



# **Relief and Recovery Assistance Guide**

**Black Forest Fire  
August 2013**

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Relief and Recovery Guide is to connect Colorado residents affected by the Black Forest Fire with disaster assistance and information. This Guide lists information on many programs and agencies. Updates and verification are continuously being made to this document. Updates are available at [211colorado.communityos.org](https://211colorado.communityos.org).

This Guide is arranged in sections based on needs and the types of services provided. Where applicable, there are tables arranged to show resources available within the county and statewide. Phone numbers and specific information regarding service eligibility, hours, etc. may also be outlined.

**You are welcome to dial 2-1-1, for help in finding available disaster assistance services. Language translation services are available. Individuals with hearing and speech disabilities can call Relay Colorado at 7-1-1 (or 1-800-659-2656) to indirectly access Colorado 2-1-1. You can also visit [211colorado.communityos.org](https://211colorado.communityos.org) to review resources and search the database of services in your local community. Colorado 2-1-1 will help identify the best local resources to fit your individual needs after a disaster or for life's everyday situations.**

**Disclaimer:** Colorado 2-1-1 shall have no liability or responsibility of any kind to any user, other person or entity as a result of these guidelines. Colorado 2-1-1 is not authorized to give legal, insurance policy, health or contracting advice. The use of any or all guidance presented is solely at the discretion of the user.

## FIRE INFORMATION

SERVICE	INFORMATION
<b>Evacuation Information</b>	<p>No mandatory evacuations at this time. There are no entry restrictions to residents or traffic checkpoints.</p> <p>For the most current evacuation information, visit <a href="http://elpasoco.com">elpasoco.com</a></p>
<b>Evacuation Shelters</b>	<p>As of June 20, 2013, there are no longer evacuation shelters available for Black Forest Fire victims.</p>
<b>Family Re-Unification</b>	<p><b>American Red Cross</b>            Safe and Well alerts            Allows fire victims to alert loved ones they are safe.            Register at  <a href="http://safeandwell.communityos.org">safeandwell.communityos.org</a></p>
<b>Police/Sheriff Information</b>	<p>Citizens seeking information regarding the Black Forrest Fire may dial 719-444-8301 for the Disaster Assistance Center</p> <p>Or 211 (719-955-0742 from cell phone)</p> <p>Black Forest Fire Tip Line            719-444-8393  <a href="mailto:blackforesttipline@elpasoco.com">blackforesttipline@elpasoco.com</a></p> <p>In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1</p>
<b>Pre-Evacuations</b>	<p><b>ALL AREAS OF BLACK FOREST RELEASED FROM PRE-EVACUATION STATUS</b></p> <p>In light of the efforts and progress of firefighters to locate and control hot spots within the interior of the Black Forest Fire, El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa has released all areas of Black Forest from pre-evacuation status. Although the evacuation status has been removed, residents in Black Forest as well as communities throughout unincorporated El Paso County are asked to remain vigilant in fire prevention and reporting</p> <p>For the most current evacuation information, visit <a href="http://elpasoco.com">elpasoco.com</a></p>

<b>Road Closures / Openings</b>	No road closures to residents at this time.
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## IMMEDIATE RESOURCES

SERVICE	CONTACT INFORMATION AND HOURS	OTHER INFORMATION
<p><b>Air Quality</b></p>	<p>To monitor current air quality, visit <a href="http://elpasocountyhealth.org">elpasocountyhealth.org</a></p>	<p>El Paso County Public Health is advising people, especially young children, those who exercise outdoors, those involved in vigorous outdoor work and those who have respiratory disease (such as asthma) to reduce or limit strenuous outdoor physical activity. If visibility is decreased in your neighborhood to less than five miles, smoke has reached levels that are unhealthy.</p> <p>Individuals experiencing symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain or coughing should consult their medical provider.</p>
<p><b>Animal Shelters</b></p>	<p><b>Falcon Animal Hospital</b> 860 Swing Lind Road Peyton, CO 80831 719-495-1457</p> <p><b>Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region</b> 610 Abbott Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80904</p> <p><b>Powers Pet Emergency</b> 5956 Stetson Hills Boulevard Colorado Springs, CO 80923 719-473-0482</p> <p><b>Woodmen Kennels</b> 740 Dublin Road Colorado Springs, CO 80918 719-598-4154 (small or medium pets)</p>	<p>The organizations listed can only accommodate small animals. For large or exotic animals, please refer to the “Exotic/Large Animal Shelters” section below.</p> <p>If you know of an animal in the evacuation area, call Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region at 719-473-1741 x 1. If someone has lost a companion animal or livestock, they can view found animals online and file a lost report at <a href="http://hsppr.org/lost">hsppr.org/lost</a>.</p>

<p><b>Business Recovery</b></p>	<p><b>Pikes Peak Region Business Recovery Fund</b>  Low- and no-interest loans may be available for businesses impacted by the Black Forest Fire. Applications are available at: <a href="http://coloradoenterprisefund.org">coloradoenterprisefund.org</a></p> <p><b>Small Business Development Center</b>  Small-business owners can get help with insurance and disaster relief from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  719-667-3803  <a href="mailto:sbdc@uccs.edu">sbdc@uccs.edu</a>  <a href="http://coloradosbdc.org/coloradosprings">coloradosbdc.org/coloradosprings</a></p>	
<p><b>Child Care Facilities</b></p>	<p><b>Hope Montessori Academy</b>  (Monument / Falcon)  Free childcare to families who lost homes in the fire.  Paperwork required</p> <p><b>Falcon</b>  7312 McLaughlin Road  Falcon, CO 80831  719-886-4900</p> <p><b>Monument – North</b>  18075 Minglewood Trail  Monument, CO 80132  719-282-1181</p>	<p>Child care resources are available on a first come, first served basis</p>
<p><b>Clean Up and Trash Disposal</b></p>	<p><b>Crisis Cleanup</b>  A free service for disaster cleanup  To register call 719-955-0742</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church Black Forest</b>  Offering free cleaning /</p>	<p>**While entering a client into Crisis Cleanup does not guarantee that he or she will be served, it guarantees visibility and maximizes the chances for assistance, while helping relief organizations prioritize their limited resources.**</p>

	<p>recovery services to homeowners affected by the fire.</p> <p>Property Damage Assessment Ash-Out Recovery / Fire Clean up Chainsaw service Spiritual Care 719-330-2862 719-216-6104 <a href="http://fbcbf.org/">fbcbf.org/</a></p> <p><b>State Wildlife Recovery Guidance</b> <a href="http://colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-Main/CBON/1251627134922">colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-Main/CBON/1251627134922</a></p>	<p><b>Samaritan's Purse</b> ceased services with the Black Forest fire cleanup as of July 31<sup>st</sup></p>
<p><b>Collection Sites</b></p>	<p><b>Material Good Donations:</b> Donations can be dropped at any Colorado Springs Goodwill retail location during regular business hours. To find the nearest drop-off center and hours of operation, please go to: <a href="http://discovermygoodwill.org">discovermygoodwill.org</a></p> <p><b>Food Donations:</b> Care and Share Food Bank has established food collection sites at the following locations:</p> <p><b>Care and Share</b> 2605 Preamble Point Colorado Springs, CO 80915 Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM</p> <p><b>Helping Hands (Mountain Springs Church)</b> 7345 Adventure Way Colorado Springs, CO 80923 Thursday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm</p>	



