Ridgway Town Council
Regular Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy,
the meeting will be conducted both in person and via a virtual meeting portal. Members of the
public may attend in person at the Community Center, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway,
Colorado 81432, or virtually using the meeting information below.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88295793624?pwd=VonIuSdg7Bw8PkPRGAdRPESIMsfafJ.1
Meeting ID: 882 9579 3624
Passcode: 396415
Dial by your location
+1 346 248 7799 US
+1 253 215 8782 US

5:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL Councilors Kevin Grambley, Polly Kroger, Beth Lakin, Terry Schuyler, Josey Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Russ Meyer and Mayor John Clark

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR   All matters listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine by the Town Council and enacted by one motion. The Council has received and considered reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent calendar designations. Copies of the reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and are available to the public. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is requested, that item will be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately.

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 13, 2024.

2. Minutes of the Budget Workshop of November 21, 2024.

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 11, 2024.

4. Register of Demands for January 2025.

5. Per State Statute designate the Town Hall bulletin board as the official posting place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS   Established time for the public to address the Council regarding any item not otherwise listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS   Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

6. Presentation of Life Saving Award to Deputy Brannon Hasler - Town Marshal.

POLICY MATTERS   Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

7. Presentation and consideration of adoption of Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan - Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager.

8. Presentation of Rights of Nature Annual Report - Town Manager and Tanya Ishikawa, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership.

PUBLIC HEARINGS Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

9. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 03-2024 Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units - Planner.

POLICY MATTERS Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

10. Resolution No. 25-01 Amending the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule - Town Manager.

11. Resolution No. 25-02 to Join Mountain Towns 2030 - Mayor Clark.

12. Request for authorization of staff to expend budgeted funds and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department - Town Manager.

13. Ratification of appointment to the Home Trust of Ouray County Board of Directors - Town Manager.

14. Review and potential action on Order Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the Beaver Creek Diversion - Town Manager.

WRITTEN AND VERBAL REPORTS Written reports may be provided for informational purposes prior to the meeting updating Council on various matters that may or may not warrant discussion and action.

15. Update on the 2025 Annual Election to be held on April 1st

16. Town Manager's Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS Informational verbal reports from Councilors pertaining to the following committees, commissions and organizations:

Committees & Commissions:
Ridgway Planning Commission - Councilor Meyer and Mayor Clark
Ridgway Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee - Councilor Kroger
Ridgway FUSE - Councilor Grambley
Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board - Councilor Schuyler; alternate - Councilor Lakin
Ridgway Scholarship Committee - Councilor Lakin and Mayor Clark

Board Appointments:
Ouray County Weed Board - Councilor Lakin; alternate - Town Manager
Ouray County Joint Planning Board - Councilor Meyer, citizens Rod Fitzhugh & Tom McKenney; alternate - Councilor Schuyler
Sneffels Energy Board - Councilor Schuyler and Town Manager; alternate - Mayor Clark
Region 10 Board - Mayor Clark
WestCO Dispatch Board - Town Marshal; alternate - Town Manager
Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region - Town Manager

Ouray County Transit Committee - Town Manager
Ouray County Water Users Association - Councilor Meyer; alternate - Councilor Lakin
Water and Land Committee for the Uncompahgre Valley - Councilor Meyer; alternate - Town Manager
Colorado Communities for Climate Action - Councilor Lakin; alternate - Town Manager
Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee - Town Manager
Home Trust of Ouray County - Town Manager

Liaisons:
Chamber of Commerce - Councilmember Scoville
Communities That Care Coalition - Mayor Clark
Ouray County Fairgrounds - Councilor Schuyler

ADJOURNMENT

Deadline for agenda items for next regular meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., Town Clerk's Office, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

Consent Agenda

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held both in person and via virtual meeting portal Zoom Meeting, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Schuyler, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2024.

2. Minutes of the Workforce & Affordable Housing Committee meeting of September 11, 2024.

3. Minutes of the Budget Retreat Workshop on October 12, 2024.

4. Register of Demands for November 2024.

5. Renewal of Hotel Restaurant Liquor License for Chipeta Lodge-Resort Plus Spa.

6. Water leak adjustment for Account # 3070/Citizens State Bank.

7. Renewal of liquor license for Bella Vino Restaurant.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Kroger, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clark Gilbert representing the Ridgway Pickleball Club presented a letter of support for budgeting funds to prepare engineered documents for phase two of the Athletic Park.

Shawn Row and Shannon Wineberg addressed the Council regarding the Planning Commission current review of accessory dwelling unit regulations as they relate to short term rental and expressed concerns with the proposed changes.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

8. Introduction of new Building Inspector Jordan Batchelder

   The Town Manager introduced new Building Inspector Jordan Batchelder, noting he is being trained by current inspector Mike Gill, who will be retiring in March.

9. Presentation of annual report from the Ridgway Community Garden

   Written report dated 10-22-24 from Christine Lance, Board President of the Ridgway Community Garden.

Ms. Lance displayed a PowerPoint and presented an annual report. Updates from the year included opening and closing dates of the garden; social events; creation of YouTube teaching videos; installation of a weather station; increase to 54 growing beds; a 72% membership renewal; weekly participation from Voyager Youth Program; partnership with the Ouray County Food Pantry, Voyager Youth Program and Ridgway Library; seed saving class; construction of new compost bins and a shed extension. A children's play area will be constructed in 2025.

10. Funding request from Telluride Foundation for a new Workforce Home Ownership Initiative

Elaine Demas with the Telluride Foundation presented a letter dated 10-15-22 and reported on a "new pilot program" which may be "launched in 2025" for Rural Homes to provide "home ownership assistance" by paying for down payments on affordable housing units. She explained the program would provide twenty percent of a down payment anywhere in the Telluride Foundation service area for deed restricted units at $850,000 or less. She explained if the Council would like to participate they would request $200,000 over the next two years.

The Mayor noted the request will be reviewed during the budget planning process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

11. Introduction of Ordinance Approving the Annexation of Certain Real Property to be known as Dalwhinne-Ridgway Athletic Park Annexation

Staff Report dated 11-8-24 from Contract Planner Max Garcia with Community Planning Strategies, presenting an ordinance to annex parcels of land into the Town.

Planner Garcia reported a petition was submitted for the Dalwhinne-Ridgway Athletic Park annexation into the Town limits of three parcels totally 3.53 acres which includes the southern portion of the Preserve Planned Unit Development. The Council approved a resolution in September stating substantial compliance, and set the public hearing. He presented slides summarizing the staff report, and presenting project background; the annexation process; code requirements from the Colorado Revised Statutes and Ridgway Municipal Code which address annexation; an analysis of the annexation request including an impact report, land use compliance and annexation eligibility requirements which have been met; public noticing of the application submittal, review, public comments, noticing; and presented a staff recommendation to approve the annexation.

There were comments by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Lakin the motion to introduce Ordinance No. 06-2024, Approving the Annexation of Certain Real Property to be known as Dalwhinne-Ridgway Athletic Park Annexation, Generally Located along County Road 23. On a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

12. <u>Order Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the Beaver Creek Diversion</u>

The Town Manager asked the Council to extend for another month the order declaring a local disaster relative to the Beaver Creek Diversion.

Manager Neill presented an update and explained the Colorado Water and Conservation Board has recommended approval of an 8 million dollar loan, and the US Dept of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services Watershed Protection program has pledged grant funds of 4.3 million to reimburse up to seventy-five percent of eligible construction costs.

 ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to <u>approve the Order Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the Beaver Creek Diversion</u>. Councilor Kroger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

13. <u>First Amendment to Subdivision Improvements Agreement with Vista Park Commons</u>

The Town Attorney presented the first amendment to the existing Subdivision Improvements Agreement with Vista Park Commons. He explained the development group has made progress on infrastructure and are requesting release on a portion of the bond holding the improvements agreement, and lowering the letter of credit. The Town Engineer has performed a review, and the infrastructure is in place, and noted all remaining infrastructure will be completed by February of 2025. He reported staff is recommending decreasing the letter of credit from $215,000 to $153,900.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Scoville to <u>approve the First Amendment of the Subdivision Improvements Agreement with Vista Park Commons</u>. The motion carried unanimously.

14. <u>Intergovernmental Agreement with Ouray County for Building Inspection Services</u>

The Town Manager explained Ouray County has requested assistance on a temporary basis for building inspection services, to provide up to 10 hours of coverage a week.

ACTION:

Councilor Scoville moved to <u>approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Building Inspection Services between the Town and Ouray County</u>. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

15. <u>Presentation of the Draft 2025 Fiscal Year Budget and Five-Year and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plans</u>

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented a draft of the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget, and Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans, and reviewed the documents with the Council.

16. <u>Membership into Mountain Towns 2030</u>

The Mayor announced that he and Councilor Schuyler attended the annual Mountain Town Summit last month. The Town has been invited to join and become a supporting community with a an annual membership of $5,000.

There was discussion by the Council. <u>The Mayor was asked to inquire if the membership amount could be reduced</u>.

17. <u>Introduction of Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code to Add More Specific Regulations Concerning Snow and Ice Removal and Establishing an Assessment and Penalty for Failure to Maintain Sidewalks in the Winter</u>

Manager Neill reported at the August meeting Council asked staff to address the ordinance which requires property owners adjacent to sidewalks to clear areas of snow and ice. He presented an ordinance which amends the code provisions, and establishes an assessment and penalty for failure to maintain a sidewalk.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to <u>introduce Ordinance No. 05-2024 Amending Subsection 14-1-1 of the Ridgway Municipal Code to Add More Specific Regulations Concerning Snow and Ice Removal and Establishing an Assessment and Penalty for Failure to Maintain Sidewalks in the Winter</u>, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

<u>MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS</u>

The Town Attorney presented a follow up on a item presented to the Council at the previous meeting regarding the State's new Natural Medicine regulations. Council had directed staff to prepare an overlay map displaying 1000 feet from all schools, including day care facilities. He presented a map and reviewed it with the Council. They agreed the Christian Center on Hunter Parkway should be included in the map and it be used for the 1000 foot limitation per State statute. The Town Attorney noted staff will have the map updated, and filed with the Department of Revenue.

The Town Manager presented an overview of the monthly written Managers Report.

Councilor Schuyler presented an update from the Sustainability Advisory Committee and Councilor Scoville on the Chamber Board meeting.

<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into a closed session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter concerning the Town Managers annual performance evaluation.

ACTION:

Councilor Scoville moved with Councilmember Kroger seconding, <u>to enter into closed session</u>. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into a closed session with the Town Manager at 7:50 p.m.

The Council reconvened from closed session at 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

The Town Council convened for a budget workshop meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street. The meeting was held both in person and via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting portal, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

In attendance were Councilors Kroger, Lakin, Schuyler, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance. Councilor Grambley was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Budget Workshop Meeting dated September 16, 2024.

The Council received a packet of information including the draft 2025 Fiscal Year Budget; listing of location of expenditures within the draft budget; draft Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans; draft 2025 Strategic Plan.

Through a PowerPoint presentation the Town Manager presented the purpose of the budget document; budget adoption process as it relates to the Town Charter and staff preparation timelines; staff approach to budgeting process; milestone amounts within the three budget funds; operation reserves; total personnel expenditures are 32.5% across all three funds; new personnel positions; revenue projections and trends within the budget and based on the US economy; sales tax revenues; and a project list of Council items from the retreat not included in the 2025 budget or Strategic Plan.

The Town Clerk presented the draft 2025 Fiscal Year Budget and reviewed with Council the revenue projections and operational expenditures. It was noted revenues were projected conservatively.

The Town Clerk presented draft worksheets of the Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Projects by the three funds, and reviewed them with the Council.

The Town Manager presented an overview of the community grant award program. An ad hoc committee of community members reviewed twenty applications for funding, which were received in the forty-six day period after the application process was advertised in August. He explained the committee reviewed applications based on public benefit, to reach the maximum funding amount of $92,200 set by the Council, and the Committee recommendation exceeds this amount by $2,800.

Committee members Sue Husch, Michelle Montague, Marissa Mathis and Arielle Baielak addressed the Council.

Ms. Husch stated "the Chamber funding should be included" noting "half of the Chamber funding could have funded all the requests completely", noting "all these organizations are the life blood of our community" and "we had to cut back on requested funds".

There was discussion and comments by the Council and members of the Committee.

Council reviewed the project list of items developed during the budget retreat, and asked staff to look into an increase for Council and Planning Commission stipends; change fee schedule for use of the Athletic Park Concession Area to waive the fee for non-profits; add $5000 to the budget to survey the undeveloped section of N. Elizabeth Street right-of-way; create a formal process for Planning Commission terms and removal from position.

The Town Manager presented a Draft 2025 Strategic Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held both in person, and via virtual meeting portal Zoom Meeting, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Schuyler, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark.

CONSENT AGENDA

1.   Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2024.

2.   Minutes of the Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee from October 9, 2024.

3.   Register of Demands for December 2024.

4.   Renewal of Tavern Liquor Store License for Ouray County Fairgrounds.

5.   Water Leak Adjustment for Account 5960.0/Zaugg.

6.   Water Leak Adjustment for Account 6010.2/Hazen.

7.   Renewal of Liquor Store License for San Juan Wine & Liquors.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and seconded by Councilmember Schuyler to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Kuno Vollenweider thanked the Town Council for making the pedestrian trail to the secondary school Town property and noted that Laura Street should be completed and used as a major thoroughfare. He suggested ways to communicate with the existing property owners and explored how traffic could be diverted from Railroad Street onto the proposed extension of Laura Street. Mr. Vollenweider expressed concerns regarding the repairs needed for the culvert on County Road 5, the lack of a culvert under the Lena Street bridge, and unmaintained culverts on Amelia Street, noting the faulty culverts contribute to the flooding that occurs in town after heavy rains. He cited poor street maintenance causing safety issues because of the existing potholes throughout town and the improperly completed sidewalk at the southwest corner of Lena and Sherman Streets. He noted the same intersection is poorly lit because the expanse of the streetlight does not properly cover the entire road and suggested that each corner of the intersection should have a streetlight. Mr. Vollenweider also noted there is only one operational outdoor grill remaining at the Hartwell Park Pavillion.

Former Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) member, Angela Hawse, reviewed her recent letter of resignation from the SAB. She provided feedback on how to improve the functionality of the Advisory Board and suggested ways to improve communication between the Town Council and the SAB which would assist in achieving goals.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

8.   Update from Juvenile Diversion Services

Power Point presentation prepared by Wendy Crank, San Miguel and Ouray County Juvenile Services (SMOCJS).

Ms. Crank provided an update to bring awareness to the changes in organizational structure and to demonstrate how funding is used. She explained that Ouray County Juvenile Diversion is now combined with San Miguel County to form SMOCJS, and that encompass all the services provided to youths in both counties. Ms. Crank provided an in-depth review of services provided to help youths stay out of trouble such as: individual and family counseling/mediation, integrated school and community engagement, parent support/consultations/coaching, youth and parent advocacy, youth assessment, substance abuse education, mentoring/tutorial referral, the Useful Public Service Program, activity supervision, and education/prevention.

9.   Approval of the Application for a Beer and Wine Liquor License for Chloe's Charcuterie and Wine, LLC at 616 Clinton Street

Staff Report dated November 8, 2024, prepared by Pam Kraft, Town Clerk, providing background, analysis and staff recommendation.

The Town Manager presented the application and noted all fees and requirements are met, and noted the owner will be seeking approval of a revocable permit for sidewalk service of alcoholic beverages adjacent to Chloe's Charcuterie and Wine.

Owner Holly, Kintz said she is excited to open her business at the Clinton Street location and will not be competing with restaurants that provide full coarse dining.

Mayor Clark opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schyler moved to approve the Application for Beer and Wine Liquor License; Applicant: Chloe's Chartcuterie and Wine, LLC; Sole Member Holly Kintz; DBA: Chloe's Chartcuterie and Wine. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

10.   Approval of the Application for the Haaland-Ballantyne Resubdivision; Lots 21-24, Block 25; 615 Clinton Street; Owners: Chris Haaland & Sara Ballantyne

Staff Report dated December 6, 2024, and Power Point presentation dated December 11, 2024, prepared by Angela Kemp, Senior Planner, providing background analysis and staff recommendation.

Planner Kemp reviewed the application in which approval was recommended by the Planning Commission, noting the resubdivision will combine the four lots into two equal lots. She explained the existing structure was relocated off site and the parcel is vacant except for a shed that will be removed after construction. The Owners intend to construct a single-family home with an accessory dwelling unit on each lot, she continued and explained all requirements have been met, with no public comment received. Kemp recommended approval of the application without conditions.

Applicant Haaland said the time delay between the Planning Commission and Town Council meetings should be streamlined.

Mayor Clark opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the Haaland-Ballantyne Resubdivision, finding that the criteria set forth in Ridgway Municipal Code (RMC) Section 7-5-2(J)(3) have been met. Councilmember Lakin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

POLICY MATTERS

11.   Approval of a Revocable Permit for Chloe's Charcuterie and Wine at 616 Clinton Street

Revocable Permit for Use of Right-of-Way.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schyler moved to approve the Revocable Permit for Chloe's Charcuterie and Wine, LLC. Councilmember Kroger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilmember Scoville excused herself from the remainder of the meeting.

12.   Approval of the Resolution to Annex the Parcel of Land Known as the Dalwhinnie-Ridgway Athletic Park

Staff Report dated December 6, 2024, prepared by TJ Dlubac, AICP and Max Garcia, AICP of Community Planning Strategies, LLC, providing background, analysis and recommendation.

Max Garcia reviewed the application in which approval was recommended by the Planning Commission. He explained the annexation process, reviewed the 3 parcels to be annexed and the amendments to the Future Land Use Map. Garia recommended approval of the application via Resolution No. 24-14 because the land is eligible to be incorporated into the Ridgway boundary as required by the Annexation Act.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schuyler moved to approve Resolution No. 24-14, A Resolution Of The Town Of Ridgway, Colorado, Making Certain Findings And Declaring Eligibility Of The Proposed Annexation Of A Parcel Of Land Known As The Dalwhinnie Ridgway Athletic Park Annexation. Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13.   Approval and Second reading of Ordinance No. 06-2024

Staff Report dated December 6, 2024, prepared by TJ Dlubac, AICP and Max Garcia, AICP of Community Planning Strategies, LLC, providing background, analysis and recommendation.

Mayor Clark opened the hearing for public comment.

Kuno Vollenweider inquired about the proposed density for the residential portion of the parcel. He found a lift station will be placed in the proposed zone and residential structures will not be placed there.

Mayor Clark closed the hearing for public comment.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-06, An Ordinance Of The Town Of Ridgway, Colorado, Approving The Annexation Of Certain Real Property To Be Known As Dalwhinnie Ridgway Athletic Park Annexation, located along County Road 23. Councilmember Lakin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

14. Approval of the Application to Rezone the Dalwhinnie-Athletic Park Annexation

Staff Report dated December 6, 2024, prepared by TJ Dlubac, AICP and Max Garcia, AICP of Community Planning Strategies, LLC, providing background analysis and recommendation.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the Dalwhinnie Athletic Park Annexation Zoning Map Amendment with the following condition finding that the criteria set forth in RMC Section 7-4-3 (C)(3) have been met: 1. Parcel B is not attributed a zone district because it is public right-of-way. Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

15. Order to Authorize a Loan from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Execution of a Loan Contract

Town of Ridgway Colorado, Emergency Ordinance No. 07-2024.

The Town Manager explained approving the Emergency Ordinance would provide authorization for the Town to execute a loan not to exceed $8,080,000 with the Colorado Water Conservation Board that would finance the Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration Project. He explained the approval would also authorize execution of the related Promissory Note, other details and commented the loan should be finalized by year end, for the Town to be eligible for receiving State disaster assistance funds.

Town Attorney Bo Nerlin requested the Council grant authorization for special legal counsel to make decisions regarding unforeseen details about the loan to ensure the process is properly complete by the end of the year.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schuyler moved to <u>approve Emergency Ordinance No. 07-2024 with the condition that special legal counsel oversee the loan process.</u> Councilmember Kroger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

16. <u>Approval and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 05-2024</u>

   Town of Ridgway Colorado, Emergency Ordinance No. 05-2024.

   Town Manager Neill clarified enforcement for the Ordinance will be complaint driven.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comment.

Resident Vollenweider asked why an Ordinance is being added to the Charter that the Town does not enforce. He noted two instances last winter where his complaint was not addressed for 100 days, and the second complaint was not addressed for 6 weeks. Vollenweider also noted that sidewalks with no pedestrian traffic should be exempt from the Ordinance.

The Mayor closed the hearing for public comment.

ACTION:

<u>Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve Ordinance No. 05-2024</u>. Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

17. <u>Adoption of the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget and Three Resolutions for Setting 2025 Property Tax Levies</u>

   Staff Report dated November 27, 2024, providing background and analysis prepared by Pam Kraft, Town Clerk.

   Town Manager Neill reviewed the 2025 budget process and explained the 2025 budget would be in place with the adoption of 3 Resolutions: No. 11-2024 to appropriate expenditures; No. 12-2024 to adopt the budget; and No. 13-2024 for the property tax mill levy for certification to the Ouray County Board of Commissioners.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved <u>to adopt Resolution No. 24-11 Of The Town of Ridgway, Adopting A Budget For The Calendar Year Beginning On The First Day Of January 2025, And Ending On The Last Day Of December 2025.</u> Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved <u>to adopt Resolution No. 24-12 Of The Town Of Ridgway, Approving Sums Of Money To The Various Funds In The Amount And For The Purpose As Set Forth Below For The 2025 Budget Year.</u> Councilmember Council member Kroger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ACTION:

Councilmember Grambley moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-13 Of The Town of Ridgway, Adopting The Property Tax Levy For the Year 2025 For Certification To The Ouray County Commissioners. Councilmember Lakin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

18.   Appointment of New Advisory Board Member

Memorandum dated December 6, 2024, from Town Manager, Preston Neill providing background and Letter of Interest from Sheridan Ribbing.

Sheridan Ribbing said she has a strong background in sustainability and in sustainability education and is excited to join SAB.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to appoint Sheridan Ribbing to the Sustainability Advisory Board for a three-year term. Councilmember Schuyler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

19.   Introduction of Ordinance Amending the Ridgway Municipal Code for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

Staff Report dated December 6, 2024, prepared by TJ Dlubac, AICP and Max Garcia, AICP of Community Planning Strategies, LLC, providing background analysis and recommendation.

Planner Garcia presented the draft in which the Planning Commission recommended approval. He identified updates made to the code since the September Town Council Regular Meeting. The Planner explained the language in the Municipal Code was clarified for the General Provisions, Dimensional/Design Standards, Incentives, Ownership/Occupancy, and Utilities Sections. He further clarified that the changes include no more than 2 ADUs to be allowed on any parcel; parcels with ADU structures cannot be subdivided; and ADUs compliant with RMC Section 7-4-6(N) and Section 8-5 may be used as short-term rental structures.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schuyler moved to introduce Ordinance No. 03-2024, An Ordinance Of The Town Of Ridgway, Colorado Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" Of The Ridgway Municipal Code Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units, finding that the criteria set forth in RMC Section 7-4-3(D)(3) have been met. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

20.   Adoption of the 2025 Five-Year and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plans

Memorandum dated December 6, 2024, from Town Manager, Preston Neill providing Summary and recommendation.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to adopt the 2025 Five-Year and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plans. Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

21. Adoption of the 2025 Strategic Plan

    Memorandum dated December 6, 2024, from Town Manager, Preston Neill providing Summary and recommendation.

The Town Manager noted an updated electronic version for the Strategic Plan was sent to the Council prior to the meeting for review. The updates to the Plan were based on the goal setting discussion at the SAB meeting held the previous night.

ACTION:

Councilmember Kroger moved to adopt the 2025 Strategic Plan. Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

22. Order Extending The Declaration Of Local Disaster In And For The Town of Ridgway Related To The Beaver Creek Diversion.

    Town of Ridgway Colorado, Order Extending The Declaration Of A Local Disaster In And For The Town Of Ridgway

    Manager Neill noted Federal funds have been received so the Town is close to having an executed agreement with the Federal Government. The agreement with the State of Colorado for disaster assistance funds is also near finalization.

    The Council discussed the implications of the extension with the Town Manager and Town Attorney.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to extend The Declaration Of A Local Disaster In And For The Town Of Ridgway. Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

23. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ouray County and the Town of Ridgway Regarding 2025 Operational Funding Requests, Road and Bridge Appointment from County to Town, and Future Goals.

    Memorandum dated December 6, 2024, from Town Manager, Preston Neill providing Summary and recommendation.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Ouray County and the Town of Ridgway Regarding 2025 Operational Funding Requests, Road and Bridge Appointment from County to Town, and Future Goals. Councilmember Kroger seconded the motion, and it unanimously passed on a roll call vote.

24. Approval of Legal Services Agreement with Bo James Nerlin, P.C.

    Professional Service Agreement Between The Town Of Ridgway, Colorado, And Bo James Nerlin, P.C.

    Town Attorney Nerlin noted that only the pass-through fee has increased from the previous contract and his hourly rate has not.

ACTION:

<u>Councilmember Lakin moved to approve the Agreement for Legal Services with Bo James Nerlin, P.C.</u> Councilmember Grambley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

25. <u>Approval of Compensation Adjustment for the Town Manager</u>

The Town Manager received an annual performance review at the Town Council's November Executive Session, and they asked him to propose a compensation adjustment.

Town Manager Neill requested his position be compensated at the Step 4 level of the Town's 2025 Step Salary Structure for the Town Manager position. He requested the compensation be retroactive six months.

ACTION:

Councilmember Kroger moved <u>to approve the compensation adjustment for Town Manager Preston Neill, to include a Grade 15, Step Adjustment of Level 4, and that the adjustment be retroactive six months. In addition, The Town Manager will be compensated at Grade 15, Step 5 effective January 1, 2025.</u> Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

<u>TOWN MANAGERS' REPORT</u>

Manager Neill reported on:

How the Public Works Staff maintains The Granular Activated Carbon System and expressed his appreciation for their hard work.
His appreciation for Chris Bolane and Rodney Paulson regarding their involvement with the water samples for the Wastewater Surveillance Program.
His appreciation for Joyce Haung's hard work reporting on the Light Industrial/ Laura Street Paving Project.

<u>COUNCIL REPORTS</u>

Mayor Clark provided an update on the Space to Create mural.

The Council discussed the Holiday Parade and the impacts of the route with Marshal Schmalz.

Councilmember Schuyler reported on the outcome of the last 2 SAB meetings and thanked the Town Manager for his direction with the members to get them on track for 2025.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Christian
Deputy Clerk

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
Kim's Housekeeping LLC		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Dec 2024	779POO · Janitorial Service - parks	-987.00
	Dec 2024	779PO1 · Janitorial Services-c c/t hall	-329.00
	Dec 2024	545GOO · Janitorial Services	-329.00
	Dec 2024	778PO1 · Decker Room	-332.50
TOTAL			-1,977.50
Black Hills Energy-Broadband		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	783PO1 · Broadband Station	-16.35
TOTAL			-16.35
Black Hills Energy-Hartwell Park		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	742POO · Utilities	-45.64
TOTAL			-45.64
Black Hills Energy-Lift Station		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	942SOO · Utilities	-50.90
TOTAL			-50.90
Black Hills Energy-PW Building		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	742POO · Utilities	-101.10
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	642GO2 · Utilities	-101.10
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	942SOO · Utilities	-101.10
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	942WOO · Utilities	-101.10
TOTAL			-404.40
Black Hills Energy-PW Office		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	642GO2 · Utilities	-38.76
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	942SOO · Utilities	-38.75
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	942WOO · Utilities	-38.75
TOTAL			-116.26
Black Hills Energy-Town Hall		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	742PO1 · Utilities - comm cntr/town hall	-118.36
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	842GO3 · Utilities	-118.36
	11/21/24 - 12/26/24	542GOO · Utilities	-118.36
TOTAL			-355.08

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
True Value		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
		632GO2 · Supplies & Materials	-137.86
		732POO · Supplies & Materials	-252.69
		732PO1 · Supplies - c center/town hall	-174.72
		932SOO · Supplies & Materials	-135.03
		932WOO · Supplies & Materials	-500.02
		778PO1 · Decker Room	-52.61
		861GO3 · Vehicle Maintanence & Repair	-40.38
TOTAL			-1,293.31
CEBT		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Jan 2025	902SOO · Health Insurance	-1,679.00
	Jan 2025	902WOO · Health Insurance	-2,397.00
	Jan 2025	602GO2 · Health Insurance	-469.50
	Jan 2025	502GOO · Health Insurance	-7,260.00
	Jan 2025	802GO3 · Health Insurance	-5,114.00
	Jan 2025	702POO · Health Insurance	-1,408.50
	Jan 2025	526GOO · Life Insurance (all)	-120.12
	PRDD - Jan - Batchelder	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-1,430.00
	PRDD - Jan - DeFrancisco	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-980.00
	PRDD - Jan - Duncan	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-48.00
	PRDD - Jan - Neill	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-1,412.00
	PRDD - Jan - Schmalz	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-41.00
	PRDD - Dec - Batchelder	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-1,260.00
TOTAL			-23,619.12
Ouray County Road & Bridge		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	11/19/24 - 12/23/24	560GOO · Gas & Oil	-70.88
	11/19/24 - 12/23/24	660GO2 · Gas & Oil	-774.24
	11/19/24 - 12/23/24	760POO · Gas & Oil	-419.42
	11/19/24 - 12/23/24	960WOO · Gas & Oil	-1,090.84
	11/19/24 - 12/23/24	960SOO · Gas & Oil	-477.49
	11/19/24 - 12/23/24	860GO3 · Gas & Oil	-1,182.98
TOTAL			-4,015.85
Filter Tech Systems, Inc.		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	GAC - Filter Tech	931WOO · Maintenance & Repairs	-52,207.35
TOTAL			-52,207.35
Clear Networx, LLC		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Jan 2025	778PO1 · Decker Room	-100.00
TOTAL			-100.00

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
Clear Networx, LLC		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Jan 2025	543GOO · Telephone	-56.00
	Jan 2025	643GO2 · Telephone	-56.00
	Jan 2025	843GO3 · Telephone	-61.00
	Jan 2025	943WOO · Telephone	-56.00
	Jan 2025	943SOO · Telephone	-56.00
	Jan 2025	530GOO · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	630GO2 · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	730POO · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	830GO3 · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	930WOO · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	930SOO · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	930WOO · Computer	-50.00
	Jan 2025	930SOO · Computer	-25.00
	Jan 2025	630GO2 · Computer	-25.00
	Jan 2025	843GO3 · Telephone	-40.00
TOTAL			-725.00
CML		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	CML 2025	522GOO · Dues & Memberships	-1,558.00
TOTAL			-1,558.00
City of Grand Junction		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
		918SOO · Testing & Permits - sewer	-604.58
TOTAL			-604.58
Pureline Treatment Systems		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Dec 2024	989WOO · Plant Expenses - water	-1,650.00
TOTAL			-1,650.00
Murray Dahl Beery & Renaud LLP		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	condemnation attorney	572GOO · Property Purchase	-260.00
TOTAL			-260.00
4 Rivers Equipment		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	linkage & lever	661GO2 · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-359.50
	linkage & lever	961WOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-359.50
TOTAL			-719.00
SESAC		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	music at public events	533GOO · Economic Development	-610.00
TOTAL			-610.00
ASCAP		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	music at public events	533GOO · Economic Development	-445.00
TOTAL			-445.00

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
Beth Lakin		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Lakin	536GOO · Wellness Program	-645.00
TOTAL			-645.00
CIRSA		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
		920WOO · Insurance (Property/Casualty)	-9,994.32
TOTAL			-9,994.32
Caselle Inc		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Jan 2025	914SOO · Consulting & Engineering Servs	-171.00
	Jan 2025	914WOO · Consulting & Engineering Ser...	-171.00
TOTAL			-342.00
Pinnacol Assurance		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	remainder 2024	804GO3 · Workers Compensation Insur...	-2,612.00
	remainder 2024	904SOO · Worker's Compensation Insur...	-488.33
	remainder 2024	904WOO · Workers Compensation Insur...	-488.00
TOTAL			-3,588.33
Mike Gill		**Alpine-Operating Account**	
	Gill	536GOO · Wellness Program	-146.00
TOTAL			-146.00

AGENDA ITEM #6

AGENDA ITEM #7

To:	Ouray City Council, and Ridgway Town Council
From:	R. Glenn Boyd, Emergency Manager
CC:	Connie Hunt, County Manager Justin Perry, County Sheriff
Date:	December 18, 2024
Subject:	Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Adoption
Request:	Ouray County Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (CO-DHSEM), recommends that the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopt the updated Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Background: The Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan has undergone several iterations since its inception:

- 2013: The initial plan, titled "Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Plan," was established.
- 2015: The BOCC adopted the "Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan," replacing the previous preparedness plan.
- 2021: A significant revision was adopted to align with state guidelines and requirements.
- 2017-2019: The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway developed and updated their respective EOPs.

In 2023, all three jurisdictions—Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway—decided to consolidate their individual plans into a single, cohesive Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan. On December 17, 2024, the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners adopted the "Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan."

Current Plan: The updated "Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan" is a comprehensive rewrite that integrates the emergency response plans of Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway into a unified document.

Plan Annex: On November 13, the BOCC requested that an annex titled "Annex: 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application" be created to list the 400+ Homes on the 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application.

Review Process:

The EOP underwent a rigorous review and approval process:

- **Agency Reviews:**
  - Law enforcement sections were reviewed by the Sheriff, acting Police Chief, and Town Marshal.
  - Dispatch, Fire Districts, EMS, Mental Health, and Planning sections were sent to respective agencies for feedback.
- **Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC):**
  - The draft EOP was reviewed by the MAC Group, generating 14 responses. Most edits were incorporated into the final version, except for those requiring jurisdictional policy changes.
- **CO-DHSEM Review:**

o The updated plan was reviewed and graded by CO-DHSEM, receiving a score of 97%. The only missing element for a perfect score is the required signatures from elected officials and department heads, which will be obtained upon adoption.

- F**inal Adjustments:**
  o Data tables and charts were formatted and updated post-review to incorporate the most recent Assessor's data.

Significance of Adoption:

Adopting the updated EOP is critical for the following reasons:

- **Compliance and Funding Eligibility:**
  o Adoption is a prerequisite for applying for the Emergency Preparedness Guidance (EMPG) Grant in 2025. The application deadline is January 10, 2025.
  o The state mandates EOP adoption every two years, with major revisions every five years.
- **Operational Readiness:**
  o The updated EOP reflects lessons learned from recent real-life events and training exercises, ensuring that the county is prepared for emergencies.

Final Updates:

Based on requests at a December 12, 2024, work session, three edits were made to the final draft plan that was delivered to the BOCC and MAC Group on November 14, 2024:

- A section was added, "3.4.8 Day Cares." This *new* section of the Emergency Operations Plan lists the four licensed daycares in Ouray County. It was placed under section "3.4 County and Municipal Profiles."
- Under section "3.5.2 Dam Failure," the names of the ten dams are written out instead of only stating that there were ten non-jurisdictional dams in Ouray County that only have a state ID.
- A line was added to the section "3.4.1 County and Municipal Histories: 3.4.1.4 Historic Building Registry" to point readers to the annex: "Annex: 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application."

Conclusion: We urge the Ouray County BOCC to adopt the updated Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan. Your support is essential in maintaining compliance, securing grant funding, and ensuring the safety and preparedness of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

R. Glenn Boyd
Ouray County Emergency Manager

Submission Information		Contact Information		Measure Level Key	
Jurisdiction	Ouray	Submitted by	R. Glenn Boyd	Critical	
Service Area	West	Email Address	gboyd@ourayco.gov	Base	
Date	10/27/2024	Field Manager	Bobbie Lucero	Enhanced	

Scoring Summary

Level	Measures	Points Available	Jurisdiction Points	Jurisdiction %	DHSEM Points	DHSEM %
Critical Criteria	33	66	66	100%	64	97%
Base Criteria	80	160	160	100%	158	99%
Enhanced Criteria	124	248	246	99%	242	98%

Measures			Jurisdiction Self-Assessment			DHSEM Assessment	
Section of Plan	Measure	Measure Description	Jurisdiction Assessment	Page Number(s)	Jurisdiction Notes	DHSEM Assessment	DHSEM Notes
Promulgation	1.1	Is there a summary of roles and responsibilities for agencies tasked with disaster authorities?	Included	5		Included	
	1.2	Is there a reference to a local resolution and/or ordinance; local laws and authorities; state laws and authorities; federal laws and authorities?	Included	5,6,7. and Page 264		Included	
Approval & Implementation	2.1	Does the plan include an introduction?	Included	9		Included	
	2.2	Is plan applicability addressed?	Included	9		Included	
	2.3	Is delegation of authority for plan modifications addressed?	Included	10		Included	11
	2.4	Are there elected officials' necessary signature(s) with a date?	Included	13, 11, 14		Not Included	It is understood that this is scheduled to happen in December 2024
Record of Change	3.1	Is there a record of changes and distribution?	Included	15		Included	
Table of Contents	4.1	Does the plan include a Table of Contents?	Included	16		Included	
Purpose	5.1	Does the plan identify the purpose of the EOP?	Included	28		Included	29
	5.2	Does the plan include a summary of the base plan and annexes?	Included	29		Included	
Scope	6.1	Does the plan describe the scope of the EOP, including considerations and integration of other local EOPs within the jurisdiction?	Included	29		Included	
Situation Overview	7.1	Does the plan include a description of the planning environment and the necessity of an EOP?	Included	32		Included	
	7.2	Does the plan reference using the whole community approach in plan development, response, and recovery?	Included	34		Included	
	7.3	Does the plan address the provision of assistance during response?	Included	36		Included	
	7.4	Does the plan include a summary of the jurisdiction's Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), including the four Base components?	Included	52		Included	
	7.5	Does the plan describe the use of the HIRA to inform plan development?	Included	53		Included	
	7.6	Does the plan include a summary of the jurisdiction's capability assessment?	Included	72		Included	
	7.7	Does the plan provide a mitigation overview?	Included	87		Included	
Assumptions	8.1	Does the plan include assumptions made for planning purposes to make it possible to execute the EOP?	Included	93		Included	
Concept of Operations (ConOps)	9.1	Does the plan include an overview of emergency management principles?	Included	94		Included	
	9.2	Does the plan describe plan activation and the emergency declaration processes?	Included	103, 107		Included	
	9.3	Does the plan include pre-disaster operations?	Included	97, 158		Included	
	9.4	Does the plan include a response to disaster operations?	Included	102		Included	
	9.5	Does the plan include recovery from disaster operations?	Included	111		Included	
	9.6	Does the plan reference how plans account for those with access and functional needs (AFN), children, historically underserved communities, household pets, and service animals?	Included	124		Included	118
	9.7	Does the ConOps include each phase of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery?	Included	95		Included	118
	9.8	Does the plan include an overview of the Community Lifelines construct as an objectives-based approach to incident response to stabilize key government and business functions after a disaster?	Included	124		Included	118-119
	9.9	Does the plan include Community Lifeline Safety and Security?	Included	124		Included	
	9.10	Does the plan include Community Lifeline Food, Water, and Sheltering?	Included	124		Included	
	9.11	Does the plan include Community Lifeline Health and Medical?	Included	124		Included	
	9.12	Does the plan include Community Lifeline - Energy (Power and Fuel)?	Included	125		Included	
	9.13	Does the plan include Community Lifeline Communications?	Included	125		Included	
	9.14	Does the plan include Community Lifeline Transportation?	Included	125		Included	
	9.15	Does the plan include Community Lifeline Hazardous Materials (HazMat)?	Included	125		Included	
	9.16	Does the plan reference the Community Lifelines Annex?	Included	125	It mentions that there is not an annex and there are no plans for an annex with all the other priorities required	Not Included	Appreciate the explanation, in the entirety of an excellent plan this doesn't seem to be problematic.
	9.17	Does the plan offer an overview of short-term recovery, transitioning from response to recovery, and Recovery Support Functions (RSF)?	Included	116, 112		Included	
	9.18	Does the plan include RSF Economic Recovery Plan?	Included	121		Included	
	9.19	Does the plan include RSF Health and Social Services?	Included	119		Included	
	9.20	Does the plan include RSF Community Planning and Capacity Building?	Included	120		Included	
	9.21	Does the plan include RSF Infrastructure Systems?	Included	120		Included	
	9.22	Does the plan include RSF Housing?	Included	120		Included	
	9.23	Does the plan include RSF Natural and Cultural Resources?	Included	121		Included	
	9.24	Does the plan reference the recovery plan or RSF Annex?	Included	112		Included	

