

Chaffee County Citizen Emergency Preparedness Guide



For the citizens and visitors of Chaffee County, Colorado

This guide is a compilation of emergency preparedness information from a variety of reliable sources. While we encourage individuals and communities to be prepared for emergencies, we are not directing anyone to implement all the measures recommended in this guide. All emergency situations are unique and people should make their own decisions for the extent of their preparedness.

The information contained in this document will be updated and revised as necessary to ensure a safer and more prepared community.

This guide is not to be sold in part or in whole.

Emergency Management in Chaffee County

The ongoing success of emergency management is based on an all-hazards approach and the strong partnerships built within the emergency management community. This community consists of federal, state, and local partners; local response agencies; and the private sector such as local businesses, volunteer, non-governmental, and community-based organizations. The Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for providing mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as well as coordination for large-scale emergencies and disasters to the citizens of Chaffee County for the purpose of saving lives and preventing property damage.

As you read through this guide, please consider the following activities. Personal preparedness activities can not only keep you and your family safe but can help you become a response asset rather than requiring response yourself.

Individuals and families can and should prepare for emergencies. We are centrally located and somewhat secluded within the state, and as such, each person, family, and business must remain vigilant with regard to emergency preparedness and management. There are several simple steps that you can take to prepare yourself for an emergency.

- Complete your own hazard analysis for around your home or business. If you have lived in Chaffee County for any period of time, you are probably aware of the hazards that are high risk. If you are new to the area, talk to some long-time residents to determine what events have occurred historically or use the analysis in this guide. Don't forget the "small" emergencies, such as fire or an extended power outage.
- Develop your own emergency plan. Play the "what if" game with each of the hazards you selected. What would you do if _____ occurs? Then ask yourself what supplies you would need to take the action(s) you identify, and gather the supplies together.
- Practice your plan. Even simple tasks can become difficult during an emergency. Practice your plan before an emergency occurs until you are thoroughly familiar with the procedures you need to follow if the event occurs.

We hope that you enjoy this guide and find the information valuable to you and your family.

Nothing in this document eliminates the need for common sense...

Because it is impossible to predict when a specific incident will occur or plan for every emergency, the Chaffee County OEM and local response agencies participate in and help plan numerous preparedness exercises throughout the year. The exercises are disaster simulations that may involve all levels of government and response agencies and can range from an organized discussion about a potential threat to a full-scale training that involves actual response units, real-time events, and actors who play the role of victims.

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Welcome to Chaffee County

Through a cooperative effort between Chaffee County and the South Central All-Hazards Region, we are pleased to provide the citizens and visitors of Chaffee County with this Emergency Preparedness Guide. Each individual and family needs to be prepared. Knowing the steps to take during a disaster can greatly reduce the danger and distress your family may face.

Chaffee County is an extraordinary place to live, regardless if you are raising a family, relocating because of our diverse recreational activities, or desiring a place to retire and enjoy the solitude. Chaffee County is the crossroads for three highways within the state and is geographically isolated by mountain passes and winding canyons. The land area of Chaffee County is 1,013 square miles and consists of varied terrain and population densities. The area is home to numerous mountain peaks over 14,000 feet and one of the most commercially rafted rivers in the world. Additionally, Chaffee County has two large municipalities, Salida and Buena Vista, and three smaller communities Poncha Springs, Nathrop, and Granite.

While the area offers many benefits for citizens and visitors, it is important to remember the best way to be prepared for an emergency is to be educated. This guide will help you and your family plan for a variety of emergency situations, persevere during them and recover afterwards.



Your local response agencies

In an Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Chaffee County Combined Communications Center (719) 539-2596



Heart of the Rockies
Regional Medical Center
(719) 530-2200
www.hrrmc.com



Buena Vista Police Department
Administration
(719) 395-8654



Chaffee County Sheriff's Office
Administration
(719) 539-2814



Salida Police Department
Administration
(719) 539-6880



Chaffee County
Emergency Medical Services
(719) 539-1914
<http://chaffeeems.org>



Buena Vista Fire Department
(719) 395-8098



Chaffee County
Fire Protection District
(719) 395-6545



Salida Fire Department/
South Arkansas Fire Protection District
(719) 539-2212
[http://www.cityofsalida.com/
departments/fire](http://www.cityofsalida.com/departments/fire)
<http://www.southarkfire.com/>

Chaffee and Lake Amateur Radio
Emergency Service (CLARES)
Mike McQueen (719) 207-1452



Chaffee County Office of Emergency
Management
(719) 539-1914
PO Box 699 Salida, CO 81201
lortega@chaffeecounty.org
<http://twitter.com/ChaffeeOEM>

9-1-1

How it works: When you dial 9-1-1, the phone call goes to the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office Communications Center, where a dispatcher will help you determine the nature of the emergency and what type of response is needed.

Cell Phones: Cellular phones are very helpful. Even if you do not have a current service provider, your cell phone will call 9-1-1 at no cost. The dispatcher will need to know where you are. Some of the newer cell phones will provide a close location to the 9-1-1 center but some do not. There are some areas in Chaffee County where cellular phones do not work.

What if 9-1-1 fails? 9-1-1 centers have detailed plans and agreements in place for dealing with calls, if there is a failure. The Chaffee County Communications Center has other resources in case of a failure.

Depending on the nature of the failure, 9-1-1 calls can be forwarded to the Canon City Police Department, who will take the information and notify Chaffee County personnel by other phone lines or by radio. You should not be able to tell if there is a failure, your call should still be answered.

