

**EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION
OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO**

On this 27th day of February 2025, and pursuant to the authority provided in Ouray County Resolution 2024-043, I hereby declare an emergency disaster in Ouray County. This declaration activates the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan, opens the Emergency Operations Center if deemed necessary by Unified Command, sets forth the platform for emergency preparedness and response, including mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions as the Unified Command Team determines is necessary.


On February 26, 2025, the Ouray County Road and Bridge Superintendent, in partnership, and with the full support of the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, temporarily closed Camp Bird Road (CR-361) 3.5 miles from US Highway 550 and roughly 200 yards beyond the Senator Gulch gate, for public safety and enforcement due to a significant rockfall incident that was reported on February 25, 2025. This portion of the road is completely blocked and there is significant damage to the Hilfiker retaining wall.

One of the County's contract engineering firms, Buckhorn Engineering, reviewed the drone footage of the area provided by the Ouray County Public Information Officer the afternoon of February 26, 2025. Upon Buckhorn Engineering's review, notification was made to Ouray County that the area is not safe and is considered life-threatening with more rockfall to occur due to fluctuating cool and warm temperatures.

After extensive consultation with state emergency management officials, county emergency manager, county manager, county legal counsel, road & bridge superintendent, sheriff, and public information officer, the decision to place a full temporary closure on this portion of the road, was deemed absolutely necessary for public safety purposes.

While the temporary road closure is in effect, the Ouray County Sheriff's Office will be enforcing any violations of disregard to formal traffic control devices and road closure notices. The County is pending analysis by two professional geo-tech firms and a private company with expertise in Hilfiker wall construction.

Ouray County will provide public information as soon as professional analysis is complete and a potential mitigation path is formulated. Until then, this portion of County Road 361 will remain closed to all modes of traffic including foot traffic.



Connie I. Hunt
County Manager and
Principal Executive Officer

Issue Date: February 27, 2025
Time: 2:30 p.m.

This Emergency Disaster Declaration is hereby ratified, approved, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on March 4, 2025 during a Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting and will remain in force through _____.

RATIFIED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

Voting for:

Voting against:

Attest:

Jake Niece, Chair

Michelle Nauer, Vice-Chair

Cristy Lynn, Clerk and Recorder
By: Eli Holmes, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Lynn Padgett, Commissioner