Section of Plan	Measure	Measure Description	Jurisdiction Assessment	Page Number(s)	Jurisdiction Notes	DHSEM Assessment	DHSEM Notes
Organization and Assignment of Roles and Responsibilities - *Agency Roles and Responsibilities*	10.1	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **emergency management**?	Included	127		Included	
	10.2	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **law enforcement**?	Included	128		Included	
	10.3	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **fire**?	Included	129		Included	
	10.4	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**?	Included	129		Included	
	10.5	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **coroners**?	Included	130		Included	
	10.6	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **public health**?	Included	130		Included	
	10.7	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **public works/road and bridge**?	Included	131		Included	
	10.8	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for the **Office of Information Technology (OIT)**?	Included	133		Included	
	10.9	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**?	Included	134		Included	
	10.10	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **special districts**?	Included	140		Included	
	10.11	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **hospitals**?	Included	135		Included	
	10.12	Does the plan identify agency roles and responsibilities for **human services**?	Included	136		Included	
	10.13	Does the plan include a description of ESF responsibilities (if using an ESF model)?	Included	173		Included	
	10.14	Does the plan identify and/or describe responsibilities for Functions (if using Function-Focused Format)?	Not Included	167	We Use ESF and Community Lifelines	Not Included	
	10.15	Does the plan identify lead and support agency annexes (if using Agency/Department-Focused Format)?	Included	117	These are in the plan not in an annex	Included	
	10.16	Does the plan contain assignment of Community Lifeline coordination responsibilities?	Included	259		Included	
	10.17	Does the plan contain assignment of RSF responsibilities (if using RSF model)?	Included	159		Included	
Organization and Assignment of Roles and Responsibilities - *Individual Roles and Responsibilities*	10.18	Does the plan clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of the relevant individuals and the related authorities and policies for reassignment from normal to emergency duties?	Included	249		Included	
	10.19	Does the plan identify ESF Leads and reference ESF annexes (if applicable to the jurisdiction's model)?	Included	155-159		Included	
	10.20	Does the plan include a primary and support response function matrix?	Included	155-159		Included	
Direction, Control, and Coordination	11.1	Does the plan provide an overview of the jurisdictions concept for operational management, direction and control for incident command, EOC operations, consequence management, dispatch, and multiagency coordination (MAC)?	Included	218 232 218		Included	
	11.2	Does the plan make reference to the jurisdiction's use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)?	Included	throughout the entire document		Included	
	11.3	Does the plan include an organizational chart or description identifying reporting structures within the response effort?	Included	143		Included	
	11.4	Does the plan include an identification of the tactical and operational control of response assets?	Included	242		Included	
	11.5	Does the plan include an overview of a MAC Group?	Included	243		Included	232
Information Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination	12.1	Does the plan include the jurisdiction's identified critical information requirements?	Included	246		Included	233
	12.2	Does the plan describe a process for information collection and reporting of critical information?	Included	246		Included	
	12.3	Does the plan describe the process for analyzing and filtering information to make it actionable?	Included	247		Included	
	12.4	Does the plan describe the processes used for sharing information?	Included	247		Included	
	12.5	Does the plan describe the processes used for dissemination of information to the policy group, ESFs, and the public?	Included	248		Included	
Communications	13.1	Does the plan provide a summary of the communications plan and procedures for disaster communications to include: local to local, local to regional, local to state, and local to response organization?	Included	256		Included	
	13.2	Does the plan include a reference to Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans (TICPs)?	Included	258		Included	246
Administration	14.1	Does the plan include authorities and policies for reassignment of employees from normal to emergency duties?	Included	259		Included	
	14.2	Does the plan include a summary of policies for worker's compensation?	Included	259		Included	
	14.3	Does the plan include a summary of policies for insurance?	Included	260		Included	
	14.4	Does the plan include a summary of the process for timekeeping?	Included	260		Included	
	14.5	Does the plan include a summary of the process for records retention?	Included	260		Included	
	14.6	Does the plan include a summary of policies and processes for use of volunteers?	Included	261		Included	
	14.7	Does the plan include a summary of policies for documenting response and recovery operations?	Included	261		Included	
	14.8	Does the plan include a summary of process for After Action Reporting (AAR)?	Included	262		Included	
Finance	15.1	Does the plan include authorities and policies for disaster spending, procurement, and contracting?	Included	264		Included	
	15.2	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for emergency procurement and spending?	Included	264		Included	
	15.3	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for emergency contracting?	Included	267		Included	
	15.4	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for contracting land use agreements?	Included	268		Included	
	15.5	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for tracking disaster costs?	Included	269		Included	

Section of Plan	Measure	Measure Description	Jurisdiction Assessment	Page Number(s)	Jurisdiction Notes	DHSEM Assessment	DHSEM Notes
	15.6	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for establishing burn rates?	Included	270		Included	
	15.7	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for disaster reimbursement?	Included	271		Included	
	15.8	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for financial records retention?	Included	260 273		Included	
	15.9	Does the plan include a reference to a Financial Management Plan?	Included	274		Included	
	15.10	Does the plan include a summary of financial support for planned operations?	Included	275		Included	
Logistics	16.1	Does the plan include authorities and policies for Mutual Aid (MAA) or Regional Aid Agreements?	Included	276		Included	
	16.2	Does the plan include a summary of identification of resource gaps based on defined threats/hazards (Capability Assessment Gap Analysis)?	Included	277		Included	265
	16.3	Does the plan include a summary of MAA procedures, processes, and review?	Included	278		Included	
	16.4	Does the plan include a summary of processes for resource ordering, tracking, and demobilization to include local, state, and private sectors?	Included	279		Included	
	16.5	Does the plan include a summary of the processes for identifying specialized resources?	Included	281		Included	
	16.6	Does the plan reference a Resource Management Plan?	Included	282		Included	
	16.7	Does the plan include a summary of logistical support for planned operations?	Included	283		Included	266
Plan Development and Maintenance	17.1	Does the plan describe the jurisdictional planning processes, participants, and how development and revision of different levels of the EOP are coordinated during the preparedness phase?	Included	284		Included	
	17.2	Does the plan identify a specific position assigned for overall responsibility of planning and coordination?	Included	284		Included	
	17.3	Does the plan identify a process for establishing the cycles for training, reviewing, evaluating, and updating the EOP?	Included	284		Included	
Laws, Authorities, and References	18.1	Does the plan include a narrative for the legal basis of jurisdictional emergency operations and activities?	Included	287		Included	
	18.2	Does the plan specify the extent and limits of the senior officials' emergency authorities?	Included	288		Included	
	18.3	Does the plan include information to pre-delegate emergency authorities?	Included	102		Included	
	18.4	Does the plan include a summary of the Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) provisions to perform essential functions?	Included	108		Included	
	18.5	Does the plan have a list of acronyms and glossary of terms?	Included	Annexed		Included	
	18.6	Does the plan reference Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 V3?	Included	6,9,285,287		Included	
	18.7	Does the plan reference the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III)?	Included	287		Included	
	18.8	Does the plan reference the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?	Included	287		Included	
	18.9	Does the plan reference the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act)?	Included	287		Included	
Laws, Authorities, and References - Federal	18.10	Does the plan reference the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (Post-Katrina Reform Act)?	Included	287		Included	
	18.11	Does the plan reference the National Planning Framework?	Included	287		Included	
	18.12	Does the plan reference Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD 5), Management of Domestic Incidents?	Included	287		Included	
	18.13	Does the plan reference the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act)?	Included	287		Included	
	18.14	Does the plan reference the Presidential Directive Policy 8, National Preparedness Goal?	Included	287		Included	
	18.15	Does the plan reference "Plain Language" Guidance?	Included	287		Included	
	18.16	Does the plan reference the Homeland Security Act of 2002?	Included	287		Included	
Laws, Authorities, and References - State of Colorado	18.17	Does the plan reference the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (CRS 24-33.5-700 Series)?	Included	287		Included	
	18.18	Does the plan reference the Colorado Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)?	Included	287		Included	
Laws, Authorities, and References - Local Emergency Management Resolution	18.19	Does the plan reference the Local Emergency Management Resolution?	Included	288		Included	
	18.20	Does the plan reference public health authorities?	Included	288		Included	
	18.21	Does the plan reference school district authorities?	Included	288		Included	

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO
CONCERNING THE OURAY COUNTY
MULTIJURISDICTIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

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

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) previously adopted Resolution 2012-033 (superseded by previous resolution), Resolution 2015-054 (superseded by previous resolution), and Resolution 2021-048 (amended by current resolution) regarding emergency situations that pose an immediate danger to life, property, and well-being of residents of Ouray County, and as contemplated and defined by the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, including the authority given to the Board to maintain a disaster agency with jurisdiction over the county and to prepare for emergencies and disasters by C.R.S. § 24-33.5-707; and

WHEREAS, emergency preparedness was addressed in the Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Plan or Emergency Operations Plan adopted by Resolutions 2012-033, 2015-054, and 2021-048, and such plans have successfully guided the County in responding to emergencies since its adoption; and

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS, the resulting attached and revised 2024 Ouray Emergency Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan is in the best interests of the County, its residents

and visitors, including substantial revisions herein, due to the recent increase in incidents requiring an emergency response across the United States including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, terroristic threats, wildfires, and numerous severe weather incidents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY, COLORADO, THAT THIS RESOLUTION, INCLUDING THE AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH HEREIN REGARDING EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES, SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE INSTANT RESOLUTION, AND SHALL THEREAFTER GOVERN THE MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES DURING AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER WITHIN OURAY COUNTY, AMENDING RESOLUTION 2021-048, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: General Operations. The Board of County Commissioners (Board) confirms the designation of Ouray County as the agency with responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within Ouray County, which agency shall coordinate and cooperate with municipalities, fire districts, and other mutual aid partners. This plan is based on the concept that emergency functions for various groups involved in Ouray County government will generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources will be employed in both non-emergency and emergency circumstances. In an emergency circumstance, it is desirable, and always attempted, to maintain organizational continuity and to assign familiar tasks to personnel. However, in large scale disasters, it may be necessary to draw on people's basic capacities and use them in areas of greatest need. Day-to-day functions that do not contribute directly to the emergency operation may be suspended for the duration of any emergency. Personnel and resources that would normally be required of those functions may be redirected to accomplish the emergency task. In keeping with the current strategy of integrated emergency management, this resolution accounts for activities before, during, and after emergency operations, and each department has emergency functions in addition to, or as a substitution to, its normal duties. Upon declaration of an emergency or disaster, the Board, other elected or appointed officials, the County Manager, department heads, and other county employees shall assume the roles and responsibilities assigned to them by the attached and revised 2024 Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in support of response and recovery operations, and the Board hereby approves and adopts said 2024 Ouray Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Section 2: Direction and Control. The Board, consistent with C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, titled *Local Disaster Emergencies*, identifies the County Manager as the County's "principal executive officer of a political subdivision" with statutory authority to declare an Ouray County emergency or disaster. That declaration shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the Board. In all events, the County Manager shall make all reasonable efforts to convene, by any reasonable methods, a quorum of the Board within 24 hours of the initial declaration of emergency or disaster; and shall continue those efforts until a quorum is convened. Any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a Ouray County emergency

or disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, shall be in writing, and shall be filed promptly with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder and with the State of Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Each Ouray County department head and their staff shall provide support to and cooperation with the County Manager. The effects of an emergency or disaster declaration shall include enhanced authority for the County Manager to redeploy Ouray County personnel or equipment from normal job duties to assist in emergency response, repurpose Ouray County facilities to support the emergency or disaster, suspend or temporarily alter personnel requirements, and request and authorize assistance from all appropriate entities and individuals (e.g. local elected officials, other local governments, State of Colorado, federal government). In the event that the incident has exceeded (or is expected to exceed) Ouray County's capacity and capability to effectively respond to and manage the incident, it may be necessary to request operational assistance from a state or federal incident management team (IMT). Requests for an IMT should be initiated through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and may include any necessary delegation(s) of authority and/or operational command, in consultation with other jurisdictions with overlapping operational responsibility (e.g. a fire district or municipality).

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

Section 4: Continuity of Operations. Until a quorum of the Board has been convened, pursuant to a declaration of emergency or disaster by the County Manager, the County Manager

shall have the full legal authority of the Board. In addition, the County Manager shall have the authority to activate the attached and revised 2024 Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan and to request assistance from each appropriate entity through the activation of their respective plans. After twenty-four hours has elapsed from the initial declaration of emergency, and if a quorum of the Board cannot convene within seven days, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on behalf of the Board shall be the following persons, in order: (1) the Chair of the Board; (2) the Vice Chair of the Board; (3) the third Commission Member of the Board; (4) the County Manager; (5) the Deputy County Manager; (6) the County Attorney; (7) the Deputy County Attorney; (8) the County Social Services Director; (9) the County Human Resources Director; and (10) any other County Department Head or other County employee designated to act in this capacity by the Ouray County Emergency Manager or designee. All authority vested in the County Manager by this resolution and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 shall be exercised first by the County Manager, but if the County Manager is unavailable, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on his or her behalf shall be: (1) the Deputy County Manager; (2) the County Attorney; (3) the Deputy County Attorney; (4) the County Social Services Director; (5) the County Human Resources Director; and (6) any other County Department Head or other County employee designated to act in this capacity by the Ouray County Emergency Manager or designee. Any emergency, interim successors shall relinquish such authority as directed by any person(s) higher in the emergency, interim lines of succession identified under this section when such person(s) becomes available.

Section 5: Special Provisions. If any part, term, or provision of this resolution including the attached and revised 2024 Ouray Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan is held by the courts to be illegal or in conflict with any federal law or any law of the State of Colorado, the validity of the remaining portions or provisions shall not be affected, and the remainder shall be construed and enforced as if did not contain the particular part, term or provision held to be invalid. In the event of any conflict between this resolution and the attached and revised 2024 Ouray Emergency Multijurisdictional Operations Plan, the terms of this resolution shall take precedence. Ouray County retains governmental immunity to the maximum extent permissible under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101, *et seq.*, and other applicable law, and no term or condition of this resolution and its attachment shall be construed or interpreted as a waiver, express or implied, of any of the immunities, rights, benefits, protections, or other provisions, contained in these statutes and other applicable law. This resolution and its attachment shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado, and the venue for any action arising with respect to this resolution and its attachment shall be the Seventh Judicial District, State of Colorado, except as otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

OURAY COUNTY MULTIJURISDICTIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

In Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway, it is important for the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as individual citizens, to collaborate to protect against, mitigate, respond to, recover from, and, when feasible, prevent threats and hazards that pose a risk to Ouray County. Effective emergency management starts well in advance of an actual emergency.

Adopted 12.08.2015
1st Revision
Adopted 12.14.2021
2nd Revision
Adopted 12.17.2024

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ANNEXES

Support Annex/Policies

ANNEX	DESCRIPTION	DATE ADOPTED OR MODIFIED
A	Alert and Warning Plan	2014
B	Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan	2025
C	West Region Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	2020
D	Disaster Recovery Plan	2019
E	Courthouse Emergency Procedures Plan	2015
F	Mass Causality Incident Plan	2016
H	Public Health Emergency Operations Plan	2013
I	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	2024
J	Ouray County Wildfire Operating Plan	2024
K	Multi-Jurisdictional Evacuation Plan	2024
M	Annex: 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application	2024
	Livestock and Domestic Animal Sheltering	IN PROGRESS
	Resource Mobilization Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Hazardous Materials Response Plan	IN PROGRESS
	4-H Event Center Emergency Management Plan and Procedural Manual	IN PROGRESS
	Land Use Building Emergency Management Plan and Procedural Manual	IN PROGRESS
	Public Health Building Emergency Management Plan and Procedural Manual	IN PROGRESS
	Social Service Building Emergency Management Plan and Procedural Manual	IN PROGRESS
	Fatality Management Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Mass Care and Shelter Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Medical Surge Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Debris Management Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Emergency Flood Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Incident Within an Incident Response Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Pandemic Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Extended Power Outage Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Volunteer and Donations Management Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Counterterrorism plan	IN PROGRESS

Public Safety Sensitive Annexes

ANNEX	DESCRIPTION	DATE ADOPTED OR MODIFIED
	Ouray County Rapid Needs Assessment Plan	2014
	West All-Hazards Emergency Management Region Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan	2020
	Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Policy and Procedures	2018
	Full Moon Dam Emergency Action Plan	2016
	Ouray County Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan	IN PROGRESS
	Continuity of Government/Operation (COG or COO) Plan	IN PROGRESS

PROMULGATION

The **Ouray County Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** provides an outline of general guidelines on how Ouray County, Colorado, along with the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway, manage emergency operations related to the five phases of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Ouray County is responsible for managing events arising from natural, technological, biological, and human-made disasters and emergencies within its jurisdiction. The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway manage similar events within their jurisdictions and easements.

The EOP provides a framework for managing incidents in Ouray County and its municipalities, addressing both routine emergencies and major disasters. It recognizes that disaster events are unpredictable and does not cover every scenario in detail, omitting highly specific operational procedures that may quickly become outdated.

The EOP connects local governments with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Its primary goal is to ensure coordinated responses across local, state, and federal agencies to protect the community's health, safety, property, and well-being.

All agencies and departments in Ouray County, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, and public health, are responsible for developing and maintaining their own policies and training programs for emergency response. The EOP does not override existing policies or standard operating procedures at the county or local level.

Emergencies such as wildfires, floods, pandemics, and other natural or man-made disasters are complex events with rapidly evolving situations. The EOP provides a flexible framework to adapt to small, significant, or catastrophic emergencies. The plan is intended to provide officials from Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway with a foundation for coordinating the management of disaster incidents that impact residents, property, the environment, public services, and the economy, aiming to minimize those impacts and expedite recovery efforts. This plan is part of a broader system at local, state, and federal levels, all of which adhere to the principles of the **National Response Framework (NRF)** and the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**.

In accordance with the **Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-700 et seq.)**, each county is required to maintain an emergency management agency and prepare a written plan outlining the responsibilities of all local agencies and officials. In 1995, the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners established the position of Emergency Preparedness Manager for disaster and emergency management, pursuant to **County Resolution #1995-086**.

On September 30, 2002, the Ouray County BOCC adopted the EOP via County **Resolution #2002-036**.

On December 8, 2003, the plan was revised and adopted through County **Resolution #2003-062**.

On November 7, 2012, the Board adopted the **Ouray County Emergency Preparedness Plan** in place of the EOP through County **Resolution #2012-033**.

On December 8, 2015, the Board adopted the updated EOP via County **Resolution #2015-054.**

On December 24, 2021, a rewrite of the EOP was adopted pursuant to County **Resolution #2021-048**.

On December 17, 2024, the Board adopted this **Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan** (EOP) through County Resolution #2024-043 to include operations for Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway.

Similarly, the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway have adopted their respective emergency operations plans:

On March 20, 2017, the City of Ouray adopted its EOP via City **Resolution #4-2017**.

On May 6, 2019, the City adopted a revision through City **Resolution #4-2019**.

On _____, 2024, the City adopted this EOP through City **Resolution #2024-__**.

On February 13, 2019, the Town of Ridgway adopted its EOP.

On _____, 2024, the Town adopted this EOP through Town **Resolution #2024-__.**

Additionally, on February 6, 2006, the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners adopted the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** as part of its public policy for emergency planning and Incident/Unified Command, pursuant to County **Resolution #2006-14.** The City of Ouray followed suit on February 21, 2006, with City **Resolution #2006-02**, and the Town of Ridgway adopted the policy on October 13, 2021, via Town **Resolution #2021-08**.

The Ouray County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) manages updates to the EOP and its annexes. The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, the City Council of Ouray, and the Town Council of Ridgway are responsible for the formal review and adoption of the plan. The DEM, County Manager or Town Manager, City Administrator, Sheriff, Lead Law Enforcement Officer, or other Emergency Support Function (ESF) leads may modify the plan as necessary to ensure the most effective response and preparedness for emergencies.

This EOP has been developed in accordance with the **Colorado Disaster Emergency Act**, **FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101**, and other relevant authorities.

The plan is promulgated by county officials, including the Ouray County EM, Sheriff, County Manager, and BOCC, as well as officials from the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway, including the Police Chief, City Administrator, Town Manager, Marshal, and their respective councils. This is in accordance with the Colorado Revised Statutes and county resolutions, including but not limited to County **Resolution #2006-14, #2015-015, #2015-54**, City of Ouray **Resolution #2006-02**, and Town **Resolution #2021-08**.

RESOLUTION STATEMENT

To: All Ouray County, City of Ouray, and Town of Ridgway Departments, Department Heads, Appointed Officials, and Elected Officials

CC: All Participating Organizations, Agencies, and Jurisdictions

In Ouray County and its municipalities, collaboration between the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as individual citizens, is critical to protecting against, mitigating, responding to, recovering from, and—when possible—preventing threats and hazards that pose risks to our community. Effective emergency management begins before any disaster occurs, and comprehensive planning is key to successful outcomes.

Attached is the **Ouray County Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**, a policy-level and guidance document developed to coordinate responses to major incidents and disasters within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. All organizations involved in emergency management activities—including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery—are expected to follow the concepts and coordination systems outlined in this plan and its accompanying Support Annexes. While each incident presents unique challenges, this plan provides a flexible framework for response coordination, recognizing that adjustments may be necessary based on the specific circumstances of an event.

This EOP was developed in consultation with participating organizations, with a primary focus on ensuring coordinated activities among agencies that may not interact daily while respecting their routine missions. Nothing in this plan is intended to interfere with providing the organizations' primary services; however, in times of crisis, it is understood that resources may need to be temporarily redirected to serve the public interest. Should such a situation arise, a local disaster declaration will be issued to address those operational needs.

This plan may be fully or partially activated upon authorization to manage natural, technological, or human-caused incidents. All employees of Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway are expected to support the implementation of this plan and fulfill their responsibilities as outlined herein to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire community.

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OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

</div>

Vote:

Michelle Nauer, Chair	[Aye]	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Lynn Padgett, Vice Chair	[Aye]	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Jake Niece	[Aye]	Nay	Abstain	Absent

Signed:_____   Attest: _____

Michelle Nauer, BOCC Chair   Cristy Lynn, County Clerk and Recorder

CITY OF OURAY, COLORADO,

CITY COUNCIL

Vote:

Ethan Funk, Mayor	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Josh Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tamara Gulde	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Peggy Lindsey	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Michael Underwood	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent

Signed:_____   Attest: _____

      Ethan Funk, Mayor   **Melissa Drake, City Clerk**

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO

TOWN COUNCIL

Vote:

John Clark, Mayor	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Russ Meyer, Mayor Pro-Tem	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Polly Kroger	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Kevin Grambley	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Beth Lakin	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Terry Schuyler	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Josey Scoville	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent

Signed:_____   Attest: _____

John Clark, Mayor   **Pam Craft, Town Clerk**

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

Significant emergencies and disaster incidents are unique events that challenge communities and emergency personnel beyond the scope of routine government operations. Recognizing the diversity and unpredictability of disasters, this Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) avoids highly specific operational procedures that can quickly become outdated. Instead, it takes a streamlined, all-hazards approach that prepares for a wide range of possible scenarios.

Government agencies must anticipate how they will provide essential services during and after a disaster, and this plan serves as a guide for Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway, as well as their staff, volunteers, and partner organizations in responding to such events.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the adopted framework for managing emergency response and recovery operations in Ouray County and its municipalities. All county, city, and town employees are encouraged to complete FEMA-recommended training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities in an emergency.

Plan Applicability

This EOP has been approved and adopted by the resolution of the Ouray County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of Ouray, and the Town Council of Ridgway. It provides comprehensive guidance for planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts related to emergencies and disasters within or affecting Ouray County and its municipalities.

Developed following FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, the National Response Framework (NRF), NIMS, and relevant laws and directives, this EOP represents a unified plan that brings together 2002, 2013, 2015, and 2021 versions of the Ouray County EOP, as well as the City of Ouray EOP and the Town of Ridgway EOP. This latest update reflects lessons learned from recent local disasters and includes updated guidance from the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

This EOP replaces all previous versions and is now the core policy document for Ouray County's Emergency Management program. It will be implemented in any disaster or emergency that disrupts regular County, City, or Town operations.

Purpose and Implementation

This EOP has three primary objectives:

- Define the circumstances under which the plan will be activated.
- Provide guidance on the key components of disaster response.
- Outline implementation strategies for Ouray County and its municipalities.

The EOP will be activated during emergencies that necessitate alternative methods to maintain daily operations for **Ouray County**, the **City of Ouray**, or the **Town of Ridgway**. These situations may include:

- Internal disasters, such as fires, affect critical facilities.
- Environmental events like extreme winds or flooding impede access to services.

- Large-scale public health emergencies, such as pandemics or mass casualty incidents.
- The loss of key leadership during a crisis or the need for a mass evacuation.

This plan outlines a framework for coordinated response to such incidents, providing a basis for managing various emergencies and disasters. It is also designed to be flexible and adaptive, as each situation may require specific variations in response.

While this plan does not directly address the emergency management needs of special districts, those entities are encouraged to maintain their own emergency operations plans (EOPs) in alignment with this document. All special districts should develop their standard operating procedures (SOPs) to guide their response roles and responsibilities during a disaster.

Delegation of Authority for Modifications

Ouray County Emergency Management oversees the development, maintenance, and modification of this EOP in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office, County Manager, City and Town officials, and the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group). While Emergency Management is primarily responsible for maintaining the EOP, all county, city, and town departments, agencies, and districts are encouraged to participate in planning, training, and exercises supporting a resilient and prepared community.

The EOP will be reviewed and updated at least biannually or following any significant incident or training event. Emergency Management is authorized to make minor changes to the plan, which will be recorded in the Record of Changes section. Major policy revisions or the addition/removal of sections will require formal review and re-adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, Ouray City Council, and Ridgway Town Council.

Legal Considerations

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway retain governmental immunity to the fullest extent allowable under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act **(§ 24-10-101, et seq., C.R.S.**) and other applicable laws. No part of this EOP shall be construed as a waiver of any immunities, rights, or protections afforded by law.

Should any portion of this plan be found unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the plan shall remain in effect.

Nothing in this plan creates third-party rights or claims for members of the public or other entities regarding the acts or omissions of public entities under this plan.

Planning Contact Information

For all information regarding this plan, please contact:

Ouray County Emergency Management
Ouray County Sheriff's Office
421 6th Ave (Physical)
PO Box C (Mailing)
Ouray, CO 81427
Phone: 970-325-7273 ext.1
Email: gboyd@ourayco.gov

Ouray County Department Head/Elected Official Agreement and Signatures

Each county department's elected officials/department heads should review the EOP entirely and then sign below. Their signatures below signify they have reviewed the plan and agree to support and implement it as their department requires.

Department Head/Elected Official	Signature	Date
ADMINISTRATION		
County Manager		
Finance Officer		
Public Information Officer		
ELECTED OFFICIALS		
BOCC District 1		
BOCC District 2		
BOCC District 3		
County Assessor		
County Clerk and Recorder		
County Coroner		
County Sheriff		
County Treasurer		
DEPARTMENT HEADS		
Emergency Medical Services		
Emergency Manager		
Human Resources		
Human Services		
Information Technology		
Land Use and Planning		

| Maintenance |
| Public Health |
| Road and Bridge |
| Vegetation Management |

City of Ouray Department Head/Elected Official Agreement and Signatures

Each county department's elected officials/department heads should review the EOP entirely and then sign below. Their signatures below signify they have reviewed the plan and agree to support and implement it as their department requires.

Department Head/Elected Official	Signature	Date
ELECTED OFFICIALS		
Mayor		
Mayor Pro Tem		
Councilor		
Councilor		
Councilor		
ADMINISTRATION/DEPARTMENT HEADS		
City Administration		
City Attorney		
Police Chief		
Human Resources		
Director of Finance and Administration		
Public Works		
Community Development Coordinator		
Parks and Recreation		
Information Technology		

Town of Ridgway Department Head/Elected Official Agreement and Signatures

Each county department's elected officials/department heads should review the EOP entirely and then sign below. Their signatures below signify they have reviewed the plan and agree to support and implement it as required by their department.

Department Head/Elected Official	Signature	Date
ELECTED OFFICIALS		
Mayor		
Mayor Pro Tem		
Councilor		
Councilor		
Councilor		
Councilor		
Councilor		
ADMINISTRATION/DEPARTMENT HEADS		
Town Manager		
Town Clerk/Treasurer		
Town Planner		
Public Works		
Marshal		

RECORD OF CHANGE

All Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) changes will be documented in the master copy maintained by Ouray County Emergency Management. An electronic update will be made and communicated to the appropriate stakeholders if a significant change occurs. Changes deemed minor will be incorporated during scheduled bi-annual updates or as needed following routine reviews.

The EOP will be reviewed and updated at least bi-annually through the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group) and following any incident or exercise to ensure that it remains an effective and accurate emergency management tool for responders and the residents of Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway.

Emergency management may make minor changes, which will be noted in the Record of Changes Log at the beginning of the plan. Significant policy changes, such as adding or deleting sections, will require the plan to be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners, Ouray City Council, and Ridgway Town Council and formally re-adopted by a vote during regularly scheduled Board and Council meetings.

Date	CHANGE OR UPDATE	PAGE REVISED	REVISED BY
2021	Full plan update	Full plan update	Written by Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager, reviewed by the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Team; adopted by the Ouray County BOCC
2024	Coordinated combination of plans and full plan update	Full Plan Update	Written by Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager, reviewed by the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Team; adopted by the Ouray County BOCC,

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is approved and hereby authorized for electronic distribution. All agencies, departments, and personnel are required to review and acknowledge their responsibilities as outlined in the plan, including organizational planning and training necessary to implement the plan when needed.

A hard copy of the EOP will be maintained at the following locations:

- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** – 111 Mall Road, Ridgway, Colorado 81432
- **County Manager's Office** – 541 4th Street, Ouray, Colorado 81427
- **Ouray County Department of Emergency Management** – 421 6th Ave, Ouray, Colorado 81427

Upon adoption, this EOP will be electronically distributed to county officials, municipal governments, department heads, and other identified stakeholders to support planning, training, and operational purposes.

Additional plan copies are available through the Department of Emergency Management and will be accessible on the **Ouray County Emergency Management** webpage.

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Figure 1-City of Ouray

Figure 2-Town of Ridgway

Ouray County Multijurisdictional Base Emergency Operations Plan

1   PURPOSE

1.1   Purpose of the EOP

The purpose of the Ouray County Multijurisdictional Operations Plan (EOP) is to facilitate coordinated, multi-agency, and multi-jurisdictional efforts for emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery across Ouray County, its municipalities, special districts, and state and federal agencies.

This EOP achieves this by:

- Identifying the roles, responsibilities, and actions of Ouray County, City of Ouray, and Town of Ridgway departments, participating agencies, and special districts during emergency and disaster response.
- Provide a framework for coordination and integration of emergency plans among municipalities and special districts, as well as collaboration with state and federal agencies.
- Establishing a system for coordinating the five phases of emergency management: Prevention, Protection, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation.

In day-to-day operations, first responders—such as dispatch, fire, EMS, public works/road and bridge, and law enforcement—manage emergencies that typically do not overwhelm local resources or require mutual aid. These routine incidents are generally handled by individual responders or small teams that work to save lives, contain threats, and minimize damage.

While this EOP can be applied to everyday emergencies, its primary focus is on large-scale emergencies and disasters—whether natural, man-made, biological, or chemical—that pose significant threats to the community. Such events may exceed the capabilities of local first responders and require the involvement of local government and mutual aid resources.

No single plan can address every possible scenario that may arise during a major emergency or disaster. In such situations, local first responders and governments will rely on their training, experience, and coordination with this plan to craft the most effective response based on the specific circumstances of the incident.

Colorado operates under a "local control" system, meaning that all incidents start and end at the local level. According to legal precedent, incidents such as wildfires, floods, and other disasters are "owned" by the local jurisdiction with authority. The local jurisdiction remains in charge of the incident and decision-making until the situation exceeds its capacity. At that point, assistance can be requested, and decision-making authority may be delegated.

This plan outlines the request process, beginning with special districts or local municipalities seeking help from the county, then escalating to the state and, if necessary, from the state to the federal government. The county can request state assistance if local and mutual aid resources are exhausted. In turn, the governor may request federal assistance through the President of the United States under the guidelines of federal law, specifically the Stafford Act, with coordination through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

1.2   Summary of the Base Plan and Annexes

1.2.1 Base Plan

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Base Plan outlines a comprehensive countywide approach to incident management, incorporating the efforts and resources of local governments, municipalities, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. It emphasizes the need for special districts and non-governmental organizations to continuously maintain and update their emergency operations plans relevant to their jurisdiction or response area. Essential roles and responsibilities for coordination are clearly defined within this plan. The Base Plan is officially adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), City Council, and Town Council, and any modifications require their approval.

1.2.2 Supporting Annexes

The Annexes to this EOP provide detailed policies, structures, and responsibilities for coordinating support among local agencies and other jurisdictions during incidents. These annexes are categorized as both functional-based and hazard-specific, ensuring a comprehensive response framework. As incidents, planned events, and training exercises occur, the annexes may be revised to enhance response capabilities. New annexes may also be introduced as needed. While additions to the annexes are preferred to receive approval from the Board of County Commissioners, City Council, and Town Council, such approval is not mandatory.

2   SCOPE

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes a comprehensive framework for coordinating the phases of emergency management—prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation—across Ouray County and its municipalities. The plan may be fully or partially activated to effectively manage natural, technological, and human-caused incidents. It is structured into three primary sections: the Base Plan, Supporting Annexes, and Supporting Documents.

Essential functions are organizational activities that must be maintained under all circumstances, as mandated by the Colorado Constitution. However, certain functions may be temporarily suspended or reprioritized in response to emergency situations or during recovery efforts.

The primary scope of the EOP is to identify the essential functions of Ouray County and prepare strategies to maintain or restore these functions during all-hazard events. This plan and its annexes outline the County's capabilities or can develop to provide services from alternate locations, ensure redundancy in data collection, and train personnel to provide leadership during disaster circumstances (including the order of succession). The plan addresses vital communications that may need to be developed for public and vendor-managed activities (such as vaccines, office supplies, and uninterruptible power supply systems). Additionally, it includes considerations for payroll, purchasing, and human resources.

The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway manage emergency response operations within their respective boundaries. They receive support from the Ouray County Public Health Agency,

Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Ouray County Emergency Management. The Ridgway Volunteer Fire District supports the Town of Ridgway, while the City of Ouray operates its fire department. Ouray County oversees most emergency response operations in unincorporated areas of the county. However, major disasters and large-scale emergencies typically extend beyond a single jurisdiction. Consequently, even if only a portion of Ouray County is affected by a disaster, a multi-jurisdictional effort is essential for effectively managing most significant incidents. Therefore, emergency plans and exercises must incorporate procedures for integrating the resources of Ouray County, municipal governments, special districts, private and volunteer organizations, as well as state and federal entities.

2.1 Response Functions

The following agencies provide emergency response functions within Ouray County and its municipalities:

Dispatch Services:

- Colorado State Patrol Dispatch
- Montrose Interagency Dispatch
- WestCO Regional Dispatch

Emergency Management Services:

- Colorado Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Management (DHSEM)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 8
- Ouray County Emergency Management

Fire Districts/Associations:

- Bureau of Land Management
- City of Ouray Fire Department
- Colorado Forest Service
- Horsefly Volunteer Fire Protection
- Loghill Volunteer Fire Protection District
- Montrose Fire Protection District
- Ridgway Volunteer Fire District
- U.S. Forest Service

Healthcare and Human Services:

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Montrose Regional Health
- Ouray County Emergency Medical Services
- Ouray County Human Services
- ICS Behavioral Health Systems

Law Enforcement Agencies:

- Colorado Bureau of Investigations
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- Colorado State Patrol
- Ouray County Sheriff's Office
- Ouray Police Department
- Ridgway Marshal's Office
- Local Government Organizations:
- City of Ouray
- Ouray County
- Town of Ridgway

Public Works Services:

- City of Ouray Public Works
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Ouray County Road and Bridge
- Town of Ridgway Public Works

Utilities:

- Black Hills Energy
- CenturyLink
- ClearNetworx
- Dallas Creek Water
- San Miguel Power Association
- Tri-County Water

Community Develop and Planning

- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Routine emergencies will be managed by these agencies under Colorado Revised Statutes and using the Incident Command System (ICS) under National Incident Management Systems (NIMS). As an emergency escalates, the Incident Commander will coordinate with county, city, and town officials to ensure that all public safety functions are being effectively provided. When the complexity of the incident requires it, the lead jurisdiction(s) will assign an agency representative to command and/or activate an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will address issues including, but not limited to:

- Damage Assessment
- Coordination of outside agencies and volunteers
- Intergovernmental relations

2.2 Multi-Jurisdictional Incidents

In the case of multi-jurisdictional incidents, the lead jurisdiction(s) will collaborate with the following agencies and jurisdictions through mutual aid response:

All agencies with an emergency response role within the county (as listed above)

- Adjacent and regional counties
- Montrose Regional Health
- Regional fire districts
- Regional municipalities

2.3 Colorado DSHEM

The Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Management (DHSEM) is available 24 hours a day to provide guidance and technical assistance to Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. DHSEM may also provide state resources or coordinate supplemental assistance to support local emergency management actions. A formal declaration of disaster by Ouray County, supporting itself and/or a special district, the City of Ouray, and/or the Town of Ridgway, may be required as a prerequisite for some forms of state assistance or to expedite the provision of such assistance. DHSEM is also responsible for processing state and federal disaster assistance requests. It is important to note that response and recovery operations are primarily the responsibility of Ouray County, with support from the affected municipalities. Therefore, county, state, or federal funding assistance is not guaranteed due to an emergency or disaster event and declaration.

3 SITUATION OVERVIEW

3.1 Planning Environment and Necessities

3.1.1 Planning Necessities

Emergency Operations are based on the following necessities:

- **Continuity of Government and Operations:** All levels of government must function effectively under various threats, emergencies, and disaster conditions. Each agency and department should develop Continuity of Government (COG) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans in alignment with this plan, the State of Colorado Emergency Operation Plans, and national guidance.
- **Municipal and Special District Authority:** Municipal governments and special districts will operate within their defined authority and responsibility. They will declare emergencies and disasters to Ouray County Emergency Management, which will forward these declarations to the State of Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- **Fiscal Responsibilities:** Ouray County government is not fiscally responsible for any municipal government or special district following the receipt of their emergency or disaster declaration. Similarly, no expectation should be held for the state to assume fiscal responsibility upon receiving such declarations.
- **Ongoing Planning and Coordination:** Special districts and non-governmental organizations must continuously maintain and update their emergency operations and continuity plans, particularly during emergencies or disaster responses. These entities are required to coordinate planning, response, and continuity efforts with the Ouray County Office of Emergency Management.

- **Potential for Major Disasters:** Major disasters can occur anywhere within or near Ouray County. While warnings and readiness measures may be possible in certain instances, many disasters strike without notice.
- **Local Responsibility for Incidents:** Incidents will begin at the county or local government level (including special districts) and will remain their responsibility throughout the incident and recovery phases. Higher levels of government may share some responsibilities within an agreed-upon scope. Local jurisdictions should not anticipate significant state resources arriving within 24 to 72 hours post-incident, and federal resources may take 48 to 96 hours to arrive.
- **Impact of Emergencies and Disasters:** Emergencies or disasters can arise at any time and in any location, resulting in significant human suffering, loss of life, property damage, and economic hardship affecting individuals, governments, public services, the environment, and the business community.
- **Collaboration and Information Sharing:** Effective collaboration and information sharing across multiple government levels, the response community, and the private sector are essential for stabilizing and creating a common operating picture during emergencies or disasters.
- **Public Expectations:** The public expects the government to keep them informed and to provide guidance and assistance in the event of an emergency or disaster. Clear and concise communication will enable the public to make sound personal decisions based on the information provided.
- **Shared Responsibility:** The premise of the National Response Framework, the State Emergency Operations Plan, and this plan is that all government levels share responsibility in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of emergencies and disasters.
- **Defined Responsibilities:** Within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway, specific departments have clearly defined responsibilities during emergencies. Other departments may have coordination responsibilities and authority. Additional outside staff assistance may be necessary to effectively manage an emergency or disaster.
- **Mission-Tasking of Departments:** Depending on the magnitude of the emergency or disaster, all county, city, and/or town offices and departments may be tasked to respond and perform specific functions. The transition to emergency work will be overseen by the Board of County Commissioners and managed by the County Manager at the county level. At the city level, this will be managed by the City Council and City Administrator; at the town level, by the Town Council and Town Manager.
- **Post-Disaster Hazards:** Hazardous conditions may persist following significant disasters, increasing the risk of casualties or fatalities.
- **Evacuation Plans:** Evacuation plans are best suited for predictable events with sufficient warning time. Unforeseen events require impromptu decisions regarding evacuation or shelter-in-place strategies based on current hazards. Effective evacuation plans should be phased and tiered based on at-risk populations, incorporating trigger points, pre-designated routes, and timelines. These plans may also outline safe areas for specific

hazards (such as floods) that can be reached on foot if evacuation routes are compromised. Many disasters in the county are unpredictable, allowing little time for warning. When a local evacuation order is issued, city, town, county, and local authorities shall deploy available resources to support the evacuation.

- **Mitigating Factors in Mass Evacuations:** Factors impacting mass evacuations include the physical location of the incident (the varied terrain of Colorado) and the timeframe of the incident (for instance, during winter months when highways may be closed, hindering nearby community response and support).

3.2 Whole Community Response

Whole-community inclusion involves businesses, schools, media, nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, community organizations, and individuals and families in the preparedness planning process. In developing this document, its annexes, and Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), Ouray County and its municipalities have included the whole community. Ouray County has worked with the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Group, the Ouray and Ridgway School districts, county organizations, and the Red Cross to identify their needs. Ouray County and its municipalities are committed to developing plans that serve the whole community and their continuous involvement in updates and additions to this and other emergency plans.

3.2.1 Individuals with Access and Functional Needs

At-risk individuals are people with access and functional needs that may interfere with their ability to access or receive medical care before, during, or after a disaster or emergency. Irrespective of a specific diagnosis, status, or label, "access and functional needs" is a broad set of standard and cross-cutting access and function-based needs.

- Access-based needs require resources accessible to all individuals, such as Human Services, accommodations, information, transportation, medications to maintain health, etc.
- Function-based needs refer to an individual's restrictions or limitations that require assistance before, during, and/or after a disaster or public health emergency.

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

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

- **Communication**—Individuals who may have limitations that interfere with the receipt of and response to information require information to be provided in an appropriate and accessible format. This can include individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing,

individuals who speak American Sign Language, individuals who have limited or no English proficiency, individuals who are blind or have low vision, and individuals who have cognitive or physiological limitations.

- **Maintaining Health**—Individuals who may require Personal Assistance Services (or personal care assistance) to maintain their activities of daily living such as eating, dressing, grooming, transferring, and toileting. Independence – Includes individuals who function independently if they have their assistive devices, such as consumable medical supplies (diapers, formula, bandages, ostomy supplies, etc.), durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, etc.), and/or service animals.
- **Services and Support**—Includes support for individuals with behavioral health needs, those who have psychiatric conditions (such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Schizophrenia, severe mental illness), pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, and children.
- **Transportation**—Includes individuals with transportation needs because of age, disability, temporary injury, poverty, addiction, legal restriction, or lack of vehicle access. Coordinating to ensure access to accessible vehicles is required.