	<p>1st &amp; 3rd Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm (SE of intersection of Black Forest Road and Woodmen)</p> <p><b>Mercy's Gate</b> 4210 Austin Bluffs Parkway Colorado Springs, CO 80917 Monday, 4 PM - 7 PM Wednesday, 9 AM – 12 PM Thursday, 9 AM - 12 PM or 1 PM - 4 PM Friday, 9 AM – 12 PM</p> <p><b>Tri-Lakes Cares</b> 235 Jefferson Street Monument, CO 80132 Monday or Thursday, Noon - 3 pm or 6 pm - 8 pm</p> <p><b>Furnishings and Household items</b></p> <p><b>Discover Goodwill</b> 1460 Garden of the Gods Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907 Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm Sunday, 2 pm - 5 pm</p> <p><b>HER Market Place - Palmer Lake</b> An all volunteer group helping BFF families Accepting gently used or new furniture and household items 850-B Commercial Lane Palmer Lake, CO Call or text 719-235-6984 HER_colorado@hotmail.com Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p><b>Hygiene Items</b></p>	
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	<p>(2 collection sites)</p> <p><b>Springs Rescue Mission</b>  5 W Las Vegas Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903</p>	
<b>Disaster Assistance Center</b>	<p>The disaster assistance center at the Citizen's Service Center is Closed.</p> <p>719-444-8301</p> <p><b>Field Office for Disaster Assistance Center</b>  Closed as of July 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>Limited funds were donated to assist families whose homes were lost or heavily damaged with needs not covered through insurance at the Center. Funds distributed on an individual basis.</p>	<p>The Last day the location at the Citizen Service Center was open Friday, June 28, 2013.</p> <p>Field office closed July 3<sup>rd</sup>.  All tetanus shots and water testing still available at the El Paso County Public Health (Citizens Service Center)</p>
<b>Distribution Centers: Clothing &amp; household items</b>	<p><b>Discover Goodwill</b> is offering vouchers for fire victims. Vouchers are available by appointment.  719-867-1118 to schedule with Goodwill.</p> <p>The following agencies are also providing vouchers for clothing and household items:</p> <p><b>Catholic Charities</b>  14 West Bijou Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903  Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm  719-866-6441</p> <p><b>Ecumenical Social Ministries</b>  201 North Weber Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903</p>	<p>For furnishings and household items at Discover Goodwill and Springs Church families must make an appointment.</p> <p>Discover Goodwill will begin distributing vouchers to victims for furniture after July 31<sup>st</sup>. Springs Church will cease accepting furniture donations for Goodwill on July 31<sup>st</sup>.</p>

	<p>719-636-1916  Monday – Friday  9 AM – 11:30 AM  12:30 PM – 3 PM</p> <p><b>Helping Hands (Mountain Springs Church)</b>  7345 Adventure Way  Colorado Springs, CO 80923  <b>**By appointment**</b>  Thursday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm  1st &amp; 3rd Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm (SE of intersection of Black Forest Road and Woodmen)</p> <p><b>Mercy’s Gate</b>  4285 North Academy Boulevard  Colorado Springs, CO 80918  719-277-7470  Monday, 4 PM – 7 PM  Wednesday, 9 AM – 12 PM  Thursday, 9 AM – 12 PM or 1 PM – 4 PM  Friday, 9 AM – 12 PM</p> <p><b>Teens with Promise (Boutique)</b>  4360 Montebello Drive, Suite 300  Colorado Springs, CO 80919  Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 7 pm  Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm  (2 outfits per evacuee family)</p> <p><b>Hanger’s Thrift of Tri-Lakes Cares</b>  245 Jefferson Street  Monument, CO 80132  Monday – Saturday,  9 AM – 5 PM</p> <p><b>Furnishings and Household items by appointment</b></p> <p><b>Discover Goodwill</b></p>	
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	<p>1460 Garden of the Gods Road  Colorado Springs, CO 80907  719-867-1118  Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm  Sunday, 2 pm - 5 pm</p> <p><b>HER Market Place - Palmer Lake</b>  An all volunteer group helping BFF families  850-B Commercial Lane  Palmer Lake, CO  Call or text 719-235-6984  HER_colorado@hotmail.com  Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday,  10 AM - 2 PM  <b>(Must bring ID and proof of address)</b></p> <p><b>Water</b>  A water distribution has been established for residents needing potable water at the intersection of Black Forest and Burgess Roads</p>	
<p><b>Emergency Evacuation Registry</b></p>	<p>Pikes Peak United Way, in collaboration with El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs, facilitates the Emergency Evacuation Registry for individuals who are NOT able to evacuate without assistance due to a disability.</p> <p>To Register call 719-955-0742  Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM</p>	
<p><b>Exotic/Large Animal Shelters</b></p>	<p><b>Adams County Fairgrounds</b>  9755 Henderson Road  Brighton, CO 80601  303-637-8000</p>	<p>The following facilities are <i>no longer</i> accepting large animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Douglas County Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Flying W Ranch</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Arapahoe County Fairgrounds</b> 25690 East Quincy Avenue Aurora, CO 80016 303-795-4955</p> <p><b>Colorado State Fairgrounds</b> 1001 Beulah Avenue Pueblo, CO 81004 719-561-8484</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jefferson County Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Norris-Penrose Equestrian Center</li> <li>• El Paso County Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Elbert County Fairgrounds</li> </ul>
<p><b>Federal Aid Programs</b></p>	<p>The Office of Senator Michael Bennet provides assistance for constituents in acquiring federal benefits from agencies such as Social Security Administration, United States Post Office, Internal Revenue Service, USDA Rural Development, Office of Personnel Management, etc. For more information contact:</p> <p><b>Office of US Senator Michael Bennet</b> 409 North Tejon Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 719-328-1100</p>	
<p><b>Financial Donations</b></p>	<p><b>American Red Cross</b> 1-800-REDCROSS <a href="http://coloradoredcross.org">coloradoredcross.org</a></p> <p><b>Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado</b> 719-528-1247 <a href="http://give.careandshare.org">give.careandshare.org</a></p> <p><b>Catholic Charities of Central Colorado</b> 14 West Bijou Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 719-866-6443</p> <p><b>Discover Goodwill Southern</b></p>	<p>Financial Donations are the most effective way help during a wildfire. Cash allows disaster agencies to purchase exactly what is needed.</p> <p>2-1-1 Colorado does not promote one charity over another. Please donate to a charity of your choice.</p>

	<p><b>and Western Colorado</b> 719-635-4483 <a href="http://discovermygoodwill.org">discovermygoodwill.org</a></p> <p><b>Ecumenical Social Ministries</b> 201 North Weber Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 719-636-1916</p> <p><b>Helping Hands (Mountain Springs Church)</b> 7345 Adventure Way Colorado Springs, CO 80923 719-495-3123 Thursday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm 1st &amp; 3rd Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm (SE of intersection of Black Forest Road and Woodmen)</p> <p><b>Humane Society, Pikes Peak Region</b> 610 Abbott Lane Colorado Springs, CO 80904 <a href="http://hsppr.org/disasterdonation">hsppr.org/disasterdonation</a></p> <p><b>Mercy's Gate</b> PO Box 26416 Colorado Springs, CO 80936 <a href="http://mercysgatecs.org">mercysgatecs.org</a></p> <p><b>Pikes Peak Community Foundation</b> <a href="http://ppcf.org">ppcf.org</a></p> <p><b>Tri-Lakes Cares</b> 235 Jefferson Street PO Box 1301 Monument, CO 80132 <a href="http://Tri-lakescares.org">Tri-lakescares.org</a></p> <p><b>The Salvation Army</b> 719-636-3891 <a href="http://iamsalvationarmy.org">iamsalvationarmy.org</a></p>	
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<p><b>Fitness Centers / Showers</b></p>	<p><b>El Paso County Fairgrounds</b>  366 10<sup>th</sup> Street  Calhan, CO 80808  719-520-7880</p> <p>YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region is offering shower services at the following locations:</p> <p><b>Tri-Lakes YMCA</b>  17250 Jackson Creek Parkway  Monument, CO 80132</p> <p><b>Briargate YMCA</b>  4025 Family Place  Colorado Springs, CO 80920</p> <p><b>Garden Ranch YMCA</b>  2380 Montebello Drive West  Colorado Springs, CO 80918</p> <p><b>Downtown YMCA</b>  207 North Nevada Avenue  Colorado Springs, CO 80903</p> <p><b>Southeast YMCA</b>  2190 Jet Wing Drive  Colorado Springs, CO 80916</p> <p><b>Fountain Valley YMCA</b>  201 East Iowa Avenue  Fountain, CO 80817</p> <p><b>Cottonwood Creek Recreation Center</b>  3920 Dublin Boulevard  Colorado Springs, CO 80918</p> <p><b>Memorial Park Recreation Center</b>  1605 East Pikes Peak Avenue  Colorado Springs, CO 80909</p>	
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<p><b>Food Pantries</b></p>	<p><b>Catholic Charities</b>  14 West Bijou Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903  Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm  719-866-6441</p> <p><b>Ecumenical Social Ministries</b>  201 North Weber Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903  719-636-1916  Monday – Friday,  9 AM – 11:30 AM  12:30 PM – 3 PM</p> <p><b>Helping Hands (Mountain Springs Church)</b>  7345 Adventure Way  Colorado Springs, CO 80923  Thursday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm  1st &amp; 3rd Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm (SE of intersection of Black Forest Road and Woodmen)</p> <p><b>Mercy's Gate</b>  4285 North Academy Boulevard  Colorado Springs, CO 80918  719-277-7470  Monday, 4 PM – 7 PM  Wednesday, 9 AM – 12 PM  Thursday, 9 AM – 12 PM or 1 PM – 4 PM  Friday, 9 AM – 12 PM</p> <p><b>Tri-Lakes Cares</b>  235 Jefferson Monument, CO 80231  Monday or Thursday, Noon - 3 pm or 6 pm - 8 pm</p>	
<p><b>Gas Vouchers</b></p>	<p>Individuals in need of gas vouchers are encouraged to seek assistance at the following:</p>	