If you call 9-1-1 accidentally, do not hang up, stay on the phone and talk to the dispatcher. If a 9-1-1 call comes in with a location, the dispatcher is required to send an officer to the location, by staying on the phone and letting the dispatcher know why you called 9-1-1 will assist an officer in getting to you in a safe manner.

For Law enforcement, Fire and EMS assistance of any kind call 719-539-2596, if it is a life or death emergency always call 9-1-1.

Resources: There are many agencies and a great deal of expertise in our communities, and a variety of resources can be found in this guide. Knowing which agencies serve your area can be helpful.

Emergency Alert & Warning Systems

Reverse 9-1-1: The “Reverse 9-1-1” system allows Chaffee County to call the citizens in a designated area about potentially life threatening events and protective measures by way of telephone. The system was designed to work with landline phones, and upgrades in the program has allowed for the expansion to cellular phones.

Chaffee County Communications Center contracts with a company called Code Red for reverse 9-1-1 calls. Most landline phones will be in the database for the calls, however cell phones are not automatically in the database. If you would like more information or to have your number(s) included in the database, go to www.chaffeesherriff.org and follow the link to CodeRED®. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 719-539-2596 and the dispatcher can assist you. Chaffee County encourages you to register not only your cell numbers but also your landline numbers to ensure that you get the calls. You must have an address in Chaffee County to register for CodeRED® in Chaffee County.

When CodeRED® is activated a recorded voice message will be “launched” through CodeRED® procedures by the County Communications Center. This message will deliver precise information to the homes and businesses within the designated area. The system is also capable of delivering messages via TTY for the hearing impaired. If the system dials a residence and gets a voice, it gives spoken message. If it detects a TTY it delivers a TTY message.

There are limitations to the system, if the phone line has some type of block or a prompt that requires a key to be pressed the device will prevent delivery of the message. Newly developed areas and new phone service may take up to 6 months before it is in the system, unless the owner of the phone registers through CodeRED®, in which case it will be in the system within days.

Please remember that when the system calls your phone, there will be a pause before the message begins. If you answer your phone and get no answer to your greeting, please wait on the line for a few seconds in case the system is waiting to provide information.

The system has been used in Chaffee County and has proven to be a valuable tool.

Emergency Alert System: (EAS System). This is a system that the Chaffee County Communications Center can activate, that will allow the system to “break” into radio and television and send an emergency voice message to citizens via radio and television media. You have probably heard some of the weekly tests being run on broadcast communications. If you hear the emergency alert noise on your radio or television, be sure to listen to the alert to see if it affects your area.

National Weather Service Information

For weather in our area you can go to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pub/>, this will give you the Pueblo Weather Service website.

Current Road conditions can be received by calling 5-1-1 on your phone or going to www.cotrip.org on the internet.

We are not in heavily populated areas or tornado country so there are few fixed sirens in the valley.

You may receive an alert if police, ambulances, or fire trucks drive slowly through the area with their lights and sirens going and using their PA systems to pass on information.

Please turn on a battery operated radio or your television and follow directions which should be broadcast by those systems.

You can also download weather forecast sites to your computer to receive local weather information. Weather Bug, weather.weatherbug.com, has a weather site in Salida and Buena Vista, The Weather Channel, www.weather.com, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, www.noaa.gov, will also give local weather information.

Special Considerations

Children in Chaffee County

Babysitting classes are offered periodically in Chaffee County. Historically these classes are available through the Salida Aquatic Center and the Buena Vista Recreation Department. Please contact these agencies for further information.

In an effort to help prevent injuries, Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, Chaffee County, and the Central Mountains Regional Advisory Trauma Council partner together to provide bicycle and ski helmets for children. The contact for this program is Jodi Townsend, Trauma Coordinator at HRRMC 719-530-2243.

Neighbors helping neighbors

A community working together during an emergency can save lives and property. Meet with neighbors to see how to plan together. Find out if anyone has special equipment (like a power generator) or special skills (medical, technical) that would help during a disaster. Make a plan to help elderly or disabled neighbors. Most of all get to know each other and connect within the community before a crisis occurs.

Join, start, or revive a Neighborhood Watch program. Participate in your Homeowner's Association and discuss disaster preparedness as a new activity.

Encourage your neighborhood to take training such as the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) to better assist the community with preparedness efforts. Other training is available through the American Red Cross, Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, Chaffee County EMS, and the Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management.

Chaffee County Hazards

Chaffee County has endured numerous natural disasters. These include weather related events such as flooding, landslides, thunder and lightning storms, winter storms, and wildfire.



July 22, 2002

These are clearly not the only disasters that may occur in the area, but have all happened in the recent past. All events have varying degrees of impact on the community. An example of the severity of impact is wildfire. These occur often during the summer and fall season, but rarely is there much impact to the surrounding areas. This reduced impact could severely change if a wildfire happened close to one of the mountainous subdivisions in Chaffee County. If this occurred, the citizens living in the subdivision would face significant impact and would require assistance from the local emergency responders.

In all disasters there are things to be done before, during, and after the event.

Actions common to all types of hazards

Regardless of what type of disaster or event that may affect you or your family, there are steps you can take to help you before, during and after the event to reduce its impacts

- Listen to your radio or television for weather reports and emergency information from public officials.
- Pay attention to announcements by emergency management, fire or police officials regarding actions the public should take.
- Talk to your insurance agent to ensure proper coverage for your home, personal property, or business if you are at risk from types of natural disasters.
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions and take appropriate precautions when necessary.