While most individuals with access and functional needs do not have acute medical needs requiring the support of trained medical professionals, many will require assistance to maintain health and minimize preventable medical conditions. These individuals may require more time and assistance during an evacuation. Based on data from the US Census Bureau, 15.1% of the population in Ouray County has a recognized disability. Among those under 65 years old, 9.1% have a disability, while 25.7% of those over 65 have a disability. The statistics from Tables 3.2.1A and 3.2.1B highlight the importance of special consideration by planners and emergency managers.

Table 1-A&F Population Statistics

Age	Persons with disability	Percent of Age Group
Under the age 18	20	3.2
18 to 64 years	267	10.57
Age 65+	458	25.7

Table 2: Types of Disabilities Identified in Ouray County from US Census Bureau

Type of Disability	Percent of Ouray Population
Hearing Difficulty	7.5%
Cognitive Difficulty	5.0%
Ambulatory Difficulty	7.1%
Vision Difficulty	3.3%
Self-Care Difficulty	3.8%
Independent Living Difficulty	4.2%

3.3   Provision of Assistance

Ouray County and its municipalities are prepared to respond to the hazards identified in this plan. This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) will be regularly utilized, exercised, and updated to ensure the County's readiness for various emergencies. However, should an incident exceed the County's response capabilities, the County acknowledges the need for assistance from external resources, including regional, state, and federal agencies.

3.4   County and Municipal Profiles

3.4.1   County and Municipal Histories

3.4.1.1 Ouray County History

Before the mid-1800s, the gold rush brought settlers to Ouray County. Colorado's western slope was home to the Ute Indians. The valley of the Uncompahgre River, which runs through the County, was the traditional homeland of the Uncompahgre Band of Utes. Established by the Colorado State Legislature in January 1877, Ouray County was named for the Ute chief who opened the San Juan Mountains to white settlers in 1874 with the signing of the Brunot Treaty.
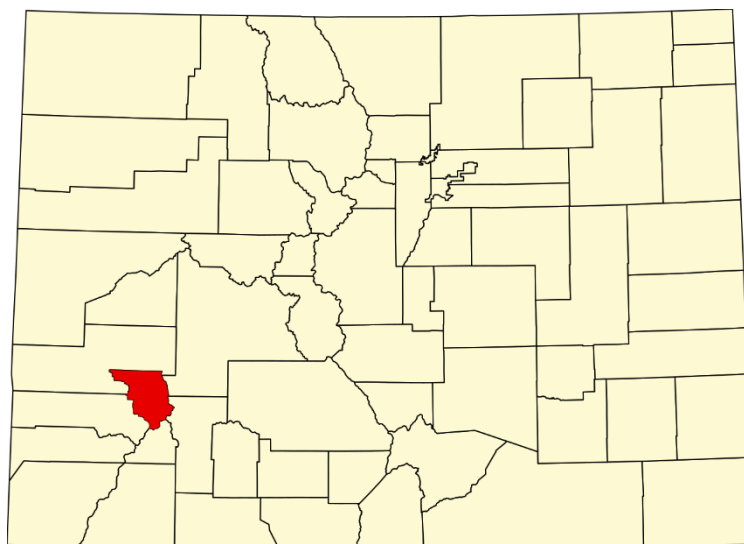
Figure 3-Map of Colorado highlighting Ouray County

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

Much of the County's historic past is still evident today. The entire City of Ouray is registered as a National Historic District, with most buildings dating back to the late nineteenth century.

3.4.1.2 City of Ouray History

Initially established by miners chasing silver and gold in the surrounding mountains, the town once boasted more horses and mules than people. Prospectors arrived in the area in 1875 and 1877, and William Weston and George Barber found the Gertrude and Una gold veins in the Imogene Basin, six miles southeast of Ouray. Thomas Walsh acquired the two veins and all the open ground nearby. In 1897, Camp Bird Mine was opened, adding a twenty-stamp mill in 1898 and a forty-stamp mill in 1899. The mine produced almost 200,000 ounces of gold by 1902

when Walsh sold out to Camp Bird Ltd. By 1916, Camp Bird Ltd. had produced over one million ounces of gold.

At the height of the mining, Ouray had more than 30 active mines. The city was incorporated on October 2, 1876, and named after Chief Ouray of the Utes. By 1877, Ouray had grown to over 1,000 in population and was named county seat of the newly formed Ouray County on March 8, 1877.

The Denver & Rio Grande Railway arrived in Ouray on December 21, 1887. It would stay until automobiles and trucks caused a decline in traffic. The last regularly scheduled passenger train was on September 14, 1930. The line between Ouray and Ridgway was abandoned on March 21, 1953.

The entirety of Main Street is registered as a National Historic District, with most buildings dating back to the late nineteenth century. The Beaumont Hotel, the Ouray City Hall, and Walsh Library are listed on the National Register of Historic Places individually, while the Ouray County Courthouse, St. Elmo Hotel, St. Joseph's Miners' Hospital (currently housing the Ouray County Historical Society and Museum), Western Hotel, and Wright's Opera House are included in the historic district. A complete table of all properties in the state listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties within Ouray County is in 3.4.1.4.

3.4.1.3 Town of Ridgway History

Ridgway began as a railroad town, serving the nearby mining towns of Telluride and Ouray.

The town site is at the northern terminus of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, which meets with the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, running between Montrose and Ouray. Ridgway was located about 3 miles (4.8 km) south of the existing town of Dallas. Articles of incorporation were filed on May 22, 1890, and granted on March 4, 1891. This "Gateway to the San Juans" position was recognized over 100 years ago when the Rio Grande Southern established Ridgway as a railhead center servicing the nearby mining towns of Ouray and Telluride. The town was named for Denver and Rio Grande railroad superintendent Robert M. Ridgway, who established the town in 1891.

The Rio Grande Southern filed for abandonment on April 24, 1952, and the Denver and Rio Grande Western abandoned the line between Ridgway and Ouray on March 21, 1953. The line between Ridgway and Montrose was upgraded from narrow gauge to standard gauge. Ridgway continued to be a shipping point until the line to Montrose was abandoned in 1976 as a reservoir was built on the Uncompahgre River.

The dam for that reservoir, the Ridgway Dam, was proposed in 1957 as part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Dallas Creek Project. Its original location would have inundated Ridgway. A 1975 decision to put the dam further downstream kept the town above water, and residents coined their nickname, "The Town that Refused to Die." The land around the reservoir became the Ridgway State Park north of town limits.

The current dam, the Ridgway Dam, is an earthen dam on the Uncompahgre River that impounds Ridgway Reservoir and was built as part of the Dallas Creek Project. Construction

began in 1978 and was completed in 1987. The dam's construction forced the re-routing of U.S. Highway 550 to the east and the abandonment of the Ridgway Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. In 2014, work was completed on retrofitting the dam to add a hydroelectric plant. The dam's operator, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, installed two turbines and generators, an 8 kW and 7.2 MW system. The larger one is used in summer and the smaller one in winter. More details on the dam can be found in the Ouray County Hazard Mitigation Plan. As mentioned in section 3.5.2- Dam Failure of this plan, the Ridgway Dam is rated as a High Hazard Dam.

3.4.1.4 Historic Building Registry

The following table lists the buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. In addition, this plan includes an annex listing the 400+ buildings in the City of Ouray that were on the 1983 application to the Historical Society.

Table 3-Buildings in Ouray County Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties

Building Name	Jurisdiction	Address	List	Date Registered	Site Number
Bank Building	Ridgway	523 W. Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.772
Beaumont Hotel	Ouray	3rd St. & 5th Ave., Ouray	National	Oct 30, 1973	5OR.62
Colona School	Ouray County	County Rd. No. 1, Colona	State	Dec 13, 2000	5OR.1173
Fort Peabody - Ouray County	Ouray County	Uncompahgre National Forest, Ouray vicinity	National	Mar 30, 2005	5OR.1377 / 5SM.3805
George Jackson House	Ridgway	129 Citadel Dr., Ridgway	National	Jan 11, 1996	5OR.113
Hartwell Park	Ridgway	Bounded by Sherman, Lena, Clinton St., and D&RG right-of-way, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.999
Herran House	Ridgway	146 N. Cora St., Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.111
Holmes-Duckett House	Ridgway	810 Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.998
Ouray City Hall & Walsh Library	Ouray	6th Ave. between 3rd & 4th St., Ouray	National	Apr 16, 1975	5OR.61
Phillips House	Ridgway	282 S. Mary, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.791
Rasmussen House	Ridgway	191 S. Charlotte, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.792

Building Name	Jurisdiction	Address	List	Date Registered	Site Number
Sherbino Building / Theater	Ridgway	604 N. Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.1368
Stanwood-Carmichael House	Ridgway	709 W. Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.776
Walther House	Ridgway	755 Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.781

3.4.2   County and Municipal Geography

3.4.2.1 Ouray County Geography

Located in the mountains of southwest Colorado, Ouray County. The County's terrain ranges from the San Juan Mountains in the south through the fertile Uncompahgre River Valley to rolling foothills and mesa lands in the north. It is a land of steep gorges, towering peaks, tumbling waterfalls, high mesas, and green pastures. Montrose County borders it to the north and northwest, San Miguel County to the west, San Juan County to the south, Hinsdale County to the southeast, and Gunnison County to the northeast. Ouray County encompasses 542 square miles (2 square miles of water) and includes two incorporated home-rule municipalities, the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway.

3.4.2.2 City of Ouray Geography

Ouray is located in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado. It is about 40 miles (64 km) south of Montrose. It is only 10 miles (16 km) northeast of Telluride, but due to the severity of the landscape, the drive is about 50 miles (80 km). Ouray is connected to Silverton and Durango to the south by Red Mountain Pass, which crests at just over 11,000 feet (3,400 m).

3.4.2.3 Town of Ridgway Geography

Ridgway is situated in the Uncompahgre Valley at an elevation of 6,985 feet. The town is located on the San Juan Skyway, cradled in the heart of some of the most photographed mountains in the world. The nearby San Juan Mountain Range has 14 of Colorado's 53 peaks over 14,000 feet. Among them, 14,150-foot Mt. Sneffels is most prominent from Ridgway. The eponymous Mt. Ridgway, 13,468 feet in height, is also nearby, 4.5 miles west of Ouray. To the east of the town also lies the smaller but equally grand Cimarron Range, with Uncompahgre Peak at 14,309 feet.

The Uncompahgre River flows from Lake Como at 12,215 feet in northern San Juan County in the Uncompahgre National Forest in the northwestern San Juan Mountains is the river's headwaters. It flows northwest past Ouray, Ridgway, Montrose, and Olathe and joins the Gunnison at Confluence Park in Delta. The river forms Poughkeepsie Gulch and the Uncompahgre Gorge. The major tributaries are all creeks draining the northwest San Juan Mountains. There are two dams on the Uncompahgre River: a small diversion dam in the Uncompahgre Gorge and Ridgway Dam below the town of Ridgway, which forms Ridgway Reservoir.

The river is used for irrigation in the Uncompahgre Valley. The Uncompahgre is unnavigable, except at high water. The name given to the river comes from the Ute word Uncompahgre, which loosely translates to "dirty water" or "red water spring" and is likely a reference to the many hot springs in the vicinity of Ouray. The town has two primary water sources originating in the northern part of the San Juan Mountains. The town has one primary storage reservoir on Miller Mesa, Lake Otonawanda.

3.4.3   County and Municipal Climate

3.4.3.1 Ouray County Climate

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

3.4.3.2 City of Ouray Climate

Ouray experiences four distinct seasons. Summers are warm during the day and mild to cool at night, with brief thunderstorms often occurring in the afternoons in July and August, sometimes resulting in intense, though short-lived, rainfall. Autumn is cool and mostly clear with occasional rain. Winters are long and cold—though seldom excessively so—with considerable snowfall. Spring is generally cool, with early spring often bringing the most significant snowfalls; late spring into early summer (mid-May through late June) is mild to warm and is usually the driest time of year. The Köppen climate classification for Ouray is Dfb (Cold-Continental, without a dry season; warm summer).

3.4.3.3 Town of Ridgway Climate

Ridgway has a humid continental climate (Koppen: Dfb) with four distinct seasons. Summers are usually warm to hot, while winter days are cold, with nighttime temperatures dropping close to zero. Annual snowfall is heavy, averaging 85 inches (220 cm).

3.4.4   County and Municipal Population and Demographics

Ouray County has grown by 17.8% percent since the 2010 U.S. Census. The estimated 2020 county population was 4,783 people and the estimated county population for 2024 is 5,249. The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway are the County's principal population centers.

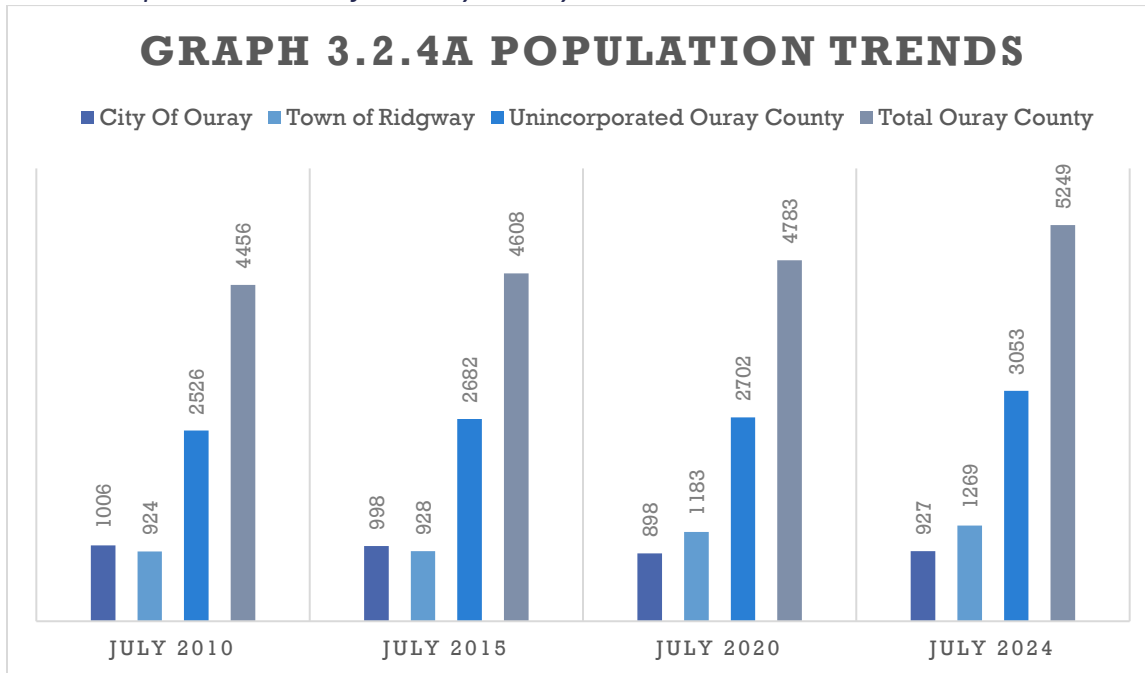*Table 4-Population Trends for Ouray County 2010-2024*

GRAPH 3.2.4A POPULATION TRENDS

■ City Of Ouray ■ Town of Ridgway ■ Unincorporated Ouray County ■ Total Ouray County

JULY 2010: 1006, 924, 2526, 4456
JULY 2015: 998, 928, 2682, 4608
JULY 2020: 898, 1183, 2702, 4783
JULY 2024: 927, 1269, 3053, 5249

Table 5-Select Census 2023 Demographic and Social Characteristics for Ouray County

Characteristic	Ouray County	City of Ouray	Town of Ridgway
Gender/Age			
Male (%)	50.3	53.43	50.59
Female (%)	49.7	46.57	49.41
Under 5 years (%)	3.4	1.0	3.2
65 years and over (%)	32.9	17.0	33.0
Race/Ethnicity (one race)			
White (%)	91.61	87.39	91.77
American Indian/Alaska Native (%)	0.18	0	0
Asian (%)	0.3	0.99	0.46
Black or African American (%)	2.13	6.45	3.02
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (%)	0	0	0
Other (%)	0.81	0.3	0.46
Hispanic or Latino (of any race) (%)	4.18	10.52	3.84
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino (%)	90.8	87.39	89.11
Education			
High school graduate or higher (%)	97.5		
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons 25 years+ (%)	49.6		

3.4.5   Government

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

3.4.5.1   Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is the governing body for Ouray County. Each of the three members serves a four-year term and is elected from one of three districts by the County electorate. The county government has powers granted by state statutes. The BOCC meets regularly on Tuesdays several times a month, although this schedule is subject to change with notice. Additionally, the BOCC can schedule special meetings and work sessions with at least 24 hours' notice.

Pursuant to Ouray County *Resolution #2024-043*: "Upon declaration of an emergency or disaster, the Board may hold emergency meetings as may be required to ensure continuity of government, ensure adequate response and recovery, provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Ouray County, execute formal requests and agreements for aid and assistance, and allocate emergency funds when costs of an emergency or disaster exceed authorized emergency response budgets. Such meetings are held pursuant to the authority provided in *C.R.S. § 30-10-303*, even if notice of any such meeting cannot be provided in advance to the public as required by *C.R.S. §§ 24-6-401* and *402*. Notice shall be provided in advance as the situation permits, and the County Manager's staff will undertake all reasonable efforts to notify the general public and press of the emergency meeting, including using existing electronic distribution lists. The meeting may be in person, via telephone, video conference, or other electronic means, or a combination thereof. At the outset of the meeting, the Chair of the Board or the County Manager shall describe the circumstances constituting the emergency under which the meeting is taking place and acknowledge that the notice requirement may be affected by the type of meeting involved. For purposes of this notification, "emergency" is defined as "an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action." To the maximum extent permissible depending on public safety and the emergency response(s) required, minutes and/or audio recordings of such meetings shall be maintained, meetings shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law for executive sessions, and any actions taken at such meeting or meetings shall be ratified at the next practicable regular meeting of the Board."

3.4.5.2   The City of Ouray City Council

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

3.4.5.3   Ridgway Town Council

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

3.4.6   Sectoring Ouray County

Ouray County is divided into 8 Sectors

Figure 4: Ouray County Sectors
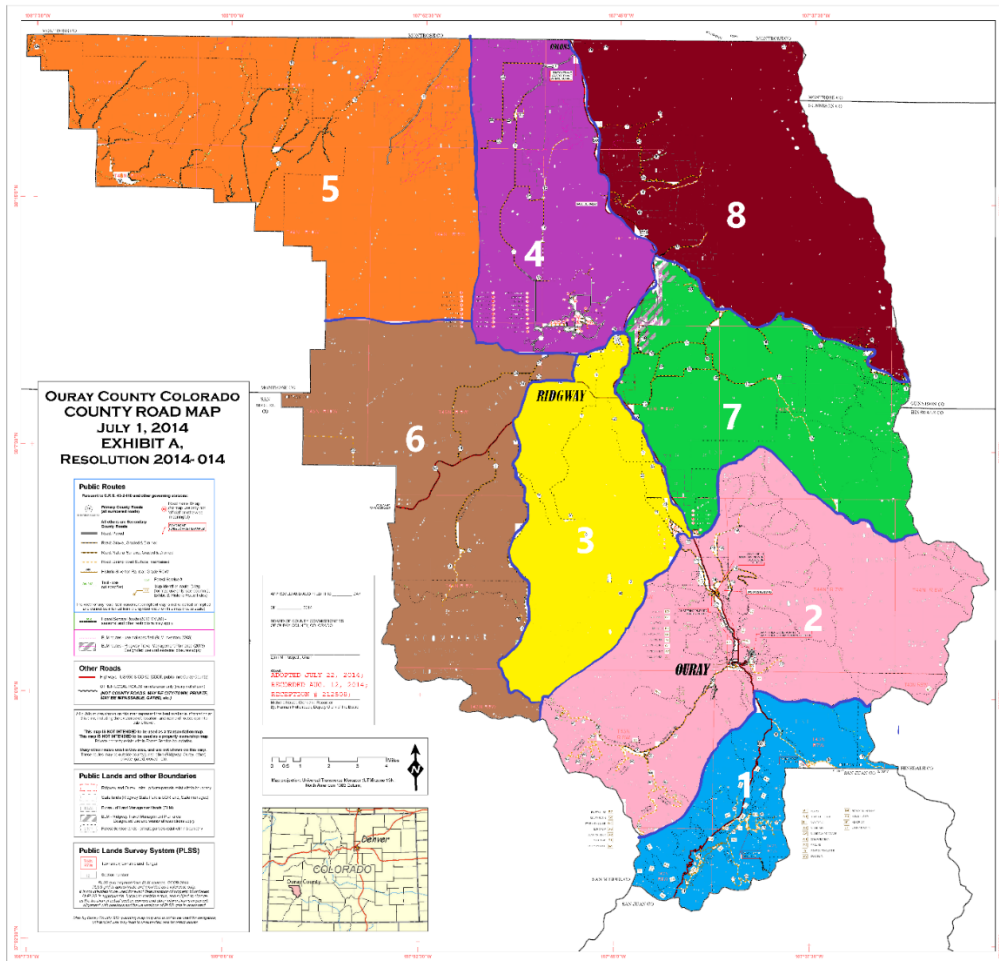
3.4.6.1   Sector 1

Sector 1 contains all areas within Ouray County South of Sector 2 and includes, but not limited to, the following locations:

- US Highway 550 South of Bear Creek to the County line
- County Roads: 18, 20 and its extensions, and 31 and its extensions
- Trails: Gray Copper, Full Moon, Richmond, Hayden, Bear Creek, Bear Creek South Fork
- All roads in that area that come off US Highway 550
- All land within Ouray County South of Bear Creek Trial
- Half Moon Basin
- Gulches: Full Moon, Commodore, and McIntyre
- Red Mountains #1, #2, and #3 within Ouray County

3.4.6.2   Sector 2

Sector 2 Contains areas North of Bear Creek Trail and South of Ouray County Road 23 and includes, but is not limited to, the following locations:
- Everything within the City of Ouray City Limits
- Ouray Ice Park
- Panoramic Heights
- Lake Lenore
- Mineral Farms
- Amphitheater Campground
- The mines along 361
- County Roads: CR 14 and all its extensions, CR 16, CR 17 south of Mary's Rd, CR 26 and all its extensions, CR 361
- Trails: Baldy, Cobbs Gulch, Storm Gulch, Shortcut, Cutler Creek, Okeson, Left Fork Cutler Creek, Dexter Creek, Difficulty Creek, Horse Thief, Cascade Falls, Perimeter, Wetterhorn, Middle Canyon; Dallas, Corbett, Corbett Canyon, Silver Shield, Twin Peaks, Sutton, Neosho, Weehawken, Alpine Mine, Mount Sneffels, Wright Lake, Virginius Mine, Richmond

3.4.6.3   Sector 3

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

3.4.6.4   Sector 4

Sector 4 contains areas within Ouray County north of Ouray County Road 24, West of Colorado Highway 550, East of the most western part of County Road 22, and includes, but is not limited to:

- Loghill Mesa
- Vista Terrace
- Ridgway State Park
- Colona West of Colorado Highway 550
- Ouray County Roads: CR 1 and its extensions, CR 22 and its extensions, Spud Hill Road, and Ponderosa Drive

3.4.6.5   Sector 5

Sector 5 contains areas within the Northwest section of Ouray County, West of Log Hill, and North of Sector 6 and includes, but is not limited to:

- Dave Wood Road
- Sims Mesa Road
- Government Springs Road
- Cornerstone
- Divide Road
- Elk Mountain Resort
- Horsefly

3.4.6.6   Sector 6

Sector 6 contains the areas in Ouray County West of Ouray County Road 7, south of Horsefly Peak, and includes, but is not limited to:

- Ouray County Roads: CR 9, CR 9A, CR 24 west of CR 24A, CR 24C, and CR 24D
- Colorado Highway 62 west of Ouray County Road 7
- Pleasant Valley
- Spruce Mountain
- South Baldy
- County Road 62X
- Walcott Mountain
- Box Factory Park
- Dallas Trail West of Ouray County Road 7

3.4.6.7   Sector 7

Sector 7 contains the areas within Ouray County South of Owl Creek Pass, East of Highway 550, and North of Sector 2, and includes:

- Everything in the Town Limits of Ridgway East of Colorado Highway 550
- Ponderosa Village
- Valley Heights
- Ouray County Land Use Building
- Ouray County Road: Mall Road, CR 8B, CR 8L, CR 10 and its extensions, CR 12 and its extensions

- Trails: Stealey Mountain; Stealey Mountain South, Stealey Mountain North, Courthouse, Courthouse Mountain, Owl Creek, Old Owl Creek, Spalding Park
- Stealey Mountain
- Courthouse Mountain
- Ramshorn Ridge

3.4.6.8 Sector 8

Sector 8 contains the areas within Ouray County's Northeast corner of the county, east of Colorado Highway 550, North of Owl Creek Pass, and includes, but is not limited to

- Ouray County Roads: 2, 2A, 4, 4A, 4B, 8, 8A, and 906
- Trails: Deer Creek, Lou Creek, Nate Creek, and Spruce
- Owl Creek Pass
- Monument Pass
- Pinion Ridge
- Buckhorn Road
- Billy Creek SWA
- Billy Creek State Wildlife Area

3.4.7 Ouray County Special Districts

Ouray County has a variety of special districts that perform essential functions for its citizens. Below is a list of special districts from the DOLA website for Ouray County. Current listings of board members (if available) can be found at https://dola.colorado.gov/lgis/

Table 6-Ouray County Special Districts

Public Safety	
Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center	
Conservation Districts/Irrigation Water	
Colorado River Water Conservation District	Shavano Conservation District
Tri-County Water Conservancy District	
Fire Protection Districts	
Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District	Montrose Fire Protection District
Ouray Fire Protection District	Ridgway Fire Protection District
Emergency Medical Service/Medical	
Ouray County Emergency Medical Services	Ouray County Regional Service Authority
Montrose Fire Protection District	
School Districts/Education/Library	
Montrose County RE-1J School District	Ouray Library District
Ouray R-1 School District	Ridgway Library District
Ridgway R-2 School District	
Cemetery Districts	
Cedar Hill Cemetery District	Dallas Park Cemetery District
Housing/Recreation	
Cornerstone Metropolitan District No. 2	Loghill Village Park and Recreation District
Sanitation District	
Fairway Pines Sanitation District	

3.4.7.1 School Districts

Three school districts serve Ouray County: Montrose County RE-1J School District, Ouray R-1 School District, and Ridgway R-2 School District. Montrose County RE-1J School District does not have a school in Ouray County. However, it serves students in the North end of the county. In Ouray County, there are three Schools:
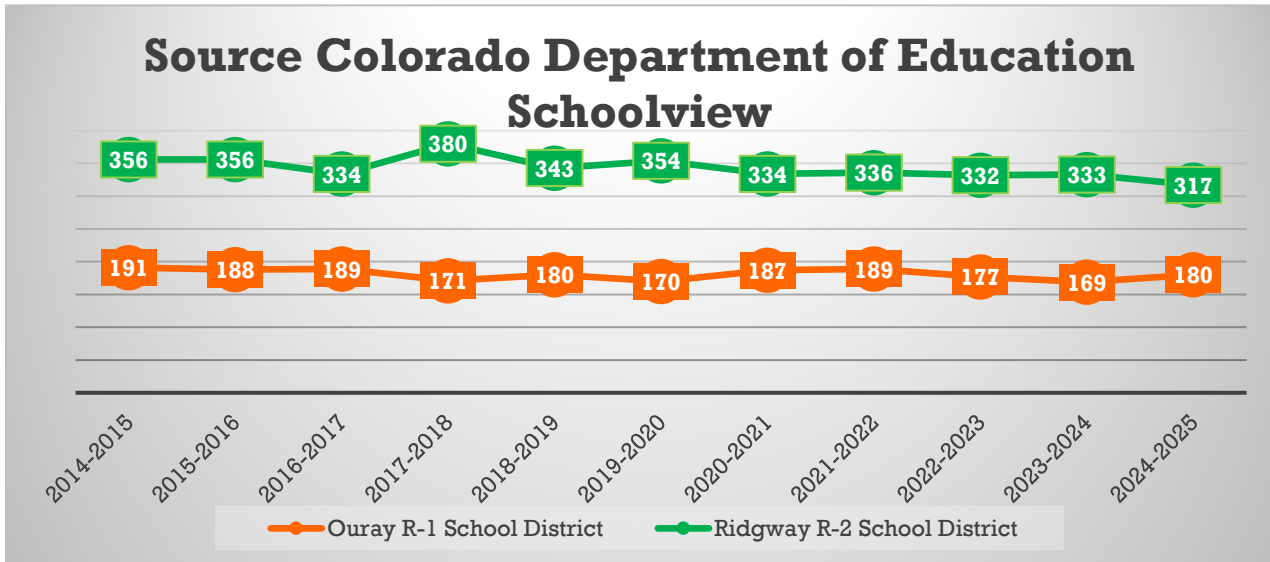

Source Colorado Department of Education Schoolview

Ridgway R-2 School District: 356, 356, 334, 380, 343, 354, 334, 336, 332, 333, 317

Ouray R-1 School District: 191, 188, 189, 171, 180, 170, 187, 189, 177, 169, 180

Years: 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Table 8: Ouray and Ridgway School District Enrollments 2014-2025

(Source Colorado Department of Education Schoolview)

Montrose County RE-1J School District: 6087, 6162, 6252, 6260, 6154, 6215, 5836, 6061, 6035, 6038, 6055

Years: 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025
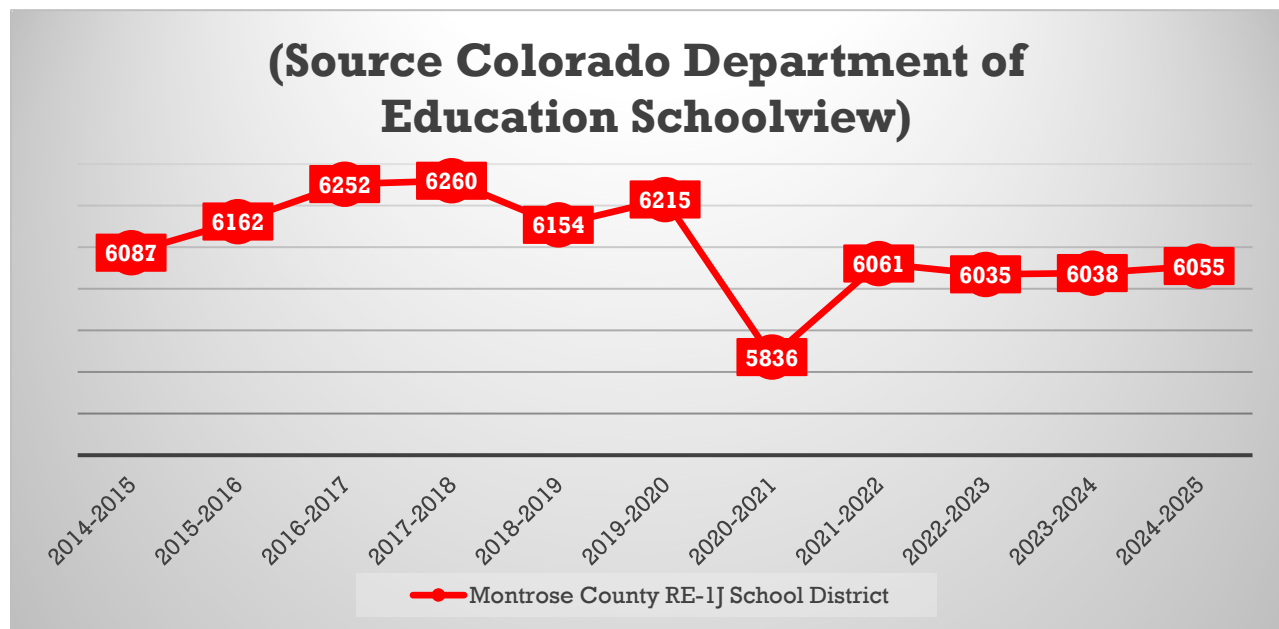
Table 7: Montrose School District Enrollment 2014-2025

- Ouray Schools is at 400 7th Ave, Ouray, Colorado 81427. It serves Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2024, enrollment for Ouray School was 180 students. The school provides school bus transportation services to students and is available to provide mass

transportation in emergencies. The American Red Cross has designated the school as an emergency evacuation shelter.

- Ridgway Elementary School is at 1115 W. Clinton St., Ridgway, Colorado 81432. It serves Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade. In 2024, the school had 149 students. The school provides school bus transportation and is available to provide mass transportation in emergencies. The American Red Cross has designated the school an emergency evacuation shelter.
- Ridgway Secondary School is located at 1200 Green Street, Ridgway, Colorado, 81432. It serves 6th through 12th grade. In 2024, the school had 168 students. The school provides school bus transportation services to students and is available to provide mass transportation in emergencies. The American Red Cross has designated the school an emergency evacuation shelter.

3.4.8 Daycares

There are four licensed daycares in Ouray County:

Name	Location
Ouray School District Preschool	400 7th Ave, Ouray, CO 81427
Ridgway School District Preschool	1115 Clinton, Ridgway CO 81432
Voyager Youth Program	280 N. Cora St., Ridgway, CO 81432
Trina's Fun House	399 N Cora St., Ridgway, CO 81432

Table 9: Daycare Services in Ouray County

Plans for other sites in Ouray County exist, but they have not been opened at the time of this plan update.

3.4.9 Domestic Water and Wastewater Treatment

Each municipality provides domestic drinking water and wastewater treatment for residents living within city limits. The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway exclusively provide wastewater treatment within their jurisdictions, with limited service outside municipal boundaries. Domestic water taps and distribution are wide-ranging across the county, though.

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

3.4.10 Utility Providers

Various public utilities service Ouray County. The San Miguel Power Association provides power to much of the county, and a handful of residents receive power from Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA). There is only one natural gas provider in Ouray County, Black Hills Energy. Multiple propane suppliers throughout Montrose and Delta service residents in Ouray County.

Internet and telephone providers vary across the county, with outlying areas of all communities having little to no access to broadband internet except via satellite internet providers. There are several internet providers throughout the county. Cell service also varies across the county, and several areas have no cell service, such as areas on the Dallas Divide, Red Mountain Pass,

and many backcountry 4WD roads. Verizon and AT&T have towers in Ouray County; however, depending on the region of the county you are in dictates which service works best.

3.4.11 Healthcare

In 2024, the US Census Bureau estimates that 8.4% of the population of Ouray County between the ages of 18 and 65 years are uninsured. Ouray County lacks a hospital, and it heavily relies on Montrose Regional Health for EMS and resident care. The nearest level 2 trauma hospital is St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. Most residents will use Montrose Regional Health, Delta County Memorial Hospital, or St. Mary's Hospital when they take themselves to the hospital. Ouray County EMS (OCEMS) will transport a patient to Montrose Regional Health. If the patient needs a higher level of care, OCEMS will utilize an air ambulance to transport the patient to St Mary's Hospital or Mercy Hospital in Durango.

Ouray County has no long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or rehabilitation units. Cedar Point Health has a medical clinic located at 295 Sherman Street, Ridgway, Colorado, partly supported by the Ouray County Regional Service Authority. Many other doctors serve the residents and visitors of Ouray County.

Mill levies, Ouray County Funds, and the Marijuana Excise Tax funds partly support OCEMS. More specifically, OCEMS is supported by local property taxes generated by a 2-mil levy, Ouray County General Fund transfers, client fees and donations, and grants. Services are available 24/7/365 by calling 911. Ambulances are stationed in Ouray at the Ouray City Hall and in Ridgway at the Ridgway Fire Protection District Station.

The Ouray County Public Health Agency (OCPHA) is at 177 Sherman St. Ridgway, Colorado, 81432. OCPHA provides collaborative services with our surrounding counties where it best serves our populations, such as restaurant inspection and water quality evaluation. Programs that are made available to our residents are Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning, Pandemic Response, Immunization Programs, Retail Food Inspection Programs, the Tobacco Prevention Education Program, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutritional Services.

3.5   Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Ouray County and its municipalities are vulnerable to various hazards due to their location in the San Juan Mountains, limited transportation routes, and unpredictable weather. The County is also susceptible to hazards that might occur in and affect all of the neighboring jurisdictions. The County and the jurisdictions within use an all-hazards approach to emergency management while focusing on community stabilization and resiliency. Through the development and updates of the Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, Ouray County conducted a Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) to identify what natural, technological, and human-caused hazards pose the greatest risk to the county and its municipalities based on the probability of the event, the extent of the impact, and the spatial extent of the event. The results from the HIRA have been taken into consideration when planning this EOP by directly contributing to the identified hazards section below, identifying the resources that might be required to respond to specific incidents while informing the finance section on the economic impacts of certain events and providing evidence to demonstrate the risks and vulnerabilities to County leadership. Detailed

information on these hazards and mitigation can be found in the Ouray County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Table 10: Types of Hazards identified in the MHP

Natural	Technological	Human-Caused
Avalanche	Airplane Crash	Hazardous Materials Incident
Debris Flow	Dam Failure	Imminent Threat
Drought	Transportation Incident	Mass Casualty Events/Incidents (MCI)
Earthquake		Public Health Emergencies
Extreme Temperatures		
Flood		
Landslide/Rockfall		
Lightning		
Severe Winter Storm		
Wildfire		
Windstorm		

Table 11-Ouray County Hazard Classifications

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent
Avalanche	Possible	Moderate	Small
Debris Flow	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Flood	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Landslide/Rockfall	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Severe Winter Storm	Possible	Critical	Large
Wildfire	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate

Table 12-City of Ouray Hazard Classifications

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent
Debris Flow	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Flood	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Landslide/Rockfall	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Severe Winter Storm	Possible	Critical	Large
Wildfire	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate

Several natural hazards were identified as part of the HIRA, and the county's hazard-specific preparedness efforts and response capabilities are detailed within the Hazard Mitigation Plan

(HMP). The tables below classify these hazards as possible, likely, and highly likely to affect the County, City, and Town.

Table 13-Town of Ridgway Classifications

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent
Flood	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate
Severe Winter Storm	Possible	Critical	Large
Wildfire	Highly Likely	Critical	Moderate

3.5.1 Avalanche

An avalanche is defined as a mass of snow moving down a slope. An Avalanche occurs when the stress (from gravity) trying to pull the snow downhill exceeds the snow cover's strength (from bonds between snow grains). An avalanche has four ingredients: a steep

Figure 5-Avalanche at the snowshed on Highway 550

slope, a snow cover, a weak layer in the snow cover, and a trigger. About 90% of avalanches start on 30-45 degrees slopes, and about 98% occur on 25-50 degrees. Avalanches release most often on slopes above timberline that face away from prevailing winds (leeward slopes collect snow blowing from the windward sides of ridges). Avalanches can run, however, on small slopes well below timberline, such as gullies, road cuts, and small openings in the trees. Very dense trees can anchor the snow to steep slopes and prevent avalanches from starting; however, avalanches can release and travel through a moderately dense forest.

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

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

3.5.2   Dam Failure

Dam failure incidents involve unintended releases or surges of impounded water. Dam failure can be caused by rainfall, earthquakes, blockages, animal activity (such as burrowing), landslides, lack of maintenance, improper operation, poor construction, vandalism, and terrorism.

Dams are classified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) based on hazard potential. This classification is based on the consequences if the dam were to fail, **not the possibility of**

Figure 6-Ridgway Reservoir Dam

failure or the existing condition of the dam. The dams are rated (1) high, (2) significant, or (3) low hazard. The potential hazard designation by USACE is based on factors such as the dam's acre-feet capacity, distance from the nearest downstream community, population density of the community, and the age of the dam.

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

According to the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Dam Safety, there are six jurisdictional dams in Ouray County:

Table 14-Jurisdictional Dams in Ouray County

Dam Name	Stream	Downstream Town	Hazard Class	EAP	EAP Date
Carroll Brown	**Spring Creek**	**Ridgway**	**Significant**	**Not Required**	
Chaffee Gulch Detention #6	**Chaffee Gulch**	**Montrose**	**Low**	**Not Required**	
Cornerstone Pond No.4	**Cottonwood**	**Montrose**	**Significant**	**Yes**	**1/11/2008**
Full Moon	**RED MOUNTAIN CREEK**	**Ouray**	**High**	**Yes**	**6/11/2016**
Ouray	**Uncompahgre River**	**Ouray**	**Low**	**Not Required**	
Ridgway	**Uncompahgre River**	**Montrose**	**High**	**Yes**	**9/30/2023**

Additionally, there is one non-jurisdictional dam in the County with a National ID Number (NIS) and ten non-jurisdictional dams that only have a State ID. A non-jurisdictional dam creates a reservoir with a capacity of 100-acre feet or less, a surface area of 20 acres or less, and a height measured 10 feet or less. The dam with the NID is the Chimney Peak Ranch Dam (Forgotten Reservoir) on Nate Creek and has a low hazard class. The other non-jurisdictional dams which are also low hazard are Lake Reservoir, Elephant Reservoir, Lake Otonowanda, Hartman Ranch Dam, Dalwhinnie Ranch Augmentation Pond, Dalwhinnie Ranch Irrigation Poun, Josie Dam, Fairway Pines Estates Owners Pound 1, Fairway Pines Estates Owners Pound 2, Bates #2, and Chimney Peak Ranch. There are 93 livestock water tanks and erosion control dams in the County. These structures include all reservoirs built after April 17, 1941, on watercourses that the state engineer has determined to be "normally dry." They have a capacity of not more than ten acre-feet and a vertical height not exceeding fifteen feet from the bottom of the channel to the bottom of the spillway.