	<p><b>Catholic Charities</b>  14 West Bijou Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903  Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm  719-866-6441</p> <p><b>Ecumenical Social Ministries</b>  201 North Weber Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903  719-636-1916  Monday – Friday  9 AM – 11:30 AM  12:30 PM – 3 PM  (Must bring valid driver's license, registration and insurance for the vehicle)</p> <p><b>Helping Hands (Mountain Springs Church)</b>  7345 Adventure Way  Colorado Springs, CO 80923  <b>**By Appointment**</b>  Thursday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm  1st &amp; 3rd Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm (SE of intersection of Black Forest Road and Woodmen)</p> <p><b>Mercy's Gate</b>  4285 North Academy Boulevard  Colorado Springs, CO 80918  Monday, 4 PM – 7 PM  Wednesday, 9 AM – 12 PM  Thursday, 9 AM – 12 PM or 1 pm - 4 pm  Friday, 9 AM – 12 PM</p> <p><b>Tri-Lakes Cares</b>  235 Jefferson  Monument, CO 80231  Monday or Thursday, Noon - 3 pm or 6 pm - 8 pm</p>	
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<p><b>Health Information</b></p>	<p>The El Paso County Public Health has closed the <b>Public Health Convenience Center</b> for residents to get free water testing kits, tetanus shots, and health information.</p> <p>All tetanus shots, water testing kits are available at the <b>Citizen Service Center</b>  1675 W Garden of the Gods Rd  Colorado Springs, CO 80907  719-444-8301</p>	
<p><a href="http://www.HelpColoradoNow.org">www.HelpColoradoNow.org</a></p>	<p><a href="http://HelpColoradoNow.org">HelpColoradoNow.org</a> is a partnership between the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Colorado Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. This initiative brings together government agencies and non-profit organizations so they may better assist communities affected by disasters.</p>	
<p><b>Horses / Hay Bales</b></p>	<p><b>Grain / Hay</b></p> <p><b>Colorado Horse care Food Bank</b>  Hay Hotline 719-306-5595  13635 Murphy Road  Black Forest, CO  Monday - Friday, 2 pm - 7 pm  Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm</p> <p><b>Rockin B Feed</b>  12440 Black Forest Road  Black Forest, CO  719-459-3463  Free Dog can food also available (while supplies last</p>	<p>Horse owners may stop by during business hours.  **Limited number of bales per person**  Donations are needed</p> <p>If you need cat food contact Lauri  719-964-8905</p>

	<p>limit 2 per person)  Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 6 PM  Saturday, 9 AM – 5 PM  Closed Sunday</p>	
<b>Mail Pick-up Points</b>	<p>All mail for 80908 is being delivered to the following address:</p> <p><b>Briargate Post Office</b>  8585 Criterion Drive  Colorado Springs, CO 80920  719-265-4409</p>	
<b>Meal Sites</b>	<p><b>Poor Richard’s Restaurant</b>  324 ½ North Tejon Street  Colorado Springs, CO 80903  719-632-7721</p>	<p>Poor Richard's Downtown is offering free pizza and fountain drinks for all evacuees and firefighters affected by the Black Forest Fire.</p>
<b>Media Updates</b>	<p>Official fire information can be found through these outlets:</p> <p><b>Douglas County</b>  Website: <a href="http://douglas.co.us">douglas.co.us</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/douglascountycoco">@douglascountycoco</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/dcsheriff">@dcsheriff</a></p> <p><b>Elbert County</b>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/SheriffHeap">@SheriffHeap</a></p> <p><b>El Paso County</b>  Website: <a href="http://elpasoco.com">elpasoco.com</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/EPCPIO">@EPCPIO</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/EPCSheriff">@EPCSheriff</a></p>	
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	<p><b>AspenPointe</b>  counseling services  Monday - Sunday  7 am - 7 pm  719-572-6100</p> <p><b>Catholic Charities</b> is offering assistance to people affected by the fires. Phone lines are</p>	

	<p>staffed to offer help Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm 719-866-6559 or 719-866-6441</p> <p><b>Tri-Lakes Cares</b> 235 Jefferson Monument, CO 80231 Monday or Thursday, Noon - 3 pm or 6 pm - 8 pm</p>	
<b>Power Companies</b>	<p><b>Electrical Inspections</b></p> <p><b>Southern Colorado Chapter NECA</b> 719-636-3901</p> <p>Offering free electrical permit and home inspections to the homeowners affected by the fire in an effort to get their power turned back on.</p>	
<b>Reverse 911 Registration</b>	<p><b>El Paso and Teller Counties</b> residents with cell phones are encouraged to register for the reverse 9-1-1 service by visiting: <a href="http://www.elpasoteller911.org">www.elpasoteller911.org</a>.</p> <p>Those without internet access can register by contacting 719-471-6700.</p> <p><b>Elbert County</b> Register with CODE RED by visiting: <a href="http://elbertcounty-co.gov">elbertcounty-co.gov</a></p>	
<b>Reduced Rate Motels</b>	<p><b>Days Inn – Air Force Academy</b> 8350 Razorback Road Colorado Springs, CO 80920 719-599-5599</p> <p><b>Days Inn – South</b></p>	

	<p>2850 South Circle Colorado Springs, CO 80906 719-527-0800</p> <p><b>DoubleTree at World Arena</b> 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard Colorado Springs, CO 80906 719-576-8900</p> <p><b>Sheraton – Denver Tech Center</b> 7007 South Clinton Street Greenwood Village, CO 80112 303-790-6200</p>	<p>* Individuals must call the Sheraton Hotel prior and request the “Distress Rate” in order to receive a discount.</p>
<b>Re-Entry Information</b>	<p>Residents no longer have specific re-entry points. There are no checkpoints for traffic at this time.</p>	<p>Residents are encouraged to leave heavy equipment alone. Please do not remove the flags on your property. Those are a signal to first responders the area has been cleared for reentry.</p> <p>A guide has been created for safe initial re-entry to residents and can be downloaded at <a href="http://ow.ly/d/1k3c">ow.ly/d/1k3c</a></p>
<b>Residents/Victims Town Meetings and Information</b>	<p><b>El Paso County Home Assessment List</b> Please visit the following link for the most current information regarding property damage within the burn area. Due to the dynamic nature of the fire, this document will be continually updated as more information is gathered: <a href="http://bit.ly/14wdoOQ">bit.ly/14wdoOQ</a></p> <p><b>Insured Policy Holders Roadmap to Rebuild / Recover</b> Free – Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM <b>The Pinery</b> 12375 Black Forest Road Colorado Springs, CO</p>	<p>Purpose of the Committee Oversee recovery, restoration, and rebuilding efforts within the Black Forest burn area.</p>

