should be prioritized by:

- Distribution of resources so that the most benefit is provided from the least amount of resources;
- If local citizens are requesting assistance in one area but not another, resources should be directed to areas with greatest needs and the PIO and media should be used to distribute information to citizens about requests for assistance;
- Mutual aid agreements should be activated before requesting logistics order specialized equipment or personnel from outside the County or Region;
- When local resources are exhausted or a specialized resource doesn’t exist locally or regionally, then the request can be made to logistics and in turn be forwarded to the Emergency Manager to make a request via WebEOC to the State EOC for assistance;
- Resource requests for materials, equipment or personnel from other agencies will be the financial responsibility of the agency requesting the resources. The requesting agency is responsible for all costs incurred with requesting additional resources outside of pre-arranged mutual aid agreements or cost share agreements. All requests for resources will be documented on an ICS-213RR form and/or entered into WebEOC 213RR with as much information as possible including where the resource should be obtained, specific information, costs, required delivery time, duration needed, etc.;

When an agency or department doesn’t have a resource and the EOC is activated, they can submit a request for a resource to the EOC via a 213RR (Resource Request) to be filled. As much detail as possible should be on this form of where you want the resource located, when it is needed, where, cost the department would like to spend, who is requesting, etc. The EOC logistic division (ESF-7) will then research the resource needed locally, then regionally and advise the requesting agency/individual of what was found.

13.4.2 Demobilization

Demobilization is the orderly, safe, and efficient return of an incident resource to its original location and status. As stated earlier, demobilization planning should begin as soon as possible to facilitate accountability of the resources.

During demobilization, the Incident Command and Multiagency Coordination System elements coordinate to prioritize critical resource needs and reassign resources (if necessary) (FEMA: IS700A NIMS Resource Management).

As incident objectives are reached, resources may no longer be necessary. At this point, the recovery and demobilization process begins. Recovery may involve the rehabilitation, replenishment, disposal, or retrograding of resources, while demobilization is the orderly, safe, and efficient return of an incident resource to its original location and status. And finally, any agreed-upon reimbursement is made.

Planning Section Chief should plan and prepare for the demobilization process at the same time that they begin the resource mobilization process. Early planning for demobilization facilitates accountability and makes the logistical management of resources as efficient as possible—in terms of both costs and time of delivery. The Demobilization Unit in the Planning Section develops an Incident Demobilization Plan containing specific demobilization instructions.

It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to be fully aware of the extent and capacity of resources at his or her disposal. The demobilization process is as important as mobilization in maintaining the Incident Commander's knowledge of resources available at any given time. The Incident Commander is responsible for ensuring that a demobilization plan is developed and preferably distributed 24 hours prior to the first anticipated release. The plan will involve personnel from all ICS functions in order to provide full resource accountability.

Effective demobilization requires that personnel sign out of service and depart from the incident scene in an organized and responsible manner. To facilitate an orderly and cost effective demobilization process, an accurate and complete compilation of records of time, supplies, and equipment expended in handling an emergency incident is essential.

- All mobilized personnel will insure that their demobilization orders are validated by the IC/EOC Plans Section;
- All supervisors will verify all personnel are accounted for, all equipment is properly accounted for, and all forms are properly completed and signed;
- Demobilization will include steps at the IC/EOC logistics and finance sections. This is the time to communicate and sign-off on all emergency repairs on equipment. (The IC/EOC Finance Section Chief must approve of these prior to demobilization;
• The IC/EOC Demobilization Unit Leader will inform the State EOC when resources are released, anticipated travel route, and estimated time of return; the state will notify the home agency;
• Demobilized resources will return directly to their home agency or other assignment; and,
• All personnel will complete the required forms and reports of their assigned position.