3.5.3 Debris Flow

Debris flows are among the most destructive geologic processes in mountainous areas. A debris flow is a mass of water and earth materials that flows down a stream, ravine, canyon, arroyo, or gulch. Technically, if more than half of the solids in the mass are larger than sand grains (e.g., rocks, stones, boulders), the event is called a debris flow; otherwise, it is called a mudslide or landslide. Many of Colorado's older mountain communities built in major mountain valleys are on or near debris fans. A debris fan is a conical landform produced by successive mud and debris low deposits and the likely spot for a future event. Three of the five conditions necessary for debris flows to occur: (1) steep slopes, (2) loose rock and soil material, and (3) clay minerals, are adequately met by the geography and geology in the Ouray County and City of Ouray areas.

The last two conditions for debris-flow occurrence, (4) sufficient antecedent soil moisture and (5) rainfall of sufficient intensity and duration to initiate slope movement, are provided by snowmelt and intense summer thunderstorms.

Wildfires that remove vegetation that stabilize soil from erosion can exacerbate the debris flow problem. Heavy rains on the denuded landscape can also lead to the rapid development of destructive mudflows.

Figure 7-Debris Flow at Corbett Creek August 2024

Due to the geology and steep topography in Ouray County, debris flows occur in the southern portion of the County, particularly in and around the City of Ouray and the Highway 550 corridor, following heavy rains. The City of Ouray and surrounding areas have been developed near debris fans since it was founded in 1875. Eight creeks and several smaller basins and gullies directly affect the City of Ouray, including Portland, Cascade, Skyrocket, Canyon, Owl, Bridalveil, Corbett, and Dexter. The main part of the city is in the debris fans of Portland, Cascade, and Oak Creeks (the corporate limits include Skyrocket and Bridalveil Creeks).

Additionally, the Corbett Creek fan, the Coal Creek fan, and the Dexter Creek fan are debris flow-susceptible areas in the unincorporated County. Ouray County Roads 5, 7, and 23 southwest of Ridgway require regular repairs and inspection due to damage from debris flows. Ouray County Road 17 near Corbett Creek has also been impacted several times. Mudslides have also overrun and closed Colorado Highways 62 and 550 several times yearly.

The east, northeast, northwest, and west tributaries of Whitehouse Mountain are especially prolific in debris flows and catastrophic monsoonal events, which affect Ouray, Corbett, Coal Creek, Beaver Creek, and the forks of Dallas Creek.

On August 12, 2024, a storm cell stalled over Whitehouse Mountain, causing a Flash Flood to come down Beaver Creek, bringing down rocks, trees, and mud. The flood caused the creek to rise approximately 8 feet, leaving mud and debris in place of the water diversion system and ditch that led to the Town of Ridgway's municipal water supply. At the time of this plan update, the damage is estimated at $4.3 million.

3.5.4   Drought

Drought is a condition of climatic dryness severe enough to reduce soil moisture and water below the minimum necessary for sustaining plant, animal, and human life systems. Influencing

factors include temperature patterns, precipitation patterns, agricultural and domestic water supply needs, and growth. Lack of annual precipitation and poor water conservation practices can result in drought conditions.

Due to Colorado's semiarid conditions, drought is a natural but unpredictable occurrence in the State. However, because of natural variations in climate and precipitation sources, it is rare for all of Colorado to be deficient in moisture simultaneously. Single-season droughts over some portions of the State are common. A lack of significant winter snowfall usually signals the onset of drought in western Colorado mountain counties. Ouray County receives the most precipitation, such as snow, in the higher elevations between November and April. Hot and dry conditions that persist into spring, summer, and fall can aggravate drought conditions, making the effects of drought more pronounced as water demands increase during the growing season and summer months.

3.5.5   Earthquake

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

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

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

The movement of faults causes earthquakes, so understanding the history of Colorado's Faults can help determine potential future earthquake locations. Faults outside the County boundaries could also impact Ouray County, as several faults are near Ouray County.

3.5.6   Extreme Temperatures

Extreme hot and cold temperatures can severely impact human health and mortality, natural ecosystems, agriculture, and the economy. Temperature extremes cause more deaths every year than any other disaster, including hurricanes.

3.5.6.1 Extreme Cold

Extreme cold often accompanies a winter storm or is left in its wake. It is most likely to occur in the winter months of December, January, and February. On average, January is the coldest

month. The average last freeze/frost day in Ouray County is May 29. However, there has been at least one recorded snowfall in every month of the year.

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

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

3.5.6.2 Extreme Heat

According to information provided by FEMA, extreme heat is defined as temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the county's average high temperature and last for several weeks. Extreme heat will most likely occur in June, July, and August. On average, July is the warmest month.

Heat kills by taxing the human body beyond its abilities. In a normal year, about 175 Americans succumb to summer heat demands. According to the NWS, among natural hazards, the cold winter—not lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or earthquakes—takes a greater toll. In the 40 years from 1936 through 1975, nearly 20,000 people were killed in the U.S. by the effects of heat and solar radiation. In the heat of 1980, more than 1,250 people died.

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

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

Extreme cold events are typically predictable before the event and can last for days. The NWS issues wind chill warnings, watches, and advisories, as described below.

- **Wind Chill Warning:** Take Action! NWS issues a warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with a wind chill warning, avoid going outside during the coldest parts of the day. If you go outside, dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and ensure at least one other person knows your whereabouts. Update them when you arrive safely at your destination.
- **Wind Chill Watch:** Be Prepared: NWS issues a wind chill watch when dangerously cold wind chill values are possible. As with a warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Ensure your car has at least a half gas tank and update your winter survival kit.
- **Wind Chill Advisory:** Be Aware: NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values, but not extremely cold values, are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors.

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

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

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

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

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

- **Excessive Heat Warning/Advisory:** Issued when an excessive heat event will occur within the next 36 hours. These products are issued when an excessive heat event is

occurring, imminent, or very likely to occur. The warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property. An advisory is for less severe conditions that cause significant discomfort or inconvenience and could threaten life and/or property if caution is not taken.

- **Excessive Heat Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 12 to 48 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased, but its occurrence and timing are uncertain. A Watch provides enough lead time so those who need to prepare can do so, such as cities that have excessive heat event mitigation plans.
- **Excessive Heat Outlook:** Issued when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook provides information to HI forecast map for the contiguous U.S. who need considerable lead time to prepare for the event, such as public utilities, emergency management, and public health officials.

3.5.7 Flood

Riverine flooding is when a watercourse exceeds its "bank-full" capacity. Riverine flooding generally occurs because of prolonged rainfall or rainfall combined with soils already saturated from previous rain events. The area adjacent to a river channel is its floodplain. In its common usage, "floodplain" most often refers to an area inundated by the 100-year flood, the flood that has a 1% change in any given year of being equaled or exceeded. Other types of floods include general rain floods, thunderstorm-generated flash floods, alluvial fan floods, snowmelt and rain-on-snow floods, dam failure floods, and local drainage floods. The 100-year flood is the national standard by which communities regulate floodplains through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Figure 8-City of Ouray Flood 1909

The potential for flooding can change and increase through various land use changes and changes to the land surface. Climate change can create localized flooding problems inside and outside natural floodplains by altering or confining watersheds or natural drainage channels. Human activities commonly create these changes. Other events, such as wildfires, can also create these changes. Wildfires create hydrophobic soils, a hardening or "glazing" of the earth's surface that prevents rainfall from being absorbed into the ground, thereby increasing runoff, erosion, and downstream sedimentation of channels.

Ouray County is susceptible to the following types of flooding:
- Rain in a general storm system
- Rain in a localized intense thunderstorm

- Melting Snow
- Rain on melting snow
- Dam Failure
- Urban stormwater drainage
- Rain on fire damaged watersheds

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

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

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

3.5.8 Hazardous Materials Incident (Taken from the MHP2019)

Ouray County and its municipalities are susceptible to accidents involving hazardous materials (Hazmat) on roads, highways, and fixed facilities that manufacture, use, or store dangerous chemical substances. A hazardous materials incident may occur during routine business operations or because of a natural disaster. Releasing hazardous materials can threaten people and natural resources near the accident. Air releases can prompt large-scale population evacuations, and spills into

Figure 9-USDOT Classifications of HAZMAT

water or onto the ground can adversely affect public water and sewer systems.

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

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) uses nine classes of hazardous materials:
- Explosives
- Compressed Gasses: Flammable Gasses; Non-flammable Compressed Gasses; Poisonous Gasses
- Flammable Liquids: Flammable (Flash Point Below 141°F); Combustible (Flash Point 141°-200°F)
- Flammable Solids; Spontaneously Combustible; Dangerous When Wet
- Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides
- Toxic Materials: Materials that are Poisonous to Humans; Infectious Agents
- Radioactive Material
- Corrosive Material: Destruction of Human Skin; Corrode Steel at the Rate of 0.25 Inches Per Year
- Miscellaneous

The U.S. DOT, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulate Hazardous Materials and waste.

3.5.9 Imminent Threat

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

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

Areas in Ouray County could be a source of explosives for imminent threats to public safety. These sources could be from active mines (dynamite) or hand charges and shells for howitzers the Colorado Department of Transportation uses for avalanche control. The mines themselves could be targets of radical environmental groups. Families and individuals in Ouray County have a history of anti-governmental solid statements, actions, and signage. It is these latter groups that are of particular concern to Ouray County. Ecoterrorism is a form of domestic terrorism that the FBI defines as "the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally-oriented, subnational group for

environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature."

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

- **Denial-of-service:** This refers to an attack that successfully prevents or impairs the authorized functionality of network, systems, or applications by exhausting resources. This attack could shut down a government agency's website, preventing citizens from accessing information or completing transactions. This attack could also impede business operations or critical services such as emergency medical systems, police communications, or air traffic control.
- **Malware, Worms, and Trojan Horses:** These spread through emails, instant messaging, malicious websites, and infected non-malicious websites. Some websites automatically download the malware without the user's knowledge or intervention. This is known as a "drive-by download." Other methods will require the users to click on a link or button.
- **Botnets and zombies:** A botnet, short for robot network, aggregates compromised computers connected to a central "controller." The compromised computers are often referred to as "zombies." These threats will continue to increase as the attack techniques evolve and become available to a broader audience, with less technical knowledge required to launch successful attacks. Botnets designed to steal data are improving their encryption capabilities and thus becoming more challenging to detect.
- **"Scareware:"** Fake security software warnings: In this type of scam, cyber criminals use pop-up warnings to tell users that their system is infected. Many users are lured into downloading and paying for unnecessary software to "protect" their system.

3.5.10 Landslide/Rockfall

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

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

Spring is typically Colorado's landslide/rockfall season, as snow melts and saturates soils, and temperatures enter freeze/thaw cycles. Falling ice is sometimes a hazard on Colorado State Highway 550 just north or south of Ouray. Seasonal patterns, precipitation, and temperature patterns influence rockfall and landslides. Additionally, an earthquake could trigger them.

Figure 10-Landslide on Red Mountain Pass

The Colorado Geologic Survey (CGS) report "Debris-Flow Hazard in the Immediate Vicinity of Ouray, Colorado," contains a hardcopy map showing known landslide deposits near the City of Ouray. The deposits are limited, and none affect developed areas or roads. Landslides occasionally cause problems to Colorado State Highway 550 near Colona. Another landslide problem includes the 11000 block of Ouray County Road 1 as it climbs the escarpment. The road is showing possible damage due to a sliding foundation.

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

CDOT identified 756 sites throughout Colorado with ongoing rockfall issues, including 14 in Ouray County. CDOT identifies these areas using the Colorado Rockfall Hazard Rating System

(CRHRS), which combines traffic data, geology information, and slope measurements to determine a hazard ranking score.

3.5.11 Lightning

Lightning is a discharge of electrical energy from the buildup of positive and negative charges within a thunderstorm, creating a "bolt" when the buildup of charges becomes strong enough. This flash of light usually occurs within the clouds or between the clouds and the ground. A lot of lightning can reach temperatures approaching 50,000°F. Lightning rapidly

Figure 11-Figure 5-Lightning Strike City of Ouray 2018

heats the sky as it flashes, but the surrounding air cools following the bolt. This rapid heating and cooling of the surrounding air causes thunder, often accompanying lightning strikes. While frequently affiliated with severe thunderstorms, lightning may also strike outside heavy rain and occur as far as 10 miles from rainfall.

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

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

3.5.12 Mass Casualty Events and Incidents (MCI)

In general, a mass casualty incident/event (MCI) is an incident in which local emergency response capabilities are overwhelmed by the number and severity of casualties. While many of the hazards profiled in this plan could result in such an incident, this hazard is specifically concerned with transportation incidents that involve large numbers of people (e.g., a plane or bus crash). These incidents could be primary hazards or secondary effects of another hazard (e.g. an avalanche along a transportation corridor could bury vehicles). A plane crash in the rugged terrain of Ouray County is likely to have few survivors, whereas a tour or school bus crash could result in multiple injuries and fatalities. Additionally, the mining industry has grown in Ouray County in the last few years. MCIs sometimes occur in the mining industry due to cave-ins or explosions. Ouray County is particularly concerned that a tour or motor coach bus could go over the side of Colorado State Highway 550 on Red Mountain Pass.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, the most severe injuries in MCIs are fractures, burns, lacerations, and crush injuries. However, the most common injuries are eye injuries, sprains, minor wounds, and ear damage. Additionally, it is normal for people to suffer emotional and physical stress after an MCI, even if they are not injured.

3.5.13 Public Health Emergencies

A pandemic flu event could significantly impact the population of the County and, in turn, the economy. The COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 proved as much. Typically, denser areas are at a higher risk of the spread of a pandemic flu. Additionally, the students and staff at the schools are more vulnerable due to the potential for the quick spreading of the flu in a school. There have not been any recorded cases of the West Nile virus in Ouray County. However, surrounding counties have reported cases, indicating the potential for cases in Ouray. All individuals are at risk of the West Nile virus, although the elderly are at a higher risk for the more severe impacts of the virus. Populations frequently working or recreating outdoors should know how to reduce their risk of the West Nile virus. Radon, carbon monoxide, and methane seepages can occur anywhere in the County, although methane seepages may be more likely in the northern and central areas. Radon, carbon monoxide, and methane seepages can be deadly to people in the County.

3.5.14 Severe Winter Storm

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

Heavy snowfall during winter can also lead to flooding or landslides during the spring if the area's snowpack melts too quickly. Avalanche danger significantly increases during and immediately after heavy snowfall.

3.5.15 Wildfire

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

In wildland fire vernacular, hazard is defined as the physical situation with the potential for causing damage to resources or assets, measured by burn probability and fire intensity. Risk is the overall measure of the possibility of loss or harm caused by wildfire. Risk is the combination

of wildfire hazard and vulnerability. Fire danger refers to a combination of fuel moisture and weather conditions that combine with topography and other fuel characteristics to determine fire behavior as manifested in fire intensity and rate of spread. Fireline intensity is a function of the rate of spread and heat per area; it is directly related to flame length and the heat felt by a person standing next to the flames. Factors that contribute to fire risk are described below.

Figure 12-Cow Creek Fire 2019

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

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

- **Weather—**Weather components such as temperature, relative humidity, vapor pressure deficit, wind, and lightning also affect the potential for wildland fire. High temperatures and low relative and high vapor pressure deficit dry out the fuels that feed the wildland fire, creating a situation where fuel will more readily ignite and burn more intensely. Wind is the most influential weather factor for fire intensity and the direction and rate of fire spread. Winds can be significant at times in Ouray County. In addition to high winds, wind shifts can occur suddenly due to frontal passage, temperature changes, or wind interaction with topographical features such as slopes or steep hillsides. Seasonal and episodic drought affects fuels' susceptibility to combustion.

- **Ignitions—**Wildland fires are ignited by natural causes--predominantly lightning or human causes. Federal agencies categorize human-caused fires based on their source, including equipment, smoking, campfires, debris burning, railroads, and arson. Human-

caused ignitions are associated with travel corridors, population centers, recreational use, and commercial activities. A concern in Ouray County is that structure fires in rural areas may be sources of wildland fires, as response times can be significant in the more remote areas of the County.

Factors such as drought conditions, development, aircraft accidents, increased outdoor activity, and forest health practices contribute to wildfire risk in Ouray County. The impact of the fir engraver beetle on the health of the white fir trees in Ouray County has been an ongoing concern. The beetle leaves dead trees that may increase fuel for wildfire in parts of the County.

Based on burn probability, the northern/central regions of the county gave the highest probability. At the same time, the southern portion of the County, particularly the areas above alpine, has the lowest burn probability (non-burnable). Generally, the areas around the Town of Ridgway have a higher burn probability than those around the City of Ouray. Additionally, areas near the Loghill FPD have a moderate to high burn probability.

Much of the County has a moderate to high wildfire intensity rating, highlighting the potential for high-intensity fires. The above-alpine regions of the County experience the lowest wildfire intensity. Generally, the jurisdictions do not have high wildfire intensity within the core of the jurisdiction, but when moving outwards toward unincorporated counties, wildfire intensity increases quickly. Nearly all the Loghill Mesa FPD has moderate or high wildfire intensity.

There are WUI locations located mainly in the central parts of the county and the southwest portions of the county. The City of Ouray contains a high density of structures in the WUI within the entire jurisdiction. Additionally, the town of Ridgway includes a high density of structures in the WUI towards the main street portion of town. Most of the higher densities of structures in the WUI in Loghill Mesa FPD are in the Census Designated Place of Loghill Village, just north of Ridgway.

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

In Ouray County, small fires can proliferate when adequate fuels coincide with weather and topography that are favorable to fire. Wildfires can last from several hours to several months. Historically, the fire season has extended from early spring to late fall, but as the Marshall Fire proves, destructive fires can occur anytime.

Table 15-CSFS Fire Intensity Scale

Class 1 – Lowest intensity	Class 2 – Low	Class 3 – Moderate	Class 4 – High	Class 5 – Highest intensity

Their size can also describe the extent of wildfires. According to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, there are seven classes of wildfire sizes, categorized from A to G.

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

3.5.16 Windstorms

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

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

3.6   Inventory of Assets

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

Table 16-Ouray County Property Inventory by Jurisdiction Updated 11.13.2024

Jurisdiction	Total Parcel Count	Improved Parcel Count	Improved Actual Value	Contents Exposure	Total Exposure
City of Ouray	926	886	$460,102,820	$277,904,175	$738,006,995
Town of Ridgway	850	806	$495,669,760	$296,147,700	$791,817,460
Unincorporated County	4176	2356	$1,590,125,240	$827,322,595	$2,417,447,835
Total	5,952	4,048	$2,545,897,820	$1,401,374,470	$2,327,175,905

Table 17-Ouray County Property Inventory by Property Type Updated 11.13.2024

Property Type	Total Parcel Count	Improved Parcel Count	Improved Actual Value	Contents Exposure	Total Exposure
Agriculture	1072	190	$10,724,870	$10,724,870	$21,449,740
Commercial	232	373	$87,945,410	$144,296,480	$288,592,960
Exempt	350	98	$57,378,880	$99,161,410	$198,322,820
Residential	2956	3384	$1,201,205,510	$1,144,523,350	$3,433,570,050
Utilities	21	3	$2,207,780	$2,668,360	$5,336,720
Vacant Land	1321	N/A	$0	$0	$0
Total	5952	4048	$2,545,897,820	$863,286,575	$2,327,175,905

3.7   Capability Assessment Summary

The Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) is a framework and tool to help state and local stakeholders assess risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support and resources during emergencies or disasters. CEPA provides a standardized and repeatable process to better understand the capabilities at the county/local level and allows for the examination and analysis of regional or statewide trends.

The key component of the CEPA process is an in-person meeting between state and local subject matter experts (SMEs) to discuss and analyze risk and capability information and to identify potential resource gaps. This process also provides an opportunity to promote continued communication and coordination among state and local partners. Information obtained during the CEPA process helps the state to better plan for and respond to the needs of counties. Ouray County's CEPA was developed in 2022 and will be updated in 2025. The following table is the completed Capability Assessment chart from the CEPA report, showing the county's ranking of each core capability 1 through 5.

The results of this capability assessment helped Ouray County identify crucial areas and any gaps or weaknesses that could impede mitigation or response operations or worsen existing

hazards or vulnerabilities. Ouray County used this information as the foundation for the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the related Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs).

Table 18-Ouray County Capability Score

Capibility Score

■ Capibility Score

Category	Score
Situational Assessment	4.6
Threats and Hazard Identification	4.6
Supply Chain Integrity and Security	4
Planning	3.8
Economic Recovery	3.6
On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement	3.6
Intelligence and Information Sharing	3.4
Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Service	3.4
Public Information and Warning	3.4
Fire Management and Suppression	3.2
Environmental Response/Health and Safety	3.2
Operational Coordination	3.2
Risk Management for Protection, Programs, and Activities	3
Physical Protective Measures	3
Community Resilience	3
Infrastructure Systems	3
Operational Communication	3
Mass Search and Rescue Operations	3
Cyber Security	2.8
Logistics and Supply Chain Management	2.8
Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment	2.6
Health and Social Services	2.6
Mass Care Services	2.4
Critical Transport	2.4
Screening, Search, and Detection	2.2
Interdiction and Disruption	2.2
Access Control and Identity Verification	1.8
Fatality Management	1.8
Forensics and Attribution	1.2
Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction	1.2
Housing	1.2
Natural and Cultural Resources	1

3.7.1 Response Capabilities

The CEPA analyzed Ouray County's response capabilities as a whole. It asked, "Based on the current capacity and the county's experiences with previous disasters, how long can the county deliver specific capabilities without assistance from outside the County?"

Table 19-Detailed CEPA Results

Capability	Based on the county's current capacity and experience with precious disasters, how long can the county deliver the response core capabilities without outside assistance?
Logistics and Supply Chain Management	72 hours
Public Information and Warning	72 Hours
Infrastructure Systems	48 Hours
Operational Communications	48 hours
Operational Coordination	48 Hours
Planning	48 Hours
Situational Assessment	48 Hours
Critical Transportation	Less Than 24 Hours
Environmental Response/Health and Safety	Less Than 24 Hours
Fatality Management Services	Less Than 24 Hours
Fire Management and Suppression	Less Than 24 Hours
Mass Care Services	Less Than 24 Hours
Mass Search and Rescue Operations	Less Than 24 Hours
On-Scene Security, Protection and Law Enforcement	Less Than 24 Hours
Public Health, Healthcare, and EMS	Less Than 24 Hours

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

3.7.2 Prevention Capabilities

3.7.2.1 Firewise

Firewise USA® is a national recognition program that provides instructional resources to inform people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action to reduce their wildfire risk. Three (3) communities in Ouray County have had their participation in the national Firewise USA® recognition program: Loghill Mesa since September 19, 2012, Pleasant Valley Vista since December 30, 2013, and Fisher Canyon since August 10, 2014.

3.7.2.2   StormReady

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

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

The Town of Ridgway and Ouray County have both participated in StormReady in the past. However, according to the weather.gov website, no communities in Ouray County are recognized as StormReady. Due to the weather hazards profiled in this plan, it is recommended that the Town of Ridgway, County of Ouray, and City of Ouray consider participating in the StormReady program again.

3.7.2.3 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Given the county's flood hazard and risk and recognizing the NFIP's important role in mitigating flood losses, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway will emphasize continued compliance with the NFIP. As NFIP participants, these communities will continue to make every effort to remain in good standing with the NFIP. This includes continuing to comply with the NFIP's standards for updating and adopting floodplain maps and maintaining and updating the floodplain zoning ordinance.

3.7.3   Planning Capabilities

3.7.3.1   Ouray County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) (Local)

The Ouray County Sheriff is the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for the unincorporated areas within Ouray County. The County DERA is responsible for ensuring there is a local LEPC, a local organization that enhances preparedness and planning for hazardous materials emergencies. These committees were created under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), a federal law passed in 1986 following several major chemical disasters, including the Bhopal disaster in India.

3.7.3.1.1   Key responsibilities of the LEPC:

- **Hazardous Materials Emergency Plans**: LEPCs are tasked with developing, reviewing, and updating local emergency response plans that detail how to respond to chemical emergencies. These plans typically include information about facilities that store hazardous chemicals, routes for transporting hazardous materials, and response procedures for local governments and first responders.
- **Community Awareness and Right-to-Know**: LEPCs work to ensure that local communities are aware of the potential chemical hazards in their areas. They serve as a

point of contact for the public to access information about hazardous chemicals and related risks.

- **Coordination with First Responders**: LEPCs coordinate with local industries, first responders (firefighters, police, etc.), hospitals, and government agencies to ensure a collaborative approach to handling hazardous material incidents.
- **Chemical Inventory Reporting**: Under EPCRA, facilities that handle hazardous materials are required to submit chemical inventory reports to LEPCs. These reports help emergency responders know what chemicals are being stored in local facilities and how to respond in case of a release or accident.
- **Training and Exercises**: LEPCs facilitate training and exercises for local emergency responders to ensure they can effectively handle chemical-related emergencies.

3.7.3.1.2   Structure of the LEPC

- **Members**: LEPCs consist of representatives from various sectors, including local government, law enforcement, fire services, health services, transportation, environmental groups, industry, media, and the public.
- **Jurisdiction**: Ouray County's LEPC operates at the county level and includes all jurisdictions within it.

In Colorado, each county is required to have an LEPC to fulfill EPCRA's requirements. These committees play a critical role in ensuring that local communities are ready to respond to chemical emergencies and are informed about potential risks in their vicinity.

3.7.3.2   Ouray County ESF8 group (Local)

The Ouray County Public Health director is the Ouray County ESF8 Lead. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 refers to Public Health and Medical. It is a framework used to coordinate efforts related to public health, medical care, and emergency medical services during a disaster or emergency. At the county level in Colorado, an ESF 8 Group is a collaborative group that includes local public health agencies, emergency medical services (EMS), hospitals, behavioral health services, and other organizations that provide public health and medical services.

3.7.3.2.1   Key Responsibilities of the Ouray County ESF8 Group

- **Assessment of Public Health Needs**: Identifying the public health and medical needs of the affected population, including food safety, water quality, sanitation, and control of infectious diseases.
- **Medical Care Coordination**: Organizing resources to ensure timely medical treatment for those affected by an emergency, including setting temporary medical shelters or alternate care sites if needed.
- **Emergency Medical Transportation**: Ensuring the safe transportation of injured or ill persons during a disaster.
- **Coordination of Medical Supplies**: Distributing critical medical supplies, equipment, and medications during a disaster, often in coordination with state and federal agencies.
- **Mass Fatality Management**: Coordinating services related to mass fatalities, including mortuary affairs, forensic services, and family notification.
- **Mental and Behavioral Health Services**: Providing mental health services to those impacted by the emergency, including victims and responders.

- **Environmental Health Monitoring**: Monitoring and addressing potential health hazards related to the environment (e.g., water safety, hazardous materials).

3.7.3.2.2   Core Components of Ouray County ESF8 Group
- **Ouray County Public Health** - Oversees health-related planning, disease control, and public health communications
- **Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** - EMS providers, including ambulance services and paramedics, respond to medical emergencies.
- **Ouray County Coroner's Office -** Responsible for handling fatalities, coordinating with other regional coroners, and ensuring proper management of mass casualty events.
- **Cedar Point Health** - Provides medical treatment and care to individuals impacted by emergencies, especially public health emergencies.
- **Montrose Regional Health** - Provides medical treatment and care to individuals impacted by emergencies.
- **Behavioral Health Services:** Mental health professionals and organizations that assist with psychological first aid, counseling, and behavioral health support during and after emergencies.
- **Veterinary Services:** Assists with coordinating care for animals during emergencies, including livestock. One such place would be Ridgway Animal Hospital, yet no MOU has been developed at the time of this plan update.

3.7.3.3   The Ouray County Policy Group (Local)
The Ouray County Policy Group is a group of key decision-makers responsible for setting strategic direction, making policy decisions, and providing overall guidance during emergencies or disasters. This group is typically composed of elected officials and senior leaders who have the authority to make high-level decisions regarding the use of resources, emergency declarations, and public communications. Their decisions shape how the emergency response is conducted at the county, city, and town levels.

3.7.3.3.1   Key Responsibilities of the Ouray County Policy Group
- **Strategic Decision-Making**: The policy group provides strategic guidance for the county's overall emergency response. This includes determining priorities for response efforts, deciding on the allocation of resources, and ensuring that the public is informed about the situation.
- **Resource Allocation**: The policy group is responsible for directing the use of county resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding, to respond to the emergency.
- **Policy Development and Enforcement**: The group can issue emergency management policies, such as disaster recovery plans, public health orders, and sheltering policies. It may also enforce existing emergency policies, such as restrictions on travel or business operations.
- **Public Communications**: The policy group provides high-level guidance on disseminating public information. This includes approving messaging from the county, city, and/or town to ensure it aligns with strategic priorities, public safety needs, and legal considerations.

- **Interagency Coordination**: The policy group ensures that there is coordination between county agencies, local municipalities, state entities, and any federal partners that may be involved in the response. This helps ensure a unified command and a coordinated approach to resource use.
- **Oversight of Emergency Operations**: While the incident commander and operational staff are responsible for managing the day-to-day response, the policy group provides oversight, ensuring that the response aligns with the county's priorities and legal framework.
- **Post-Incident Recovery Planning**: Beyond the initial response, the policy group is involved in long-term recovery planning, including rebuilding infrastructure, addressing economic impacts, and restoring community services.

3.7.3.3.2 Core Components of the Ouray County Policy Group

- **County Commissioners**: Elected officials responsible for making major decisions, including declaring local emergencies and authorizing the use of county resources. They are usually the highest level of elected authority in the county.
- **Law Enforcement**: The Sheriff and/or Lead Law Enforcement Officer are critical players in emergency management and are responsible for law enforcement activities during an emergency. The sheriff's office often oversees evacuations, security, and coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
- **Emergency Manager**: The County Emergency Manager acts as the primary advisor to the policy group on all aspects of the emergency response. They provide technical expertise, communicate situational updates, and help guide decisions based on emergency management principles.
- **Jurisdictional Attorneys**: Provide legal advice to the policy group, especially regarding the issuing of emergency declarations, public health orders, contracts, and legal liability during an emergency.
- **Public Health Director**: In health-related emergencies, the director of the local public health agency is often included to advise on public health measures, such as quarantine orders, public health interventions, or medical surge strategies.
- **Municipal Leaders**: Mayors or other leaders from municipalities within the county may participate to ensure a coordinated response between county and city governments.
- **Key Department Heads**: Depending on the nature of the emergency, other department heads, such as the Public Works Director/Road and Bridge Superintendent, Human Services Director, or Communications Director, might be involved to provide expertise and guidance related to their respective departments.
- **Liaison to State or Federal Agencie**s: In larger-scale incidents that involve state or federal resources, a representative from the Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) or other federal entities may also be involved to ensure seamless coordination.

3.7.3.3.3 Policy Group vs. Incident Command

It's important to distinguish the Policy Group from the Incident Command System (ICS):

- **Policy Group**: Sets the strategic direction, high-level decisions, and policy guidance. They are not involved in day-to-day tactical operations.
- **Incident Command**: Operates within the ICS structure and handles the tactical response to the emergency. This includes coordinating the immediate response, managing resources on the ground, and ensuring the safety of responders and the public.

3.7.3.4 West Region Health Care Coalition (Regional)

The mission of the West Region Health Care Coalition is to provide collaborative planning and response to emergencies using a multidisciplinary approach and to preserve the region's medical infrastructure. It is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary emergency planning and coordination group committed to improving all-hazard preparedness and resiliency in the West Region.

3.7.3.5 West Region Wildfire Council (Regional)

WRWC offers free site visits to provide recommendations on how homes/landowners can reduce their wildfire risk, a vegetation management program (free or cost-share), and education, and they work with partners on fuel breaks and other cross-boundary treatments. West Region Wildfire Council was established in 2007 as a collaborative effort to support interagency efforts to develop and implement plans to better mitigate the threat of catastrophic wildland fire to the communities and natural resources in the Colorado counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. They are a member of the Ouray Forest Collaborative.

3.7.3.6 West Region All Hazards Planning & Response Board (Regional)

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

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

3.7.4 Response Capabilities

3.7.4.1 Ouray County Incident Management Team

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

The Ouray County Incident Management Team (OCIMT) will be deployed during complex emergency incidents to provide initial command-and-control infrastructure to assist in managing the operational, logistical, informational, planning, community, and safety issues associated with complex incidents. OCIMT is a type 4 team developed to handle complex incidents for the first 72 hours until mutual aid or other assistance can arrive.

The OCIMT is comprised of citizens trained in specific areas of response. Citizens interested in becoming members are reviewed by the OCIMT Membership Committee, comprised of the Ouray County Sheriff, Ouray County Undersheriff, Ouray County Emergency Medical Services Chief, and a designated officer from one of the local fire districts. The OCIMT Membership Committee will submit membership recommendations to the Ouray County Sheriff, who will then officially appoint members to the team.

3.7.4.2 Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination Group

The Ouray County Department of Emergency Management establishes and coordinates the Ouray County Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group. The MAC Group facilitates coordinated decision-making and resource allocation during emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. MAC Groups typically consist of senior officials or representatives from various organizations with jurisdictional or functional responsibilities during an emergency. These groups do not directly manage incident operations but support incident management by providing coordinated strategic direction, prioritizing resources, and resolving interagency issues.

3.7.4.2.1 Key Responsibilities of the Ouray County MAC Group

- **Strategic Direction:** Providing overarching strategies and setting priorities for the response.
- **Resource Allocation:** Prioritizing and allocating critical resources to incidents based on strategic goals and needs.
- **Policy Development:** Advising and developing policies that affect emergency operations across multiple agencies.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Facilitating collaboration and communication among different agencies and jurisdictions.
- **Situation Assessment:** Gathering and sharing information to maintain a common operational picture.

3.7.4.2.2 Composition of the Ouray County MAC Group

- **County Emergency Management Agencies** – Responsible for overall coordination at the county level.
- **Municipal Representatives** – Leaders or officials from cities and towns within the county.
- **Law Enforcement and Fire Services** – Police departments, sheriff's offices, and fire protection districts.
- **Health and Medical Services** – Public health departments, hospitals, and emergency medical services.
- **School Districts** – Can assist with sheltering, transportation, and reunification.

- **Public Works and Utilities** – Organizations responsible for infrastructure, utilities, and transportation systems.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** – Entities like the Red Cross or local disaster relief organizations.
- **Private Sector Partners** – Involved industries, businesses, and critical infrastructure providers.
- **State and Federal Agencies** – Depending on the scope of the emergency, representatives from agencies such as the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), FEMA, or others.

The MAC Group typically meets at least once a quarter to discuss training, exercises, and topics that affect all agencies, such as emergency plans, radio communications, and upcoming ICS training and exercises. Emergency management will call the MAC Group's Meetings, which any agency administrator can also request. In the event of an emergency or developing incident that has the potential to affect multiple jurisdictions/agencies, the MAC Group should be notified via the County's Emergency Notification System or Email.

3.7.4.3 Emergency Dispatch

Emergency dispatchers in Colorado are critical to the functioning of public safety systems and ensure that timely, coordinated, and effective responses are provided to emergencies. Three agencies are responsible for dispatching in Ouray County:

3.7.4.3.1 WESTCO Dispatch (911: Emergency or 970-249-9110 non-emergency line):

All local emergency response agencies based in Ouray County are dispatched by WESTCO Dispatch in Montrose, Colorado. Westco's primary roles include:

- **Answering emergency calls**: Dispatchers are the first point of contact for individuals reporting emergencies. They handle 911 calls for police, fire, and medical services. This included receiving and prioritizing emergency and non-emergency calls, collecting vital information from the caller (e.g., Location, type of emergency, and any immediate threats), and providing reassurance and instructions to callers, including life-saving guidance like CPR until responders arrive.
- **Dispatching first responders**: Emergency dispatchers are responsible for coordinating and deploying appropriate emergency services based on the information received from the caller. This includes assigning calls to police, fire, and EMS units, monitoring the status of field units to ensure resources are available for other emergencies, and relaying critical information to first responders, including updates on the situation or any hazards at the scene.
- **Coordinating Multi-Agency Responses**: In situations that require coordination between multiple agencies, dispatchers facilitate communication and ensure that all responding units are aligned in their efforts. This includes coordinating responses during major incidents, such as natural disasters, large fires, or accidents involving multiple injuries, and establishing communication links between various public safety agencies (e.g., police, fire, EMS) and other partners, such as utility companies or transportation departments, and supporting incident commanders by providing real-time updates and resource availability.

- **Providing Pre-Arrival Instructions**: Dispatchers provide immediate, sometimes life-saving instructions over the phone to assist callers in handling critical situations until emergency responders arrive. This includes offering guidance for first aid, CPR, or other emergency care based on standardized protocols and assisting callers in safely exiting dangerous situations (e.g., fire, active shooter situations).
- **Operating Communications Equipment**: Dispatchers must operate various communication systems and technology to ensure effective information exchange. This includes using computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems to track calls and manage the deployment of resources, monitoring radio channels and dispatch units via radio and other communication tools, and operating mapping systems to identify locations and deploy units efficiently.
- **Documentation and Record Keeping**: Dispatchers maintain accurate records of all calls and dispatch activities. This includes logging details of emergency calls, actions taken, and the response provided by public safety units, maintaining records for potential legal or investigative purposes, and ensuring that all reports are entered accurately into relevant databases.

3.7.4.3.2   Montrose Interagency Dispatch (970-249-1010 non-emergency line)

The Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center (MTCC) in Montrose, Colorado, coordinates and manages emergency response resources within a designated region, primarily for wildfire and other natural disaster incidents. It is a central hub for multiple agencies to ensure timely and effective communication, resource allocation, and emergency coordination. The key functions of the Montrose Interagency Dispatch are:

- **Wildfire Response**: The dispatch center coordinates the response to wildfires, including the deployment of firefighting personnel, equipment, aircraft, and other resources needed for fire suppression.

- **Resource Coordination**: It manages resources from various federal, state, and local agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and local fire departments, ensuring effective multi-agency collaboration.

- **Incident Management**: The center dispatches appropriate resources to manage other emergencies, such as search and rescue operations, floods, or hazardous material spills.

- **Communication Hub**: Montrose Interagency Dispatch acts as the communication link between incident commanders on the ground and the agencies providing resources, ensuring smooth and timely information flow.

- **Logistics Support**: It provides logistical support by tracking personnel and equipment, maintaining situational awareness, and ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed.

In short, the center is a critical component of wildfire suppression and emergency response efforts in southwestern Colorado, handling resource mobilization and coordination across multiple agencies.

3.7.4.3.3   State Patrol Dispatch

The Colorado State Patrol Dispatch centers are vital in supporting law enforcement and public safety operations across Colorado. These dispatch centers coordinate the activities of Colorado State Patrol (CSP) officers and other law enforcement agencies, including Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), in response to highway incidents throughout the state.

Here are the main roles and responsibilities of the Colorado State Patrol Dispatch:

- **Emergency Call Handling**: CSP Dispatch centers receive and manage emergency 911 calls related to traffic accidents, criminal activity, road hazards, and other public safety incidents on state highways and interstates. Dispatchers assess the nature of the call and determine the appropriate response, ensuring troopers or other emergency services are dispatched quickly and efficiently.
- **Trooper Dispatching**: Dispatchers coordinate and deploy Colorado State Patrol troopers to various incidents, including traffic accidents, DUI enforcement, vehicle breakdowns, hazardous material spills, and other emergencies. They monitor troopers' locations and ensure rapid response to calls for service.
- **Incident Management:** Dispatchers support managing complex or large-scale incidents, such as multi-vehicle crashes, severe weather-related traffic problems, or high-speed pursuits. They maintain communication between troopers and command centers, ensuring that resources (like backup units or specialized teams) are directed as needed.
- **Coordination with other Agencies:** CSP Dispatch centers often coordinate with other law enforcement agencies, such as local police departments, sheriff's offices, fire departments, and emergency medical services. This helps ensure a comprehensive response to incidents requiring multi-agency cooperation, particularly during emergencies or disasters.
- **Public Safety Support:** In addition to handling emergencies, dispatchers provide non-emergency services such as answering calls about road conditions, managing routine traffic enforcement, and coordinating responses to stranded motorists or minor traffic incidents.
- **Statewide Alerts**: Colorado State Patrol Dispatch centers are key in issuing and managing statewide alerts, such as AMBER Alerts or road closure notifications, to inform the public and other law enforcement agencies about critical situations.

In summary, Colorado State Patrol Dispatch is the operational backbone for CSP troopers, ensuring fast and effective response to emergencies, traffic incidents, and other law enforcement situations across the state. They are essential to maintaining public safety on Colorado's highways and interstates.

3.7.4.4 Law Enforcement

In any emergency, the role of law enforcement is critical to ensuring public safety, maintaining order, and facilitating practical response efforts. Law enforcement agencies are often among the first to arrive on the scene, providing essential services such as crowd control, crime scene management, and coordination with other emergency responders. Their presence helps to protect lives and property, enforce emergency regulations, and prevent chaos amid crises. The

collaboration between law enforcement, fire, medical, and other emergency services is vital to ensuring a cohesive and efficient response to any disaster, the immediate safety of the public, and the long-term recovery of the affected communities. Ouray County is served by three local law enforcement agencies: the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, the Ouray Police Department, and the Ridgway Marshal's Office. In addition, two state law enforcement agencies cover areas of Ouray County: the Colorado State Patrol and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

3.7.4.4.1   Ouray County Sheriff's Office

The Ouray County Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for public safety and law enforcement across Ouray County, Colorado, particularly in areas outside the jurisdiction of municipal police forces like the Ouray Police Department and the Ridgway Marshal's Office. The Sheriff's Office handles various duties, including enforcing county laws, responding to emergencies, investigating crimes, managing the county jail, and providing court security. Additionally, they oversee search and rescue operations in the county's vast wilderness areas and often collaborate with other agencies such as the Colorado State Patrol and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The Sheriff's Office plays a key role in rural law enforcement, ensuring the safety of residents and visitors throughout the county, including remote and unincorporated areas.