Flooding frequently occurs in Chaffee County and may take place along a waterway or in larger watersheds. Flash floods can develop quickly and without any visible signs of rain. Flash floods can carry dangerous walls of water that carry rocks, mud, or other debris and can sweep away many things in its path.

Before a flood

- Elevate and reinforce your home if you live or plan to build in a flood prone area.
- Elevate the furnace, water, heater and electric panel if your home or business is susceptible to flooding
- Install back-flow or check valves in piping to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home or business.
- Seal the walls in your basement with waterproofing compounds to reduce seepage.

During a flood

- Move to higher ground if there is any possibility of a flash flood
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels canyons, and other areas known to suddenly flood.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Secure your home by bringing in outdoor furniture and moving essential items to an upper floor, only if it is safe to do so.
- Avoid walking through moving water.

After a flood

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwater as it may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, raw sewage, or may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings due to potential hidden water damage
- Clean and disinfect everything that is wet.

Flood Facts

- *Six inches of moving water can make an adult fall and will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling*
- *A foot of water will float most vehicles.*
- *Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-ups*

Landslides and debris flow occur often in Chaffee County, with varying degrees of impact on citizens. Debris flows are rivers of rock, earth, and other debris saturated with water. They develop when water rapidly accumulates in the ground during heavy rainfall or rapid snowmelt, changing solid earth into a flowing river of mud or slurry. These can flow rapidly, striking with little or no warning at avalanche speeds. They also can travel miles from their source, growing in size as they pick up trees, boulders, cars, and other materials.

Before a landslide

- Do not build near steep slopes, close to mountain edges, near drainage ways or areas of natural erosion.
- Obtain a geologic hazard analysis of your property.
- Ask local officials for information on landslides in your area.
- Rocky Mountain U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) 303-236-5438
- Chaffee County Development Service 719-539-2124
- Install flexible pipe fittings to avoid gas or water leaks. Only professionals should do the installation.
- Plant ground cover on slopes and build retaining walls.

During a landslide

- Evacuate if it is safe to do so or if advised by local officials.
- Move to an above ground level if possible.
- Listen for unusual sounds that indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together.
- Be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow and for a change from clear to muddy water. Such changes may indicate landslide activity upstream.
- Watch the road for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks and other indications of possible debris flow.

After a landslide

- Avoid the slide area if possible as there may be danger of additional slides.
- Check for injured and trapped persons without entering the slide area.
- Help neighbors who may need assistance.
- Look for and report broken utility lines, damaged roadways, and railways.
- Check the building foundation, chimney, and surrounding land for damage.
- Replant damaged ground as soon as possible. Erosion caused by loss of ground cover can lead to flash flooding and additional landslides.



USGS (2002).

Chaffee County is subject to **thunderstorms** with high rates of precipitation, hail, flash floods, high winds, and lightning strikes. Colorado has over 500,000 lightning strikes per year and has the fourth highest lightning fatality rate in the United States over the last 50 years.

Before a thunderstorm

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Shutter windows or close blinds, shades, or curtains and secure outside doors.
- Remain indoors 30 minutes before and after a thunderstorm passes.

During a thunderstorm avoid the following

- Showering or bathing because bathroom fixtures and plumbing can conduct electricity.
- Corded telephones. Cordless and cellular telephones are safer.
- Power surges by unplugging appliances and electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners.
- Natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Hilltops, open fields, bodies of water, and watercraft on the water.
- Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Anything metal; tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

If you are outside

- Get inside a home, building, or hard top vehicle, if possible.
- Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth or small trees if in a forested area.
- Go to a low place such as a dry ditch or ravine if in the open.
- Be aware of flash flooding.
- If you feel your hair standing on end (which indicates lightning is about to strike)
 - Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet.
 - Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees.
 - Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground.
 - DO NOT lie flat on the ground

Lightning Facts

- It is unpredictable
- Lightning may occur as far as 10 miles away from rainfall.
- Most lightning deaths and injuries occur in the summer months during the afternoon and evening.
- Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately.
- Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide no protection from lightning.

Winter storms occur often throughout Colorado, although Chaffee County generally experiences mild winters. These mild winters should not cause complacency. With large winter storms, Chaffee County could become very isolated due to highway closures and difficult travel. One of the primary concerns is winter weather's ability to disrupt heat, power, and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as "Deceptive Killers" because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Instead, people die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to the cold. It is important to be prepared for winter weather before it strikes.



Before a winter storm

- Add rock salt, sand, and snow shovels to your emergency supply kit.
- Prepare your car for winter weather (all-terrain or snow tires, winter grade oil, ice scraper, etc).
- Wear or take along several layer of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing and carry gloves or mittens, hat, and scarf. Ensure you have proper footwear for the season.
- Stock sufficient heating fuel or wood for burning in case electricity or other fuel sources are interrupted.
- Insulate walls, attics, and pipes. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows, allow faucets to drip a little during extremely cold weather to prevent frozen pipes.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case pipes freeze and burst.



During a winter storm

- Conserve fuel by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- Ensure your ventilation pipes are not blocked. Blockages could create a back-up of carbon monoxide in your home.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary.