13.4.3 Assistance for Residents and Visitors with Access and Functional Needs
Ouray County departments, special districts, response agencies and municipalities should consider the needs of citizens and visitors to Ouray County who may have Access and Functional Needs (AFN) and challenges that could be faced during a developing incident and assistance that should be provided. Resources that should be considered and mobilized during incident response include things such as:
• Warning messages in Multiple Languages;
• During live video press conferences an ASL interpreter should be on camera for deaf and hard of hearing individuals to get important emergency updates;
• For videos uploaded to YouTube or social media, closed captioning should be turned on;
• Individuals living in remote areas of the county with no cell service during evacuations should be contacted in person by deputies or other law enforcement whenever possible as phone service is unreliable.
• Consider that not all residents or visitors have access to vehicles for evacuation and may need assistance in evacuating;
• Consider warning messages via multiple avenues including Social Media, Emergency Notification Systems, County and City Website alerts and for long-term events, flyer distribution;
• Consider media outlets and whether local news outlets can reach all citizens and/or visitors in Ouray County or a municipality. Most unincorporated areas of the county receive satellite TV with “local” channels from the Denver Metro area, not Grand Junction so local reporting may not reach these households;
• For evacuations, shelter-in-place notifications, water boil-orders and other public health emergencies, departments should consider reaching out to advocates and organizations who provide services to the elderly, home-bound, home-health patients and individuals with physical and mental disabilities who may not understand emergency notifications or have access to transportation to leave their home or resources to accommodate them if they leave their home.

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) has an Access and Functional Needs Coordinator and resources to help agencies, departments and municipalities identify and develop plans and ways to help individuals with disabilities and other functional needs before, during and after disasters as part of the whole community approach to emergency management.

13.5 Identifying Specialized Resources
Trained Emergency Management staff, Incident Management Team members, emergency response equipment and/or specialized equipment is listed in WebEOC under the Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) library. If a county department or an agency in Ouray County needs a resource which they do not have in their inventory, they should check with in-county agencies and partners and WebEOC. If a resource is not available in Ouray County, the CRRF Equipment dashboard can be used to search regionally or state-wide for the resource(s) needed.

Ouray County first responder agencies are required to submit and verify a list of any equipment that they own which is a vehicle or has an engine to WebEOC each year. This database allows local, county and state agencies to search WebEOC when they need additional equipment. The Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists a specified FEMA rate for equipment such as firetrucks, dozers, ambulances and crew members so an agency knows how much it will cost to request equipment from another agency before the request is made. Agencies can request access to WebEOC as a CRRF administrator via the Emergency Manager or DHSEM regional field manager.

If a resource cannot be located or is a specialized resource that only the state or federal government may have, the county logistics division will notify the EOC manager/emergency manager and request that a request be forwarded via WebEOC and the Regional Field Manager to the State EOC. Per the State EOP, counties are responsible for managing resources and keeping the State EOC apprised of any anticipated shortfalls in required resources to support the given emergency or disaster response BEFORE there is a shortage.

13.6 Resource Management Plan
Emergency Management shall work with local, regional, and state partners to develop a formal resource management plan.
14 PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

14.1 Jurisdictional Planning Process

The current Emergency Operations Plan supersedes all other versions of the EOP and is effective immediately upon signature by the Board of County Commissioners. Copies of changes should be distributed to the MAC Group and Department heads electronically.

The writing of the plan is done by the Ouray County Emergency Manager. Once a draft plan is complete, or sections or complete, the Emergency Manager will distribute the plan to the Multi-Agency Coordination Group, County Administration, County BOCC, County Elected Officials, Department Head, and Regional Emergency Managers for review. Once the review process is complete, which includes at least one MAC Group Meeting, there will be a public hearing on the Plan at a regularly scheduled BOCC Meeting or Work session. Following updates and edit from input from all the groups, the Plan will be presented to the BOCC for adopting by resolution.

14.2 Responsibility of Planning and Coordination

Responsibility for maintenance and regular updates of this plan rests with the Emergency Manager. Ouray County Emergency Management will also provide for regular exercises and training sessions to ensure that provisions of the plan are well understood by all departments and offices with assigned responsibilities.

Departments, offices and other organizations with responsibilities identified in the plan are responsible for ensuring that their staff is familiar with the applicable provisions of the plan and is adequately trained to carry out emergency assignments.