3.7.4.4.2   Ouray Police Department

The Ouray Police Department serves the City of Ouray, Colorado, focusing on maintaining public safety, enforcing local laws, and ensuring the community's well-being. As a small-town police force, they handle various responsibilities, including responding to emergencies, conducting criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, and community policing. The department collaborates with other law enforcement agencies, such as the Ouray County Sheriff's Office and Colorado State Patrol, to provide comprehensive public safety coverage. They also engage with residents through outreach and crime prevention programs to foster a safe and secure environment in Ouray.

3.7.4.4.2   Ridgway Marshal Office

The Ridgway Marshal's Office serves the town of Ridgway, Colorado, focusing on law enforcement and public safety within the town's limits. As the primary local law enforcement agency, the Marshal's Office is responsible for responding to emergencies, enforcing local ordinances and state laws, conducting criminal investigations, and maintaining peace in the community. They provide community-oriented policing, often working closely with residents and businesses to address concerns, prevent crime, and promote safety. The Marshal's Office coordinates with other law enforcement agencies, such as the Ouray County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado State Patrol, to ensure comprehensive coverage and assistance in more significant incidents affecting the region.

3.7.4.4.3   Colorado State Patrol

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) plays a crucial role in Ouray County by ensuring public safety, enforcing traffic laws, and responding to emergencies on state and federal highways. In areas where local law enforcement may have limited resources, the CSP assists with accident investigations, DUI enforcement, and hazardous material incidents. They also work closely with county sheriffs and other local agencies to provide support during natural disasters, public

safety incidents, and other critical situations. Their presence helps maintain safety on rural roads and enhances law enforcement coverage in sparsely populated areas.

3.7.4.4.4   Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) plays a significant role in Ouray County, Colorado, by managing wildlife and implementing the State Wildlife Action Plan that aims to conserve 960 species and also works to conserve wetlands and wildlife habitats. In this rugged and mountainous region, CPW is responsible for wildlife conservation efforts, including habitat protection, monitoring, and managing hunting and fishing regulations. The agency also oversees state parks and outdoor recreational areas, ensuring public lands are accessible and sustainable for hiking, camping, fishing, and wildlife-watching activities. CPW collaborates with local communities to balance conservation goals with recreational opportunities and maintain the natural beauty of Ouray County.

3.7.4.5   Fire Protection, Suppression, and Extrication Response

Local fire districts in rural counties in Colorado play a critical role in providing fire protection, extrication, and disaster response. Four local fire districts cover Ouray County and its municipalities for fire and extrication response. They are responsible for wildfire suppression, structural firefighting, and assisting in response to medical emergencies. Funding typically comes from local property taxes, grants, and community support, making resource management crucial to their operations.

The Ouray Fire Department, Ridgway Fire Protection District, and Montrose Protection District all respond to extrication calls within Ouray County.

Each fire department has various equipment for its service area. The Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) in WebEOC, an online program administered by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), lists equipment that can be requested for mutual aid in an emergency. Per DHSEM requirements, agencies must review and update CRRFs at least annually.

The Ouray Fire Department, Ridgway Fire Protection District, and Montrose Protection District all respond to extrication calls within Ouray County.

3.7.4.5.1   Ouray Fire Protection District

The Ouray Fire Protection District contracts with the City of Ouray for district response. The Ouray Volunteer Fire Department (OFD) is a partially paid, mostly volunteer fire department. OFD provides fire protection and suppression throughout the community of Ouray, throughout the Ouray Fire District, and mutual aid for surrounding districts. The OFD is equipped to provide fire protection and suppression in numerous situations, including residential and commercial structures, forest fires, and vehicle fires. On an average emergency call, OVFD responds with 8-15 firefighters and 2-3 fire suppression vehicles. The department also provides fire prevention education and awareness for all. The Ouray Fire Department is headquartered at 320 6th Ave in Ouray, in the City Hall building. The specific areas the Ouray Fire District typically covers include:

- City of Ouray – The main town located in a valley surrounded by mountains.

- Rural Ouray County – Areas surrounding the city, including some parts of the Uncompahgre National Forest.
- Highway 550 (Million Dollar Highway)—This scenic and mountainous highway often receives emergency response from the fire district due to its challenging and dangerous conditions.

3.7.4.5.2 Ridgway Fire Protection District

The Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department covers the Ridgway Fire Protection District. It is a team of up to 30 volunteers and four career firefighters who commit themselves to being ready to help others. All members are trained in Structural and Wildland Firefighting, with some members also trained in specialties such as Arson Investigation, Haz-Mat Awareness, and/or Vehicle Extrication. The Ridgway Fire Department is headquartered at 251 North Railroad Street in downtown Ridgway, next to the park.

The Ridgway Fire Protection District (RFPD) in Ridgway, Colorado, covers much of Ouray County and parts of the surrounding region. The district provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, and other emergency responses to the town of Ridgway and the nearby rural areas. Here's a general breakdown of the areas the Ridgway Fire Protection District covers:

- Town of Ridgway – This is the central area within the fire district, which includes residential, commercial, and public properties in Ridgway proper.
- Rural Ouray County—The district covers the county's surrounding areas, including ranches, residential properties, and wilderness areas in the Uncompahgre Valley.
- Highway 62—This is a key route through Ridgway, and the district responds to incidents on it and nearby areas.
- Dallas Divide – This region is part of the fire district's service area, which extends west of Ridgway.
- Portions of Uncompahgre National Forest—The district also serves nearby parts of the national forest, especially areas prone to wildfires.
- Unincorporated Communities and Subdivisions – These include areas around Ridgway, such as Pleasant Valley and to the top of Loghill Mesa, which often require fire and emergency medical services.

3.7.4.5.3 Loghill Fire Protection District

The Department is led by a cadre of highly professional chiefs and officers who shoulder great responsibility when they respond to the scene of an incident. The Fire Chief commands the Department and is responsible for the safety and training of all firefighters and officers within the Department. He is the primary incident commander on most incidents and is responsible for safely operating all fire scenes. The Fire Chief is backed up by the Assistant Fire Chief, who fills in during the Chief's absence or assists him during complex fire assignments. The Assistant Chief also performs many other duties around the Department to ensure the everyday readiness of our firefighters and equipment in the event of an emergency.

The following lines of supervision within the Department are the Station Captains. Typically, each station has two Captains assigned to it. The Station Captains are responsible for the training and equipping all the firefighters assigned to their stations. They are also responsible

for maintaining all equipment assigned to their stations. During incidents, Station Captains serve as the first-line supervisors of groups of firefighters assigned to accomplish specific tasks to resolve the incident safely. They also shoulder the responsibility of being on call for periods to ensure a capable officer is always available for any incidents.

The Department maintains two fire stations at opposite ends of the Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District. Station 1 is located at 3245 County Road 22 in the northern portion of the district, and Station 2 is located at 434 Ponderosa Drive in the southern portion of the district, in Log Hill Village.

The Loghill Mesa Fire Protection District (Loghill FPD) covers a specific portion of Ouray County, Colorado, focusing on the Log Hill Mesa area and nearby regions. The district provides fire suppression, emergency medical response, and other emergency services. Here are the primary areas that Loghill Fire District covers:

- **Log Hill Mesa**—This is the district's core area. Log Hill Mesa is a large plateau with many residential properties and open spaces. The district serves this region, which includes subdivisions like Fairway Pines and other developments.
- **Rural Areas Surrounding Log Hill Mesa** – The district extends beyond the immediate Log Hill Mesa area to include other rural parts of northern Ouray County.
- **Portions of Highway 62** – Loghill Fire Protection District responds to emergencies along parts of Highway 62, especially areas near Log Hill Mesa and the Dallas Divide.
- **Escarpment Area** – refers to the steep hillside that leads from Ridgway up to Log Hill Mesa. It can also be prone to emergencies, particularly fire and medical incidents.
- **Areas Adjacent to Ridgway** – Some regions close to the town of Ridgway but on the mesa or in rural sections may also fall under the jurisdiction of Loghill FPD.

3.7.4.5.4   Montrose Fire Protection District

The Montrose Fire Protection District (MFPD) primarily serves Montrose County, including the city of Montrose and surrounding areas. It also covers some regions in northern Ouray County through mutual aid agreements or overlapping service areas. Here are the critical regions of Ouray County that the Montrose Fire Protection District might cover:

- **Northern Ouray County Border Areas** – This includes some unincorporated areas in the northern part of Ouray County that are closer to the Montrose County line. MFPD may respond to emergencies in these rural regions due to their proximity to Montrose.
- **Highway 550 North of Ridgway**—The Montrose Fire Protection District may assist with emergencies along Highway 550 near the northern parts of Ouray County. This major route connects Montrose to Ouray and Ridgway.
- **Mutual Aid to Ridgway and Loghill Areas** – Although the Ridgway and Loghill Mesa Fire Protection Districts primarily cover these areas, Montrose FPD may assist in large-scale incidents or when additional resources are needed in Ouray County through mutual aid agreements.

However, the Montrose Fire Protection District's direct coverage in Ouray County is generally limited, primarily serving the Montrose area. Their involvement in Ouray County is typically

through cooperative efforts with neighboring districts in larger emergencies or when local fire departments require additional resources.

3.7.4.5.5   State and Federal Fire Suppression

In addition to local fire departments, due to the large amount of federal public lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS) in Ouray County, fire resources are augmented and supported by both the BLM and USFS, and they become primary agencies on any federal lands.

3.7.4.6   HAZMAT Response

In Ouray County, Colorado, local, regional, and state agencies typically coordinate the response to hazardous materials (Hazmat) incidents. Here's an overview of the key entities involved:

- **Ouray County Emergency Management:** This office coordinates the response to hazardous materials incidents in the county. They collaborate with local fire departments and state resources for response and mitigation.
- **Local Fire Departments:** The Ouray Fire Protection District and the Ridgway Fire Protection District are responsible for the initial response to hazardous materials incidents. Firefighters may have basic hazmat training and would call in specialized teams if the situation escalates.
- **Regional Hazmat Teams:** The Montrose County All Hazards Response Team (AHRT) often supports Ouray County as it is a neighboring county. They are equipped to handle more advanced hazmat situations and would be called in for larger incidents.
- **Colorado State Patrol (CSP):** The CSP Hazardous Materials Section oversees the statewide response to hazmat incidents and can provide specialized resources, including cleanup contractors.
- **Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE):** The CDPHE may become involved in environmental contamination incidents and has authority over hazardous materials management in the state.

For more significant incidents or situations requiring advanced expertise, mutual aid agreements with other counties or state agencies would be activated to bring in additional resources.

3.7.4.7   Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

Ouray County EMS (OCEMS) covers most of the County, while Montrose Fire Protection District covers the northern portion. When a patient requires more immediate care than a ground ambulance can provide or needs to be transported immediately to a medical center for a higher level of care than what Montrose Regional Health can provide, an ambulance service or mountain rescue will call for an air ambulance.

3.7.4.7.1   Ouray County EMS (OCEMS)

OCEMS is an advanced life support emergency medical service (EMS) system comprising paid staff and dedicated volunteers. OCEMS covers most of Ouray County, including populated communities, unincorporated areas, state parks, national forests, and miles of backcountry roads and trails. In addition to EMS, OCEMS provides initial medical response to hazardous materials. The team also assists the Ouray Mountain Rescue team with technical, high-angle,

and swift water rescue operations. OCEMS operates two stations, one in the City of Ouray at 320 6th Ave. and one in the Town of Ridgway at the Ridgway Fire Department at 451 N Railroad. OCEMS is available to respond to 911 emergency calls 24/7/365.

3.7.4.7.2   Montrose Fire Protection District (MFPD)

MFPD covers medical calls along Highway 550 from mile marker 114 and north to the county line. They also handle medical calls north of Dave Wood Road.

3.7.4.7.3   CareFlight of the Rockies

CareFlight of the Rockies provides critical air medical transport services in Ouray County, Colorado, and the surrounding regions. They respond rapidly to medical emergencies, including trauma, serious illness, and accidents in remote or hard-to-reach areas like the San Juan Mountains. CareFlight helps transport patients from rural areas to advanced medical facilities, ensuring timely access to lifesaving care. Their helicopters and trained medical crews are vital for emergency care in this rugged, mountainous region where ground transport can be slow or challenging.

3.7.4.8   Emergency Management

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

Pursuant to Ouray County **Resolution 2024-043**, the Board of County Commissioners confirms Ouray County's designation as the agency responsible for emergency preparedness and response.

The County's Department of Emergency Management comprises the Emergency Manager and one part-time deputy. The county emergency manager reports to the Ouray County Sheriff operationally and Ouray County Manager administratively. The Department of Emergency Management addresses planning efforts for the five emergency management phases: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Emergency Management program is responsible for preparing and maintaining the county's, the City of Ouray's, and the Town of Ridgway's Emergency Operations Plans and other emergency management plans related to disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

3.7.4.9 Mass Fatality and Death Investigations

Mass fatality response in Ouray County is typically managed through a coordinated effort involving several agencies. The Ouray County Coroner's Office would play a central role in identifying victims and determining the cause of death. At the same time, local emergency services, such as Ouray County Emergency Management and local law enforcement, would lead the broader response efforts.

In cases where the situation overwhelms local resources, state-level agencies like the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM) may assist. Additionally, the Colorado Coroners Association (CCA) could

help coordinate efforts among different counties, and federal agencies like FEMA or the National Guard may become involved if needed.

Local hospitals, medical examiners, and public health departments would also assist in managing health risks, victim identification, and respectfully and lawfully handling remains.

3.7.4.9.1 Ouray County Coroner's Office

The Ouray County Coroner's Office is responsible for investigating deaths within the county to determine the cause and manner of death, particularly in cases that are sudden, unexpected, or involve suspicious circumstances. The coroner's office works closely with law enforcement, medical professionals, and forensic experts to perform autopsies, gather evidence, and provide death certifications. Additionally, they notify next of kin, handle death reports, and maintain records. The coroner's findings can be crucial in legal proceedings, public health assessments, and community safety.

3.7.4.10 Mental Health Crisis Response

Mental health crisis response in Ouray County is primarily handled by Axis Integrated Mental Health, a regional mental health provider serving several counties in western Colorado, including Ouray. They offer a 24/7 crisis hotline and mobile crisis services to provide immediate support for individuals experiencing mental health emergencies.

For situations requiring more immediate on-scene intervention, law enforcement, such as the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, Ouray Police Department, and Ridgway Marshal's Office, may also be involved. They often work alongside mental health professionals to ensure the safety and well-being of those in crisis.

In more severe cases, individuals may be referred to specialized mental health facilities or programs within the region. Additionally, statewide resources like Colorado Crisis Services provide support through a hotline, text line, and walk-in crisis centers, offering mental health care to anyone in need.

3.7.4.11 Evacuation and Warning Systems

3.7.4.11.1 Emergency Notification System

The county, city, and town utilizes Ouray County Alerts, an emergency notification service that provides residents and visitors with real-time alerts about critical situations affecting the county. These notifications can include information on severe weather, road closures, wildfires, evacuations, public safety emergencies, and other urgent incidents. The system operates a platform that delivers alerts through various channels, such as phone calls, text messages, emails, and mobile app notifications, ensuring people receive timely and vital information. Residents must sign up for the system to receive these alerts, customizing the types of notifications they wish to receive based on their preferences. This system helps enhance public safety by informing and preparing the community for emergencies. Commuters and visitors to the county may also sign up for the system via a temporary code. Residents may self-register for emergency alerts on the county website: http://www.ouraycountyco.gov.

3.7.4.11.2 Local Broadcast Media

The county, city, and town utilize the Emergency Alert System to broadcast warnings over local radio stations and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) towers (where

available). The authority to initialize this utility and the message contained lies with the Emergency Management Director and/or Sheriff only. Local media is also utilized whenever necessary but currently only publishes weekly.

3.7.4.11.3 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a national system in the United States designed to provide timely and effective public alerts and warnings for emergencies. Managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), IPAWS allows federal, state, and local authorities to send critical information quickly to the public through multiple communication channels.

These channels include:

- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA):** Short emergency messages sent to mobile phones.
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS):** Alerts broadcast over television and radio.
- **NOAA Weather Radio:** Alerts about severe weather and other emergencies.
- **IPAWS Internet Services:** Alerts sent through social media, websites, and other digital platforms.

IPAWS ensures that during emergencies—such as natural disasters, public safety threats, or national security events—people receive alerts that can help them take appropriate action to protect themselves and their families. It is designed to be accessible, using language, technologies, and formats that reach as many people as possible.

3.7.4.11.4   Social Media

The county, city, and town use social media platforms like Facebook to inform, warn, and prepare the public. General preparedness information alerts and incident updates are regularly posted on these platforms. During an incident, the authority to initiate this warning mechanism lies with the Incident Commander (IC), Sheriff, Emergency Manager, or the designated County Public Information Officer (PIO). To post preparedness information for Ouray County, the City of Ouray, or the Town of Ridgway, contact their respective PIOs.

3.7.4.12   Hazard and Critical Infrastructure Mapping

The county has a Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) Department that offers mapping and database support to various departments and services. The city and town use contracted services for their GIS and have in-house positions for their Information Technology.

3.7.5   Recovery Capabilities

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

3.7.5.1   Disaster and Recovery Policy Groups

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

3.8   Mitigation Overview

Mitigation measures conducted by Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway are implemented prior to, during, and/or after an incident. The purpose of these measures is to help reduce exposure to, probability of, or potential loss from hazards. Mitigation actions taken by the County include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing post-disaster mitigation committees and/or community groups.
- Investing in updated snow removal equipment.
- Updating water-level monitoring instruments in flood-prone areas.
- Conducting training and exercises.
- Establishing and refining a public safety messaging campaign.
- Training additional volunteer firefighters for wildfire response.
- Educating the public on safe wildfire zones and wildfire risks.
- Updating and utilizing land use, building codes, and zoning requirements.
- Utilizing Early Alert and Warning signals, sirens, and other public-facing systems when needed.
- Evaluate county-owned property for potential vegetation management to reduce wildfire risk.

4   PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

Every effort has been made to plan for an emergency. In planning, some assumptions must be made. Ouray County and its municipalities may be subject to natural- and/or human-caused incidents. All affected Jurisdictions in Ouray County will commit all available resources to save lives and minimize injury to persons and infrastructure, the environment, and public and private property. Disasters may occur at any time with little or no warning. In some instances, increased readiness measures and adequate warning may allow actions to be taken in advance. When a disaster exceeds Ouray County's resources and response capabilities, the County will request help from the State of Colorado or mutual aid organizations. This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is based on the following planning assumptions and conditions:

- Participating agencies and localities, county departments and enterprises, city departments and enterprises, and town departments and enterprises will respond to an incident using available resources. If these resources are not enough, mutual aid will be requested. If the situation still requires more support, requests will be made from the local to state and state to federal government.
- It is assumed that all county, city, and town departments and stakeholders will be familiar with this plan.

- While the public expects the government to aid and assist them during disasters, personal preparedness and self-help are paramount.
- Where appropriate, Ouray County departments and stakeholders are assumed to have current mutual aid agreements (or similar documents) establishing parameters and processes for requesting function-specific assistance from other jurisdictions or organizations.
- Private and volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Colorado Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters, etc., will offer immediate life-sustaining aid that may not be readily available from government sources to individuals and families. Local and/or state government agencies will support these organizations by providing information, guidance, and coordination of their relief efforts.
- With the increased possibility of terrorism and the use of weapons of mass destruction, any biological or technological incident must be treated as a potential act of terrorism.
- Multiple programs exist within the federal government to assist states and local entities in responding to and recovering from disasters and emergencies. Each program has its unique processes, procedures, and routes of request.
- Events that cross jurisdictions may result in establishing a Unified Command (UC). Events with multiple locations or incident sites may establish an Area Command (AC).
- Other jurisdictions and organizations will have their own current Emergency Operations Plan.
- Response personnel have the appropriate level of training and certifications.

5   CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

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

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

If the affected jurisdictions' resources are inadequate to support the incident, Emergency Management will request assistance from the West All Hazards Region and/or DHSEM. As an incident progresses, emergency management will complete a complexity analysis to determine its scope and whether activation of an Incident Management Team is necessary. If so, that recommendation will be made to the jurisdictions' manager/administrator and policy board or council.

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

Every county, city, and/or town department or office may be called upon to respond to an emergency. Even if a department does not have a designated role in a specific emergency, it

may still be expected to support other responding departments. The county emergency manager is responsible for directing and controlling County resources during an emergency that has exceeded a local jurisdiction's capabilities.

The Emergency Manager or their designee will activate and oversee the Ouray County EOC in an emergency. The EOC is where emergency response activities can be directed, coordinated, and supported. The EOC's structure can be adjusted based on the severity of the situation. If a disaster surpasses the resources available within the county, assistance will be sought from the private sector, regional agencies, the State of Colorado, and if necessary, federal agencies.

5.1   Phases of Emergency Management

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

5.1.1   Prevention

Prevention means actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. – Involves actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. It involves applying "Prevention" Activities to avoid an incident or to stop an emergency. Explanatory Material: Activities, tasks,

Figure 13-Phases of Emergent Management

programs, and systems intended to protect lives and property. – Involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as:

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

5.1.2   Mitigation

Mitigation reduces loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. For mitigation to be effective, we need to act now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later (analyzing risk, reducing risk, and insuring against risk). It is important to know that disasters can happen at any time and any place, and if we are not prepared, the consequences can be fatal.

Effective mitigation requires understanding local risks, addressing hard choices, and investing in long-term community well-being. We jeopardize our safety, financial security, and self-reliance without mitigation actions.

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

5.1.3 Preparedness

Preparedness involves the planning necessary to minimize the effects of a disaster or an emergency and to assist local jurisdictions in developing appropriate response capabilities needed in an emergency. To respond appropriately, a jurisdiction must have a plan for response, trained personnel to respond, and necessary resources. Emphasis is placed on emergency planning, training, exercises, public awareness, information sharing, and programs. Examples of preparedness activities include:

- Development of plans and procedures, training and exercising
- Pre-establishment of ICPs, mobilization centers, staging areas, and other facilities
- Evacuation and protective sheltering
- Implementation of structural and non-structural mitigation measures
- Private sector implementation of business and continuity of operations plans
- Provision of mitigation activities, a critical foundation across the incident management spectrum from prevention to response and recovery. Examples of key mitigation activities include the following:
  - Ongoing public education and outreach activities designed to modify behavior to reduce loss of life and destruction of property
  - Structural retrofitting to deter or lessen the impact of incidents and reduce loss of life, destruction of property, and impact on the environment
  - Code enforcement through such activities as zoning regulation, land management, and building and fire code inspection
  - Flood insurance and the buy-out of properties subjected to frequent flooding

5.1.4 Response

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

5.1.5 Recovery

Recovery is short- and long-term and continues until all systems return to regular or near-normal operation. Short-term recovery restores vital life-support systems to minimum operating conditions. Long-term recovery may go on for months—even years— until the entire disaster area returns to its previous condition or undergoes improvement with new features

that are less disaster-prone. This will involve damage assessments, plan revisions, and actions initiated to mitigate future emergencies or disasters by reducing or eliminating their probability of recurring.

5.2   Pre-Disaster Operations

During the preparedness and mitigation phases, county, city, and town departments, agencies, and first responders will work together to develop response plans, make mitigation efforts, and collaborate on training and exercises to build and test response capabilities. This includes routine training opportunities, acquiring and maintaining response equipment, and expanding capabilities by adding staff or additional equipment assets.

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

5.2.1   NIMS and ICS

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

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

Pursuant to Ouray County *Resolution 2006-14*, City of Ouray *Resolution #2006-02,* and Town of Ridgway *Resolution #2021-08,* NIMS is the adopted organizational structure for planning and managing emergency response and recovery operations in Ouray County. Employee are required to complete the most recent NIMS training for their positions outlined in the following table:

Table 20-NIMS Training Requirements by Position (Subject to Change)

Position	Training Required
Incident Management Team	
OCIMT	IS-029, IS-100, G-191, IS-200, G-205, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, IS-2200, K-2300, Position Specific Trainings

Administration/Finance/Human Resources	
County Manager	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, G-290, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200, K-2300
City Administrator	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, G-290, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200, K-2300
Town Manager	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, G-290, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200, K-2300
CFOs	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, G-290, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200, K-2300
Deputy Managers	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, G-290, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200, K-2300
Administrative Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
PIO	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, G-290, ICS-300, G-557, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, EL-952, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200, K-2300
Jurisdictions' Attorneys	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200
Deputy Attorneys	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002, IS-2200
Assessor's Office	
Assessor	IS-100, IS-200, IS-559, IS-700, IS-800
Assessor Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Clerk and Recorder Offices	
Clerks and Recorders	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Coroner's Office	
Coroner	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
Deputy Coroners	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Emergency Medical Services	
Chief Paramedic	IS-029, IS-100, G-191, IS-200, G-205, ICS-300, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DSHEM 1001, IS-2200, K-2300
Advanced Life Support	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Basic Life Support	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Drivers	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800

Emergency Management	
Emergency Manager	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, IS-139, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-230, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, IS-244, IS-247, IS-251, G-270.4, IS-271, G-288, G-290, ICS-300, G-318, G-358, EL-388, G-393, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM 1001, DHSEM 1002, IS-2200, K2300, IS-2700
Deputy Emergency Manager	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, IS-139, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-230, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, IS-244, IS-247, IS-251, G-270.4, IS-271, G-288, G-290, ICS-300, G-318, G-358, EL-388, G-393, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM 1001, DHSEM 1002, IS-2200, K2300, IS-2700
Fairgrounds	
Department Head	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Fire Chiefs	
Fire Chiefs	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS 2200, K2300, plus other training required by fire departments
Human Services	
Director	IS-29, IS-100, IS-120, IS-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, ICS-300, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM 1001, IS-2200, K-2300
Deputy Director	IS-29, IS-100, IS-120, IS-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-235, ICS-300, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM 1001, IS-2200, K-2300
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Information Technology and GIS	
Department Heads	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Land Use and Planning	
Planners	IS-100, IS-200, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-800
Community Development Coordinators	IS-100, IS-200, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-800
Building Inspectors / Code Enforcement	IS-100, IS-200, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800

Law Enforcement	
Sheriff	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS 2200, K2300
Police Chief	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS 2200, K2300
Marshal	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS 2200, K2300
Undersheriff	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS 2200, K2300
Sergeants	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, IS-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, DHSEM-1002, IS 2200, K2300
Detectives	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Deputies/Officers	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Administrative Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Maintenance and Custodial	
Department Heads	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Parks and Recreation	
Department Heads	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Policy Makers	
Commissioners	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
Mayors, and	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
Mayor Pro-Tems	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
Councilors	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, DHSEM-1002
Public Health Agency	
Public Health Director	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, IS-247, ICS-300, G-318, ICS-400, G-557, G-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, IS-2200, K-2300
EPR Coordinator	IS-029, IS-100, IS-120, G-191, IS-200, G-205, ICS-300, ICS-400, G-557, G-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, IS-2200, K-2300
Public Health Nurses	IS-100, IS-200, IS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800

Public Works	
Administrators/Manager	IS-29, IS-100, G-191, IS-200, G-205, ICS-300, ICS-400, G-557, G-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, IS-2200, K-2300
Operators/Mechanic	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Road and Bridge	
Superintendent	IS-29, IS-100, G-191, IS-200, G-205, ICS-300, ICS-400, G-557, G-559, IS-700, IS-703, IS-800, DHSEM-1001, IS-2200, K-2300
Operators/Mechanic	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Administrative Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Administrative Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Surveyor	
Surveyor	IS-100, IS-200, IS-559, IS-700, IS-800
Treasurer's Office	
Treasurer	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, IS-800
Vegetation Management	
Department Head	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800
Staff	IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800

Activating the Ouray County EOC may extend and support the ICS structure in more significant incidents . The EOC will be staffed to serve as the coordination point for supplemental resources, intergovernmental assistance, and some long-term planning and recovery activities. ICS principles are nationally accepted for addressing all types of hazards and for integrating multiple agencies, jurisdictions, and disciplines into a coordinated relief effort.

For this plan, it is assumed and expected that all county, city, and town personnel, emergency response agencies, and support organizations in Ouray County have completed the required NIMS courses. It is further assumed and expected that each agency and organization's various levels of management have completed the ICS training appropriate to their respective rank or function. Ouray County Emergency Management has and will continue to support NIMS compliance programs by assisting agencies in acquiring appropriate NIMS training and exercise/training evaluations.

Below is a basic ICS chart indicating which positions should be followed during incidents in Ouray County and its municipalities. This chart can expand to meet an incident's changing size and complexity.

5.3 OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

5.3.1 Operational Priorities

In the event of a natural disaster such as a wildfire, flood, or blizzard, Ouray County's first responders, departments, and agencies will prioritize their operational objectives during response and recovery phases in the following order:

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

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ouray have resources and expertise available to assist with incident-related problems. The county, city, and/or town may modify their normal operations and redirect resources to save lives, relieve human suffering, sustain survivors, protect property, and assist in re-establishing essential services. Lifesaving and life-protecting response activities take precedence over other emergency response activities.

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

5.3.2 Initial Emergency Response

5.3.2.1 Ouray County Initial Emergency Response

The BOCC authorizes the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or their designees to act as needed in the pre-disaster declaration time frame until the County Manager can make an official emergency declaration.

The emergency authority of the emergency manager, Sheriff, or their designees consists of ordering and mobilizing resources, requesting mutual aid, and spending to respond to an emergency. The emergency manager, Sheriff, or their designees will, as soon as practical, make full notification to the BOCC and County Manager of such actions taken during the pre-disaster declaration period. All disasters in the county will be managed under NIMS and ICS.

5.3.2.2 City of Ouray Initial Emergency Response

The Ouray City Council authorizes the County Emergency Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, or their designees to act as needed in the pre-disaster declaration time frame until the City Council or, in their absence, the City Administrator can make an official emergency declaration.

The emergency authority of the county Emergency Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, or their designees consists of ordering and mobilizing resources, requesting mutual aid, and spending to respond to an emergency. The county Emergency Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, or their designees will, as soon as practical, make full notification to the City Council and City Administrator of such actions taken during the pre-disaster declaration period. All disasters in the city will be managed under NIMS and ICS.

5.3.2.3 Town of Ridgway Initial Emergency Response

The Town Council authorizes the Emergency Manager, Town Marshal, or their designees to act as needed in the pre-disaster declaration time frame until the Town Council or, in their absence, the Town Manager can make an official emergency declaration.

The emergency authority of the County Emergency Manager, Town Marshal, or their designees consists of ordering and mobilizing resources, requesting mutual aid, and spending to respond to an emergency. The county Emergency Manager, Town Marshal, or their designees will, as soon as practical, make full notification to the Town Council and Town Manager of such actions taken during the pre-disaster declaration period. All disasters in the County will be managed under NIMS and ICS.

5.3.3   Emergency Declarations/Activation on Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency declarations and activations of Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) at the county level are essential responses to significant emergencies or disasters in rural areas. An emergency declaration is a formal proclamation issued by local officials, typically county commissioners or a county executive, to acknowledge the existence of an emergency or disaster that exceeds the local response capacity. This declaration allows the county to request additional resources from state or federal levels and implement special measures, such as mobilizing emergency services or enacting temporary laws.

When the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is activated, it initiates a coordinated response by assigning roles and responsibilities to local agencies and partners, including emergency services, public health, law enforcement, and public works. The plan ensures a structured approach to managing the situation, including communication, resource allocation, evacuation protocols, and public safety measures.

5.3.3.1 Reason for Disaster Declaration

Some reasons for a disaster declaration are, but not limited to:

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

5.3.3.2 General Declaration Process

The following are the steps in the emergency/disaster declaration process:

1. Local government entities respond to incident and conduct Initial Damage Assessment

2. Implementation of County/City/Town EOP and activation of local resources
3. Resolution created by affected local governments declaring a disaster
4. Notify the County Emergency Manager of the declaration
5. Request for state assistance
6. Implementation of State EOP and activation of state resources
7. Situation reports from State to FEMA Region VIII
8. Joint (Federal-State-Local) Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)
9. Governor's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration
10. FEMA Region VIII review and recommendation
11. Decision by the President whether to authorize Stafford Act Assistance

5.3.3.3 Ouray County Authority to Declare Emergency/Activation on EOP

Pursuant to *C.R.S. 24-33.5-709* and pursuant to Ouray County *Resolution #2024-043*:

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

The Board, consistent with **C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709**, titled Local Disaster Emergencies, identifies the County Manager as the County's "principal executive officer of a political subdivision" with statutory authority to declare an Ouray County emergency or disaster. That declaration shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the Board. In all events, the County Manager shall make all reasonable efforts to convene, by any reasonable methods, a quorum of the Board within 24 hours of the initial declaration of emergency or disaster and shall continue those efforts until a quorum is convened. Any order declaring, continuing, or

terminating a Ouray County emergency or disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, shall be in writing, and shall be filed promptly with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder and with the State of Colorado Division of Emergency Management. Each Ouray County department head and their staff shall provide support to and cooperation with the County Manager. The effects of an emergency or disaster declaration shall include enhanced authority for the County Manager to redeploy Ouray County personnel or equipment from normal job duties to assist in emergency response, repurpose Ouray County facilities to support the emergency or disaster, suspend or temporarily alter personnel requirements, suspend or temporarily alter contracting authority requirements, and request and authorize assistance from all appropriate entities and individuals (e.g. local elected officials, other local governments, State of Colorado, federal government). In the event that the incident has exceeded (or is expected to exceed) Ouray County's capacity and capability to effectively respond to and manage the incident, it may be necessary to request operational assistance from an (State or Federal) Incident Management Team (IMT). Requests for an IMT should be initiated through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and may include any necessary delegation(s) of authority and/or operational command in consultation with other jurisdictions with overlapping operational responsibility (e.g., a fire district or municipality)."

The Board of County Commissioners may allocate emergency funds when disaster costs exceed authorized emergency response budgets.

The decision to declare an emergency may be based on urgent needs arising from the incident and/or the assessment of damages indicating that they are severe enough to require assistance from the State. This authority is granted to a county by the Colorado Disaster Act. Once the state receives a county emergency or disaster declaration, it may then declare under the Stafford Act to the President, who may grant a major disaster declaration. This, in turn, may make specific federal support programs available for a defined period. After the county declaration is made, the full board must approve it within seven (7) days, and it should remain in place while emergency response measures are carried out. Local declarations should be terminated or allowed to expire once emergency response work is completed. State or federal declarations may remain in place during recovery activities. The Sheriff, the County Manager, and/or the Emergency Manager may directly call upon any County Department capable of assisting in any emergency response. The Sheriff may call upon resources under their control, including the Search and Rescue Team, any agency or entity under agreement with the Sheriff, and any mutual aid agency requested by the Sheriff.

5.3.3.4 The City of Ouray Authority to Declare Emergency/Activation on Emergency Operations Plan

The following individuals or their representatives have the authority to declare a city emergency. Due to the unpredictable nature of some disasters, a quorum of the board may not be possible, so any of the parties below can declare a disaster:

- The mayor, in consultation with the City Council

- The Mayor Pro Tem in the absence of the mayor, in consultation with the rest of the City Council
- Another City Council member if the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are not available, in consultation with the rest of the City Council

This declaration cannot be continued or renewed for more than seven days without the consent of the City Council. The City Council will make all reasonable efforts to meet a quorum within 48 hours of the initial declaration of emergency.

After twenty-four hours from the initial declaration of emergency, the succession of authority to act for the Council is the same as above. The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem (or any Council Member if the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem is unavailable) can act pending a meeting of the City Council. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a city emergency or disaster shall be filed promptly with the County Emergency Manager, who shall file promptly with the State Office of Emergency Management.

5.3.3.5 The Town of Ridgway Authority to Declare Emergency/Activation on Emergency Operations Plan

The following individuals or their designees have the authority to declare a Town emergency as outlined in the Town of Ridgway Disaster Policies, which will be completed later. Because some disasters are unpredictable, a quorum of the board may not be possible. As a result, any of the parties below can declare a disaster:

- Mayor, in consultation with the Town Council
- Mayor Pro-Tem in the absence of the mayor, in consultation with the rest of the Town Council
- Another Town Council member if the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are not available, in consultation with the rest of the Town Council

This declaration shall not be continued or renewed for a period exceeding seven days except by or with the consent of the Town Council. The Town Council shall make all reasonable efforts to meet a quorum of the Council within 48 hours of the initial declaration of emergency.

After twenty-four hours have elapsed from the initial declaration of emergency, the succession of authority to act for the Council is the same as above. The mayor or mayor pro tem (or any Council Member if the Mayor or mayor pro tem is unavailable) can act pending the meeting of the Town Council.

Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a town emergency or disaster shall be filed promptly with the County Emergency Manager, who shall promptly file with the State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

5.3.3.6 Continuity of Operations for Board of Commissioners / Administrator

Pursuant to Ouray County *Resolution #2024-043:*

> "Until a quorum of the Board has been convened, pursuant to a declaration of emergency or disaster by the County Manager, the County Manager shall have the full legal authority of the Board. In addition, the County Manager shall have the authority to activate the attached and revised 2024 Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency

Operations Plan and to request assistance from each appropriate entity through the activation of their respective plans. After twenty-four hours has elapsed from the initial declaration of emergency, and if a quorum of the Board cannot convene within seven days, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on behalf of the Board shall be the following persons, in order: (1) the Chair of the Board; (2) the Vice Chair of the Board; (3) the third Commission Member of the Board; (4) the County Manager; (5) the Deputy County Manager; (6) the County Attorney; (7) the Deputy County Attorney; (8) the County Social Services Director; (9) the County Human Resources Director; and (10) any other County Department Head or other County employee designated to act in this capacity by the Ouray County Emergency Manager or designee. All authority vested in the County Manager by this resolution and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 shall be exercised first by the County Manager, but if the County Manager is unavailable, the emergency, interim line of succession of authority to act on his or her behalf shall be: (1) the Deputy County Manager; (2) the County Attorney; (3) the Deputy County Attorney; (4) the County Social Services Director; (5) the County Human Resources Director; and (6) any other County Department Head or other County employee designated to act in this capacity by the Ouray County Emergency Manager or designee. Any emergency, interim successors shall relinquish such authority as directed by any person(s) higher in the emergency, interim lines of succession identified under this section when such person(s) becomes available."

5.3.4 Activation of the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP)

Once promulgated by the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, Ouray City Council, and/or Ridgway Town Council, this plan will be active for planning, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. All other previous EOPs and Emergency Preparedness Plans will be obsolete. This plan will be implemented in part or in totality to:

- Plan and run exercises and training.
- Used to outline the standard operating procedures (SOP) and trainings that jurisdictional agencies and departments should develop.
- Used as a reference when developing mission-specific annexes (e.g., Recovery Plan, Evacuation Plan, etc.).
- Used as a reference and copy when developing or updating Regional EOPs and annexes.
- Response to incidents in or affecting the areas of Ouray County and its municipalities.
- Response to requests for assistance due to resources being exhausted or additional assistance from a local municipality or governing body of a special district within Ouray County.
- Response to a public or environmental health emergency that is affecting Ouray County, regardless of whether located in a municipality, unincorporated area, or neighboring county, that affects Ouray County citizens and resources.
- Response to non-routine life safety issues affecting Ouray County or its municipalities.

5.3.4.1 Ouray County Plan Activation

This plan may be activated for Ouray County by the Emergency Manager, Public Health Director, County Sheriff, or County Manager without an emergency declaration, and the EOP

may be implemented as deemed appropriate by emergency staff for the situation or at the request of an on-scene Incident Commander (IC). While a declaration is not needed to activate the plan, the plan will automatically be activated if Ouray County issues an emergency declaration. Declarations should include language directing offices, departments, staff, and agencies to utilize and follow this EOP.

5.3.4.2 City of Ouray Plan Activation

This plan may be activated for the City of Ouray by the Police Chief or the City Administrator without an emergency declaration, and the EOP may be implemented as deemed appropriate by emergency staff for the situation or at the request of an on-scene Incident Commander (IC). The County Emergency Manager and/or Public Health Director may recommend plan activation to the City Administrator. While a declaration is not needed to activate the plan, the plan will automatically be activated if the City of Ouray issues an emergency declaration. Declarations should include language directing offices, departments, staff, and agencies to utilize and follow this EOP.

5.3.4.3 Town of Ridgway Plan Activation

This plan may be activated for the Town of Ridgway by the Town Marshal or Town Manager without an emergency declaration, and the EOP may be implemented as deemed appropriate by emergency staff for the situation or at the request of an on-scene Incident Commander (IC). The County Emergency Manager and/or Public Health Director may recommend plan activation to the Town Manager. While a declaration is not needed to activate the plan, the plan will automatically be activated if the Town of Ridgway issues an emergency declaration. Declarations should include language directing offices, departments, staff, and agencies to utilize and follow this EOP.

5.3.5   Local Coordination

Ouray County is responsible for large-scale emergency response operations/coordination in unincorporated areas and, in cases where the emergency is located within an incorporated area, in cooperation with the municipalities of the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway. The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway are responsible for large-scale emergency response operations/coordination in their incorporated areas.

As part of this plan, each municipality government within Ouray County should establish a chain of command and continuity of operations plan (COOP) annex for their respective functions.