Historical Hazards in Chaffee County

Mudslides

Between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on 22 July 2002 (0000-0100 UTC 23 July), a rock/mudslide occurred on the Cottonwood Pass Road (County Road 306) in the valley north of Mt. Princeton (14,197'), west southwest of Buena Vista, Colorado. County Road 162, in the valley south of Mt. Princeton, also had significant rainfall and experienced rock and mudslides as well. One main reason for these rock and mudslides is the type of soils and rock in this region.



Lightning

August 1960 Property damage \$161.29

August 1964 Injury, unknown information

June 1981 Injury while golfing

July 1981 Fatality near Monarch Pass

July 1985 Fatality near Salida

June 1991 Injury while fishing

September 1995 Fatality while hiking

July 2003 Property damage \$50,000

July 2003 Crop damage \$2,000

July 2004 Injury in Monarch Lodge area

June 2005 Property damage \$50,000

June 2010 Fatality on Highway 285

Winter Weather

Since the 1960's, Chaffee County has experienced a variety of problems related to winter weather. Wind, snow, and freezing temperatures have combined to cause or contribute to injuries, deaths, property, and crop damage. Citizens in Chaffee County should prepare to shelter-in-place when needed or instructed by the OEM.

Home Fire Safety

Annually there are approximately 400,000 residential structure fire in the United States with an average of 3000 deaths and 14,000 injuries. The leading cause of these fires is kitchen fires from unattended or careless cooking. While the majority of our home fires state in the kitchen, careless smoking remains the leading cause of death due to fire in the United States.

By taking a few moments to review this checklist and following the simple guidelines, you can take a tremendous step towards ensuring the safety of yourself and your family.

Remember, the most important role you follow in the event of a fire is to escape.

ONCE OUT, STAY OUT!



Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH)

- Develop a home escape plan with two exits out of every room and have a designated meeting place outside. Practice fire drills twice a year.
- Teach family members how to use 911, stop, drop and roll and how to crawl low under smoke

Cooking

- Never store combustibles in oven or on or near the stove top
- Move barbecue away from the house
- Inspect counter-top appliances and cords
- Never leave cooking unattended

Smoke/CO Detectors

- Install at least one smoke detector on each level of your home and in every sleeping area
- Install CO detectors near gas fired equipment or on that level of your home
- Test your detectors every month
- Replace detector batteries twice a year

Electrical

- Avoid overloading circuits
- Do not tack cords to the wall or run under rugs
- Maintain airspace around electrical equipment
- Have additional electrical outlets installed by a qualified electrician to avoid using extension cords and cube taps
- If you must use extension cords, use the type with built in circuit breakers



Smoking Materials/Candles

- Do not leave burning cigarettes or candles unattended
- Never smoke in bed
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children

Heating Equipment/Fireplace

- Keep space heaters a minimum of 3 feet away from combustibles
- Clean furnace filters
- Clean lint from behind clothes dryer
- Install a spark screen in front of the fireplace
- Inspect and clean chimney
- Dispose of ashes in metal container
- Keep combustibles away from water heaters/furnace

Fire Extinguishers

- Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguisher
- Train your family on how to properly use the fire extinguisher
- Inspect extinguisher periodically

Thank you for helping us by making your home and family safe

Is Your Home Safe?

Accessibility for Emergency Personnel

- Emergency vehicles should be able to easily identify your address from the road, day or night
- There should be no overhanging branches or other obstructions that would prevent a fire truck from getting to your home
- There should be no parked cars or other equipment in the way
- Emergency services should have access if you live in a gated community

Identifying and Eliminating Hazards in Your Home

When it comes to eliminating hazards in your home, knowing what to look for is essential. There are proactive steps you can take to reduce or eliminate the chance for an electrical,

chemical or fire hazard in your home. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), residential electrical fires claim the lives of 700 Americans each year and injure 3,000 more. Some fires are caused by electrical system failures and



appliance defects, but many more are due to the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits. Chaffee County emergency services would like residents to know that there are simple steps they can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical hazards.

Examples of these include:

- Replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, prongs and plugs
- Repair or replace appliance that overheat, short out, smoke or spark
- Cover exposed outlets and wiring
- Make sure there is only one plug per outlet. If extension cords are used, make sure they are Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) approved

Household Chemicals

Chemicals in your home can pose a great danger. Many household cleaning supplies and other hazardous materials do not emit odors or have particular tastes, while others are more easily identifiable because they may cause physical reactions. In any case, take an inventory of potential chemical and hazardous substances. Learn how to store and dispose of them properly in order to prevent them from causing physical or environmental damage. If you have questions about disposing of hazardous substances please refer to:

www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/hhw/hhwtable.htm.

Helpful hints:

- Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, acetone, benzene and lacquer thinner in approved safety cans away from sources of ignition.
- Keep combustible liquids such as paint thinner, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid and turpentine away from heat sources
- Store oily waste and polishing rags in small covered metal cans to prevent vapor buildup.
- Store your chemicals if possible in garage or shed not in or under your home



Natural Counselor, 2010

Wildland Fires

Over the last 10 years, the State of Colorado has seen large wildland fires including the Hayman, High Meadow, Black Mountain and Snaking fires and more recently the Reservoir Road and the 4 Mile Gulch Fires. These fires have resulted in hundreds of thousands of acres being burned and nearly 1000 structures (homes and outbuildings) being lost.

As more people chose to build homes, operate businesses and recreate in areas where wildland borders more urban areas, the threat to private property from wildland fire increases.

Whenever there is a wildland fire, it is incumbent on each of us to learn from the losses our fellow Coloradoans and ensure we are preparing our homes and property to the best of our abilities.