14.3 Process for establishing the cycles for training, reviewing, evaluating and updating the EOP

14.3.1 Training

Ouray County Emergency Management is partially funded by the DSHEM Emergency Management Performance Guidance Grant. A deliverable of the EMPG is for the Emergency Manager to participate in 3 exercises a year and to make sure the County has significant training. For that reason, trainings and exercises are cycled annually.

14.3.2 Reviewing

A review of the Plan should be ongoing. Any time an emergency or incident occurs, the portion of the plan that pertains to that incident should be reviewed. Segments of the Plan will be updated quarterly at the regularly scheduled MAC Group Meetings. A lead agency for an Emergency Support Function (ESF) or Community Lifeline has the responsibility to review their section/annexes to the EOP at least annually. A complete plan update should occur and be adopted every two years to comply with CPG 101.

14.3.3 Evaluating

Every time a real world event occurs or a training/exercise that simulates a real world event, this Plan should be evaluated.

14.3.4 Updating

The Plan should be updated every time the review process determines the need for an update. When multiple updates need to be completed to multiple sections/annexes, a recommendation of a prioritized list of updates will be sent to the Board of County Commissioners. The County Commissioners will set the official prioritized list of updates for Emergency Management.

14.4 Process for Training, Reviewing, Evaluating and Updating the EOP

14.4.1 Training

Emergency Management in cooperation with the multi-agency coordination group and regional partners will work with DHSEM training & exercise division each fall to hold an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop for Ouray County and the West Region. As part of the county and regional training and exercise plan, county staff, emergency management and agency representatives will plan for training classes and exercises whether they be tabletop, functional or full-scale exercises or workshops which address identified gaps in county, or responder level response and operational plans. The EOP should be referenced and utilized whenever possible during training and exercises to test whether the policies and procedures as outlined herein are applicable in real scenarios. The plan should be updated as necessary following an incident and an after-action report identifies action items.
14.4.2 Reviewing
Emergency Management with the assistance of the County Sheriff will present segments or annexes of the EOP for review at regularly scheduled Ouray County Department Meetings and/or MAC Group Meetings throughout the year. Open discussion and a review of the existing plan for those sections will be reviewed with department and agency heads. If changes are recommended, discussion and draft changes will be noted and then sent out to all departments for consideration. If no objection they will then be accepted as finalized changes. The Emergency Manager, County Sheriff, County Administrator and/or County Attorney have final approval on whether to change or include segments in the EOP or a related Annex.

Special Districts, municipalities, and agencies not directly part of Ouray County can request an update/review of a section of the EOP or a specific annex at any time. When a lead agency/department reviews their section and there are changes that should be made or additional annexes/policies which need to be written, the lead agency/department should bring these changes to the attention of Emergency Management. Emergency Management will then schedule a review of the Annex or EOP with the MAC Group. A majority vote of agency representatives present at a MAC Group meeting or feedback received via Emergency Management from agency representatives shall constitute a majority vote to approve or deny changes.

14.4.3 Evaluating
Every time a real world event occurs or a training/exercise that simulates a real world event, this Plan should be evaluated. There will be an After Action Report (AAR) after each event. The AAR must be completed by all departments, agencies and associated personnel following an emergency or disaster in Ouray County. The County will hold a “hot wash” for employees or contracted resources prior to their departure from the incident to gather real time feedback on areas of success, areas for improvement and recommended policy or planning changes. The County will then strive to hold an AAR meeting with relevant stakeholders within 30-days of an incident to gather feedback. For incidents that require an extended response over 6-months, a mid-incident review should be completed to track progress throughout the incident.

After Action Reports once completed should be reviewed by administration and the Board of County Commissioners and then filed with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). After action reports should include information per the FEMA Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) AAR template and collect information such as:

- A summary of the incident/disaster, what damages were incurred, a summary of response action taken and cost if known.
- How the County, agencies and EOC responded and managed the incident;
- What policies, procedures and plans worked well during the incident and allowed for smooth incident management;
- What policies, procedures or plans did NOT work and need improvement? What were the county, agency or department level gaps? Is more training needed? If so, in what areas;
- An improvement plan —a summary of the actions to be completed and who is responsible for completing the action and a realistic goal of when those items will be completed.