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

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

5.3.6   Critical Infrastructure & Key Resource Protection

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

5.3.6.1   Key Resources

Key Resources are defined as facilities that provide a necessary service before, during, and after times of disaster. These generally include:

- Animal Shelters
- Carrier-Neutral Locations (CNL) for Broadband
- Churches
- Emergency Operations Centers
- Emergency Medical Service Facilities
- Event Centers
- Fire stations
- Fuel Stations
- Governmental buildings
- Grocery Stores
- Law enforcement facilities
- Medical facilities
- Schools
- Shelters/Evacuation Centers
- Youth Facilities

5.3.6.2   Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure is defined as assets that are essential to the functioning of a society and economy. These include:

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

5.3.7   Evacuation and Sheltering

In case of certain emergencies and disasters, it may be necessary to evacuate residents from their homes or current locations for their safety. This could happen due to natural disasters like wildfires, floods, blizzards, mud or rockslides, or severe weather. Man-made events such as terrorist attacks, gas leaks, or law enforcement activities could also require residents or visitors to the county to be evacuated.

Events like flash floods and wildfires are difficult to plan evacuation routes for and will be developed by first responders as the incident occurs. It's important for residents and homeowners to take charge and create their own evacuation plans with their families. Knowing where to go in the event of an emergency is crucial. Homeowners and business owners can prepare by learning how to make an evacuation plan for their families at https://www.ready.gov/evacuation.

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

5.3.7.1   Evacuation Centers

An evacuation center is a designated safe location where people can seek temporary shelter during emergencies, such as natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, earthquakes) or man-made crises (fires, chemical spills). These centers provide basic necessities like food, water, bedding, medical aid, and communication resources. Often set up in schools, community centers, or other large facilities, they offer a safe space for individuals or families until it is safe to return home or find more permanent accommodations. The Evacuation Center will serve as a central point of information for evacuees from Incident Command and first responders on what to expect from the expanding incident, what is expected of them, and what they can expect from first responders. If a disaster is going to displace residents from their homes, the American Red Cross can work to set up a shelter at one of the pre-designated shelters in Ouray County. The American Red Cross has completed site surveys and secured agreements with all these locations:

Figure 14-Shelter Locations in Ouray County

Shelter Name	Location	Capacity
Ouray Community Center	320 6th Ave, Ouray CO, 81427	292 Persons
Ouray County 4H Event Center	22739 Hwy 550; Ridgway CO 81432	270 Persons
Ridgway School District	1200 Green Street, Ridgway, CO, 81432	150+ Persons
Ouray Elks Lodge #492	421 Main Street, Ouray CO, 81427	125 Persons

| **Ouray School District R-1** | 400 7th Ave, Ouray CO, 81427 | 100+Persons |

Many of the county's hazards will have little warning time for residents to evacuate. There may be times when residents must evacuate on their own before an evacuation order is issued via any Emergency Notification System. When an incident allows pre-evacuation and/or evacuation notices to be issued, they will be sent via Ouray County Alerts to areas that need to evacuate. The notification will include specific instructions on what to do and where to go. If a resident needs assistance evacuating due to any number of factors, including Access & Functional Needs, they can call 911 and request help from emergency responders. In the event of an Evacuation, refer to the "Ouray County Evacuation Plan Annex" of this Plan.

5.3.7.2 Pets and Service Animals

It is the intention of Ouray County, its departments, and all agencies utilizing this Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that residents, visitors, and individuals with access and functional needs will receive equal treatment before, during, and after a disaster. This includes the sheltering and protection of companion or service animals, which is the primary responsibility of their owners during a disaster. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 requires local jurisdictions to aid individuals with service animals and to ensure the sheltering and care of household pets and service animals during emergencies when shelters are established.

Human Services, the American Red Cross, the Second Chance Humane Society, and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension are responsible for pet and service animal sheltering and care in Ouray County. These agencies should collaborate to pre-plan evacuation scenarios for pets and service animals, develop plans for coordinating with Red Cross models, establish a plan for animal registration, sheltering, and return, and coordinate with the American Red Cross.

5.3.7.3 Livestock Evacuation Plan

Ouray County has a rich ranching history, especially in the northern area. Livestock operations are not only a way of life for citizens but are also often the main source of income for ranchers. In the event of a disaster, first responders and incident management officials need to understand that ranchers will prioritize the welfare of their livestock over their evacuation to ensure the livestock's safety and livelihood.

To address the needs of livestock producers and ensure representation for the ranching and livestock community, the EOC should consult the Ouray County Cattlemen's Association for all incidents involving livestock evacuation or sheltering. Representatives from the livestock industry and incident managers need to work together to ensure that animal rescue and evacuation operations prioritize the safety of first responders, livestock owners, and livestock.

The CSU Extension Agent, Second Chance Humane Society, Ouray County Cattlemen's Association, emergency management, county and municipal staff, and members of the public should collaborate to develop and implement a livestock animal evacuation and sheltering plan as part of the overall multi-jurisdictional evacuation plan. This plan should also address the evacuation needs of pets and service animals.

5.4 Recovery from Disaster Operations

A successful recovery is about the ability of individuals, businesses, local government, and the community to rebound from their losses in a manner that sustains their physical, emotional, social, and economic well-being. The EOC will be operational during a disaster. The EOC's primary functions are providing resource support, situational awareness, and coordination of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) in response activities. This coordination includes short-term recovery efforts consistent with the National Response Framework (NRF) strategies. The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) and best practice strongly recommend that local government, as part of their recovery planning, appoint a Local Disaster Recovery Manager whose primary role is to manage and coordinate the redevelopment and re-building of the community. For Ouray County, this position is designated as the Long-Term Recovery Manager and is appointed by the County Manager or their designee. The roles and responsibilities of government departments are listed in detail in the Ouray County Disaster Recovery Plan.

5.4.1 Short-Term Recovery

Short-term recovery begins shortly after the incident and may last days or weeks. This recovery phase addresses efforts to support basic human needs, Rapid Needs Assessments, initial damage assessments, the restoration of basic infrastructure, and the mobilization of recovery organizations and resources.

Examples of short-term recovery activities include:

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

5.4.2 Long-Term Recovery

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

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

5.4.3 Disaster and Recovery Policy Groups

5.4.3.1 Ouray County Disaster and Recovery Policy Group

Depending on the type, scale, and severity of the incident, the Disaster and Recovery Policy Group may be assembled from the following or their designee:
- County Manager
- County Assessor (ESF-14 Lead)
- Appropriate elected and appointed officials
- County Attorneys
- Department executive staff or key staff, as directed by the County Manager.

- County emergency manager

5.4.3.2 City of Ouray Disaster and Recovery Policy Group

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

- City Administrator
- City's ESF-14 Lead
- Appropriate elected and appointed officials
- City Attorney
- Department executive staff or key staff, as directed by the City Administrator.
- County Emergency Manager

5.4.3.3 Town of Ridgway Disaster and Recovery Policy Group

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

- Town Manager
- Town's ESF-14 Lead
- Appropriate elected and appointed officials
- Town Attorney
- Department executive staff or key staff, as directed by the Town Manager.
- County Emergency Manager

5.4.4 Long-Term Recovery Manager

The long-term recovery manager coordinates and oversees recovery efforts following a disaster. Their primary focus is on long-term recovery, which involves restoring the community to pre-disaster conditions or better, which can take months or years. When selecting the recovery manager, consideration should be given to technical skills, expertise, and experience in similar types of disasters. Disaster recovery actions begin early on and cooperate with first-response actions. These short-term recovery efforts are coordinated by the EOC. The EOC coordinates short-term recovery through Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) while the long-term recovery manager coordinates the recovery support functions (RSFs) that may be activated concurrently. The EOC and long-term recovery manager should develop a plan to coordinate information. In time, the EOC is shut down, and the remaining long-term recovery efforts function under the long-term recovery manager. Key responsibilities include:

- **Coordination:** Working with local government agencies, nonprofits, and community groups to manage resources and recovery activities.
- **Needs Assessment:** Assessing the damage and needs of the affected community, including housing, infrastructure, and economic recovery.
- **Resource Management:** Securing funding, grants, and resources for recovery projects.
- **Community Engagement:** Facilitating communication between the community and recovery partners to ensure recovery plans align with local needs and priorities.
- **Planning and Implementation:** Developing long-term recovery strategies, including rebuilding infrastructure, restoring services, and supporting economic recovery.

- **Resilience Building:** Ensuring recovery efforts incorporate mitigation strategies to enhance the community's resilience to future disasters.

In rural settings, challenges may include limited resources, smaller population sizes, and geographic isolation, making the manager's role critical in navigating these obstacles to ensure adequate recovery.

5.4.4.1 Ouray County Long-Term Recovery Manager
In Ouray County, the Long-Term Recovery Manager is assigned to the County Manager or their designee, who collaborates with the Ouray County ESF-14 Lead.

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

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

Pre-Disaster:

- Look for Employees who work like recovery managers, such as in public works, and reallocate them to new recovery manager duties.
- Combine the Administrative Line Items of several grants and hire a single recovery manager to manage all the grants and perform other recovery manager duties.
- Leverage Emergency Preparedness Grant Funding to fund a recovery manager to accomplish recovery planning and resilience-building tasks.
- Solicit volunteers from the community (such as retired city managers, community planners, or county executives) to perform recovery manager duties and functions in a nonpaid status based on the jurisdiction's law.

Post-Disaster

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

- Approach Local and Regional Foundations. Leverage foundational support to provide a local recovery manager with the local cost share portion.

5.4.4.2 City of Ouray Long-Term Recovery Manager

In the City of Ouray, the Long-Term Recovery Manager will be assigned based on the degree of the incident and the projected recovery length. They will collaborate with the Ouray County ESF-14 Lead.

5.4.4.3 Town of Ridgway Long-Term Recovery Manager

In the Town of Ridgway, the Long-Term Recovery Manager will be assigned based on the degree of the incident and the projected recovery length. They will collaborate with the Ouray County ESF-14 Lead.

5.4.5 Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)

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

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

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

Jurisdictions may establish Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for the team's roles and responsibilities and to coordinate with various managers responsible for response and recovery actions. Some jurisdictions may not have all the necessary expertise in-house, but they can leverage mutual aid agreements or contracts for subject matter experts who can serve on the team. Smaller jurisdictions can request assistance from their relevant council of government, planning council, or other regional support networks (FEMA: Disaster Financial Management Guide).

5.4.6 Recovery Support Functions

Long-term recovery takes a longer time, involves key players outside of the typical emergency responder community, and includes complexities not usually covered in traditional Emergency

Support Function (ESF) plans. To address these challenges, Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) are planning tools that fill the gap and support the coordination of long-term recovery issues not previously covered. Depending on the type and scope of the disaster, RSFs are activated and coordinated by the Long-Term Recovery Manager. Each activated RSF is responsible for understanding federal and state documentation requirements for their activities and ensuring that all appropriate documents are archived. Additionally, each RSF has a designated lead agency that provides leadership, coordination, and oversight for that particular RSF. The lead agency for each activated RSF reports directly to the Recovery Manager. Depending on the type of disaster, the lead agency for the RSF could be local, state, or federal.

Figure 15-Ouray County Recovery Support Functions

RSF Title and Description	Lead County Departments
Assistance for Individuals, Households, and Small Businesses	County Clerk, County Attorney, Public Health, Human Services, Land Use
Consumer Protection	Public Health, Human Services, County Attorney
Damage Assessment	Road and Bridge, Land Use, Assessor, Administration, Sheriff, Emergency Management
Debris Management	Road and Bridge
Donations Management	Public Health and Human Services
Economic and Community Recovery	Land Use, Administration, GIS, Public Health, Human Services
Environmental Recovery (Natural)	Land Use, Vegetation Management
Environmental Recovery (Public Health)	Public Health, Human Services
Behavioral Health	Public Health, Human Services
Hazard Mitigation	Emergency Management, Land Use, Road and Bridge
Historic and Cultural Resources	GIS, Land Use
Housing	Public Health, Human Services, and Land Use
Infrastructure Systems	Road and Bridge, IT, Facilities Maintenance
Public Health	Public Health, Human Services
Reentry	Sheriff and Road and Bridge
Reunification	Public Health, Human Services, and Sheriff
Volunteer Coordination	Public Health, Human Services, Administration (HR)
Finance and Cost Recovery Accounting	Finance
Documentation	All County Departments and Agencies involved in recording.
External Affairs	County PIO, Admin, Long-Term Recovery Manager

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

Figure 16-City of Ouray Recovery Support Functions

RSF Title and Description	Lead County Departments
Assistance for Individuals, Households, and Small Businesses	City Clerk, City Attorney, County Public Health, County Human Services, Community Development
Consumer Protection	County Public Health, County Human Services, City Attorney
Damage Assessment	Public Works, Community Development, Building Inspector, County Assessor, Administration, County Emergency Management
Debris Management	Public Works
Donations Management	County Public Health and County Human Services
Economic and Community Recovery	Community Development, Building Inspector, Administration, GIS, County Public Health, County Human Services
Environmental Recovery (Natural)	Community Development, Building Inspector, Vegetation Management
Environmental Recovery (Public Health)	County Public Health, County Human Services
Behavioral Health	County Public Health, County Human Services
Hazard Mitigation	Emergency Management, Land Use, Public Works
Historic and Cultural Resources	GIS, Community Development, Building Inspector
Housing	County Public Health, County Human Services, Community Development, Building Inspector
Infrastructure Systems	Public Works, IT, Facilities Maintenance
Public Health	County Public Health, County Human Services
Reentry	Police Department and Public Works
Reunification	County Public Health, County Human Services, and Police Department
Volunteer Coordination	County Public Health, County Human Services, Administration (HR)
Finance and Cost Recovery Accounting	Finance
Documentation	All City Departments and Agencies involved in recording.
External Affairs	PIO, Admin, Long-Term Recovery Manager

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

Figure 17-Town of Ridgway Recovery Support Functions

RSF Title and Description	Lead County Departments
Assistance for Individuals, Households, and Small Businesses	Town Clerk, Town Attorney, County Public Health, County Human Services, Community Development
Consumer Protection	County Public Health, County Human Services, Town Attorney
Damage Assessment	Public Works, Community Development, Building Inspector, County Assessor, Administration, County Emergency Management
Debris Management	Public Works
Donations Management	County Public Health and County Human Services
Economic and Community Recovery	Community Development, Building Inspector, Administration, GIS, County Public Health, County Human Services
Environmental Recovery (Natural)	Community Development, Building Inspector, Vegetation Management
Environmental Recovery (Public Health)	County Public Health, County Human Services
Behavioral Health	County Public Health, County Human Services
Hazard Mitigation	Emergency Management, Land Use, Public Works
Historic and Cultural Resources	GIS, Community Development, Building Inspector
Housing	County Public Health, County Human Services, Community Development, Building Inspector
Infrastructure Systems	Public Works, IT, Facilities Maintenance
Public Health	County Public Health, County Human Services
Reentry	Police Department and Public Works
Reunification	County Public Health, County Human Services, and Police Department
Volunteer Coordination	County Public Health, County Human Services, Administration (HR)
Finance and Cost Recovery Accounting	Finance
Documentation	All Town Departments and Agencies involved in recording
External Affairs	PIO, Admin, Long-Term Recovery Manager

5.4.6.1 RSF Human Services

The Human Services Recovery Support Function (RSF) focuses on supporting locally led recovery efforts to address public health, healthcare infrastructure, social services, and community well-being across Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This RSF promotes recovery through community-focused health and social service initiatives that foster resilience, sustainability, and long-term well-being.

Key activities include:

- Conducting comprehensive assessments of community health and social service needs specific to Ouray County, City of Ouray, and Town of Ridgway residents to prioritize resources and address the unique needs of each community.
- Restoring and strengthening healthcare services, public health functions, and essential social services within the region, including partnerships with local healthcare providers, social service organizations, and public health agencies.
- Improving the resilience and sustainability of the healthcare and social service systems by integrating preparedness and adaptation strategies into public health and social service planning.

5.4.6.2 RSF Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB)

The Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB) RSF enhances the ability of Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway to carry out effective recovery planning and management in the aftermath of a disaster. This RSF emphasizes a coordinated, community-based approach that includes widespread engagement and capacity building.

CPCB activities include:

- Providing education and resources on recovery planning to local officials, community leaders, and residents, fostering informed and proactive involvement in recovery initiatives.
- Supporting coordinated, community-wide recovery planning that aligns Ouray County's, City of Ouray's, and Town of Ridgway's priorities, ensuring a seamless, unified approach to rebuilding and revitalization.
- Promoting robust community engagement in recovery planning efforts to empower local voices, leverage local knowledge, and strengthen social cohesion.
- Enhancing the management capacity of local government agencies to effectively direct recovery operations, allocate resources, and implement policies that support long-term community resilience.

5.4.6.3 RSF Infrastructure Systems

The Infrastructure Systems RSF facilitates the efficient restoration and improvement of critical infrastructure to support a sustainable, resilient community within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This RSF ensures that infrastructure recovery efforts not only rebuild what was damaged but also enhance resilience to future hazards.

Infrastructure activities include:

- Providing technical assistance to Ouray County, City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and local stakeholders to identify, prioritize, and restore critical infrastructure systems and assets.
- Offering mitigation strategies that integrate innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies, improving infrastructure resilience and reducing future risks.
- Including private sector infrastructure owners, operators, and essential service providers in all levels of planning to enhance coordination, identify mutual dependencies, and expedite the restoration process.

5.4.6.4 RSF Housing

The Housing RSF focuses on delivering federal, state, and local resources to support housing solutions that address the needs of the whole community in Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This RSF fosters sustainable and inclusive housing recovery, contributing to community resilience and well-being.

Housing activities include:

- Utilizing housing recovery as a platform to improve overall quality of life, ensuring housing solutions meet safety, accessibility, and sustainability standards.
- Promoting the development of inclusive, resilient communities that provide equitable access to safe and affordable housing.
- Identifying strategies to stabilize and strengthen the local housing market to meet both immediate post-disaster needs and long-term community goals.
- Integrating disaster mitigation measures into community design, development, and housing policies to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience to future disasters.

5.4.6.5 RSF Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR)

The Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR) RSF supports the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources, cultural assets, and historic properties across Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This RSF promotes sustainable recovery efforts that conserve and celebrate the community's natural and cultural heritage.

NCR activities include:

- Providing technical assistance to Ouray County, City of Ouray, and Town of Ridgway to identify, assess, and prioritize the protection of natural resources and cultural sites impacted by the disaster.
- Integrating environmental specialists who understand local natural resources and regulatory requirements early in the disaster recovery planning process to ensure compliance and safeguard sensitive ecosystems.
- Coordinating environmental and historic property considerations across other RSFs to ensure a holistic recovery approach that values and preserves the natural and cultural identity of the community.

5.4.7 Economic Recovery Plan

The Economic Recovery Plan is a structured framework designed to facilitate the swift and effective restoration of economic and business activities following a disaster. This plan supports the return to a stable economic environment while fostering new opportunities that contribute to a resilient, sustainable, and economically viable community across Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway.

In alignment with FEMA's economic recovery objectives, the Economic Recovery Plan addresses both immediate and long-term economic impacts, with an emphasis on building back stronger, reducing future risk, and enhancing resilience. Key elements and activities of this plan include:

5.4.7.1 Collaborative Economic Recovery Strategy

Ouray County, along with the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway, will collaborate with local businesses, chambers of commerce, financial institutions, community organizations, and regional partners to develop a multi-dimensional, coordinated economic recovery strategy.

This strategy will focus on immediate post-disaster needs, such as re-establishing critical business functions and supporting workforce retention, while also planning for long-term economic growth and stability.

This collective approach enables the pooling of resources, expertise, and financial support, fostering a unified path to economic recovery that benefits all community members.

5.4.7.2 Support for Local Businesses and Workforce

The County and its municipalities will provide assistance to small businesses and workforce development programs, aiming to reduce economic disruption and expedite recovery.

Programs will include access to emergency grants, low-interest loans, and business continuity support for local businesses, as well as job training and placement initiatives to support workers displaced by the disaster.

The Economic Recovery Plan will emphasize outreach to vulnerable populations and minority-owned businesses to ensure equitable access to recovery resources.

5.4.7.3 Infrastructure and Supply Chain Restoration

Restoration of essential infrastructure is critical to resuming economic activity. Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway will work to repair, replace, or enhance transportation, utility, and telecommunications infrastructure to support business operations and improve supply chain resilience.

The plan prioritizes efforts to reopen local roads, re-establish utility services, and ensure reliable digital communication networks, essential for supporting ongoing business functions and allowing for remote work where needed.

5.4.7.4 Tourism and Local Industry Revitalization

Recognizing the significance of tourism and outdoor recreation to the local economy, Ouray County and its municipalities will partner with tourism boards, hospitality businesses, and outdoor recreation providers to re-establish and promote safe tourism activities as soon as feasible.

Marketing campaigns will be developed to attract visitors back to Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway, highlighting the region's recovery progress and its unique attractions.

The plan also includes efforts to assist local industries, such as agriculture and retail, in re-establishing operations and adapting to potential changes in demand or supply.

5.4.7.5 Long-Term Economic Resilience and Sustainability

The County's economic recovery efforts extend beyond immediate recovery, focusing on creating a more resilient and diversified economy. Efforts will include incentivizing green

businesses, investing in renewable energy resources, and supporting workforce development programs that align with sustainable economic goals.

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway will explore opportunities for public-private partnerships to fund infrastructure improvements and sustainable business initiatives that create economic value while reducing vulnerability to future disasters.

Local governments will also integrate resilience-building practices into zoning, permitting, and development processes to encourage businesses to adopt strategies that minimize risk and enhance continuity.

5.4.7.6 Access to Funding and Technical Assistance

Ouray County and its municipalities will facilitate access to state and federal funding sources, such as FEMA's Public Assistance Program and the Economic Development Administration's disaster relief grants, to support economic recovery initiatives.

In addition to direct funding, technical assistance will be made available to businesses and government entities to navigate regulatory requirements, obtain necessary permits, and implement best practices in economic recovery and resilience.

5.4.7.7 Community Engagement and Communication:

Effective communication and community engagement are essential to economic recovery. Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway will establish regular communication channels with local businesses, non-profits, residents, and other stakeholders to provide updates on recovery efforts and to gather feedback on community needs.

Information on available resources, recovery progress, and opportunities for community involvement will be disseminated through various channels, including public meetings, online updates, and collaboration with local media.

Through the Economic Recovery Plan, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway are committed to restoring a vibrant, resilient, and diverse economy capable of withstanding future challenges. This plan serves as both a roadmap for economic recovery and a foundational tool for long-term resilience, ensuring that the entire community can recover, thrive, and adapt to future changes and opportunities.

5.4.8   Damage Assessment

Documentation is the key to recovering emergency response and recovery costs. Damage assessment data is critical in establishing the basis for eligible state and federal disaster assistance programs. For a state or federal disaster declaration, the jurisdiction impacted must collect documentation of disaster costs incurred and submit them to the appropriate state or federal agency for processing. Under federal disaster assistance programs, documentation must be obtained regarding damage sustained to:
1.	Roads, bridges and culverts
2.	Water control facilities
3.	Public buildings and related equipment
4.	Public Utilities
5.	All recreational and park facilities

6. Educational institutions

A Damage Assessment team made up of Road and Bridge, Land Use, Assessor, Environmental Health Officer (or Public Health Director), administration, and any other members they see fit will conduct a Damage Assessment as soon as it is safe to do so.

5.5 Access and Functional Needs

Ouray County's and its municipalities' policies on Access and Functional Needs (AFN) are designed to ensure equal and equitable access to resources and assistance for all individuals in compliance with non-discrimination standards. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as "a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person with a history or record of such an impairment, or a person perceived by others as having such an impairment." Additionally, the National Response Framework (NRF) identifies these populations as "individuals who may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident."

Ouray County and its municipalities are committed to a whole-community approach across all phases of emergency management—planning, response, and recovery. This approach integrates AFN considerations to ensure that the unique needs of individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs are supported at every stage. To support this commitment, the County has designated Emergency Support Function (ESF) agencies to prioritize AFN requirements in planning, preparedness, and response, ensuring dedicated resources and additional support are allocated to these communities both during and following a disaster.

5.6 Community Lifeline Overview

Community Lifelines are essential systems that enable the operation of critical government, community, and business services in the aftermath of a disaster. These Lifelines are crucial to maintaining health, safety, and economic stability. Ouray County, along with the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway, incorporates the following Community Lifelines into this Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to ensure continuity and resilience in emergencies. Disruption to any of these Lifelines can significantly impact the community's functionality and response capabilities.

- **Safety and Security:** This encompasses law enforcement, fire services, search and rescue operations, essential government functions, and community safety initiatives. This includes the coordinated efforts of the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, the City of Ouray Police Department, and the Town of Ridgway Marshal.
- **Food, Water, and Sheltering**: This includes provisions for food and water distribution, sheltering facilities, and agriculture. Local coordination ensures timely and equitable resource distribution to Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway residents.
- **Health and Medical**: Covers medical care, public health initiatives, patient transport, medical supply chain management, fatality management, and emergency medical services (EMS). Ouray County partners with healthcare providers across the region to maintain essential health services.
- **Energy (Power and Fuel)**: Involves the power grid, fuel supply, and natural gas/propane distribution. Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway coordinate with

utility providers to secure energy resources essential for community operations during a disaster.

- **Communications**: Addresses infrastructure, responder communications, public alerts, warnings, financial transactions, and 911/dispatch services. This includes partnerships across Ouray County, City of Ouray, and Town of Ridgway to maintain open lines of communication, especially during emergencies.
- **Transportation**: Involves highways, roadways, mass transit, railways, aviation, and maritime transport where applicable. Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway prioritize safe and functional transportation routes to support emergency response and community mobility.
- **Hazardous Materials (HazMat)**: Pertains to facilities handling hazardous materials, pollutant management, and containment of contaminants. Local response teams are trained to manage hazardous materials to protect public health and the environment.

Ouray County, in coordination with the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway, incorporates these Community Lifelines within the EOP, ensuring a structured response and comprehensive support for these critical services during all stages of emergency planning, response, and recovery.

Community lifelines are discussed further in the "ESFs and Community Lifeline Section" of this plan. Ideally, there would be a Community Lifeline Annex. With the other priorities of plans and annexes, this annex will not be completed within the next four years.

6   ASSIGNMENT OF ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1   Essential Services

Ouray County and its municipalities' governments will continue to provide essential services to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare during emergencies or disasters.

6.1.1   Continuity of the BOCC during a Declared Emergency

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

6.1.2   Continuity of the Ouray City Council during a Declared Emergency

During a declared emergency or disaster event, the Mayor, or the Mayor Pro Tem in the absence of the Mayor, or any Council Member in the absence of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem has emergency authority to act on behalf of the City Council.

6.1.3   Continuity of the Ridgway Town Council during a Declared Emergency

During a declared emergency or disaster event, the Mayor, or the Mayor Pro Tem in the absence of the Mayor, or any Council Member in the absence of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem has emergency authority to act on behalf of the Town Council.

6.2   Responsibility Overview

It is essential to understand that all responsibilities are just that; a listed responsibility does not mean that the Department Head, Appointed Officials, or Elected Official must physically carry out the task. They are tasked with ensuring that the task gets done.

The key to handling all emergency tasks in a county and its municipalities with limited resources is asking for help and delegating.

When considering the delegation process, it is crucial to remember the planning necessity: "Incidents begin at the county or local government level (including special districts) and will remain the responsibility of the local government throughout the incident and the recovery phase. Generally, local jurisdictions (up through the county) should not expect the arrival of significant state resources for 72+ hours after the incident. Federal resources may not arrive until 96+ hours after the incident."

The local jurisdiction must complete all tasks until help is requested and arrives. Help will not begin mobilizing until it is requested.

6.3   General Responsibilities Department Heads and Elected Officials

As members of the County, City, and Town Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), all county, city, and/or town employees are designated as disaster service workers during a declared emergency or disaster and may be required to perform certain emergency services at the direction of their supervisor.

All county, city, and town department heads, appointed officials, and elected officials will be notified regarding emergency or disaster event issues that might impact their area of responsibility. Each department head and elected official shall work within the framework of this plan and supporting Annexes and have the following general responsibilities:

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

6.4   Essential Function Responsibilities

All county, city, and town department heads, appointed officials, and elected officials shall ensure the continuity of essential functions within their departments, also known as a COOP Plan, in any emergency or disaster event by providing for:

- Succession planning of their office and keeping an emergency delegation on file of authority in accordance with applicable law.
- Safekeeping of essential resources, facilities, and records.
- Establishment of emergency operating capabilities.

- Plan for using essential emergency resources and alternative resources that may be used to meet crucial demands during and following an emergency or disaster event.
- Participate in activities to continually assess the importance of various facilities and resources to essential community needs; integrate preparedness and response strategies and procedures as needed.
- Local municipal jurisdictions should establish and review disaster policies and procedures related to the municipality and statutory authorities and responsibilities.
- For incidents within incorporated areas that fall under the jurisdiction of the city or town, such as water main breaks, sewer breaks, domestic water outages, critical infrastructure failure, flooding, etc., the mayor or other chief elected official will be in charge of directing the municipality's efforts and chain of command including enacting mutual aid, declaring a local disaster and requesting assistance from the county;
- Develop, review, and maintain disaster finance policies, purchasing policies, and Continuity of Operations Plans to ensure local government can still function and perform critical services regardless of emergency.
- Elected council members, mayors, and other senior city and town officials may be called upon to do public presentations and be the face of the town or town agency during an emergency. Elected officials and senior municipal staff members should consider FEMA and other public information courses to help prepare for public inquiries.

6.5   Agency Roles and Responsibilities

All offices (of elected officials), departments, agencies, and organizations with responsibilities identified in this section of the plan are responsible for developing internal procedures and standard operating plans (SOPs) for carrying out these roles and responsibilities and for developing continuity of operations plans (COOP) for their department or agency. Each department has been assigned a section to report to within ICS/ESF when directives are received.

Agencies outside the county, city, or town jurisdictions can be requested resources. They play a huge role in Emergency Response. Still, they must be ordered by ESF Leads, IC, or EOC Managers if the emergency or Disaster is within the unincorporated areas within Ouray County.

6.5.1   Ouray County Emergency Management Department
- The Ouray County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for the county's, city's, and town's emergency management, planning, and operations, and coordinating with the emergency management representative(s) from municipalities.
- **When activated per this plan, the EOC does not assume or take command of the scene or incident.** Instead, the EOC is a place for agency coordination and support of the incident and the response and initial recovery operations. Command of the incident remains with the IC and ICS structure, and the EOC will provide coordination and collaboration between local, county, state, and federal agencies involved.
  - Unless otherwise indicated, the EOC will coordinate response and resource requests and initial recovery operations. During multiple incidents, the EOC will help to prioritize support and resources based on state and local requirements and alleviate requests for information in the Communications Center.

- Ouray County is responsible for emergency operations and coordination among all county agencies and departments and with regional partners.
- The City of Ouray is responsible for emergency operations and coordination among all city agencies and departments and with regional partners in conjunction with Ouray County Emergency Managemnt.
- The Town of Ridgway is responsible for emergency operations and coordination among all town agencies and departments and with regional partners in conjunction with Ouray County Emergency Managemnt.
- If the disaster or emergency becomes large enough to request state or federal assistance, the county Office of Emergency Management and EOC will coordinate with DHSEM for such requests and serve as the primary point of contact with DHSEM for assistance.

6.5.2 Law Enforcement Offices and Departments

6.5.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Law Enforcement Offices and Departments
- Depending on the location of the emergency, local police departments may have jurisdiction over the incident or emergency. If not the lead agency, they may be called upon to provide mutual aid and assistance to another police department or a state or federal law enforcement agency.
- Respond to emergencies to ensure the maintenance of law and order in unaffected areas of the county/city.
- Provide or assist with traffic control as needed by the incident.
- Assist in alerting or warning the public, assisting in evacuation orders, and evacuating citizens.
- Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of equipment available for deployment locally (within the County), regionally, state-wide, and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through Emergency Management and WebEOC each year.

6.5.2.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County Sheriff's Office
- The Ouray County Sheriff is responsible for maintaining law and order throughout Ouray County. The Sheriff's Authority and duties cannot be delegated.

6.5.2.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Police Department
- The Ouray Police Department is responsible for maintaining law and order throughout the City of Ouray.

6.5.2.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ridgway Town Marshal's Office
- The Marshal's Office maintains law and order throughout Ridgway.

6.5.3 Administrative Staff
- Support the manager or administrator in procuring emergency-related supplies and materials and administering vendor contracts for services and equipment.
- Support the manager or administrator in tracking resources, keeping records, and documenting disaster-related costs and financial commitments.
- Participate with other departmental representatives on the county damage assessment team at the EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams as needed.

6.5.4 Fire Districts/Departments

Four fire districts serve Ouray County. Each district is responsible for providing all fire prevention and suppression services and supporting EMS and law enforcement services as needed or requested.

- Assess emergency conditions and determine required levels of assistance from county and outside sources.
- Assuming responsibility and authority for structural and/or wildfires within their district boundaries and providing mutual aid response to neighboring districts or public land agencies.
- Establishing and activating the ICS upon arrival on an active structure or wildfire scene, including designating an Incident Commander and ICP.
- Maintaining continuous communication with dispatch and the EOC via the EOC Manager.
- Establish communications with county emergency management to provide situation reports and forward requests for state assistance through the county emergency manager.
- Assisting in the implementation of emergency evacuation operations.
- Assisting in rescue operations as needed or requested in response to a disaster or emergency, including extricating patients from motor vehicle collisions, gas leaks, hazmat response, fire suppression, water rescues, and off-road rescues.
- Providing fire suppression, fire causation, and arson investigation services.
- Providing a representative to the Unified ICP and EOC.
- Assisting the EOC/Sheriff's Office or other departments in disseminating information to the public, providing evacuation operations, fire protection for emergency shelters, and structure protection.
- Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of equipment available for deployment locally, regionally, state-wide, and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through Emergency Management and WebEOC each year.
- Maintaining accurate Colorado Resource Mobilization Plan lists of equipment available for local, regional, statewide, and national deployment. CRRF forms must be updated through WebEOC each year.
- Maintaining the department's ability to manage and recover support operations using command and management principles outlined in the National Management System.

6.5.5 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Ouray County has two EMS districts, Ouray County Ambulance District (OCEMS) and Montrose Fire Protection District (MFPD). OCEMS covers most of the County, while MFPD covers the North End of the County. The two districts are responsible for responding to all emergency and non-emergent medical and trauma calls for service within Ouray County.
- EMS Directors should work with Emergency Management, the EOC Ouray County MAC Group, and the West Region Emergency Trauma Council (WRETAC) to develop mutual aid and mass casualty plans for EMS transport.

- During an incident, assign an EMS liaison to the ICP or EOC as required. If the incident heavily involves EMS and the triage and transport of patients, an EMS director should be part of the Unified Command.
- Provide stand-by EMS service to fire districts in the event of structural or wildland fire operations and response.
- Assist the Ouray County Sheriff and the Ouray County Public Health Agency in identifying residents with Access and Functional Needs in the case of a population evacuation.
- Set up rehabilitation for all emergency responders.
- Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of equipment available for deployment locally (within the County), regionally, state-wide, and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through Emergency Management and WebEOC each year.

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

6.5.7 Ouray County Public Health Agency
- Ouray County Public Health Agency will have jurisdiction and responsibility for all public and environmental health matters within the geographical boundaries of Ouray County, including the incorporated areas.
- The Public Health Agency directs, coordinates, and controls public health and environmental health concerns.
- Upon notification or identification of a public health concern and need, the Public Health Agency will prioritize community needs and coordinate appropriate resources to respond and meet those needs.
- Plan for, provide, and supervise nursing services in reception areas in temporary shelters until relieved by qualified personnel.

- Assistance to ICP/EOC staff in assessing overall health and medical resource needs during response and recovery operations and maintaining situation status information within the ICP/EOC.
- Plan, Coordinate, and exercise Pandemic response plans, point of distribution plans, and emergency response plans related to Public Health in coordination with Emergency Management and ESF-8 partners.
- The Environmental Health Officer (or Public Health Director) serves as a County Damage Assessment Team member.
- Identify biological and chemical hazards and mitigate them jointly with the Designated Emergency Response Authority (D.E.R.A.) or other appropriate resource.
- Serve as a resource for residents, non-residents, and visitors to the county with access and functional needs that need assistance or evacuation assistance.
- Provide technical guidance and coordinate experts to assist in the response phase, evaluate public water sources in the event of a disaster, and issue guidance to local water companies, municipalities, and the EOC/PIO for distribution.
- Maintaining the department's ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principles, as outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Provide immunizations as appropriate and necessary as determined by the county Public Health Agency.
- Coordinate with the Incident Commander and establish Unified Command if an incident involves Public or Environmental Health. Assign a Public Health Agency staff member, preferably the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, to the EOC to act as a liaison to the Public Health Agency and assist in planning for health and medical needs during the response and recovery operations.
- Conduct public health surveillance and testing procedures as needed.
- Coordinate and lead the Emergency Support Function #8 (Public Health) response during disasters and emergencies.
- Meet with the Ouray County Board of Health/Ouray County Board of County Commissioners and provide regular updates on all health and medical matters.
- Perform functions as required by Colorado State Statute, Colorado Department of Public Health, and United States Department of Human Services.
- Collect and distribute data and prepare releases related to public health, environmental health, infectious or communicable diseases.

6.5.8   Road and Bridge and Public Works Departments

6.5.8.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Public Works and Road and Bridge Departments

- During an emergency, personnel may be called out to inspect a roadway or bridge for safety concerns and, if compromised, provide barriers to close the roadway and/or bridge for public safety.

- Provide transportation and support for emergency response and recovery efforts (e.g., movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies to designated staging areas.
- Debris removal, clearance of public rights-of-way, and planning for street/route recovery operations, with priority assigned to critical emergency services lifelines.
- Provide personnel and heavy rescue equipment supporting search and rescue operations.
- Provision of personnel, equipment, supplies, and materials for flood control and flood hazard mitigation measures.
- Provide water trucks to haul water for fire suppression efforts and non-potable water in the event of wildfires or domestic water outages.
- Provide heavy equipment such as road maintainers, water trucks, front-end loaders, excavators, and/or dozers during a disaster to assist with wildfires, floods, flash floods, emergency road repair, evacuations, and rescue operations.
- Road crews will expedite restoration of roadways that are damaged during a disaster if the roadway:
  o Is the only ingress/egress for a neighborhood.
  o If the roadway is a major artery for the county, the road's closure would cause an extended response from emergency personnel or public safety hazards such as the closure of an evacuation route.
- Provide emergency traffic control measures, including placement of cones, barriers, or markings in dangerous areas in coordination with dispatch, fire departments, and jurisdictional law enforcement.
- Remove downed trees and other debris from county roadways and rights-of-way to facilitate public ingress/egress from neighborhoods, emergency rescue operations, and the movement of supplies.
- Maintain an accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) list of equipment owned and available for use by road & bridge or public works. CRRF forms must be updated through Emergency Management and WebEOC each year.
- Maintaining the department's ability to manage response and recovery support operations using the command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.5.8.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ouray County Road and Bridge Department
- Maintain all county-owned roadways and bridges in unincorporated Ouray County.
- Provide staff, equipment, or assistance for emergency repairs to public buildings, utilities, EOC, or other critical infrastructure in Ouray County.
- Restoration of damaged County roads and bridges and other public services and facilities that fall under the regular maintenance requirement of County Road and Bridge responsibilities.
- Participate with other departmental representatives on EOC's county damage assessment team and local/state field damage survey teams, primarily county-owned transportation infrastructure, as needed.

6.5.8.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Public Works Department
- Maintain all city-owned roadways and bridges in incorporated Ouray.

- Provide staff, equipment, or assistance for emergency repairs to the city's public buildings, utilities, EOC, or other critical infrastructure.
- Restoration of damaged city roads, bridges, and other public services and facilities that fall under the regular maintenance requirement of public work responsibilities.
- Provision of personnel for structure and facility inspections to determine the safety of individual structures (businesses, residences, and public buildings) and to identify needed repairs (or to implement condemnation procedures when necessary).
- Participate with representatives of other city departments on the City of Ouray damage assessment team at EOC and local-state field damage survey teams.

6.5.8.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Public Works Department

- Maintain all town-owned roadways and bridges in incorporated Ridgway.
- Provide staff, equipment, or assistance for emergency repairs to the city's public buildings, utilities, EOC, or other critical infrastructure.
- Restoration of damaged city roads, bridges, and other public services and facilities that fall under the regular maintenance requirement of public work responsibilities.
- Provision of personnel for structure and facility inspections to determine the safety of individual structures (businesses, residences, and public buildings) and to identify needed repairs (or to implement condemnation procedures when necessary).
- Participate with representatives of other town departments on the Town of Ridgway damage assessment team at EOC and on local-state field damage survey teams, as needed.

6.5.9 Information Technology (OIT) Departments

6.5.9.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all IT Departments

- Work with Emergency Management to rapidly establish an EOC during a Level 1 or Level 2 activation at the designated location.
- Work with the EOC, administration, elected officials, and other department heads on IT-related needs such as network access, Wi-Fi, printers, VoIP phones, and other services.
- Serve as the point of contact for purchasing any IT-related services or hardware (computers, switches, phones, etc.) requested by the command post, emergency management, or departments during a disaster response.
- Coordinate and manage firewalls and remote access to county-administered networks and services for staff who may be forced to activate alternate facilities or work from home during an emergency.
- Participate in the latest security training and deploy upgrades and enhancements to computer and network security across offices and departments, including security training for end users.
- Mobilize or obtain computers in new or temporary facilities if one or several offices need to be relocated.
- Provide information services and telecommunications support to EOC and, if necessary, the IC.

6.5.9.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County IT Department
- Coordinates needed actions to provide telecommunications and restore the telecommunications infrastructure for the Ouray County government.
- Supports all County agencies and County EOC in procuring and coordinating telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (OIT) industry during an incident.

6.5.9.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray IT Department
- Coordinates needed actions to provide telecommunications and restore the telecommunications infrastructure for the city government.
- Supports all City agencies and City EOC in procuring and coordinating telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industry during an incident.

6.5.9.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway IT Department
- Coordinates needed actions to provide telecommunications and restore the telecommunications infrastructure for the town government.
- Supports all Town agencies and Town EOC in procuring and coordinating telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industry during an incident.