A section of this guide addresses

Defensible Space Management to assist you with this important project as the growing number of structures in interface areas present a huge challenge to be protected by wildland firefighting agencies and the local fire districts. It is critical

that private landowners take steps on their own to protect their property.

While you may not be able to follow all of the recommended procedures, each recommendation will increase your home, and possibly your family's safety. Start with the easiest and least expensive actions. Begin your work closest to your house and move outward. Keep working on the more difficult projects until you have completed your entire project.

Chaffee County and many of the communities within the county have adopted or are in the process of adopting a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. This plan is the guiding document on how that community plans to ensure they are prepared in case of a wildland fire and to ensure the health of their forest. This plan addresses many items including pre-fire mitigation of their community. For more information regarding the development of a CWPP or to view existing CWPP's within Chaffee County you may visit the Chaffee County CWPP website at

<http://www.wildfireplan.org/>.



Defensible Space Management

Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones

Two factors have emerged as the primary determinants of a home's ability to survive wildfire. These are the home's roofing material and the quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it.



Roofing Material

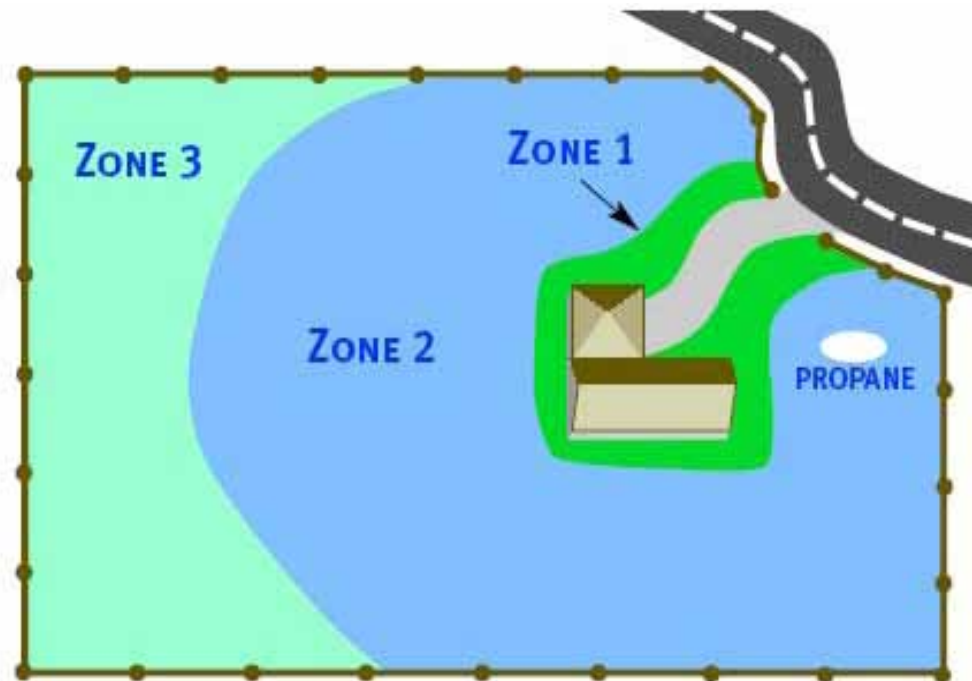
Use fire-resistive materials (Class C or better rating), not wood or shake shingles, to roof homes in or near forests and grasslands. When your roof needs significant repairs or replacement, do so with a fire resistant roofing material. Check with the Chaffee County building department for any construction requirement at (719)539-2124.

Defensible Space

Defensible space is an area around structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards the structure. It also reduces the chance of a structure fire moving from the building to the surrounding forest. Defensible space provides room for firefighters to do their jobs. Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if grasses, brush, trees and other common forest fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity. Creating an effective defensible space involves developing a series of management zones in which different techniques are used. Develop defensible space around each building on your property.

Zone 1 is the area of maximum modification and treatment. It consists of an area of 15 feet around the structure in which all flammable vegetation is removed. This 15 feet is measured from the outside edge of the home's eaves and any attached structures, such as decks.

Zone 2 is an area of fuel reduction. It is a transitional area between Zones 1 and 3. The size of Zone 2 depends on the slope of the ground where the structure is built. Within this zone, the continuity and arrangement of vegetation should be modified. Remove stressed, diseased, dead or dying trees and shrubs. Thin and prune the remaining larger trees and shrubs. Be sure to extend thinning along either side of your driveway all the way to your main access road. These actions help eliminate the continuous fuel surrounding a structure while enhancing safety and the aesthetics of the property.



Zone 3 is an area of traditional forest management and is of no particular size. It extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property boundaries.

For more information to mitigating these zones please contact Colorado State Forest Service or refer to these websites www.firewise.org and <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/wf-protection.html>.

Disease and Illness Preparedness

Checklist

- Antimicrobial soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water, and model the current behavior.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model that behavior.
- Teach your children to stay away from others as much as possible if they are sick.
- Stay home from work and school if sick.
- Get recommended vaccinations.
- Unlike preparation for other types of emergencies, during pandemic preparation store a two week supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand.
- Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.
- Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.
- Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response. Please review the Volunteerism in Chaffee County section of this guide.
- Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

Public Health Preparedness

Any number of public health emergencies could occur in Chaffee County and the surrounding areas. These emergencies range from natural disease outbreaks to deliberate acts of terrorism involving the use of biological agents. Public Health is prepared for a potential disease outbreak through planning, trainings and exercises.