Completed After Action Reports will serve as documentation of the County’s response to the emergency/disaster and what the areas of success and improvement were during the response phase. AARs will be used by Emergency Management, County Administration, Departments and associated agencies/partners in planning and training for future incidents. AARs will be used to develop recovery plans and help guide recovery operations as well as be documents referenced for local and regional Training & Exercise Plans for associated courses and hands-on exercises (tabletop, functional or full-scale).

After Action Reports will be maintained by Emergency Management and will be accessible upon a records request or if requested by County administration, made public on the County Website for public distribution.

Per FEMA recommendations and to ensure the whole community can read and understand the document, after action reports should be written in plain language with minimal acronyms and technical processes explained in a well-structured report.

14.4.4 Updating
This Emergency Operations Plan will be updated at least Bi-annually through the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group), and as needed after any incident, to ensure that it remains an effective, accurate emergency management tool for responders and citizens of Ouray County. Minor changes may be made by Emergency Management and noted in the Record of Changes log at the beginning of the plan. Major policy changes or addition/deletion of sections of the
plan will require the plan to be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners and re-adopted by a vote of the Board at a regularly scheduled Commissioner Meeting.

Plans, Annexes, appendices and other documents that are referenced or included in the EOP may be updated as needed and may be adopted independently of the Base Plan. Once adopted, plans, annexes and appendices should be distributed to the MAC Group and all County Departments and the master copies of the plan updated with the latest versions.

Emergency Management, Department Heads and MAC Group participants should update the WENS notification system roster and notification lists at least once every six months to ensure the proper individuals will be notified in the event of an emergency. After-hours contact information should be included because emergencies rarely occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm.

14.4.5 Public Review/Comment on Emergency Operations Plan and/or Annexes

The response of citizens and non-residents of Ouray County to an emergency or disaster is based on how well they understand what is happening, the potential hazard(s) and their perception of emergency services and their response. Public awareness and education prior to an emergency or disaster will greatly increase the effectiveness of emergency response to the disaster such as ordering an evacuation of a fire prone area. Emergency preparedness should therefore be stressed by all county departments, first responders and local municipalities.

Preparedness resources will be shared when available, at no charge to citizens and they will be encouraged to take preparedness activities at home, mitigate fire and flood risk and be an active participant in emergency preparedness. The Emergency Operations Plan will be included on the County website free of charge for the public to download and read. Specific Annexes may not be included on the website if they are under development, revision or contain public safety sensitive information.

Individuals/businesses with feedback on content on the Emergency Operations Plan or a specific annex, are encouraged to submit feedback to Emergency Management and the County for discussion and inclusion of changes into the Plan. Involving the Whole Community in Planning, leads to a resilient and informed community before a disaster strikes, which shortens the response phase and allows the entire community to start down the path to recovery together.

Changes can be emailed to gboyd@ouraycountyco.gov or a meeting can be scheduled with the Emergency Manager to review annexes or sections of the plan. Requests will then be reviewed with County Administration, County Sheriff, Department Heads and other relevant agency representatives before being adopted to ensure a Whole Community approach to the plan. However, not all public recommendations can be adopted.
15 LAWS, AUTHORITIES, AND REFERENCES

According to The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-700 et seq.), every county is responsible for maintaining an emergency management agency and shall prepare and distribute to all appropriate officials, a written plan outlining the emergency responsibilities of all local agencies and officials and the disaster chain of command. The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners in 1995 pursuant to County Resolution #1995-086 established the Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Manager for the purposes of disaster and emergency management and civil defense.