6.5.10 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Departments
- Create real-time maps of the affected area, showing hazards, emergency resources, and evacuation routes.
- Identify and track the locations of emergency response teams, equipment, and facilities like hospitals or shelters.
- Provide visual data on areas impacted by natural disasters, helping to prioritize recovery efforts.
- Assist in disseminating accurate, location-specific information to residents, such as evacuation zones and shelter locations.
- Facilitate data sharing between local, state, and federal agencies for a coordinated emergency response.
- Support predictive analysis for natural disasters like floods, wildfires, or landslides to inform planning and mitigation strategies.
- Provide situational and incident maps to the IC or Emergency Management or response workers as needed. These maps may include but are not limited to, available data showing approximate property boundaries, approximate structure locations, property ownership, other pertinent property data maintained by the Ouray County Assessor's Office, geographic features, USGS topography, or other utilized data, or data collected by operations personnel
- Provide services during the incident when possible, such as scanning and printing large-scale maps and documents and coordinating GIS data acquisition from other counties, agencies, and databases supporting the incident.
- Upload and download GPS waypoints, tracks, and shape files for Incident Staff.

- Update GIS databases, online Maps, or an incident-specific workspace for Command and General Staff at the EOC/Command Post.
- Develop interactive ArcMap apps pre-disaster to have maps of infrastructure and commonly requested GIS layers ready to overlay disaster polygons on.
- Provide situational and incident maps to the IC or Emergency Management or response workers as needed.
    - These maps may include but are not limited to, available data showing approximate property boundaries, approximate structure locations, property ownership, other pertinent property data maintained by the Ouray County Assessor's Office, geographic features, USGS topography, or other utilized data, or data collected by operations personnel

6.5.11 Ouray County Health Care

6.5.11.1 Montrose Regional Health

Neither Ouray County nor its municipalities have a hospital. However, the Regional Hospital, Montrose Regional Health, serves the area. Although neither Ouray County nor the municipalities have jurisdiction over the hospital, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

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

- Report daily bed counts and any reportable diseases/incidents to CDPHE and EMResources as required by CDPHE.

6.5.11.2 Community Hospital (Grand Junction)

Community Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado, is the hospital that does all of Ouray County's autopsies and pathology. Though neither Ouray County nor the municipalities have jurisdiction over the hospital, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

- Provide pathology investigations,
- Acts as the morgue for Ouray County.

6.5.11.3 Medical Clinics

Like the Hospitals, Ouray County does not have jurisdiction over the local medical clinics. However, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

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

6.5.11.4   Mental Health Crisis Centers

Like the Hospitals, Ouray County does not have jurisdiction over the mental health crisis centers. However, through conversations and planning, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

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

6.5.12 Ouray County Human Services Department

- Ouray County Human Services advises the EOC, Emergency Management, the Board of County Commissioners, the Ouray City Council, and the Ridgway Town Council on all Human Services needs and concerns within the county and incorporated areas.
- Serves as the Emergency Support Function #6 lead in the EOC.

- Contribute to and guide the establishment and maintenance of mass care and sheltering annexes to the EOP on how the County can best assist the public before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.
- Work with the American Red Cross and emergency management to identify suitable emergency shelters in Ouray County, maintain a master list of shelters and contact information, and ensure the list is provided to Emergency Management.
- Assist in coordinating the overall efforts of volunteer organizations and other volunteers.
- In coordination with Incident Command, management of resources of emergent or spontaneous volunteers (i.e., match available resources with individual needs).
- Administration of Individual and Family Grant Program in presidentially declared disasters in Ouray County.
- Coordinate with the county manager to coordinate available county staff to accomplish emergency functions.
- Maintains the ability to manage response and recovery support operations using the command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Responsible for sheltering displaced families.
- Identify and maintain a list of suitable food points of distribution to enable families and groups to receive emergency food and water distribution in the event of a disaster.
- Provision of resources for stress counseling/crisis counseling for disaster victims and disaster relief workers, as needed.
- Implement the Individual/Family grant program and administer food stamp programs per state and federal law/guidelines following a state and/or Federal emergency disaster declaration.
- Provide staff to assist emergency personnel and emergency management at evacuation points, register incident victims and evacuees, and track information about missing family members.
- Provide technical assistance and personnel in the EOC as liaisons and guides for Human Services support. Worked with logistics on the ordering and shipment of emergency food supplies, sheltering needs, and other human services-related needs.
- Provide assistance in maintaining an Emergency Evacuation Plan; assist individuals with access and functional needs.

6.5.13 Ouray County Fairgrounds / Ouray County 4-H Event Center
- Serve as a Point of Distribution (POD) for state and federal resources.
- Provide shelter if needed.
  - Commercial kitchens may be utilized to provide food for sheltered citizens.
- Serve as a point of animal and livestock collection.
- Provide a Casualty Collection Point (CCP) if needed.
- Provide a staging area.
- Provide for a heliport or base.
- Allow for twenty-four-hour parking during a declared emergency.

6.5.14 Ouray County Facilities and Maintenance

- Conduct damage assessments on county facilities after an emergency and carry out necessary emergency repairs to ensure they are safe for use. Determine if a facility has suffered extensive damage and cannot be restored to operating condition without significant construction.
- Respond to emergencies involving county facilities, providing overnight access, conducting damage assessments, and addressing utility outages/issues such as gas leaks, broken pipes, power outages, leaking roofs, and damaged buildings.
- Support and coordinate using county facilities and other buildings as emergency shelters.
- Assist Emergency Management, EOC, or other department staff in moving equipment and setting up the EOC or other command centers at county-owned facilities.
- Aid the Road and Bridge department in debris removal and clearing public rights-of-way, prioritizing critical emergency lifeline routes.
- Supply the EOC with cleaning supplies and toiletries to ensure operations can continue for as long as necessary.
- Troubleshoot power, water, and heat needs for County properties.
- Maintain county shelters and provide personnel for their upkeep.
- Assist in cleaning, setting up, and moving equipment, office furniture, or other items to prepare county facilities for disaster response and community service, such as for community events, evacuation centers, command posts, logistic staging areas, or distribution centers.
- Provide technical assistance on county facilities and help facilitate access and modifications as needed.
- May be called upon to assist with debris management and removal at county facilities and/or support the County Road and bridge or other agencies in reopening critical infrastructure, roadways, and essential services.
- The Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor serves as a member of the logistics section in the EOC.
- Maintain the ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System

6.5.15 Ouray Mountain Rescue Team

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

6.5.16 Animal Control within Ouray County

Ouray County does not have an Animal Control Department. However, agreements are in place for the jurisdictional law enforcement office or department:

- Establish measures for animal control, including coordinating animal relief measures, their care, and the search for their owners within their jurisdiction.
- Assist the animal shelter manager with problems associated with displaced persons bringing pets to shelter facilities.

6.5.16.1 Domesticated Animals

Ouray County has an agreement to take and shelter cats and dogs to the Second Chance Humane Society Shelter as a primary response. Montrose County Sheriff's Animal Control can be called upon as a secondary measure. The Ouray County Fairground can be utilized to shelter large domesticated animals.

6.5.16.2 Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife assists Ouray County in cases where animal control is needed for wildlife (e.g., deer, bear, elk, and mountain lion).

6.5.17 Communications Center (Dispatch)

As mentioned in Section 3.7.4.3, Ouray County and its municipalities are served by three dispatch agencies: WestCO Dispatch, State Patrol Dispatch, and Montrose Interagency Dispatch. Dispatches primary responsibilities are as follows:

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

6.5.18 American Red Cross / Salvation Army

- Provide immediate assistance to disaster victims, including food, water, shelter, clothes, physical and mental health counseling, and referrals.
- Establish and manage emergency shelters for mass care in cooperation with Ouray County Emergency Management and affected municipalities. This includes registration, feeding, lodging, and responding to public inquiries concerning shelter residents (establish public inquiry telephones).
- Provision of temporary and immediate housing for displaced disaster victims.

- Provide food, beverages, and other assistance to emergency response personnel and relief workers.
- Provide training to volunteers before an emergency or disaster declaration
- Provide on-site training to volunteers during an emergency or disaster declaration
- Provision of damage assessment information upon request.
- Coordinate mental health services (in cooperation with Ouray County Human Services Department).

6.5.19 Colorado Department of Transportation
- Supply heavy equipment.
- Provide traffic control on state highways.
- Assist road and bridge and public works with road maintenance when requested.
- Provide a representative to EOC and or ICP as needed.

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

6.5.21 Colorado State Patrol (CSP)
Neither Ouray County nor the municipalities have jurisdiction over CSP. However, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

- Promote safety and enforce Colorado's Title 42 traffic code on highways during and after an emergency or disaster in Ouray County or its municipalities.
- Respond to and investigate motor vehicle collisions on state highways and county roadways within unincorporated Ouray County.
- During an emergency or disaster and evacuations, provide scene security at roadblocks and close highways or roadways except to authorized personnel.
- Respond to and manage hazardous materials incidents on state highways and public roadways in unincorporated Ouray County.
- Respond to and assist with Civil Unrest.
- Provide dignitary planning and protection details.

6.5.22 Special Districts
6.5.22.1 School Districts
- Responsible for all planning and decisions related to the safety and security of students and staff in all school district facilities across Ouray County.

- School District Administration personnel should be involved in the ICP and/or EOC in the event of an incident affecting a school, such as an Active Shooter or other emergency requiring shelter in place or evacuation of a school/property.
- Prepare and maintain an Emergency Management Plan for the School District in accordance with State and Federal Education and emergency management guidelines.
- Plan and conduct training exercises with local public safety organizations to ensure the safety and protection of pupils and school personnel.
- Coordinate with Emergency Management, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, to provide schools as temporary shelters when needed.
- Work with Emergency Management, Ouray County Human Services, and the American Red Cross to activate emergency shelters at School District properties as identified by the American Red Cross.
- Coordinate with Human Services and the American Red Cross to feed and house displaced persons at school-based emergency shelters and/or evacuation points.
- Provision school buses to evacuate individuals with access and functional needs during an emergency or disaster.
- Provide buses for evacuation and transportation when needed.
- Develop and maintain Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations Plans.
- Maintain the department's ability to manage and recover support operations using command and management principles, as the National Incident Management System outlines.

6.5.22.2   Public Utilities

Neither Ouray County nor the municipalities have jurisdiction over the local public utilities. However, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

- Utility companies and private industry are essential in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Utility companies such as electric, gas, and phone infrastructure are critical infrastructure and should be protected before, during, and after incidents. Repairs and restoration of services will be a top priority.
- Companies should identify liaisons to work with Emergency Management and other first responders and provide 24/7 contact information to dispatch emergency notifications. To foster strong working relationships, these agencies will be invited to Multi-Agency Coordination Groups so agencies and industry reps can develop strong working relationships before an incident occurs.
- During disaster response/emergencies, companies should deploy a liaison to the EOC or a direct line to a representative to best maintain open communication lines about service restoration, outage areas, damage estimates, and other needs.
- Assist in issuing emergency warnings and outage notices and responding to service calls, outage reports, and safety disconnects of gas/power for residents.
- Develop and maintain emergency operations plans, participate in training/exercises with local officials, collaborate on planning, such as the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and file any required Tier II reports for hazardous substances.

- Determine availability, quantity, and procedures to obtain sandbags in coordination with emergency management.
- Clear emergency routes and arterial streets of debris in cooperation with Public Works to facilitate the movement of emergency equipment.
- Provide material for earthen dikes.
- Provide potable water for drinking, if required.
- Advise resource members of anticipated needs and support required.
- Coordinate and compile damage reports from damage assessment teams and advise coordination and control groups

6.5.22.3   Water Districts

Neither Ouray County nor the municipalities have jurisdiction over the local water districts. However, some reasonable expectations can be listed:

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

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

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

6.6 Individual Roles and Responsibilities
In a disaster or emergency, clearly defining a department's responsibility helps staff communicate their priorities and prioritize tasks related to the incident objectives and serving the citizens of Ouray County. The following is a summary of areas of responsibility and roles that county, city, and town-level departments may be tasked with during an emergency or disaster event. Department heads and elected heads should understand this list is not all-encompassing, as every incident is fluid with different circumstances, and leadership in each department should be ready to adjust operations accordingly. An emergency is sudden and may strike at any time, day or night, and may affect operations and the department's ability to work out of remote or new office space, depending on the needs and requirements of the emergency.

6.6.1 Responsibilities for All County, City, and Town Departments
- All county municipalities, departments, agencies, directors, and special districts are responsible for developing their internal procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans. Assessment of emergency conditions and determination of immediate and ongoing needs or assistance from county and/or outside sources.
- Work to ensure all staff have a current issued ID badge (Salamander technologies) with an up-to-date photo and the ID isn't expired.
- Ensure Human Resources has a correct list of all employees, titles, and pay rates (hourly, overtime, and exempt) each year and that the list is provided to Emergency Management to update and maintain the credentialing system. Titles, pay rates, and certifications are essential as the system tracks hours worked and the cost to the county for paying employees.

- Support EOC activation and daily operations to ensure the county, city, and/or town provides for the safety and protection of all residents, non-residents, and visitors.
- Ensure they have an up-to-date Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan establishing an ongoing chain of succession and/or delegation of authority for each department and division.
- Ensure their staff are trained in the line of succession and duties in an emergency response.
- Develop and maintain Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operation Plans.
- Developing internal alert and notification procedures for departmental personnel.
- Tracking incident-related costs incurred by the department in coordination with the EOC Finance Section and/or their jurisdiction's finance director. This includes staff time, overtime, purchases, contracts initiated or modified, copies, mileage, and use of county or personal vehicles for duties and other expenses as required to be tracked by finance.
- Every department head and elected official is responsible for submitting expenditure reports in accordance with financial management practices as outlined in this plan, finance policies, and per FEMA guidelines for the incident.
- Ensure that vehicles and/or other equipment assigned to the department that may be required in an emergency are equipped and ready to go in accordance with department policies.
- Notifying the EOC Manager and/or Emergency Manager of resource shortfalls in your department and how the shortfalls will affect the incident.
- Assign staff to the EOC as required by this plan or requested by the jurisdiction's Manager or administrator.
- Ensure staff required to participate in emergency response complete the FEMA NIMS and ICS Training.
- Allow staff called upon in an emergency to work in the EOC to participate in training exercises and courses.
- Each department, office, and agency should develop and maintain standard operating procedures (SOPs) to achieve their roles and responsibilities outlined in this Plan.
- Department heads and elected officials should provide information and coordinate public announcements, official statements, or press releases through the EOC and the Public Information Officer and/or Joint Information Center (JIC) during an EOC activation.
- Maintain the ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Consider Access and Functional Needs (AFN) issues so that planning, response, and recovery efforts support the needs of people with disabilities.

6.6.2 Councils and Commissioners

6.6.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Council or Commissioner Boards
- Approval and commitment of jurisdictions' resources and funds for disasters or emergencies.

- Serve as members of the Policy Group with local, regional, state, and federal agency representatives or agency heads during the activation of the EOC and have authority to direct resources as required and necessary, consistent with this plan.
- Formulate directives to county departments and personnel regarding changes in regular duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed (implemented by the Jurisdictions Manager/Administrator).
- Issuance of official orders or proclamations regarding population protection or temporary social restrictions, such as evacuation orders, enactment of price controls, or establishment of curfew.
- Issuance of formal requests to the Governor's Office (through Colorado DEM) to declare a state emergency to obtain state and/or federal assistance.

6.6.2.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ouray Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

- Approve emergency financial purchases as requested and warranted by the emergency or disaster, per the Ouray County Purchasing and Disaster Policies

6.6.2.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ouray City Council

- Formal declaration of a city emergency or disaster to the Ouray County Emergency Manager. The emergency manager will submit to the governor's office to declare an emergency in the City of Ouray to obtain state and/or federal assistance.
- Development and maintenance of Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operation Plans.
- In the case of displacement from City Hall, the Ouray City Council will meet at a posted designated location within the City of Ouray (if possible) for regular meetings and at the designated policy group post for emergency meetings.

6.6.2.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ridgway Town Council

- Formal declaration of a Town emergency or disaster to the Ouray County Emergency Manager. The emergency manager will submit to the governor's office to declare an emergency in the Town of Ridgway to obtain state and/or federal assistance.
- In the case of displacement from Town Hall, the Ridgway Town Council will meet at a posted designated location within the Town of Ridgway (if possible) for regular meetings and at the designated policy group post for emergency meetings

6.6.3   Clerks

6.6.3.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Clerks

- Provide the safekeeping of vital records, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines, master equipment lists, etc.
- Participate with other departmental representatives in establishing and maintaining an incident-related financial recordkeeping system.

6.6.3.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County Clerk and Recorder

- Receipt and filing of any orders or proclamations declaring, continuing, or terminating an emergency or disaster for any jurisdiction or special district within Ouray County.

- Maintain the ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Consider Access and Functional Needs (AFN) issues so that planning, response, and recovery efforts support the needs of people with disabilities.

6.6.3.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Clerk

- The role of clerk/treasurer in the city of Ouray is done by the Finance and Administrative Services Director. See their roles under the Finance Director.
- Receive and file any orders or proclamations declaring, continuing, or terminating a City of Ouray emergency or disaster.

6.6.3.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Clerk/Treasurer

- Receive and file any orders or proclamations declaring, continuing, or terminating a Town of Ridgway emergency or disaster.

6.6.4 Treasurers

6.6.4.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Treasurers

- Provide and maintain financial records for their jurisdiction's disaster or emergency.
- Create a line item specific to any declared disaster or emergency to track expenses and revenues accurately.

6.6.4.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Treasurer

- The role of clerk/treasurer in the city of Ouray is done by the Finance and Administrative Services Director. See their roles under the Finance Director.

6.6.4.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Treasurer

- Ridgway's Treasurer is also its clerk.

6.6.5 Ouray County Emergency Manager

- The Emergency Manager is responsible for the planning, coordination, and execution of local pre- and post-disaster services per *C.R.S. 24-33.5-707* within both unincorporated and incorporated Ouray County.
- Assess the emergency and make recommendations to the County Manager and/or Sheriff concerning the need for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews, or other temporary social restrictions.
- Coordinate resources to support the needs and requests presented by incidents.
- Activation and serves as manager of the Ouray County EOC.
- Provide technical support to EOC staff and other county personnel with respect to resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions as needed.
- Coordinate mutual aid documentation and assistance resources.
- Assess the emergency and recommend to the Sheriff, City Council, Town Council, and County Commissioners regarding the need for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews, or other temporary social restrictions.
- Assist PIOs in the implementation of available public warning measures.

- Provision of emergency public information and establishment of procedures for releases of disaster-related information to include casualties.
- Establishment of locations for temporary shelters in cooperation with the American Red Cross.
- Establish communications with Colorado EM to provide situation reports and forward requests for state assistance via WebEOC and other resources.
- Notification of emergency personnel (maintenance of contacts outside the Sheriff's Office).
- Prepare situation reports and damage assessment reports for the City Council, Town Council, County Commissioners, and State Emergency Management.
- Coordinate support for resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions.
- Plan maintenance, training, and exercises.
- Plan maintenance, scheduling, and conducting of training and exercises.
- Maintain a list of NIMS training for all county employees.
- In the case of displacement from the Ouray County Courthouse, the Emergency Manager will operate from the EOC or out of a home office.

6.6.6 Managers and Administrators

6.6.6.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Managers and Administrators
- Coordinate their jurisdictions' departments and staff supporting a disaster or emergency.
- Receive or solicit assistance from the EOC/ Emergency Management and/or the ICP and coordinate requests for resources and staff from internal sources first and external sources second.
- Coordinate, commit, and direct government activities supporting emergency or disaster relief efforts.
- Serve as a liaison between the EOC, Emergency Manager, their policymakers, and other elected/agency heads that comprise the Policy Group on decisions critical to the mission, such as evacuation orders, purchasing decisions, and matters of public policy.
- Issuance of directives to County departments and personnel regarding changes in regular duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed.
- Provide personnel for structure and facility inspections to determine the safety of individual structures (businesses, residences, and public buildings), identify needed repairs, or implement condemnation procedures when necessary.
- Obtaining technical support for resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions.
- Development and maintenance of Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations plans.

- Maintain the department's ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principles, as outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Participate in EOC's county damage assessment team and local/state field damage survey teams.
- Assist emergency management with emergency plan maintenance, plan training, and plan exercises.
- Serve as a point of contact, coordinate with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) during response and recovery and provide their policy boards with expertise on business recovery.
- Facilitate restoration of public facilities, services, and utilities.
- Intergovernmental liaison and initiation of formal requests for outside assistance from other local jurisdictions.

6.6.6.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County Manager

- Formally declare an emergency or disaster in accordance with this plan, Ouray County *Resolution #2024-043* and C.R.S *24-33.5-709*, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) and issue emergency declarations as needed and requested by Emergency Management, the Ouray County Sheriff or County Manager to preserve and protect life, public safety and property.
- Coordinate with and provide guidance and wording for official press releases to the County Public Information Officer and Emergency Manager, supporting them as needed.
- Assist the Sheriff, the EOC, the Emergency Manager, and the BOCC as needed.
- Approval of County resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Facilitate restoration of County public facilities, services, and utilities.

6.6.6.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Administrator

- Activation and management of the City EOC.
- Emergency assessment and recommendations to the City Council concerning the need for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews, or other temporary social restrictions.
- Prepare situation and damage assessment reports.
- Establish communications with Ouray County Emergency Management to provide situation reports and forward requests for state assistance.
- Approval of city resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes as authorized by the City Council.
- As needed, assist the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Incident Commander, the EOC, and the City Council.
- Facilitate restoration of City public facilities, services, and utilities.
- Assist Ouray County Public Health Agency with any of its roles and responsibilities related to the city.
- Assist Ouray County Human Services with any of its roles and responsibilities related to the city.

6.6.5.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ridgway Town Manager

- Activate and manage the Town of Ridgway EOC.
- Emergency assessment and recommendations to the Town Council concerning the need for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews, or other temporary social restrictions.
- Prepare situation and damage assessment reports.
- Establish communications with Ouray County Emergency Management to provide situation reports and forward requests for state assistance.
- Approval of Town resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes as authorized by the Town Council.
- Assist the Town Marshal, Fire Chief, Incident Commander, and the Town Council as needed.
- Facilitate restoration of Town public facilities, services, and utilities.
- Support and coordinate utilizing Town facilities and other buildings as emergency shelters.
- Assist Ouray County Public Health Agency with any roles and responsibilities related to Ridgway.
- Assist Ouray County Human Services with any of its roles and responsibilities related to Ridgway.

6.6.7 Law Enforcement Leads

6.6.7.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Law Enforcement Leads

- Implement the Incident Command System (ICS), including determining the locations of Incident Command Posts (ICPs) and establishing necessary positions and functions (e.g., planning, finance, logistics, operations, and public information).
- Implement available public warning measures; Coordinate support for resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions, as needed.
- Coordinate with Emergency Management, the EOC, and the Incident Commander or Unified Command team to gather situational awareness and recommendations from on-scene command. Relay those recommendations to the policy group and EOC regarding decisions on local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, evacuation orders, shelter-in-place orders, or other temporary social restrictions.
- Assessments of emergency conditions and determine resource needs. Needs can be filled with requests from county, mutual aid, or outside agency resources.
- Implement available public warning measures.
- Provide emergency public information and establish procedures for releases of disaster-related information, including casualties.
- Coordinate communications and provision of communications staff support for field command post(s).
- Coordinate volunteer amateur radio resources to augment primary communications and provide backup capabilities.
- Coordinate mutual aid documentation and assistance resources.

- Collect information from partners and the situation and determine whether evacuations are required based on the current or future circumstances of the emergency to preserve and protect life and public safety. Provide instructions to law enforcement personnel regarding evacuation operations.
- Establish communications with Co-DHSEM and Ouray County Emergency Management to provide situation reports and forward requests for state assistance via WebEOC and other resources.
- Provide law enforcement, traffic control, and access control within the county's disaster area(s) and any other needed areas.
- Provide security measures at ICP, EOC, temporary emergency shelters, temporary morgues, and in evacuated, disaster or emergency-impacted areas, if available.
- Provide technical support to EOC staff and other city and town personnel regarding resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions.
- Maintain the department's ability to manage response and recovery support operations using command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Hazardous materials training, planning, response, and cleanup in cooperation with fire agencies.
- Make photographic or video records of damage.
- Commit personnel as directed to assist with evacuation, shelters, Coroner's Office, or other needed locations to support their operations.
- Establish measures for animal control, including coordinating animal relief measures, assuring their care, and searching for their owners.
- Review, activate, and update law enforcement mutual aid agreements to ensure county resources are available to the Incident Commander as needed during an incident.
- Maintain accurate Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) lists of available equipment for deployment locally (within the County), regionally, state-wide, and nationally. CRRF forms must be updated through WebEOC each year.
- Provide investigative support to the National Transportation Safety Board/FAA and other investigative agencies in manmade disasters.
- Assist emergency management with emergency plan maintenance, plan training, and plan exercises.

6.6.7.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County Sheriff
- The Sheriff, Undersheriff, or designee will serve as the Law Enforcement Representative to the EOC under Emergency Support Function #13.
- Serve as Code Enforcement Director for Ouray County.
- Maintaining law and order throughout Ouray County. The Sheriff's Authority and duties cannot be delegated.
- Conduct and coordinate search and rescue operations utilizing Ouray County Mountain Rescue.
- Assess the need for the use of the Emergency Spending Authority.

- Provide aviation support, including, but not limited to, search and rescue, rapid transportation, and aerial observation.
- Coordinate wildland fire suppression in unincorporated areas of Ouray County.
- Serve as the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for hazardous material incidents within the unincorporated Ouray County.

6.6.7.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ouray Police Chief
- Conduct and coordinate search and rescue operations through request of the Sheriff's Department.
- Provide law enforcement, traffic control, and access control within the disaster area(s) and other areas of the city.
- Coordinate wildland fire suppression in conjunction with DFPC.
- Coordinate all wired and radio communications with the EOC and communications center.
- Provision of communications staff support for field Command Post(s) and/or EOC as needed.
- Notify emergency personnel (maintenance of contacts outside the Police Department);
- Prepare situation reports and damage assessment reports for the Emergency Manager, City Administrator, City Council, and State Emergency Management.

6.6.7.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ridgway Marshal
- Conduct and coordinate search and rescue operations through request of the Sheriff's Department.
- Determine the need for population evacuations and provision of instructions to uniformed law enforcement personnel regarding evacuation operations.
- Coordinate wildland fire suppression in conjunction with DFPC.
- Assess emergency conditions and determine immediate and ongoing needs or assistance from the County and/or outside sources.
- Notify emergency personnel (maintenance of contacts outside the Marshal Office).
- Prepare situation reports and damage assessment reports for the Emergency Manager, Town Manager, Town Council, and State Emergency Management.

6.6.8 Fire Chiefs
- Coordinate mutual aid assistance.
- Provide emergency public information and establishment procedures for releases of disaster-related information to news media, including casualties.
- Assess the emergency recommendation to county and/or municipal officials concerning the need for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews, or other temporary social restrictions.
- Serve as the lead point of contact for the fire department and incident commander or member of a unified command for fires in their jurisdiction.
- Direct resources on fires, including personnel and apparatus, order resources via logistics and the EOC, and enact mutual aid agreements. Responsible for negotiating

cost-share agreements with fire agencies at the local, regional, state, and federal levels and negotiating fire response contracts.

- Fire Chiefs may be appointed the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for hazmat and extremely hazardous substance response within city limits. The designation of the DERA varies from municipality to municipality.

6.6.9   Human Resource Directors

6.6.9.1 Roles and Responsibilities for all Human Resource Directors

- Work with the Emergency Manager during non-disaster times to enter all new hires into the Ouray County Alerts and Salamander systems so their credentials and contact information are accurate and up to date in an emergency.
- Assist the EOC and government departments in volunteer management, including verifying qualifications, background checks if required, ID cards, timecards, and liability waivers.
- Assist their manager/administrator in communicating changes in work hours, restrictions, or policies to county employees during a disaster or emergency.
- Assist during a disaster/emergency by providing documentation and records regarding worker's compensation and tracking equipment damage claims.
- Ensure adequate timesheets are kept and recorded for all Volunteers from the start of the incident.
- Ensure adequate timesheets are kept and recorded for all County Employees from the start of the incident.
- Prepare medical care compensation information for injured County employees through Worker's Compensation Plans.

6.6.9.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County Human Resource Director

- The County Payroll department will support the finance director with accounting-related tasks associated with accounts receivable and accounts payable during disaster declarations, manage payroll, and be the point person for timesheets and documentation related to payroll for all county departments.
- Assist the County in returning to expected productivity.

6.6.9.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Human Resource Director

- Assist the City in returning to its expected productivity.

6.6.9.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Human Resource Director

- Assist the Town in returning to its expected productivity.

6.6.10   Finance Directors/CFOs

6.6.10.1   Roles and Responsibilities for all Finance Directors/CFOs

- Prepare documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources.
- The finance departments will assist in reviewing and updating the EOP, disaster finance policies, county purchasing policy, and policies related to tracking all expenses, time, and mileage by county and/or municipal staff and incident staff during an emergency so

the county, municipalities, and appropriate agencies can seek reimbursement through Public Assistance if necessary.

- The Finance Director will serve as the Finance Section Chief during a declared emergency or disaster in their jurisdiction and when the EOC and Incident Management Systems are active.
- The finance director will work in the EOC and assist with the following:
    - Tracking of all expenses per FEMA, DHSEM, and DOLA guidelines.
    - Work with Emergency Management to track time.
    - Work with department heads, county/municipal administration, and emergency management to compile, prepare, and present supporting information and documentation for county requests to the State of Colorado and FEMA public assistance programs as appropriate.
    - Participate on the county/municipal damage assessment team at EOC and local-state field damage survey teams.
- Establish and maintain an incident-related financial record-keeping system.

6.6.10.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County CFO and Finance Director

The county manager serves as the county's CFO. Their specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Maintain the ability to manage or assist response and recovery support operations using command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.

6.6.10.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Finance Director/CFO

The Finance and Administrative Services Director oversees the City of Ouray's CFO duties. Their specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:
- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the City Council.
- Responsible for resource tracking, record-keeping, and documentation of disaster-related costs and financial commitments.
- Participate on the City of Ouray Damage Assessment Team at EOC and on local-state field damage survey teams.

6.6.10.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Finance Director/CFO

The town manager serves as the Town of Ridgway's Finance Director and CFO. Their specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:
- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Town Council.

- Responsible for resource tracking, record-keeping, and documentation of disaster-related costs and financial commitments.
- Participate in the Town of Ridgway Damage Assessment Team at EOC and on local-state field damage survey teams.

6.6.11 Planning Directors

6.6.11.1   Roles and Responsibilities for all Planning Directors

- Provide personnel for structure and facility inspections in conjunction with municipal partners to determine the safety of individual structures (businesses, residences, and public buildings), including during rescue operations, and identify needed repairs (or to implement condemnation procedures when necessary).
- Following natural disasters and wildfires, assist the EOC, DEM, and Assessor's Office in conducting damage assessments, recording damaged personal property, and then participating in public hearings to be a resource for the public.
- Participate in long-term disaster recovery and hazard mitigation planning and enforcement to ensure the compatibility of community redevelopment plans and hazard mitigation measures with comprehensive Land Use Codes and other community development plans.
- Provide public education materials related to community disaster recovery and citizens' reentry into disaster-impacted structures and neighborhoods (e.g., safety of stored goods, removal of mildew, cleaning of smoke damages, etc.).
- Maintain the department's ability to manage response and recovery support operations using the command and management principles outlined in the National Incident Management System.
- Update codes for preventive measures in the future.
- During the recovery phase, present at public meetings, be a resource for affected and displaced individuals, and provide resources for recovery operations, including rebuilding roads, driveways, and/or private structures.

6.6.11.2 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to Ouray County Planning Director

- Participation with other departmental representatives on the County Damage Assessment Team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams.
- Based on the nature of an emergency, may be required to meet with BOCC and the planning commission and adjust the land use code and application requirements to expedite recovery and document damages for FEMA.

6.6.11.3   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Planning Director

The Community Development Coordinator fills the role of planning director in the City of Ouray. Their specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Participation with other departmental representatives on the City Damage Assessment Team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams.
- Based on the nature of an emergency, may be required to meet with the city council and the planning commission and adjust the land use code and application requirements to expedite recovery and document damages for FEMA.

6.6.11.4   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Planning Director
The Community Development Coordinator fills the role of planning director in the Town of Ridgway. Their specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Participation with other departmental representatives on the Town Damage Assessment Team at EOC and local/state field damage survey teams, as needed.
- Based on the nature of an emergency, may be required to meet with the town council and the planning commission and adjust the land use code and application requirements to expedite recovery and document damages for FEMA.

6.6.12 Ouray County Assessor
- Along with the Damage Assessment Team, and once safe to do so, the Assessor will respond into the field and perform preliminary damage assessments and maintain a list of all parcels in the affected area and whether they were damaged or not. If damaged, appraisal staff will note the extent to which the property and/or residence is damaged and provide an estimate to Incident Management, the Board of County Commissioners, and Emergency Management.
- During a disaster such as a wildfire or a flood, the Assessor's office will assist the EOC and Incident Command Team or command post in identifying parcels, owners, and contact information and maintaining an official record of property damage.
- Coordinate with the local planners to update future property codes and regulations for preventive measures.
- The Assessor's Office staff will work on developing and maintaining a damage assessment plan in cooperation with administration and emergency management, which adheres to state and federal guidance from DHSEM and FEMA.
- Following disaster and damage estimates, the Assessor's Office staff will update property records to reflect any re-evaluations of the property and loss of structures to maintain official records per training and guidance from FEMA, state laws, and federal laws.
- State law permits a temporary facility to be established within the city of Ouray (the county seat) for the Ouray County Assessor's operations in the case of displacement.

6.6.13 Information Technology (IT) Directors
Today's work environment requires robust technology services for all departments, and IT-related outages of servers, internet, VPNs, and other services can cripple departments. The IT directors should work with emergency management and all elected and department heads on backup plans/continuity of operation plans for disaster situations.

6.6.13.1   Roles and Responsibilities for all IT Directors
- Work with department heads and elected officials on planning and budgeting for upgrades to employees' critical services, hardware, software, and remote work capabilities.
- Provide information services and telecommunications support to EOC and, if necessary, the ICP.

6.6.13.2   Roles and responsibilities specific to Ouray County IT Director

- Participate in MAC Group meetings and planning for the county continuity of operations for all departments.
- Participate in the latest security training and deploy upgrades and enhancements to computer and network security across county departments including security training for end users.
- Coordinate needed actions to provide telecommunications and restore the telecommunications infrastructure for the county government.
- Support all county agencies and the county EOC in procuring and coordinating telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industry during an incident.

6.6.13.3   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray IT Director

- Participate in MAC Group meetings and planning for the city continuity of operations for all departments.
- Participate in the latest security training and deploy upgrades and enhancements to computer and network security across city departments, including security training for end users.
- Coordinate needed actions to provide telecommunications and restore the telecommunications infrastructure for the city government.
- Support all city agencies and the city EOC in procuring and coordinating telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industry during an incident.

6.6.13.4   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway IT Director

- Participate in MAC Group meetings and planning for the town continuity of operations for all departments.
- Participate in the latest security training and deploy upgrades and enhancements to computer and network security across town departments, including security training for end users.
- Coordinate needed actions to provide telecommunications and restore the telecommunications infrastructure for the town government.
- Support all town agencies and the town EOC in procuring and coordinating telecommunication services from the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industry during an incident.

6.6.14 Attorneys

6.6.14.1   Roles and Responsibilities for all Attorneys

- Draft and/or review emergency contracts, memoranda of understanding, and inter-governmental agreements.
- Prepare legal documents (disaster declarations, resolutions, or regulations required to facilitate emergency operations) as needed and requested

6.6.14.2   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ouray County Attorneys

- Provide advice and counsel to the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager, Sheriff, Emergency Management, EOC, and other County officials before, during, and after a disaster in Ouray County.
- Serves in the county EOC as a legal representative, reviews contracts and purchase requests from logistics and other emergency support, and works as requested to support the policy group, county manager, and emergency management.

6.6.14.3   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray Attorney

- Provide legal counsel and assistance to City Council and other city officials before, during, and after disaster and emergency incidents.
- Serves in the city EOC as a legal representative, reviews contracts and purchase requests from logistics and other emergency support, and works as requested to support the policy group, county manager, and emergency management.

6.6.14.4   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway Attorney

- Provide legal counsel and assistance to the Town Council and other town officials before, during, and after disaster and emergency incidents in the Town, as needed and requested.
- Serves in the town EOC as a legal representative, reviews contracts and purchase requests from logistics and other emergency support, and works as requested to support the policy group, county manager, and emergency management.

6.6.15 Public Information Officers (PIO)

6.6.15.1   Roles and Responsibilities for all PIOs

- Assist with media or other public communications.
- Coordinate and activate the Joint Information System and Joint Information Center (JIC) if required by the incident and Incident Command Team.
- Prepare and distribute social media releases, graphics, and photographs of the incident for public awareness and agency partners.
- Participate in command meetings and provide input and guidance on media relations, statements, and public information needs.
- Work with agency liaisons to gather intelligence and release vetted statements to partner agencies for distribution.
- Provide emergency public information and establish procedures for coordinated releases of disaster-related information to news media and the public.
- Maintain a list of Press Contacts (local, state, and national).
- Attend training every two years for the PIO position, as SOPs continually change.
- Ensure that the Assessor is included in any public Q&A/informational meetings for the affected property owners so that my office has a presence if there are valuation/taxation questions regarding their destroyed property.

6.6.15.2   Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Ouray County PIO

- Draft official releases, statements, and interviews to support the county, EOC, and incident command.

- Assist the EOC and responsible county departments in activating a call center/hotline or event-specific email and social media pages.

6.6.15.3 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the City of Ouray PIO

- Draft official releases, statements, and interviews to support the city, EOC, and incident command.
- Assist the EOC and responsible city departments in activating a call center/hotline or event-specific email and social media pages.

6.6.15.4 Roles and Responsibilities Specific to the Town of Ridgway PIO

- Draft official releases, statements, and interviews to support the town, EOC, and incident command.
- Assist the EOC and responsible town departments in activating a call center/hotline or event-specific email and social media pages.

6.6.16 Public Telecommunications Coordinator

- Coordinate volunteer amateur radio resources used for backup communications.
- Maintain operational radio communications.
- Coordinate all wired and radio communications with the EOC and communications center.
- Provide communications staff support for field Command Post(s) and/or EOC as needed;

6.6.17 Engineer

- Provide technical and engineering services and support to departments, offices, agencies, and special districts.
- Develop water and sewer expansion plans, roadway and drainage improvements, and various projects.
- Deal with State and Federal permitting agencies, manage and administer construction projects, and submit applications for State and Federal funding for road, water, sewer, and landfill projects.

7 ESFS AND COMMUNITY LIFELINES

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

The National Response Framework (NRF), written by FEMA, established the Emergency Support Functions, commonly known simply as ESFs, to structure the federal government's response to disasters. The ESF structure includes 15 ESFs that guide the coordination and response of federal agencies, departments, and support agencies such as non-governmental agencies.

The National Response Framework, 4th Edition v. 2019, incorporated the FEMA Community Lifelines concept and stressed the importance of lifelines at all response levels. The NRF states, "Stabilizing community lifelines is the primary effort during the response to lessen threats and hazards to public health and safety, the economy, and security. Together, the community

lifelines reframe incident information to provide decision-makers with the root cause and impact analysis" (FEMA, 2019).

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

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

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

No agency, department, office, or individual can respond to or manage a disaster alone. As outlined in this plan, the EOC activation level and needs of an incident will dictate what ESFs are activated and respond to support the EOC and incident response.

7.1   Primary & Secondary Response Function Matrix for ESFs

The following Table 7.1 shows the ESFs assigned to Ouray County (Brown), the City of Ouray (Orange), and the Town of Ridgway (Green). ESF-1-15 are standard FEMA ESFs, and ESF-2A, Finance, was added for Ouray County at the request of the Finance Section Chief.