Pandemic Influenza

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. It spreads easily from person-to-person, causing serious illness and can sweep across the country and the world in a very short time.

Much like influenza, many other diseases can be transmitted by contact with other people or animals and can cause an epidemic. The various causes of common infectious diseases are bacteria, fungus, parasites, prions and viruses. A few of the most common are listed below.

Bacterial	Fungal	Hand, foot and mouth disease
Bacterial meningitis	Candidiasis	Hepatitis
Campylobacteriosis	Cryptococcosis	HPV
Cholera	Histoplasmosis	Influenza (Flu)
Diphtheria	Tinea pedis	Measles
Listeriosis	Parasitic	Infectious mononucleosis
MRSA infection	Giardiasis	Mumps
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Scabies	Poliomyelitis
Plague	Toxoplasmosis	Rabies
Pneumococcal pneumonia	Trichinellosis	Rubella
Psittacosis	Viral	SARS
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	AIDS	Smallpox (Variola)
Salmonellosis	Chickenpox (Varicella)	Viral encephalitis
Shigellosis	Common cold	Viral gastroenteritis
Tetanus	Cytomegalovirus infection	Viral meningitis
Tuberculosis	Colorado tick fever	Viral pneumonia
		West Nile disease

Immunizations

Disease prevention is the key to public health. It is always better to prevent a disease than to treat it. Vaccines prevent disease in the people who receive them and protect those who come into contact with unvaccinated individuals. Vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country, including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib). Immunizations are available for infants, children and adults. In the event of an infectious disease outbreak Public Health will offer vaccination or medication in specific clinics set up in easy to reach locations in the county.

Quarantine and Isolation

To help contain the spread of a contagious illness, public health authorities rely on many strategies. Two of these strategies are isolation and quarantine. Both are common practices in public health, and both aim to control exposure to infected or potentially infected persons.

It is time to prepare

In any emergency it is important to be able to take care of yourself and your family for at least 48 hours. All members of the public (including you) must be involved in personal, family, business and community preparation for a possible pandemic influenza. Listed below are some preparedness tips and resources, with much more available in the 72-Hour Kit section and READYColorado checklist pages.

Safe water

In an event that causes the municipal water supply to become contaminated Public Health may issue an alert to boil water or to use only bottled water. This alert may also apply to unincorporated areas of the county where people get their water from private wells. Regular public announcements will inform you when the water has become safe again.

Listen for Information

It is important to stay calm in an emergency. Get as much information about the situation as possible. Listen to the TV and radio for public announcements. Chaffee County Public Health has developed emergency plans. In the event of an emergency, listen to local radio and TV stations for instructions and advice.

Creating an Emergency Plan and a 72-hour Emergency Kit

Before an Emergency

Make a plan. The family may not be together when a disaster occurs so it is important to make plans in advance. This guide includes many helpful checklists and plan templates from READYColorado, readycolorado.com. Many preparedness resources recommend having a 72-hour emergency kit. Due to the potential isolation in Chaffee County, it is recommended to prepare a kit for 96-hours or more.

Evacuation

If you are warned to evacuate your home and move to another location temporarily, there are certain things to remember to do. Here are the most important ones:

- Follow these instructions and any given by the Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management:
 - If you are told to evacuate, do so promptly.
 - If you are instructed to go to a certain location, go there – Listen to a battery-powered radio for further information and location of emergency shelters. DON'T go anywhere else. If certain travel routes are specified or recommended, use those routes rather than trying to find short cuts of your own.
 - Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
 - Take your disaster supplies kit.
 - Find out on the radio where emergency housing and mass feeding stations are located, in case you need to use them.
 - Let others know when you left and where you are going.
 - Make arrangements for pets. Animals may not be allowed in public shelters. If you are unable to evacuate your animals, post a visible sign on the front door so emergency personnel know a pet is inside, and include your contact information and evacuation destination. Be sure each animal has at least a 3-day supply of food and water.
- Secure your home before leaving. If you have time and you have not received other instructions from the OEM or local law enforcement, you should take the following actions before leaving your home:
 - Bring outside possessions inside or tie them down securely. This includes outdoor furniture, garbage cans, garden tools, signs, and other movable objects that might be blown or washed away.
 - If you are sure you have time...shut off water, gas and electricity, if instructed to do so.
 - Lock house doors and windows. Park your car in the garage or driveway, close the windows and lock the doors.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

The following items are recommended for inclusion in your basic disaster supplies kit:

- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
 - A distributor of emergency food supplies can be found locally at 719-207-3322. These very affordable supply kits are nitrogen packed mylar pouches of individual meals packed into buckets that range from 72-hour “kits” to long-term emergency preparedness supplies with a shelf life of 25 years.
 - Avoid foods that will make you thirsty. Choose salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals, and canned foods with high liquid content.
 - Stock canned foods, dry mixes, and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water, or special preparation. You may already have many of these on hand. (Note: Be sure to include a manual can opener.)
 - Include special dietary needs.
- At least a three-day supply of water
 - One gallon of water per person, per day. A normally active person needs at least one-half gallon of water daily just for drinking.

Additionally, in determining adequate quantities, take the following into account:

- Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet, and climate.
- Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water.
- Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.

To prepare safest and most reliable emergency supply of water, it is recommended you purchase commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container and do not open it until you need to use it. Observe the expiration or “use by” date.

- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Sanitation and hygiene items (moist towelettes and toilet paper).
- Matches and waterproof container.
- Whistle.

- Extra clothing.
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a can opener.
- Photocopies of credit and identification cards.
- Cash and coins.
- Special needs items, such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solutions, and hearing aid batteries.
 - Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.
- Items for infants, such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers.
- Other items to meet your unique family needs.
- Copies of important documents and vital records. See the Important Documents checklist from READYColorado for a list.
 - Additional documents you may consider are:
 - School records for children currently enrolled
 - Back-up for important computerized data
 - Copies of important documents may be scanned and stored on a USB flash drive and stored in an evacuation kit or safety deposit box
 - Written and/or photographic inventory of possessions; include model and serial numbers
 - Medical insurance and Medicare cards

We live in a climate that gets cold; you must think about warmth. It is possible that you will not have heat. Think about your clothing and bedding supplies. Be sure to include one complete change of clothing and shoes per person, including:

- Jacket or coat.
- Long pants.
- Long sleeve shirt.
- Sturdy shoes.
- Hat, mittens, and scarf.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket (per person).

Be sure to account for growing children and other family changes. You may want to add some of the items listed to your basic disaster supplies kit depending on the specific needs of your family.

(Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2010)

The following items should be ready in addition to your 72-hour Emergency Kit and may be used for other disasters besides winter storms:

Shelter-in-Place Kit

The basics:

- A large bucket (and another container if needed) with lid to hold your supplies
- Pre-cut and labeled plastic sheeting to cover doors, windows, vents and inset cabinets, mirrors, electrical outlets and switches, etc. (Make sure you cut the plastic at least six inches larger than openings so you can tape it to the wall or floor.)
- Duct tape (a couple of rolls) to cover smaller openings and cracks that can't be covered with plastic sheeting and to tape plastic sheeting to walls, ceiling, floor and doors
- Extra plastic sheeting in case the pre-cut sheeting tears or you need more
- Scissors to cut the tape and sheeting
- A radio with extra batteries
- Bottled water (at least one gallon per person)
- Toilet tissue (The bucket can be used as a toilet.)

Last-minute additions: Make a list of these items and put it in a prominent place so you can find it and the items quickly on your way to your shelter room.

- A cordless or cellular phone, if you have one
- Pets

Volunteerism in Chaffee County

During an emergency or crisis, the services that volunteers can provide are crucial. The ability to efficiently utilize the capabilities of volunteers in a time of emergency often present a major challenge. Following the terrorists' attack in New York City on September 11, 2001, thousands of people arrived at ground zero to volunteer their assistance. Many of those that arrived wanted to provide medical assistance to the victims of the attack. In most cases, one could not distinguish qualified volunteers from unqualified. There was not any mechanism for coordination; therefore, response effectiveness was reduced. Advanced registration of non-healthcare and healthcare volunteers will provide public health and emergency authorities' immediate access to personnel that may be needed in an emergency (Michigan Volunteer Registry, n.d.).

If you think you want to help during an emergency, it is important that you don't just show up at the scene to help. Volunteer with an established voluntary agency now. Volunteering before an emergency occurs will enable you to receive the training you need so that, when an emergency occurs and your services are needed, you know where you need to go and what you will do. Volunteering before an emergency also helps the agency and local authorities identify their resources and plan their needs.

American Red Cross

Chaffee County has a local Disaster Action Team. The contact information for this group to volunteer is 719-395-9165

Colorado Volunteer Mobilization

The State of Colorado has a database for Medical and Public Health Professionals. "This site is used to register, notify, and inform individuals who are interested in volunteering in the event of an accidental or intentional emergency, or other public or health care disaster. This site can also be used to register and notify other industries in the event of an emergency." covolunteers.state.co.us

My READY Profile

Keep a copy in your kit, in your car,
and at work. Share with family members.

Hospital

www.theagapecenter.com/Hospitals/Colorado.htm

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Red Cross Shelter

www.denver-redcross.org

Local: 303.722.7474

Statewide: 1.800.417.0495

Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Public Health Department

www.cdphe.state.co.us/as/locallist.asp

Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Neighborhood Association

www.nrc-neighbor.org/

Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Fire Department

[www.american-firefighter.com/fire-departments/
colorado-fire-departments.html](http://www.american-firefighter.com/fire-departments/colorado-fire-departments.html)

Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Police Department

www.usacops.com/co/

Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Veterinarian

Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

School

Child _____
Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Child _____
Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Child _____
Location _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Other

Important Documents

Having access to important
documents can make recovery time
after a disaster easier to manage.

Depending on your situation, you may need some or all of the following documents to file insurance claims, pay bills, take care of injured family members, or manage the responsibilities associated with a death. Here are suggested documents that you should locate, copy and store in a safe place (fire proof box, or with an out of town friend or relative).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Checking and savings account statements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement account records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Other investment statements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will | <input type="checkbox"/> Pay stubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power of attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax returns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living will or other medical powers | <input type="checkbox"/> Car titles and registrations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trust documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage/property deeds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security card/records | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental agreement/lease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military records | <input type="checkbox"/> Warranties and receipts for major purchases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records, including prescription information | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance policies (life, health, disability, long-term care, auto, homeowners, renters) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other loan records |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe deposit box information (location and key) |

Other Documents:

Household Plan

One of the most important steps you can take in preparing for emergencies is to develop a household disaster plan.