15.1 Federal
- Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 v.2;
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (SARA Title III);
- Americans with disabilities Act;
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Amendments (Public Law 93-288);
- Post Katrina Reform Act;
- National Planning Framework;
- Homeland Security Act and Information Sharing Act (H.R. 5710);
- PETS ACT 2006;
- Presidential Directive Policy 8, National Preparedness Goal;
- Plain Language Guidance;
- Homeland Security Act 2002;
- H.R.5710 Homeland Security Information Sharing Act;
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)

15.2 State
- Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. §24-33.5-700 et seq.);
- Colorado All Hazard Resource Database Creation;
- Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan
- Open Meetings Law (C.R.S. § 24-6-401 and 402 (2012))
- Records Retention (C.R.S. §24-80-103)
- SB08-194 "Public Health Reauthorization Act"
- C.R.S. § 25-1-506 et seq. “Establishes and maintain a County Public Health Agency”

15.3 Local
15.3.1 Emergency Management Authorities
Local resolutions can be found at https://ouraycountyco.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/90
- Ouray County Resolution #1979-00234 adopting the Ridgway Fire Protection District Service Plan, affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on July 3, 1979;
- Ouray County Resolution #1982-00044-00045 adopting the Ouray Fire Protection District Service Plan affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on March 18, 1982;
- Ouray County Resolution #1986-00178-00203 receiving the Ouray Fire Protection District Service Plan, affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on December 24, 1986;
- Ouray County Resolution #1994-00416 forming the Regional Planning Committee affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on July 18, 1994;
- Ouray County Resolution #1995-086 establishing the Emergency Preparedness Manager affirmed by the Board of Commissioners;
- Ouray County Resolution#2006-014 adopting the National Incident Management System affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners on February 6th, 2006;
- City of Ouray 2006-02 adopting the National Incident Management System affirmed by the Ouray City Council, on February 21, 2006;
- Ouray County Resolution #2008-023 Adopting the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners;
- Ouray County Resolution #2014-015 recognizing Ouray County emergency and disaster preparedness and operations affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on May 27, 2014;
• Ouray County Resolution #2014-040 adopting the 2013 Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan, affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners on December 16, 2014;
• Ouray County Resolution #2015-033 authorizing overtime pay for both exempt and non-exempt personnel requested to respond to a declared emergency in accordance to the Emergency Preparedness (Operations) Plan affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on September 8, 2015;
• Ouray County Resolution #2015-053 establishing the Emergency Management Fund from the MJ Excise Tax affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on December 8, 2015;
• Ouray County Resolution 2015-033 authorizing overtime pay for both exempt and non-exempt personnel requested to respond to a declared emergency in accordance to the Emergency Preparedness (Operations) Plan affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on September 8, 2015;
• Ouray County Resolution #2015-053 establishing the Emergency Management Fund from the MJ Excise Tax affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on December 8, 2015;
• Ouray County Resolution #2015-053 establishing the Emergency Management Fund from the MJ Excise Tax affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on December 8, 2015;
• Ouray County Resolution #2015-053 establishing the Emergency Management Fund from the MJ Excise Tax affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on December 8, 2015;
• Ouray County Resolution #2017-007: Adopts the Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for: Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants” affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners on March 21, 2017.
• Ouray County Resolution #2017-037 designating County Road 17 as an emergency access priority, affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners on August 9, 2017;
• Ouray County Resolution #2019-049 Adoption of Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners on December 17, 2019;
• Ouray County Resolution #2020-030 allowing $25,000 expenditure annually by the Sheriff affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on September 1, 2020;
• Town of Ridgway Resolution #2021-08 adopting National Incident Management System affirmed by the Ridgway Town Council, on October 13, 2021;
• Ouray County Resolution #2021-048 adopting this Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan and setting the County Administrator as the Chief Executive officer.

15.3.2 Public Health Authorities
• Ouray County Resolution #2019-019 develops Public Health Director Reporting and Supervisory Structure affirmed by the Board of Commissioners on May 14, 2019
• Ouray County Resolution #2019-036, amending Resolution #2009-16, #2013-27, and 2019-27: Establishing Ouray County Public Health Agency, Appointing the Public Health Director, and Appointing the Medical Officer affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners on October 22, 2019.

15.3.3 School District Authorities
• None noted
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