	<p><b>Housing &amp; Building Association</b>  <b><i>Rebuild Panel Discussion</i></b>  La Foret  6145 Shoup Road  Black Forest, CO  RSVP Brianna  719-592-1800 x 11  Brianna@cshba.com</p>	
<p><b>Storage</b></p>	<p><b>U-Haul</b> is offering 5x5 and 5x10 storage units for one month free of charge for those displaced by the fire. Those interested must provide proof of home owner's insurance or renter's insurance to take advantage of the service.</p> <p>Units are available at the following locations:</p> <p>2175 Victor's Place, Colorado Springs, CO 80915  719-574-5168</p> <p>1193 North Academy Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80909  719-574-6500</p> <p>3105 North Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80907  719-632-4695</p>	
<p><b>Telephone Information</b></p>	<p><b>CenturyLink</b> is offering free emergency call forwarding to customers who are evacuated from their homes and offices due to the Black Forest and Royal Gorge fires. Calls can be forwarded to an alternate local phone number</p>	

	To activate service, 1-800-573-1311	
<b>Veterinary Support Services</b>	<p><b>Veterinary Support Services</b> 555 Colorado Street Calhan, CO 80808 719-522-3659</p> <p><b>Companion Animal Cremation</b> (dogs, cats)</p> <p>Veterinary Support Services has generously offered to provide a free service to pick up the bodies of deceased dogs and cats for families whose pets died in the fire. Call to discuss individual pick up and cremation options with Veterinary Support Services.</p> <p><b>Horse / Livestock pick-up</b></p> <p>For assistance with deceased horses/livestock, call Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region 719-473-1741, x 1</p> <p>HSPPR will forward calls to the El Paso County Transportation Department for pick up. Due to the resources needed in the long-term disaster recovery process, please be aware that it may not be possible to receive an immediate response from the El Paso County Transportation Department</p>	<p><b>Burial</b></p> <p>Please see the Safe Removal and Burial of Pets and Animals information sheet from El Paso County Public Health for additional information. See link on <a href="https://hsppr.org/blackforestfire">hsppr.org/blackforestfire</a></p>
<b>Volunteer Opportunities</b>	Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to register at	

	<p><a href="http://helpcoloradonow.org">helpcoloradonow.org</a>. As the needs arise, responding agencies can pull information from the website and get in contact with individuals directly.</p> <p>For the residents who have already sent an email to the County's <a href="mailto:bffvolunteer@elpaosco.com">bffvolunteer@elpaosco.com</a> to register as a volunteer, their information will be given to <a href="http://helpcoloradonow.org">helpcoloradonow.org</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Vulnerable Population Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living</b> <a href="http://accil.net">accil.net</a></p> <p><b>Colorado Association for the Deaf</b> <a href="http://cadeaf.org">cadeaf.org</a></p> <p><b>Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b> <a href="http://ccdhh.com">ccdhh.com</a></p> <p><b>Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition</b> <a href="http://ccdconline.org">ccdconline.org</a></p> <p><b>The Independence Center in Colorado Springs</b> 729 South Tejon Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 719-471-8181 <a href="http://theindependencecenter.org">theindependencecenter.org</a></p> <p><b>The Resource Exchange</b> 418 South Weber Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 719-380-1100 <a href="http://tre.org">tre.org</a></p>	



	<p><b>Rocky Mountain Options for Long Term Care</b>  719-457-0660  <a href="http://rmhcare.org/services/rocky-mountain-options-for-long-term-care">rmhcare.org/services/rocky-mountain-options-for-long-term-care</a></p>	
<p><b>Water</b></p>	<p><b>El Paso County Public Health</b>  staff are working in the area of the Black Forest Fire the month of July surveying water well damage to assess potential impacts to aquifers.</p> <p>Public Health teams will be wearing orange vests, marked 'Public Health', and will be working in coordination with members of the Colorado Division of Water Resources. If you see public health staff in the area, they will be available to answer questions about water wells and septic systems and provide resources to residents.</p> <p>As residents begin removing debris from their property, Public Health recommends taking steps to prevent damage to the drinking water and wastewater disposal systems. First locate and clearly mark the well head and septic system. Prevent groundwater contamination due to a damaged well head by making sure the well head is properly covered or protected. If you believe your well head has been damaged, a well industry professional assessment is recommended.</p>	

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## HEALTH CONCERNS

### **Mental Health during a Disaster**

Crisis counselors may provide outreach and education services about coping with the emotional difficulties in the aftermath of emergencies.

Symptoms include anger, fatigue, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, nightmares, depression, inability to concentrate, hyperactivity and/or increased alcohol or drug use.

Stress may manifest in a different way for everyone and may appear weeks or months after a traumatic event. If you or someone you know is experiencing distress or feeling overwhelmed by painful emotions related to recent events, call AspenPointe at 719-572-6100 or the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 where experienced crisis counselors can be reached. A TDD line is available at 303-432-5049. Translation services are also available. Additionally, you may contact the Disaster Distress Helpline by texting “TalkWithUs” to 66746.

### **Wildfire Smoke and Your Health**

Smoke from wildfires is a combination of gases and fine particles from burning vegetation and trees. Smoke can hurt your eyes and irritate your respiratory system, with possible exacerbated symptoms in children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory and heart conditions. No matter your physical condition, if you see smoke from the wildfire in your area, limit physical activity and stay indoors if possible. **Inhaling smoke is unhealthy for everyone.** Protect yourself and limit your exposure to smoke by monitoring the local air quality reports.

### **Air Quality**

- Air quality updates are available at [www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado\\_summary.aspx](http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx).
- For more general information on air quality monitoring and the use of alerts, see [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)

### **Symptoms Related To Wildfire Smoke**

- Eye, nose and/or throat irritation-itchy eyes and/or runny nose.
- Coughing, sore throat.
- Chest discomfort, rapid heartbeat, fatigue, and shortness of breath may be symptoms of a health emergency.
- There is an increased likelihood of getting a cold or having cold-like symptoms following smoke exposure.
- If you have asthma or another lung or heart disease, follow your doctor’s advice about medications and respiratory management plan. If symptoms persist or are severe, contact your primary health care provider. **Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

### **If Smoke is affecting you and/or Your Family:**

- If you smell smoke and/or are beginning to experience symptoms, consider temporarily relocating to another area as long as it is safe for you to do so.
- Seek out locations where air is filtered. For example, heading to the local mall, movie theater or recreation center can provide some temporary relief. Local health officials can often help locate places with better air quality during extended smoke episodes.
- Close windows and doors and stay indoors. However, do not close up your home tightly if it makes it dangerously warm inside.
- Only if filtered, run the air conditioning, the fan feature on your home heating system (with the heat turned off) or your evaporative cooler. Keep the outdoor air intake closed and be sure the filter is clean. Filtered air typically has less smoke than the air outdoors. Running these appliances if they are not filtered can make indoor smoke worse.
- If you have any HEPA room air filtration units, use them.
- In smoky air, reduce your physical activity level. Avoid exercise or other strenuous activities in heavy smoke.
- Make healthy eating choices, drink plenty of fluid, get ample sleep, and exercise in clean air. Mitigate stress as much as possible.
- Avoid smoking, secondhand smoke, vacuuming, candles and other sources of additional air pollution.
- Commercially available dust masks may seem like a good idea, but they do virtually nothing to filter out the particles and gasses in smoke.
- At night smoke can be heavy, especially if outdoor air is still. Close bedroom windows at night.