Simple Steps to Get Your Household READY

1 Step One: Types of Hazards

Learn about the natural disasters that could occur in your community from your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter. Make notes here.

Learn whether hazardous materials are produced, stored or transported near your area. Make notes here.

Learn about possible consequences of deliberate acts of terror. Ask how to prepare for each potential emergency and how to respond. Make notes here.

2 Step Two: Business and School Emergency Response Plans

Talk with employers and school officials about their emergency response plans.

3 Step Three: Have a Household Meeting

Talk with your household about potential emergencies and how to respond to each. Talk about what you would need to do in an evacuation. Details of evacuation plan:

4 Step Four: Complete a "Family Communications Plan"

Download a copy of the "Family Communications Plan" from readycolorado.com. Plan how your household would stay in contact if you were separated. Identify two meeting places: the first should be near your home—in case of fire, perhaps a tree or a telephone pole; the second should be away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.

Make sure to pick a friend or relative who lives out of the area for household members to call to say they are okay.

5 Step Five: Training!

Download a copy of "My READY Profile" from readycolorado.com. Post emergency telephone numbers by telephones. Teach children how and when to call 911.

Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to shut off water, gas, and electricity at the main switches. Consult with your local utilities if you have questions.

6 Step Six: Take a Class

Take a first aid and CPR class. Local American Red Cross chapters can provide information. Official certification by the American Red Cross provides "good Samaritan" law protection for those giving first aid. Visit readycolorado.com, "Make A Difference" for information on different volunteer opportunities.

Reduce the economic impact of disaster on your property and your household's health and financial well-being.

7 Step Seven: Review & Copy Important Documents

Review property insurance policies before disaster strikes—make sure policies are current and be certain they meet your needs (type of coverage, amount of coverage, and hazard covered—flood, earthquake)

Protect your household's financial well-being before a disaster strikes—review life insurance policies and consider saving money in an "emergency" savings account that could be used in any crisis. It is advisable to keep a small amount of cash or traveler's checks at home in a safe place where you can quickly gain access to it in case of an evacuation.

Be certain that health insurance policies are current and meet the needs of your household.

Make copies of important documents (bank account numbers, policy numbers, etc.) and keep them in a fire-safe box, secure a set in a location other than home, and send them to an out of town relative.

8 Step Eight: Discuss Special Household Needs

Download a copy of the "Special Needs" worksheet from readycolorado.com. Consider ways to help neighbors who may need special assistance, such as the elderly or the disabled.

Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Service animals for those who depend on them are allowed.



Make a Plan. Make a Difference.

Family Communications Plan

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

Out-of-Town Contact Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Where to go in an emergency. Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school, and other places you frequent.

Schools, daycare providers, workplaces, and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans.

Home

Address _____

Phone _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place _____

Regional Meeting Place _____

School

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____

Work

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____

Work

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent:

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent:

Address _____

Phone _____

Evacuation Location _____



Make a Plan. Make a Difference.

Make a note of important contacts, phone numbers and policy numbers. Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies!

Important Information	Name	Telephone #	Policy #
Doctor			
Doctor			
Pharmacist			
Medical Insurance			
Homeowner's/Rental Insurance			
Veterinarian/Kennel			
Other			
Other			
Other			

Every family member should carry a copy of this important information.

1-800-639-READY (7323)

READYColorado

Make a Plan. Make a Difference.

www.readycolorado.com

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Out-of-Town Contact Name: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Meeting Place Telephone: _____

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

1-800-639-READY (7323)

READYColorado

Haga un Plan. Haga una Diferencia.

www.readycolorado.com

Nombre de las personas con quien ponerse en contacto: _____

Teléfono: _____

Nombre de la persona con quien ponerse en contacto fuera de la ciudad: _____

Teléfono: _____

Lugar de reunion del vecindario: _____

Teléfono del lugar de reunion: _____

PLAN DE COMUNICACIONES

Plan for Special Needs

You may have to take additional steps for friends, neighbors or family members with special needs.

If you have a disability or special need, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your household in an emergency. If you know of friends or neighbors with special needs, help them with these extra precautions.

- The hearing impaired may need to make special arrangements to receive a warning. *Make notes here.*

- Those who are mobility impaired may need assistance in getting to a shelter. *Make notes here.*

- Households with a single working parent may need help from others both in planning for disasters and during an emergency. *Who can help?*

- Non-English speaking people may need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. *Make notes here.*

- Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep these populations informed. *Make notes here.*

- People without vehicles may need to make arrangements for transportation. *Make notes here.*

- People with special dietary needs should have an adequate emergency food supply. *Make notes here.*

Steps You Should Take

- Find out about special assistance that may be available in your community. Register with the office of emergency services or fire department for assistance, so needed help can be provided quickly in an emergency.
- Create a network of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers to aid you in an emergency. Discuss your needs and make sure they know how to operate necessary equipment.
- Discuss your needs with your employer.
- If you are mobility impaired and live or work in a high-rise building, have an escape chair.
- If you live in an apartment building, ask the management to mark accessible exits clearly and to make arrangements to help you evacuate the building.
- Keep extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for guide or hearing-ear dogs, or other items you might need. Also, keep a list of the type and serial numbers of medical devices you need.
- Those who are not disabled should learn who in their neighborhood or building is disabled so that they may assist them during emergencies.
- If you are a care-giver for a person with special needs, make sure you have a plan to communicate if an emergency occurs.

Chaffee County Citizen Emergency Preparedness Guide

PRSRT STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
COLO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 1