Adapted from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment ([www.cdphe.state.co.us/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/))

### **Wound Care and Tetanus Vaccinations**

The risk for injury after a disaster is high, **especially during the clean-up** of debris. Proper care of wounds is important to avoid infection and other complications. Tetanus, a disease caused by bacteria that affects the body's nerves and muscles, is also a concern for persons with both open and closed wounds. Please review the following information regarding wound care and tetanus vaccinations. Do not hesitate to **dial 9-1-1 in a life threatening emergency**.

#### **Care for Minor Wounds**

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and clean water.
- Avoid touching the wound with your fingers while treating it.
- Remove obstructive jewelry and clothing from the injured area.
- Apply direct pressure to any bleeding wound to control bleeding.
- Clean the wound after bleeding has stopped:
- Examine wounds for dirt and foreign objects.
- Gently flood the wound with clean water, and then gently clean around the wound with soap and water.
- Pat the wound dry and apply an adhesive bandage or dry clean cloth.
- Provide pain relievers, if possible.

#### **Other Considerations:**

- Wounds in contact with soil and sand can become infected.
- Puncture wounds can carry bits of clothing and dirt into wounds and result in infection.
- Crush injuries are more likely to become infected than wounds from cuts.

**Wound Care: Seek medical attention as soon as possible if:**

- There is a foreign object embedded in the wound.
- The wound is at special risk of infection (such as a dog bite or a puncture by a dirty object).
- A previous wound shows signs of becoming infected (e.g. increased pain, heat, swelling, redness, draining, or fever).

**Tetanus Vaccinations**

**Tetanus vaccinations are recommended for all residents returning to the disaster area who have not had a documented dose within the past ten years.** If you receive a puncture wound or a wound contaminated with feces, soil, or saliva, a health care professional should determine if a tetanus booster is necessary, based on individual records. Patients without a clear history of receiving at least three tetanus vaccinations and who have a wound should get the tetanus immune globulin (TIG) as well as the tetanus vaccination. Please speak with your personal physician or contact 719-578-3199.

## **INSURANCE**

### **Homeowners Insurance**

If your home has suffered damages because of the fire, please follow these guidelines regarding documentation and communicating with insurance agents.

- Residents evacuated from their homes should contact their insurance agents or companies immediately and let them know where they can be reached.
- Keep receipts. Out of pocket expenses during a mandatory evacuation are reimbursable under most standard homeowner policies; this may include living expenses while you are evacuated from your home.
- Be prepared to give a detailed list of damaged or destroyed personal property- this list should be as thorough as possible including a description of the items, dates of purchase and approximate age, cost at time of purchase and estimated replacement cost. Make a copy for yourself and a copy for your adjuster.
- Photos of the damage may help with your claims process-wait until authorities allow you back into your home.
- Make whatever temporary repairs you can. Cover broken windows, damaged roofs and walls to prevent further destruction. Save receipts for supplies and materials you purchase. Your insurance company may reimburse you for reasonable expenses in making temporary repairs.

Adapted from the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association

Information on the Homeowners Insurance Settlement Process can be found here

[www.rmiiia.org/Homeowners/Walking\\_Through\\_Your\\_Policy/Settlement\\_Process.asp](http://www.rmiiia.org/Homeowners/Walking_Through_Your_Policy/Settlement_Process.asp)

Contact the Colorado Division of Insurance if you feel that your insurance company is not handling your claim appropriately. 303- 894-7490

### **Auto Insurance**

If your vehicle has been damaged by the fire, do not try to start it. Contact your insurance agent. Do not attempt to dispose of your vehicle at the landfill; it will not be accepted.

Further information on Auto Claims can be found through the Rocky Mountain Information Insurance Association:

[www.rmiiia.org/auto/steering\\_through\\_your\\_auto\\_policy/Filing\\_an\\_Auto\\_Claim.asp](http://www.rmiiia.org/auto/steering_through_your_auto_policy/Filing_an_Auto_Claim.asp)

### **Renter's Insurance and Rights**

Renters/tenants are not responsible for the building in which they live; the landlord's insurance policy should cover damages to the building. Tenants ARE responsible for their own belongings and liability. If you rent and your personal property was damaged or lost because of the disaster, please contact your renter's insurance company as soon as possible.

Further information on Renter's Insurance can be found here:  
[www.rmiia.org/Homeowners/Walking\\_Through\\_Your\\_Policy/Renters\\_QA.asp](http://www.rmiia.org/Homeowners/Walking_Through_Your_Policy/Renters_QA.asp)

If a natural disaster damages or destroys a housing unit to the point of unsafe or uninhabitable living conditions (there are specific guidelines) this may violate the Warranty of Habitability Act. In this case, the landlord or the tenant may rescind the lease as long as the proper notice is given. Landlord-tenant laws vary from state to state and even county to county, please seek legal counsel for specifics (reasonable notice, health/safety repairs vs. uninhabitable living, security deposit, etc.). Information on rent abatement and/or security deposits should be disclosed in the lease.

\*Disasters often attract scam artists and those affected by the fire should be vigilant in protecting their personal assets. The best way to verify authorized insurance agent is to contact the Colorado Division of Insurance. Go to [www.dora.state.co.us/insurance/consumer/ConsumerMainPage.htm](http://www.dora.state.co.us/insurance/consumer/ConsumerMainPage.htm) and click on "Find a Licensed Company or Producer" (agent). Consumers can also call the Division of Insurance at 303-894-7490. Consumers should know that inspectors that come to your residence will never solicit for personal information such as social security and bank account numbers. Also, under no circumstances are insurance agents (and FEMA or SBA representatives) allowed to accept money- if you are solicited for an application fee or a fee to be put on a list to have your home repaired be cautious of this potential scam. \*

## **LONGER TERM ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION**

### **El Paso County Department of Human Services**

The Department of human services may provide services to assist individuals and families in achieving self sufficiency and social well-being including financial assistance for shelter, food, and medical care. [dhs.elpaso.com](http://dhs.elpaso.com)

### **Employment Assistance**

If you lost your job as a direct result of the fire, you may qualify for unemployment benefits. Please visit the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment for information regarding these benefits: [www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDLE-UnempBenefits/CDLE/1248095315478](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDLE-UnempBenefits/CDLE/1248095315478)

**Colorado Workforce Centers** provide a variety of free services to assist job seekers. These include job listings, computer & internet access, career counseling and training for job seekers. Please contact the Pikes Peak Workforce Center at 719-667-3700.

### **Housing**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development may provide funds to help repair homes. If granted, the **203K Rehabilitation Home Mortgage Insurance** may be used to rehabilitate or improve an existing home. Please visit the following website for further information: [portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/administration/hudclips/handbooks/hsg/h/4240.4](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/hudclips/handbooks/hsg/h/4240.4)

### **Change of Address**

A change of address form is available online at [www.usps.com/](http://www.usps.com/) or at any U.S. Postal Service location. If you change residence make sure that your address is current and all of the insurance agents that you have been working with are aware of your new address.



## FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CONSUMER ADVICE

Among many other stressors, disasters take a financial toll. Please review this link leading to the **Disaster Recover: A Guide to Financial Issues** to help you regain a sense of financial balance following a disaster, including suggestions on steps to take immediately, what to do in the initial weeks and months, and then how to begin planning again for the future.

[www.redcross.org/preparedness/FinRecovery/](http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/FinRecovery/)

### Social Security Payments

Anyone receiving Social Security payments that have been interrupted can go to any Social Security office to get an emergency payment. For information about changing mailing addresses, obtaining a new card, direct deposit, or locating the nearest Social Security office, call 1-888-880-0688 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or go online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

### Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Those who already receive SSI and SSDI should contact the Social Security Administration directly at 1-800-772-1213 to learn how checks may be reissued, cards replaced or to report a change in address.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud or if you want to find out how to avoid fraud when making purchases and paying for services, contact the Colorado Consumer Protection Division by telephone at 1-800-222-4444 or visit the website

[www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/departments/consumer\\_protection](http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/departments/consumer_protection)

### Other Resources Include:

<p><u>Better Business Bureau</u> 719-636-1155 <a href="http://southerncolorado.bbb.org">southerncolorado.bbb.org</a></p>	<p><u>Consumer Credit Counseling Service</u> 719-576-0909</p>
<p><u>Insurance Information</u> National Flood Insurance Program (Customer Service) 1-800-427-4661 (Existing Policies) 1-800-638-6620 <a href="http://www.floodsmart.gov">www.floodsmart.gov</a></p>	<p><u>Insurance Complaints and Assistance</u> Colorado Division of Banking and Insurance Consumer Information 303-894-7490 Toll Free Outside of Denver 1-800-930-3745 Complaints 303-894-7499</p>
<p><u>Veterans Benefits</u> U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs 1-800-827-1000 TTY 1-800-829-4833 Or online at <a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a></p>	<p><u>National Insurance Crime Bureau</u> 1-800-835-6422 <a href="http://www.nicb.org//">www.nicb.org//</a></p>

## LEGAL SERVICES

Below are local resources available to those who need legal counsel and services due to the disaster. If needed, please seek legal resources regarding housing, family, consumer, public entitlements, education, employment, and health care access.

Colorado Legal Services	<a href="http://www.coloradolegalservices.org/co/homepage.html">www.coloradolegalservices.org/co/homepage.html</a> 719-471-0380	Civil legal services for low-income individuals and families.
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## **DOCUMENT REPLACEMENT**

### **Colorado Official Birth, Death, Marriage, and Divorce Records**

The Colorado Department of Public Health Environment, Certificates and Vital Records can help replace birth, death, marriage and divorce records. For more information call 303-692-2200 or visit [www.cdphe.state.co.us/certs/index.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/certs/index.html).

### **Colorado Drivers License of Identification Cards**

The Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles can help replace identification documents. Please visit [www.colorado.gov/revenue/dmv](http://www.colorado.gov/revenue/dmv) to download required forms or find your local Department of Revenue.

### **Replacement Social Security Cards**

If your Social Security card was destroyed in the fire, it is important to replace the card because you will need to show the card to get a job, collect Social Security benefits and receive some other government services. Please visit [www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/](http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/) to apply for a new card.

### **Preserving Wet Documents**

To preserve family treasures, review this informational link at the National Archives [www.archives.gov/preservation/disaster-response/guidelines.html](http://www.archives.gov/preservation/disaster-response/guidelines.html)

### **El Paso County Clerk and Recorder Office**

The El Paso County Clerk and Recorders Office has announced a temporary change of policies for those evacuated by the fire. Fees are waived for those who lost vital documents in the fire. No fees for copies of marriage licenses, deeds, copies of driver's licenses, vehicle registration, titles, duplicate tags or other applicable documents through August 31, 2013

Liquor licensed businesses affected by fire can call  
719-520-6430

The Elections Department will send out a letter regarding voter registration options in advance of the November 2013 election.

## RETURNING HOME

Do not return to your home until it is declared safe to do so by local authorities. Injury is very common after a disaster when returning home because of debris, sharp objects, and unstable structures. Protect yourself by wearing eye protection, a mask, sturdy boots, long sleeves, long pants and gloves when returning home and cleaning up.

**Masks:** the Center for Disease Control recommends that a well-fitted, NIOSH-certified air-purifying respirator (such as an N-95 or more protective respirator) be used to reduce the potential health impacts of dust and ash. If this type of respirator cannot be obtained, then at a minimum it is recommended that a face mask, sprayed with a fine mist of water be used to reduce exposure.

### Pets

If animals are lost during the disaster please contact local veterinarians, humane societies, pet shelters, and other facilities that might house animals. Be prepared to identify and document ownership when claiming lost livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture Missing Pet Network website at [www.missingpet.net](http://www.missingpet.net) may be of assistance.

Handle pets carefully and calmly as animals can become upset and react in unusual ways after a disaster. When you are allowed to return home, animals may become disoriented because of altered familiar scents and landmarks caused by the fire. If possible, leave your pet with a friend or family member, veterinarian, or a boarding facility while you clean and restore your home. Animals are naturally inquisitive and there are many dangers present in a post disaster area (sharp objects, downed electric lines, wild animals, disorientation leading to pet becoming lost, etc.).

### When Returning Home

- Use caution and good judgment when re-entering a burn area and your home. Never assume that the area is safe.
- Avoid damaged power poles or lines and down wires. Immediately report electrical damage.
- Watch for ash pits, holes full of hot ash created by burned trees and stumps.
- If your home was damaged, check with your local utilities company. Make sure gas and electricity are turned off before entering the area. Professionals should determine if gas and electricity are safe to turn on.
- If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve. Always call the gas company if you suspect a leak. If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.
- Inspect the roof immediately and extinguish any sparks or embers.

- Recheck for sparks or embers throughout the home, including the attic and crawl spaces, for several days after the fire. Sparks and embers can reignite.

### **Propane and Heating Oil Tanks**

- **Propane tank system- contact a propane supplier; turn off valves on the system and leave valves closed until the supplier inspects your system.** Tanks, brass and copper fittings may have been damaged from the heat and be unsafe. If fire burned the tank, the pressure relief valve probably open and released the contents.
- **Heating oil tank system- contact a heating oil supplier for an inspection of your system before using it.** The tank may have shifted or fallen from the stand and fuel lines may have kinked or weakened. Heat from the fire may have caused the warp or bulge. Non-vented tanks are more likely to bulge or show signs of stress. The fire may have loosened or damaged fittings and filters.

### **Water Quality after a Fire**

Your well or septic system could be adversely affected by the fire, power outages, equipment failure from fire damage, or contamination of water supplies. Be prepared, and have plenty of bottled water available for drinking and cooking when you return home.

### **Wells**

Wells at undamaged homes should be safe, unless they were affected by a fuel spill. If your house was damaged, disinfect and test the water before consuming it. The water system may have become contaminated with bacteria due to loss of water pressure in the plumbing.

### **Public Well**

If you use water from a public well, have a water sample collected and tested before drinking it. It may have been contaminated with bacteria due to a loss of water pressure in the plumbing.

### **Tank**

If you have an above-ground tank that was exposed to the fire, have the supply tested. If you are in doubt about water safety, have your water tested.

### **Water District**

If you get your water from a water district, contact them to ensure that the water supply has not been contaminated.

### **Septic Systems**

If you feel your septic system may have been damaged, discontinue use until a licensed professional has inspected the system. The system may have been impacted if:

- Plastic piping above ground has melted.
- The raised system was in the direct line of fire (i.e. grass on top is scorched).
- There is damage in the area where the pipes enter the home.

A lift station will not operate without power. Limit or discontinue use until power is restored.

Please contact El Paso County Public Health at 719-578-3199 with questions or concerns regarding water safety.

### **Drinking Water Treatment in Emergencies**

Water supplies that are normally safe to drink and utilize for cooking and hygiene purposes may be adversely affected because of this disaster. If there is a water supply system disruption or loss of pressure because of line breaks, repairs, or power outages your water may need to be treated. If a safe supply of water is not available, it should be treated before being used for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth.

Local or State Departments of Health will notify you that water should be boiled or treated before drinking; listen to your local radio and TV stations for a **“boil water advisory”**.

The following treatments only work in situations where the water is unsafe because of the presence of bacteria. If the water is unsafe because of chemicals, oils, poisonous substances, sewage, etc., do not use the water for drinking. If the water is cloudy, it should be filtered before treating. Filters designed for use when camping, coffee filters, towels (paper or cotton), cheesecloth, or a cotton plug in a funnel are effective ways to filter cloudy water.

#### **Boiling (Boiling is the preferred method if available)**

- Boiling is the best way to purify water that is unsafe because of the presence of protozoan parasites or bacteria. Boiling should not be used when toxic metals, chemicals (pesticides, solvents, etc.), or nitrates have contaminated the water.
- Place the water in a clean metal or glass container and bring to a full boil. Continue boiling for at least one full minute.

#### **Liquid Chlorine Bleach**

- If boiling is not possible, water can be made safe for drinking by treating with liquid household chlorine bleach, such as Clorox, Purex, etc. Household bleach is typically between 5% and 6% chlorine. Do not use bleaches that contain perfumes, dyes, or other additives. Be sure to read the label.
- Place the water (filtered if necessary) in a clean container. Add the amount of bleach according to the table. Mix thoroughly and allow it to stand for at least 30 minutes before using (60 minutes if the water is cloudy or very cold).
- Purifying tablets or chemicals designed for use when camping or backpacking can also be an effective way to treat water. Always follow the directions on the package.

### Treating Water With a 5-6% Liquid Chlorine Bleach Solution

(Allow treated CLEAR water to stand 30 minutes; treated CLOUDY water should stand for 60 minutes)

Volume of Water To Be Treated	Treating Clear Water Bleach Solution to Add	Treating Cloud, Very Cold or Surface Water Bleach Solution to Add
1 quart/ 1 liter	3 drops	5 drops
1/2 gallon/2 quarts/2 liters	5 drops	10 drops or 1/8 tsp
1 gallon	10 drops or 1/8 tsp	20 drops or 1/4 tsp
5 gallons	50 drops or 5 mL or 1/2 tsp	5 mL or 1 tsp
10 gallons	5 mL or 1 tsp	10 mL or 2 tsp

tsp=teaspoon; mL=milliliter

#### Storing Treated Water

- Use proper storage containers. Store the water in containers that are made for water storage, or glass and plastic jugs previously used for juice, milk, pop, or bottled water.
- Clean containers thoroughly before using and make sure that the container has a tight fitting cap. Never use containers that were previously used for pesticides, chemicals, solvents, anti-freeze, oils, etc
- Store in a cool place.

Adapted from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [www.cdphe.state.co.us/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/)

## **CLEAN UP**

### **Fire Debris Removal**

Ash and contaminated debris should be contained and disposed in a safe manner to minimize health hazards. Proper clean-up helps ensure that property owners and neighbors are protected against potential hazards and health risks of unattended ash and debris. Colorado State regulations require that all properties be properly cleaned of ash and debris before a building permit can be issued

Ash and debris should be wetted and hauled to approved landfills in lined and sealed dumpsters. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment is providing a list of landfills that will accept debris and ash from burned structures affected by these wildfires. For more information visit: [goo.gl/maps/l3ksY](http://goo.gl/maps/l3ksY). Roll-offs can be taken to any one of the landfills on the list. Please call the landfill contact before transporting loads to alert the landfill that the material is coming and confirm it will accept the waste. Scrap metal must be rinsed with water before recycling, concrete foundations must be inspected for asbestos before recycling. When wetting ash and debris use as little water as possible and be careful to prevent runoff from entering drainage and sewers.

### **Asbestos**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been added into thousands of various types of building materials to add fire resistance, strength, and durability. Asbestos-containing materials may be part of your building-especially if it was constructed before the 1970's. A number of local, state, and federal regulations cover the handling and disposal of debris potentially contaminated with asbestos.

Lists of and contact information for landfills that will accept asbestos-containing debris from the various wildfires can be found on the Air Pollution Control Division's Asbestos Program website: [colorado.gov/cdphe/asbestos](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/asbestos)

If you need additional information, please contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Solid Waste Unit at 303- 692-3348, the Asbestos Unit at 303-692-3100, or [cdphe.state.co.us/ap/asbestos/index.html](http://cdphe.state.co.us/ap/asbestos/index.html).

### **Household Chemical Disposal**

Household cleaners, fertilizers and pesticides may have spilled or the containers may have become compromised due to the fire or firefighting efforts. Keep children and pets away from leaking or spilled chemicals and call Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) or Emergency Medical Services (dial 9-1-1) if anyone ingests chemicals. Clean up any chemical spill immediately with rags that you don't mind throwing away. Allow the fumes in the rag to evaporate outdoors, then dispose of the rags by wrapping them in a newspaper and placing



them in a sealed plastic bag in your trash can. Do not put household chemicals in the trash or bury, burn, or pour chemicals down drains, storm sewers or toilets. Take household hazardous waste to a local collection program. Also, do not combine chemicals or smoke while using or cleaning chemicals as this may produce dangerous reactions.

### **Fire Suppressant Safety Information**

Please read below for information and precautions for all categories of wild-land firefighting chemicals and long-term retardants.

#### **People**

- Fire retardant contains ammonia and will sting if it gets into cuts or scratches or comes into contact with chapped or sunburned skin.
- Wash thoroughly with a gentle soap and water to remove all residues, as many of the fire chemicals could dry your skin.
- After washing, use a good-quality hand cream to minimize drying and chapping.

#### **Wood and Metal Structures**

- The red color of fire retardants comes from iron oxide (rust), which can be difficult to remove.
- Wash fire retardant off as soon as possible. Some of these products may discolor metal.
- Dampening a stained surface with water, and then scrubbing it with a wet, stiff-bristled brush has been effective.
- Power washers may drive the red colorant into the surface of the wood and should generally be avoided.
- Restrict water use to prevent puddles that may be attractive to pets.
- Avoid leaving standing puddles of water by using absorbent materials, such as sand or soil.

#### **Vegetation**

- Rinse fire retardant off vegetation.
- Avoid leaving standing puddles of water by applying absorbent materials, such as sand or soil.
- Leaf burn may occur since fire retardants contain fertilizer and at levels higher than what is often sold at garden stores. This could cause vegetation and plants to appear dead after contact; however, they will generally recover and grow back, usually within one to two months.
- Fruit and vegetables exposed to fire retardant should be properly disposed of at a designated inedible food collection.

#### **Pets and Other Animals**

- Shampoo your pet thoroughly, since many of the fire retardants are very drying to skin.

- Use materials that will effectively absorb any puddles after shampooing, or in areas where animals may have access. Materials, such as sand, soil, or other absorbents, should be used on any standing water or puddles.
- Avoid ingestion of water containing fire retardant or other chemicals – keep animals away from puddles.
- If your pet appears ill after drinking from puddles or standing water, make sure your veterinarian knows that the animal may have ingested a fertilizer-based product.

### **Food Safety After a Fire**

Food exposed to fire can be compromised by four factors: the heat of the fire, exposure to the smoke itself, chemicals used to fight the fire, and power outage as a result of fire. Generally, saving food that has been in or near a fire is not a good idea. Please dispose contaminated food at a local collection.

#### **Heat**

Food in cans or jars may appear to be fine, but if they have been close to the heat of a fire, they may not be edible. Heat from a fire can activate food spoilage bacteria. If the heat was severe, the cans or jars may have split or ruptured resulting in unsafe food.

#### **Smoke**

Toxic substances which may be released in the smoke from burning materials are one of the most dangerous elements of a fire. The smoke can be hazardous and can also contaminate food. Any food stored in permeable packaging such as cardboard or and plastic wrap should be thrown away. Toxic smoke can permeate the packaging and contaminate the food. Discard any raw foods stored outside the refrigerator, such as potatoes or fruit, as they too could be contaminated by exposure to the smoke. Even food stored in the refrigerator or freezer can become contaminated by smoke exposure as the seals are not necessarily airtight. **If food from your refrigerator or freezer has an off-flavor or odor when it is prepared it should be discarded and not eaten.**

#### **Chemicals Used to Fight Fires**

Chemicals used to fight fires contain toxic materials that can contaminate food and cookware. While some of the chemicals may be listed as non-toxic to humans, they may be harmful if swallowed. Fire-fighting chemicals cannot be washed off exposed foods. Foods that are exposed to chemicals should be thrown away. This includes food stored at room temperature, such as fruit and vegetables, as well as foods stored in permeable containers like cardboard and screw-topped jars and bottles.

**De-contaminating canned goods and kitchen appliances.** Canned goods that have not been exposed to heat and are not bulging or split open can be salvaged. Kitchen appliances (refrigerator, freezers, etc.) that were exposed to chemicals can also be decontaminated. Wooden cutting boards, plastic utensils, baby bottle nipples and pacifiers should also be discarded. **To decontaminate:**

1. Wash canned goods (remove labels), cookware, and surfaces of kitchen appliances with hot water and soap.
2. Rinse surfaces with clear water.
3. Dip cans and cookware in bleach solution (1-2 teaspoons bleach per gallon of water) for 15 minutes. Wipe surfaces with same solution.
4. Re-label canned goods with permanent marker, include expiration date.

### **Power Outages**

The main concern with perishables stored in the refrigerator and freezer is the availability of electrical power. If a power outage has occurred, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Open the refrigerator as little as possible. Refrigerated items should be safe as long as the power is off no more than about 4 hours. A full freezer should keep foods safe for about two days; a half-full freezer, about one-day. If foods still contain ice crystals and/or if the freezer temperature is 41° F or lower and has been at that temperature no longer than one to two days, food that was safe when it was originally frozen should still be safe. These foods can be refrozen or cooked and eaten.

- Discard any perishable food that has been held at temperatures above 41° F for more than 2 hours, or any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- Never taste food to determine its safety.
- If you have returned from being evacuated and are not sure if the power was shut off and then turned back on, check with your utility company.
- Check for suspicious signs in your refrigerator and freezer, such as the presence of liquid or refrozen meat juices, soft or melted and refrozen ice cream, or unusual odors.

**Remember** that food unfit for human consumption is also unfit for pets. **If in doubt, throw it out!**

### **Water Damage and Mold**

Water damage to your home from the firefighting efforts may increase the likelihood of mold contamination. To prevent mold growth, dry out your home as soon as possible (ideally within 24-48 hours). If mold has already started to develop it will often appear as spots, it may present in different colors and may smell musty. Mold may present certain health risks. In most cases, if visible mold growth is present, sampling is unnecessary. Health complications related to mold include nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, cough or wheezing, eye irritation, and in some cases skin irritation. Individuals with mold allergies may have more severe reactions. Immuno-compromised individuals, as well as people with chronic lung illnesses may get serious lung infections if exposed to mold.

**To prevent mold growth dry out your home as soon as possible.**

- If weather permits, open doors and windows to create a draft.

- If your home has electricity and **an electrician has determined it safe to turn on** use fans and dehumidifiers to remove excess moisture by blowing the air outwards rather than inwards.
- Remove standing water with a “wet-dry” shop vacuum, an electric powered water transfer pump, or sump pump. Be sure to wear rubber boots if operating equipment in wet areas. A portable generator to power equipment to remove standing water may be utilized, however, be aware that improper use may lead to dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide and can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Before turning on home heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems have them check and cleaned by a service professional if mold is a concern

**Properly remove mold and sanitize the area to help prevent future mold growth.**

- If the area of mold growth is greater than 10 sq. feet it is recommended to consult a professional
- First wash the area/item with hot water and detergent and rinse with clean water.
- Wash the area/item with bleach mixture (1 cup bleach to 1 cup water). **\* Never mix bleach with ammonia-the mixture creates a toxic gas that can kill you\***. Rinse with clean water.
- Thoroughly dry the area/items.
- Discard items that CANNOT be cleaned with HOT water.
- Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, goggles and an N-95 mask. Work in a well ventilated area.

Visit [www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html](http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html) for more information on mold growth and clean up.

**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if inhaled. When power outages occur during emergencies, the use of generators, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal burning devices should never be used inside a home, basement, garage, or camper, or even outside near an open window.

Symptoms: Most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Exposure to CO can cause loss of consciousness and death.

Carbon Monoxide detectors should be check twice a year, at the same time batteries are checked. If conditions at home are too hot or too cold, seek shelter with friends or at a community shelter.

## REPAIRS AND REBUILDING

If you are planning to renovate, deconstruct, or demolish a structure damaged by the fire, you will need to obtain an inspection and any required permits

First speak with insurance agents and adjusters to discuss your coverage. Replacement costs will frequently include rebuilding to current codes and regulations. Improved methods and materials have become standard practice with more attention to updated weatherization and energy requirements. Be careful to choose a licensed and experienced architect and/or contractor and be cautious of scam artists and fraud.

Verify licensure, file complaints and find other consumer information through the following:

<b>Better Business Bureau</b>	719-636-1155	<a href="http://southerncolorado.bbb.org">southerncolorado.bbb.org</a>
<b>Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies</b>	1-800-886-7675	<a href="http://www.dora.state.co.us/index.html">www.dora.state.co.us/index.html</a>

Colorado law requires at least three business days notice, prior to outdoor construction or digging. Whomever is excavating -property owners or contractors- must call the Utility Notification Center of Colorado (UNCC) by **dialing 8-1-1** or 1-800-922-1987. UNCC will mark the site with paint, flags or stakes. Please respect the marks and dig with care, hand digging within two feet to buried piping and facilities. For additional information visit the UNCC website at [www.uncc2.org/web/](http://www.uncc2.org/web/).

The American Red Cross has created this booklet with further information on how to recover from a fire:

[www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/getting\\_assistance/pickingupthepieces\\_fire.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/getting_assistance/pickingupthepieces_fire.pdf)

## UTILITY CONTACT INFORMATION

To report problems with utilities or when utilities need to be shut off or during reconstruction, please refer to the following numbers:

### Electrical Services

<b>Colorado Springs Utilities</b>	<b>719-448-4800</b>	<a href="http://www.csu.org">www.csu.org</a>
<b>Mountain View Electric Association</b>	<b>719-495-2283</b>	<a href="http://www.mvea.coop">www.mvea.coop</a>
<b>Xcel Energy</b>	<b>1-800-895-4999</b>	<a href="http://www.xcelenergy.com">www.xcelenergy.com</a>

### Natural Gas Services

<b>Colorado Springs Utilities</b>	<b>719-448-4800</b>	<a href="http://www.csu.org">www.csu.org</a>
<b>Black Hills Energy</b>	<b>1-888-890-5554</b>	<a href="http://www.blackhillsenergy.com">www.blackhillsenergy.com</a>
<b>Rocky Mountain Propane</b>	<b>303-648-3228</b>	<a href="http://www.rockymountainpropane.com">www.rockymountainpropane.com</a>
<b>Xcel Energy</b>	<b>1-800-895-4999</b>	<a href="http://www.xcelenergy.com">www.xcelenergy.com</a>

### Phone Services

<b>ATT</b>	<b>1-800-288-2747</b>	<a href="http://www.att.com">www.att.com</a>
<b>CenturyLink</b>	<b>1-877-548-6869</b>	<a href="http://www.centurylink.com">www.centurylink.com</a>
<b>Comcast</b>	<b>1-877-914-7884</b>	<a href="http://www.comcastconnect.com">www.comcastconnect.com</a>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>1-800-427-9977</b>	<a href="http://www.verizon.com">www.verizon.com</a>
<b>Viaero Wireless</b>	<b>303-646-0606</b>	

### Water Services

<b>Donala Water and Sanitation District</b>	<b>719-488-3603</b>	<a href="http://www.donalawater.org">www.donalawater.org</a>
<b>Park Forest Water District</b>	<b>719-494-1320</b>	<a href="http://www.pfwd.org">www.pfwd.org</a>
<b>Town of Elbert Water</b>	<b>303-621-3144</b>	