Table 21: ESFs Assigned to Ouray County and its Municipalities

ESF #	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD:	SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT	SUPPORTING AGENCIES:
ESF-1	TRANSPORTATION	**Ouray County Road & Bridge** **Ouray County Engineer** **Ouray Public Works** **Ridgway Public Works**	Administration Emergency Management Public Information Policy Boards Finance Maintenance and Facilities	CDOT Municipal Public Works OSD R-1 – Transportation RSD R-2 Transportation Fire Departments Colorado State Patrol Private Contractors

ESF #	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD:	SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT	SUPPORTING AGENCIES:
ESF-2	COMMUNICATIONS	Public Telecommunications Contractor Ouray County IT Police Chief Town Marshal	Administration Emergency Management Facilities and Maintenance Finance Local Law Enforcement	DHSEM CCNC/CO DTR Network Century Link Verizon/AT&T/T-Mobile TDS Telecom Regional PSAPS AM/FM Radio Broadcasters AuxCom Volunteers
ESF-3	PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING	Ouray County Road & Bridge Ouray County Engineer Ouray Public Works Ridgway Public Works	Administration Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Public Health GIS Finance Maintenance and Facilities	DHSEM WestCO Dispatch CDOT Ouray Public Works Ridgway Public Works Private Contractors Utility Companies
ESF-4	FIRE SERVICES	Ouray County Sheriff Fire Chiefs Ouray Fire Chief Town Marshal Ridgway Fire Chief	Administration Policy Boards Emergency Management Public Health Road & Bridge / Public Works GIS Finance	Ouray Volunteer Fire Dept. Ridgway Fire District Loghill Mesa Fire District Montrose Fire District DHSEM WestCO Dispatch DFPC Private Contractors Elected Officials USFS BLM Olathe Spray Service Local Police Departments West All Hazards Region West Region Wildfire Council
ESF-5	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	Ouray County Emergency Management Police Chief Ouray County Emergency Management Town Marshal Ouray County Emergency Management	Administration PIO BOCC Law Enforcement Finance Road & Bridge Engineering Public Health 4H Event Center/Fairground	DHSEM DFPC USFS BLM WestCO Dispatch Elected Officials Police Departments West All Hazards Region West Region Wildfire Council American Red Cross AuxCom Volunteers OSD R-1 RSD R-2 Utility Companies

ESF #	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD:	SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT	SUPPORTING AGENCIES:
ESF-6	MASS CARE HUMAN SERVICES & SHELTERING	Ouray County Human Services American Red Cross City Administrator American Red Cross Ouray County Human Services Town Manager American Red Cross Ouray County Human Services	County Manager BOCC 4H Event Center/Fairground OSD R-1 RSD R-2 PIO Sheriff's Office Finance Public Health Facilities and Maintenance	DHSEM Elected Officials WR Healthcare Coalition Region 10 WestCO Dispatch Volunteers Private Sector Businesses
ESF-7A	LOGISTICS & RESOURCE SUPPORT	Ouray County Emergency Management	Administration PIO Sheriff's Office Public Health Facilities and Maintenance Road & Bridge Coroner 4H Event Center/Fairground	WestCO Dispatch DHSEM DFPC State & Federal Agencies Elected Officials WR Health Care Coalition OSD R-1 RSD R-2 Region 10 CSU Extension Private Sector
		Police Chief	County Emergency Management Administration PIO Public Health Public Works Coroner	
		Ridgway Marshal	County Emergency Management Administration PIO Public Health Public Works Coroner	
ESF-7B (O.C. only)	FINANCE SUPPORT	Ouray County CFO Staff Member	BOCC Sheriff's Office Administrative Staff Human Resources	DHSEM DOLA Ouray Finance Section Chief Ridgway Finance Section Chief

ESF #	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD:	SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT	SUPPORTING AGENCIES:
ESF-8	PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL	**Ouray County Public Health Agency**	County Manager Board of Health BOCC Emergency Management OCEMS PIO/JIC Finance Maintenance and Facilities 4H Event Center/Fairground Coroner	WestCO Dispatch DHSEM CDPHE State & Federal Agencies Elected officials WR Healthcare Coalition WRETAC Volunteers/Private Sector
		City Administrator	Administration County Public Health Emergency Management OCEMS PIO/JIC Coroner	
		Town Manager	Administration County Public Health Emergency Management OCEMS PIO/JIC Coroner	
ESF-9	SEARCH AND RESCUE	**Ouray County Sheriff** **Ouray Mountain Rescue** **Ouray County Sheriff** **Ouray Mountain Rescue** **Ouray County Sheriff** **Ouray Mountain Rescue**	PIO County Manager BOCC Finance Emergency Management OCEMS Coroner	WestCO Dispatch DHSEM State & Federal Agencies Volunteers & Private Sector DFPC
ESF-10	OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	**Ouray County Sheriff** **CO State Patrol – Hazmat** **Public Health**	County Manager LEPC PIO/JIC Finance Facilities and Maintenance Road & Bridge Public Health	WestCO Dispatch DHSEM CDPHE SERC EPA Colorado Parks and Wildlife CO State Patrol Telluride Fire Grand Junction Fire Dept. West Region All Hazards State & Federal Agencies Private Sector
		Ouray Fire Department **CO State Patrol – Hazmat**	County Manager LEPC PIO/JIC Finance Facilities and Maintenance Public Works County Public Health	
		Town Marshal **Ridgway Fire Department** **CO State Patrol – Hazmat**	County Manager LEPC PIO/JIC Finance Facilities and Maintenance Public Works County Public Health	

ESF #	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD:	SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT	SUPPORTING AGENCIES:
ESF-11	AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Ouray County Public Health Agency CSU Extension City Administrator CSU Extension Town Manager CSU Extension	County Manager BOCC Sheriff's Office Vegetation Management PIO/JIC Dispatch Finance Facilities and Maintenance Road & Bridge Public Health 4H Event Center/Fairground	DHSEM CDPHE CO State Patrol West Region All Hazards CO Brand Inspectors State Vet Office CO Humane Society State & Federal Agencies State Forester NRCS Cattlemen's Association Private Sector Local Vets
ESF-12	ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	Ouray County Facilities and Maintenance Ouray Public Works Ridgway Public Works	Administration BOCC Sheriff's Office PIO/JIC Road & Bridge Emergency Management 4H Event Center/Fairground Administration City Council Police Department PIO/JIC Emergency Management Administration City Council Police Department PIO/JIC Emergency Management	WestCO Dispatch DHSEM Colorado Energy Office CO Oil & Gas Commission West All Hazards Region CenturyLink AT&T/Verizon/T-Mobile TDS Telecom State & Federal Agencies Private Sector
ESF-13	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY	Ouray County Sheriff Ouray Police Chief Ridgway Marshal	Administration BOCC Emergency Management PIO/JIC Dispatch Road & Bridge Coroner Administration City Council Emergency Management PIO/JIC Dispatch Road & Bridge Coroner Administration BOCC Emergency Management PIO/JIC Dispatch Road & Bridge Coroner	WestCO Dispatch City of Ouray PD Ridgway Marshal DHSEM CO POST Board CBI 7th Judicial District Attorney Regional Law Enforcement West All Hazards Region TCR Police Academy State & Federal LEO Agencies Private Sector

ESF #	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	LEAD AGENCY/DEPT OR UNIFIED LEAD:	SUPPORTING COUNTY DEPARTMENT	SUPPORTING AGENCIES:
ESF-14	LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY/ ECONOMY & DAMAGE ASSESSMENT	**County Manager** **County Assessor**	County Planner BOCC Emergency Management PIO/JIC Finance Road & Bridge Sheriff's Office 4H Event Center/Fairground Facilities and Maintenance	City of Ouray Town of Ridgway DHSEM DOLA CSU Extension American Red Cross Fire Departments State & Federal Agencies Public Health Healthcare Agencies WR Healthcare Coalition WRETAC Chambers of Commerce Private Industry Financial Services/Banks
		Community Development Coordinator (Planner) **County Assessor**	Administrator City Council Emergency Management PIO/JIC Finance Public Works Police Department	
		Community Development Coordinator (Planner) **County Assessor**	Town Manager Town Council Emergency Management PIO/JIC Finance Public Works Police Department	
ESF-15	EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION	**County Manager**	Public Information Officer BOCC Emergency Management Finance OIT	WestCO Dispatch DHSEM DOLA American Red Cross Fire Districts Public Health Municipal/Agency PIOs OSD R-1 RSD R-2 West Region PIO Team CDPHE State & Federal Agencies
		Public Information Officer	City Administrator City Council Emergency Management Finance OIT	
		Public Information Officer	Town Manager Town Council Emergency Management Finance OIT	

This section of the Plan covers the Emergency Support Functions and Community Lifelines. It describes how departments, first response agencies, municipalities, and partner agencies will work together to support the EOC through the ICS and use the FEMA Community lifelines to quickly restore critical services for residents of Ouray County and its municipalities.

7.2   ESF Notification and Activation

The EOCs will activate individual ESFs based on the size and scope of an incident or disaster as it develops. The EOC's activation procedure is outlined in this plan's EOC section. The emergency manager will notify the primary agency/department responsible for an ESF, and it is the primary agency's responsibility to notify additional agencies within that ESF of the activation. Each ESF lead must develop standard procedures and notification protocols (including adding relevant staff members to Ouray County Alerts) and maintain up-to-date rosters and contact information.

7.3   ESF Continuity of Operations

ESFs and lead agencies, as identified in this plan, may be transferred to another governmental agency based on the size and scope of the incident and the needs of the incident. Any transfer

of primary responsibility for an ESF must be done after consulting with the lead agency/department and the other agencies involved and agreeing to the change.

7.4 ESF General Roles and Responsibilities

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

7.4.1 ESF Lead Responsibilities:

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

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

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

7.4.2 Primary ESF Agency Responsibilities:

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

- Providing staff and/or arranging for staff from supporting agencies in the ESF for EOC support throughout the duration of the incident or until your ESF is deactivated.
- Managing requests for assistance from supporting agencies and managing the activation of agency and/or department-specific Mutual Aid Agreements relevant to the incident.
- Building and maintaining relationships with support agencies, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to maximize staff use and other available resources.
- Conducting situational and readiness assessments periodically throughout the response period and reporting needs for new equipment, personnel, or specialized equipment before they are needed so logistics and other ESFs can work to fulfill the request(s).

- Working with the jurisdiction's legal department to execute contracts and purchase goods and services needed for the ESF's area of expertise and response responsibilities.
- Coordinating and reporting all purchases and expenses/donations to the finance section and completing all finance tracking reports to FEMA standards.

7.4.3 Support ESF Agency Responsibilities:

A support agency or county department is an entity with specific capabilities or resources that support a primary agency or department in executing the mission of an ESF. When an ESF is activated, support agencies and departments will be responsible for:

- Conducting field-level operational support of the ESF as requested by the EOC manager and/or lead ESF to support the incident consistently within the agency's authority and resources.
- Participating in planning sessions regarding incident management during non-emergency times when the EOC is inactivated.
- Working with emergency management and the lead ESF to develop operational plans, policies & procedures, job aids, or other documents to assist staff and agencies during a response when activated.
- Reporting relevant observations, needs, accomplishments, and challenges to the Lead ESF and/or Situational unit for inclusion in the daily situation report.
- Providing staff, equipment, and other support as needed by the incident commander or requested by the lead agency, EOC manager, or logistics section chief.
- Working with staff to keep staff trained and ready to respond to an incident and know ESF and emergency response policies and procedures.

7.5   Community Lifelines – A Response Priority

FEMA unveiled a new Emergency Management concept in 2019 that identifies and prioritizes the restoration of Community Lifelines during the response phase. A Community Lifeline, per FEMA, enables the continuous operation of critical government

Figure 18-Lifelines and Their Components

and business functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.

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

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

7.5.1   Definition of FEMA Lifelines

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

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

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

7.5.2   ESF and Lifeline Relationship
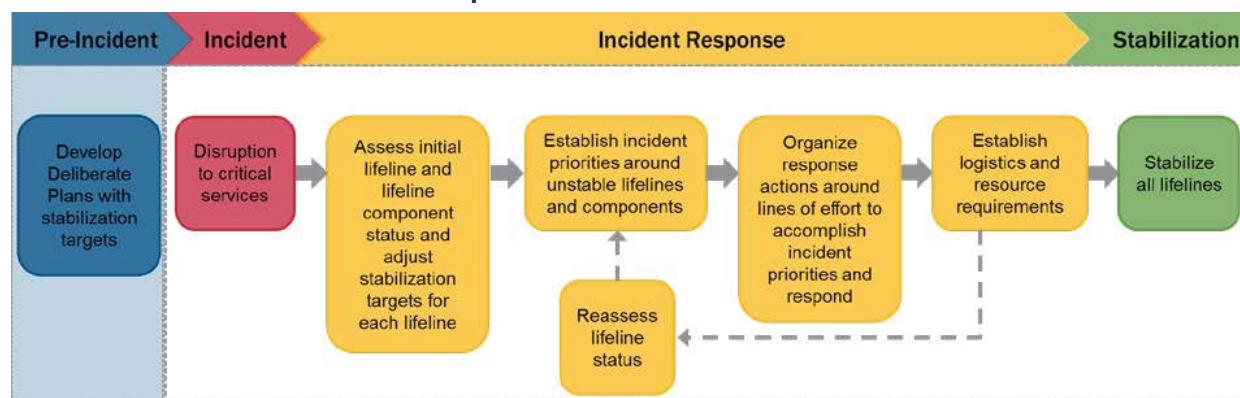
Figure 19-Community Lifeline Application of Community lifelines to support Emergency Management

The National Response Framework establishes the framework and relationship between Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and the Community Lifelines. ESFs are in place to provide core capabilities to stabilize Community Lifelines and minimize impacts on the community and

its residents. It is important to note that the FEMA Community Lifelines and their components do not directly cover all aspects of a community that may be disrupted by a disaster, such as natural, historical, and cultural resources or financial issues (FEMA, 2019).

The EOCs and Emergency Management encourage the prioritization and reporting of impacts on Community lifelines by all levels of government, the private sector, special districts, and other partners. The following figure shows how Community Lifelines should be assessed and restored during an incident response.

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

Per the National Response Framework v. 2019, the community lifelines should be used by decision-makers at all levels to determine the scope, complexity, and impacts of a disaster, and applying the lifelines does the following:
- Prioritize, sequence, and focus response efforts toward maintaining or restoring the most critical services and infrastructure.
- Utilize a common icon to facilitate communication between stakeholders and the public.
- Promote a response that facilitates unity of effort across the whole community.
- Clarify which components of the disaster are complex (red) or complicated (yellow) and require cross-sector coordination and collaboration.7.5.3 Community Lifeline Status Coding

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

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

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

Table 22: Status Determination

LIFELINE ASSESSMENT	
Status	What is going on?
Impact	What is going to happen because of this impact?
Actions	What do we need to do now?
Limiting Factors	What is going to happen because of this impact?
ETA To Green?	How long will it take to restore?

7.6   FEMA Core Capabilities by Mission Area

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

Table 23-FEMA Core Capabilities by Mission Area

Prevention		Protection	Mitigation	Response		Recovery
Planning						
Public Information and Warning						
Operational Coordination						
Intelligence and Information Sharing			Community Resilience	Infrastructure Systems		
Interdiction and Disruption				Critical Transportation		Economic Recovery
Screening, Search, and Detection			Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction	Environmental Response/Health and Safety		Health and Social Services
Forensics and Attribution	Access Control and Identity Verification		Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment	Fatality Management Services		Housing
	Cybersecurity		Threats and Hazards Identification	Fire Management and Suppression		Natural and Cultural Resources
	Physical Protective Measures			Logistics and Supply Chain Management		
	Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities			Mass Care Services		
	Supply Chain Integrity and Security			Mass Search and Rescue Operations		
				On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement		
				Operational Communication		
				Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services		
				Situational Assessment		

7.7 ESF Specific Roles and Responsibilities

7.7.1 ESF-1 Transportation

ESF-1, Transportation will provide centralized management and coordination of transportation resources to support unincorporated Ouray County, municipalities, and special districts for any minor to significant emergency or disaster. The Transportation ESF will be led by the County Road & Bridge Superintendent, the County Engineer, or their designee in unincorporated areas of the county. The prospective Public Works managers will lead ESF-1 in the incorporated areas. The ESF-1 lead will provide direction for all ESF-1 agencies, including objectives and needs as requested by incident command, operations, logistics, finance, policy group, and ESF-5.

ESF-1 coordinates resources and personnel to serve the county, municipalities, residents, and first responders. This involves working with the incident command on needs and plans to deploy resources into and out of the incident and ensuring safe transportation networks and vehicles. ESF-1 also serves the incident by performing supply runs, retrieving critical resources from neighboring or regional jurisdictions, picking up incident supplies, and delivering them as the operations unit needs.

In the event of damage to transportation infrastructure, road & bridge and engineering will assess the damage and report the resources and repairs necessary to repair the infrastructure to the EOC. Repairs will require County Administration and/or BOCC approval before commencing.

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

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

7.7.1.1 ESF-1 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.1.1.1 ESF-1 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Maintain a comprehensive resource list of transportation equipment available for deployment in their jurisdiction and update that list annually in WebEOC under CRRF agreements for agencies.
- Review policies and attend training related to County and agency-specific purchasing/procurement policies and disaster purchasing policies, specifically policies and requirements for contracting and emergency purchases.

- Maintain an inventory with values and photos of transportation infrastructure within the agency's jurisdiction, including culverts, bridges, roadways, and airport infrastructure.
- Have a documented maintenance/inspection and replacement plan for critical equipment, bridges, culverts, etc.
- Maintain a comprehensive resource list of transportation vendors and suppliers, including business and after-business hour contacts.

7.7.1.1.2   ESF-1 Response
- Once activated, the lead ESF representative responds to EOC and coordinates with supporting agencies in the field for resource needs. The EOC contact utilizes contacts and a professional network to fill requests for equipment, personnel, and parts locally and regionally before requesting an order through Logistics.
- Coordinates all requests for equipment and personnel with Logistics for coordination and tracking and the finance section for cost approval.
- Respond and conduct damage assessments to County, state, and/or municipal roads & bridges.
- Coordinate using the ICS during response and share updates regarding transportation issues and needs with the incident commander, EOC Manager, and other ESFs.
- Complete and share status updates with the EOC manager and Situation Unit leader by setting deadlines for inclusion in daily situation reports.
- Facilitate the mobilization, operation, and demobilization of equipment, vehicles, and personnel for vehicles/equipment requiring advanced training or special licenses.
- Perform traffic control as needed for the incident, including checkpoints, detours, and road closures, using staff, road barriers/signage, and cones. Assist law enforcement in maintaining flow on essential routes and identifying alternate routes for detours.
- Work with the School District and other entities, such as Western Slope Rides, Jeep Tours, etc., to provide transportation for incident support staff, first responders, and evacuation support to the public.
- Monitor transportation infrastructure for damage and report changes and closures to incident command and the EOC.
- Monitor infrastructure for damages, which should include county roads, state highways, bridges, culverts, irrigation canals, and the ability of transit companies to get people with access and functional needs around the county.
- Perform minor to major road repairs and provide cost estimates to the EOC and incident command, log hours, vehicle usage, and material costs per FEMA standards.

7.7.1.1.3   ESF-1 Recovery
- Coordinates and documents, to FEMA standards, requests for transportation resources associated with recovery, such as equipment for debris removal and restoration of damaged roads/bridges.

7.7.1.2 ESF-1 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-1 should monitor and work to restore the following Community Lifelines and report status updates to the EOC and Emergency Management for situational awareness and daily reports.

Table 24-ESF-1 Community Lifeline to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components		
Safety and Security	Community Safety		
Energy	Fuel		
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit	

7.7.2   ESF-2 Communications

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

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

All Emergency Response agencies based in Ouray County are dispatched by WESTCO Dispatch located in Montrose, Colorado. The exceptions to this are the state agencies (CDOT, State Patrol, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife), which are all dispatched by the State Patrol. WestCO Dispatch provides 911/Non-Emergency Call Answering and Dispatch Services for Unincorporated Montrose County, including Nucla-Naturita Fire Protection District, Olathe Fire Protection District, National Parks (Black Canyon), and Law/Fire/EMS Agencies within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and Town of Ridgway. Dispatch is staffed 24/7, and additional staff

can be brought in to supplement the staff in dispatch. The Alert & Warning Plan, as an annex to the EOP, will be followed for public safety alerts & warnings.

Multiple avenues to reach those without social media encourage communication with the public. Avenues that we currently have available for communication include the ouraycountyco.gov website, Ouray County Alerts, community bulletin boards, NOAA Weather Radio, local radio stations, and public safety employees with PA systems or neighborhood canvasses.

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

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

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

7.7.2.1 ESF-2 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

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

7.7.2.1.1   ESF -2 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Work with emergency management to develop a local communications committee that will develop and maintain a local Ouray County Communications Plan that addresses public safety radio channels, programming and distribution of radios, and an inventory of all radios in the county.
- Work with the Emergency Manager and West Region to maintain the West Region Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan.

- Work with Emergency Management and State OIT to expand and maintain public safety radio systems, including VHF and State DTR systems.
- Establish and maintain relationships with local agencies, state agencies, private/commercial communication companies and amateur radio operators,
- Build and maintain strong working relationships between local first response agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, private sector/commercial communications and wireless companies, and other service providers.
- Work to expand and maintain the communication network and expand its capabilities in Ouray County through additional radio towers, maintaining radio channels, DTR talk groups, and internet access.
- Work with emergency management to maintain a detailed equipment inventory for public safety radios and other critical communications equipment and contact lists for business and after-hour business contacts.

7.7.2.1.2 Response & Recovery
- Provide personnel support to the EOC when activated,
- Coordinate with EOC staff, PIO, and incident command to determine whether AuxCom radios should be set up in the EOC and its location and whether an expanded dispatch center is necessary.
- Determine the current state of telecommunications in the county, whether any systems have been disrupted, and the anticipated plan for restoring communications. Provide updates to the IC, EOC Manager, and PIO.
- Coordinate with supporting agencies on the availability of telecommunication/radio resources, current and anticipated needs, and any outages, if known.
- Coordinate the delivery/repair of telecommunications, radio, and computer systems with IT, GIS, State OIT, and telecommunication providers and keep the incident command, the EOC, and appropriate ESFs updated.
- Coordinate mutual aid and private sector assistance for communications and assist logistics with overall incident mutual aid/private sector coordination and communication.
- Identify and report unmet needs to the EOC manager, who will coordinate with Logistics and request state or federal assistance through the state EOC.
- Coordinate damage assessment for all communications infrastructure in Ouray County and its municipalities.
- Establish priorities for repairs so that the priority goes to systems that serve first responders and the EOC.
- Participate in EOC Briefings and submit significant updates to the Situation Unit for the daily situation report.
- Provide support to other ESFs as needed/documented within this plan.
- Coordinate communications to/from responders in the field and ICP.
- Manages the operation and coordination of radio channels across the 800Mhz, VHF, and, if needed, the High-Frequency HAM frequencies in the EOC and/or via dispatch.
  - Dispatchers coordinate with fire, EMS, and law enforcement log activities in the Computer Aided Dispatch program and forward resource requests to the EOC.

o Coordinate and de-conflict incident radio frequencies in disaster areas of operation.

- Dispatchers/AuxCom volunteers, while working radio stations and telephones, receive operational updates from units in the field and relay messages and critical information to the EOC manager, the incident command, and appropriate ESFs.
- Provide radio expertise and training for personnel as required, which includes requesting authority to use state and regional Mutual Aid (MAC) channels and communicating communication needs with OIT and the State EOC.
- Document and report any public safety communication system damages to the emergency manager, Colorado Office of Information Technology, and State EOC via WebEOC updates and direct communication.
- Provide technical assistance for communication equipment during response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Supports the temporary re-establishment of basic public safety communications infrastructure and initial commercial telecommunications infrastructure.

7.7.2.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-2 Communications will monitor and report status changes in the following community lifelines and components to the EOC and situation unit.

Table 25: ESF-2 Community Lifeline to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components				
Safety and Security	Law Enforcement/ Security	Fire Services	Search and Rescue	Government Services	
Communications	Infrastructure	Alerts, Warnings, and Messages	911 and Dispatch	Responder Communications	Financial Services
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit			

7.7.3 ESF-3 Public Works & Engineering

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

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

Ouray County and its municipalities are responsible for coordinating recovery efforts following a disaster. Engineering, Road & Bridge, Public Works, and other departments will support that mission based on the personnel and equipment available and will coordinate efforts with the EOC. Staff will work with the private industry and public utility companies to restore services such as water, sewer, irrigation, and gas lines to communities. During the recovery phase, ESF-3 will coordinate and direct debris removal.

7.7.3.1 ESF-3 Private Sector and Nongovernmental Organizations

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

7.7.3.2 ESF-3 Critical Infrastructure

ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering is a broad-encompassing Emergency Support Function that includes critical infrastructure, public roadways, drainage and stormwater systems, and various other facilities across the county and in the municipalities. Vital facilities and critical infrastructure that Public Works & Engineering will need to support in disaster response have been identified in sections 5.3.5.1 and 5.3.5.2 of this plan.

7.7.3.3 ESF-3 Debris Management

- In an emergency, large amounts of debris and waste are produced, the debris must be disposed of properly, and crews should be aware of the potential for hazardous materials.
- Depending on where the emergency/disaster occurs, crews may need to establish temporary storage areas or landfills until all debris can be collected and properly sorted and disposed of.
- County, city, town, and state crews will first focus on debris management on public lands and roadways, opening and restoring transportation corridors for responders and the public.
- Debris removal/cleanup on private property will not be a priority or the objective of crews unless a ditch/canal/waterway is obstructed with debris and allowing the obstruction to remain will cause further damage to additional properties or create a life safety risk.
- Private property owners will rely on insurance and private contractors to remove and dispose of debris.

- The affected jurisdictions will develop a plan and identify where private citizens and landowners can dump debris removed from their property and distribute such information via ESF-15 Public Information.
- Ouray County Road & Bridge and municipal public works will be the primary debris removal and management resource.
- If debris is too extensive or outside the scope of capabilities for road & bridge and public crews/equipment, then private industry can be contracted to assist.

7.7.3.4 ESF-3 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.3.4.1 ESF-3 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Design, construct, and maintain county roads and provide maintenance as specified by contract on U.S. Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management Lands.
- Maintain an inventory of equipment for entry into WebEOC CRRF database each year that can be deployed to assist in an emergency.
- Maintain a database of jurisdiction-owned infrastructure, including, but not limited to, miles of paved roads, miles of dirt roads, culverts, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure.

7.7.3.4.2 ESF-3 Response & Recovery Duties:

- Provide personnel support to the EOC when activated.
- Coordinate damage assessment for critical/county infrastructure such as roadways and bridges and establish priorities for repairs so that the priority goes to systems that serve first responders and the EOC.
- Participate in EOC Briefings and submit significant updates to the Situation Unit for the daily situation report.
- Collect and share roadway status reports with the EOC and debris management reports from across the county.
- Engineering and Road & Bridge Foreman assign staff to complete tasks as required.
- Mobilize and utilize equipment, such as ATVs, front-end loaders, trailers, pickups, semi-trucks, dump trucks, road maintainers, etc., to assist in moving people, supplies, and debris.
- Report damaged roads, culverts, bridges, etc., to GIS.
- Work with the logistics unit in the EOC and/or Emergency Management to source resources (personnel, equipment, or supplies) related to critical infrastructure, roadways, and/or public works through local mutual aid agreements, CO-WARN, and other resources to get resources to support the mission.
- Coordinate and provide technical expertise to the county departments regarding emergency contracts and repairs to critical infrastructure and prioritize lifesaving/critical construction needs.
- Coordinate debris removal, storage, sorting, hauling, weighing, and recovery with the EOC, county departments, and contractors.
- Coordinate the repair and restoration of damaged county facilities and/or government-owned infrastructure.

- Provide technical expertise to the EOC and departments regarding engineering, CAD plans, road design and repair, and other services as needed for construction management or damage inspection.
- Work with ESF-13 – Law Enforcement and Security to direct and mitigate traffic congestion on and around closed roads and help open and prioritize evacuation routes.
- Work with ESF-4 – Firefighting to deploy equipment to aid in fire line construction, mitigation efforts, and/or firefighting efforts.
- Provide equipment to support emergencies requiring heavy equipment such as water trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, etc.
- Provide technical and mechanical support to the EOC and municipal districts as directed by the jurisdiction's manager, administrator, and policy board for the assessment and/or repair of domestic water, wastewater, and utility services.
- Coordinate with Emergency Management, Environmental Health, the Colorado State Patrol, and other agencies regarding environmental hazard response, cleanup, and containment efforts.
- Implement emergency measures to protect county and state roadways, public facilities, and equipment and to mitigate damages to private property through mitigation efforts such as sandbagging, water diversion, ditch cleaning/construction, Jersey barrier installation, etc.

7.7.3.5 ESF-3 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering should monitor and report significant changes in the following lifelines to the EOC and Situation Unit Leader for communication to the Incident Commander and elected officials.

Table 26: ESF-3 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components		
Safety and Security	Government Services	Community Safety	
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	
Energy	Power	Fuel	
Communications	Infrastructure		
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit	
Hazardous Materials	Facilities		

7.7.4 ESF-4 Fire Services

ESF-4 is responsible for the mitigation planning, detection, response to, and suppression of structure, wildland, vehicle, and grass fires in Ouray County and its municipalities. Fire services provide personnel, equipment, training, and supplies in support of local fire departments and supporting agencies. Fire departments in the county may be asked to provide or respond to provide mutual aid to another department or the USFS or BLM. Additionally, ESF-4 may be called upon to provide personnel, equipment, or expertise in support of other ESFs and their roles and community lifelines, such as Public Safety and Hazmat, depending on the nature and location of an incident/disaster.

The Fire Services will respond based on jurisdiction and resource availability. Ouray County has 3 Fire Protection Districts with defined districts and 1 district from Montrose County, CO, which covers the northern portion of the County. After coordination with the Ouray County Sheriff, they all will respond to cover areas that are county responsibility. Fire departments prioritize public and firefighter safety during suppression efforts but will endeavor to protect as much private property as possible during a wildfire/urban interface response.

7.7.4.1 ESF-4 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.4.1.1 ESF-4 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Maintain fire resource inventories and report equipment and apparatus inventories to CO DHSEM and DFPC via WebEOC and CRRF annually per the timeline established by DFPC/DHSEM and DEM.
- Maintain and develop mutual aid plans with neighboring jurisdictions.
- Participate in and offer input/guidance to DFPC for the County's Wildfire Operating Plan.
- Work with community members, partners, non-profits, the West Region Wildfire Council, DFPC, CO State Forest Service, USFS, Emergency Management, elected officials, and others to develop mitigation plans and implement fire mitigation actions on private and public lands in Ouray County.

7.7.4.1.2 ESF-4 Response

- Provide an ESF lead and representatives to respond to and support the EOC when activated.
- Establish communication and coordination between the Incident Commander/Unified Command at the ICP and the EOC,
- Determine current and expected firefighting needs based on information provided by ground crews, the IC staff, or dispatch.
- Identify subject matter experts for fire service and consult or respond to EOC.
- Participate as the lead agency in planning, section, and branch meetings during the operational period.
- Report damage assessments, situational assessments, and community lifeline statuses to the EOC and elected officials and participate in public information briefings as needed.
- Agency fire chiefs should request mutual aid and air assets for fire response through dispatch and/or EOC communication channels as established by the incident and track resource requests and associated costs for the requesting agency.

- Work with ESF-13, local law enforcement, and Emergency Management for evacuation orders and status updates for residents.
- Work with ESF-2 to develop communication plans for the incident, which will meet incident objectives and ensure interoperable communications among agencies assisting in response efforts.

7.7.4.1.3   ESF-4 Recovery

- Assist in completing damage assessments, giving tours of fire-damaged areas to dignitaries and elected officials, and explaining fire behavior.
- Retain official records and submit them to the documentation unit for retention.
- Work with the finance and logistics sections to finalize and close out all resource requests, determine incident costs, and complete paperwork as needed for FEMA.
- Participate in hot-wash and after-action review of the incident and participate in improvement plan efforts.
- Work with the LEPC, CDPHE, and Environmental Health on the assessment of hazardous substance spills and reports and on Tier II Facility damage assessments.

7.7.4.2 ESF-4 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-4 should monitor and report significant changes in the following community lifelines to the EOC and Situation Unit Leader for daily situation updates.

Table 27: ESF-4 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components		
Safety and Security	Fire Services	Search and Rescue	Community Safety
Food, Water, Shelter	Agriculture		
Energy	Power	Fuel	
Communications	Infrastructure	Responder Communications	
Transportation	Highway/Roadway		
Hazardous Materials	Facilities	HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants	

7.7.5   ESF-5 Emergency Management

ESF-5/Emergency Management supports all local departments, agencies, and non-governmental organizations during preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. It helps

direct information flow from responders in the field and the responsible jurisdiction to other partners through activation of the EOC, message dissemination, and public alert and warning. During response, ESF-5 activates and directs the EOC and supports various ESFs within the EOC.

During recovery, ESF-5 transitions to a support and planning role with elected officials and other local government/official representatives. ESF-5 is responsible for coordinating multi-agency coordination (MAC Group), planning, and developing mutual aid plans during all phases. Training and exercise plans and coordination with state directives are also important tasks that ESF-5 manages.

Emergency Management is a continuous function that relies on the coordinated efforts of all government agencies, elected officials, and departments in Ouray County. This coordination starts with the MAC Group and is tested and developed through training, exercises, and planning efforts.

7.7.5.1 ESF-5 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.5.1.1   ESF-5 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Develop and maintain this plan through partnerships with county departments and response agencies.
- Direct county, city, and town planning efforts related to Emergency Management, including, but not limited to, EOP and associated annexes, EOC operational plans, mutual aid agreements, Hazard Mitigation Plans, and LEPC Hazardous Materials Response.
- Lead the county Mutual Aid Coordination Group (MAC), develop and maintain relationships between agency directors and administrators, and foster relationships between agencies.
- Coordinate and support agencies in developing plans, hosting training, and conducting exercises to test existing plans and capabilities.

7.7.5.1.2   ESF-5 Response

- Manage this plan and activate the county or municipal EOCs to a level that corresponds with the developing incident to support mission response best.
- Coordinate and activate staff to respond to the EOC, including activation of ESF leads.
- Maintain contact and coordination with EOC staff, Incident Command, dispatch, affected jurisdictions, and elected officials.
- Provide situation reports to the jurisdiction's manager/administrator, lead law enforcement officer, jurisdiction's policy board, and other elected officials.
- Requests status reports as appropriate from affected jurisdictions to relay to the EOC situation unit leader or to compile the situation report at the end of the operational period.
- Notify West Region Emergency Managers and CO Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) Regional Field Manager of initial and updated situation reports and resource needs and if there is any anticipated impact to residents or other counties.

- Conduct EOC briefings and manage the EOC. If EOC tasks and incidents become too complex, will coordinate to request an EOC Manager from DHSEM or another Emergency Manager to act as EOC Manager.
- Implement cost tracking, resource ordering policies, and procedures to mobilize county resources and procure supplies and mutual aid as needed.
- If applicable, request a disaster declaration from the jurisdiction's manager/administrators and policy board.
- Work with the PIO and Dispatch to draft, coordinate, and activate public alert and warning messages such as shelter-in-place, evacuation or pre-evacuation notices, and press releases for the media and social media.
- Collect, validate, and analyze information with the Ouray County PIO and Joint Information Center.
- Ensure briefings are conducted for EOC staff members and involved agencies.
- Serve as the county, municipality, and agency's point of contact for DHSEM, the State EOC, and the West Region emergency managers.
- Coordinate with the situation unit to update situation reports and distribute updates to agency partners
- Work with logistics to review and coordinate requests for resources and forward requests that can't be met locally up to the State EOC via WebEOC.
- Serve as the WebEOC local administrator and CRRF administrator.

7.7.5.1.3   ESF-5 Recovery

- Lead agencies in developing the After-Action Report (AAR) for the incident and conducting a hot wash immediately following the incident or during demobilization. The AAR should be co-directed with the responsible agency.
- Coordinate with policy boards, the jurisdiction's manager/administrator, and the responsible jurisdiction to identify recovery goals, objectives, and community leads and determine whether recovery can be handled by existing staff or if a recovery manager will be needed.
- Coordinate with agencies and lead MAC Group and other recovery-based discussions with partners, including local jurisdictions, elected officials, chambers of commerce, private industry, and financial industry representatives.

7.7.5.2 ESF-5 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Emergency Management will monitor and support all Community Lifelines and share updates to the MAC and Policy Groups via daily situational briefings.

Table 28: ESF-5 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components				
Safety and Security	Law Enforcement/ Security	Fire Services	Search and Rescue	Government Services	Community Safety
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture	
Health and Medical	Medical Care	Patient Movement	Public Health	Fatality Management	Medical Supply Chain
Energy	Power	Fuel			
Communications	Infrastructure	Alerts, Warnings, and Messages	911 and Dispatch	Responder Communications	Financial Services
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit			

Continued on the next page

Lifelines	Components
Hazardous Materials	Facilities HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants

7.7.6 ESF-6 Mass Care, Human Services & Shelter

ESF-6 is responsible for the coordination and operation of non-medical mass sheltering and care services such as evacuation sheltering, organizing feeding operations for evacuees/responders, providing emergency first aid stations at designated sites, collecting and relaying information to victims and family members, and coordinating the bulk distribution of emergency relief supplies. Typically, ESF-6 is activated when responding to a natural disaster such as wildfire, flood, or severe winter weather in partnership with the American Red Cross to establish temporary sheltering for citizens and travelers who need shelter. ESF-6, however, is also responsible for coordinating the long-term housing needs of victims of natural disasters, as well as complying with the PETS Act and developing sheltering, evacuation, and housing for pets, livestock, and service animals. Volunteers, volunteer organizations, the school district, and the community are critical partners in this effort.

ESF-6 will be activated when sheltering, feeding, or the emergency warrants mass first aid needs. Incident Command and first responders should communicate early if they anticipate evacuation needs so public information and emergency management can work with the school districts, American Red Cross, and other agencies to open and prepare shelters and evacuee points. These locations should be communicated to the public with directions as soon as possible in an emergency. The Sheriff's Office and area law enforcement can be contacted to provide security at shelters, listed above in section 5.3.6.1 of this plan.

7.7.6.1 ESF-6 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.6.1.1 ESF-6 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Maintain a sheltering trailer of evacuation/sheltering supplies in a state of readiness in the event of a disaster.
- Work with emergency management, human services, and public health to provide evacuation, sheltering, and preparedness training to volunteers, first responders, government officials, and the general public.
- Identify suitable emergency shelter facilities and conduct American Red Cross shelter site surveys.
- Build and maintain relationships among agencies, distributors, non-profit organizations, and volunteer groups that can be utilized in evacuation, sheltering, and/or mass care operations.

7.7.6.1.2 ESF-6 Response

- Provide personnel support to the EOC.
- Triage the situation and need for mass care and sheltering with the American Red Cross.

- If sheltering is warranted, ESF-6 leads should coordinate the best shelter location with the shelter facility owners and reach an agreement regarding the facility.
- The American Red Cross activates volunteers and staff to retrieve the sheltering trailer from the West Region or another in the Northwest Region to provide sheltering supplies and equipment.
- Identify logistical needs and communicate those needs to the logistics section and emergency management.
- Work with facility and maintenance departments to activate and set up shelters and/or evacuation points, including cots, tables, chairs, audio/visual equipment, and information boards.
- Coordinate potable water, food, and restroom/shower facilities with Ouray County Public Health Agency and Environmental Health.
- Coordinate public information needs with the jurisdiction(s) PIO(s)/Joint Information Center.
- Identify and communicate unmet sheltering needs to the EOC. If assistance is needed from the State EOC/State Human Services, the request should be forwarded to the EOC manager for relay via WebEOC to the State EOC.
- Provide updates on the Food, Water, and Sheltering Community Lifeline and others, as noted below, to the situation unit leader and EOC manager for situational awareness.
- Document mass care, sheltering, and feeding operations and coordinate with the EOC and finance unit for documentation and cost share/reimbursement requests.
- Support other ESFs as outlined within the EOP.

7.7.6.1.3   ESF-6 Recovery
- Coordinate emergency and recovery human services, welfare, and shelter services into the recovery phase after the disaster.
- Assist with Human Services, state, and federal recovery individual assistance applications.
- Identify and share any unmet mass care, sheltering, or Human Services needs and be a resource for individuals with access and functional needs in Ouray County and its municipalities.

7.7.6.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-6 will monitor and report status changes in the following Community Lifelines to the Situational Unit Leader and EOC

Table 29: ESF-6 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components			
Safety and Security	Community Safety			
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture

7.7.7(A)   ESF-7(A) Logistics & Resource Support

At the request of Ouray County Finance, Ouray County has ESF-7 broken down into ESF-7A (Logistics & Resource Support) and ESF-7B (Disaster Finance Support). Ouray County intends to staff three sections in the EOC: ESF-7A Logistics with Emergency Management as lead, ESF-7B Disaster Finance Support with an appointed finance staff member as lead, and the incident command finance section with the County Manager/CFO as a lead.

Due to limited personnel and the need to streamline finance, the municipalities in Ouray County will maintain a traditional response, with only one section in the EOC for ESF-7 and one section in the EOC as the traditional Finance Section from the incident command structure.

ESF-7(A) Logistics is the heart of the EOC. It helps the response get the resources it needs and adequately document and track all resources deployed to assist in the response. Upon activation by the emergency manager, ESF-7(A) will respond to the EOC and meet with staff for situational updates. Based on the size and scope of the disaster, additional staff will be requested to support logistics.

Coordinating resources and logistical support is a core function of the EOC. All ESFs should support and utilize the logistics section. In addition to being an ESF, logistics is a command position within the EOC command chart. It is responsible for securing resources such as equipment, supplies, PPE, staff, or vehicles through mutual aid agreements, volunteer organizations, and procurement procedures under the disaster finance policy. The logistics section is responsible for entering resources into WebEOC and receiving/reviewing and handling all resource requests.

Though the two ESF-7s, logistics and finance, work very closely together, they stand alone, and one is not under another in an organization chart.

7.7.7A.1 ESF-7(A) Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.7A.1.1 ESF-7(A) Preparedness and Mitigation

- Develop and maintain an up-to-date directory of equipment in the county that may be used in emergency response, such as pickups, SUVs, squad cars, fire trucks, ambulances, ATVs, road & bridge equipment, and dump trucks. These will be entered into WebEOC via the CRRF process,
- Develop procedures and forms for resource requests and ordering in Ouray County via the EOC and emergency management.
- Develop and maintain a resource management plan with assistance from DHSEM, regional partners, and the MAC Group.
- Establish emergency purchase authorization procedures and authorized vendors before an incident, and have a list of contacts and contracts for equipment and other critical supplies that may be needed during a disaster.

7.7.7A.1.2 ESF-7(A) Response

- Receive and prioritize requests for emergency supplies, equipment, or services related to an incident response.
- Respond to the requests promptly and seek additional information or forward the request for approval to finance and other divisions.
- If approved to order/request a resource such as equipment that is available via mutual aid, place the order for the resource and document the transaction and equipment specifics per county and FEMA documentation requirements.
- Maintain detailed logs of resource requests, disbursements, finance approvals, and daily/hourly burn rates for resources to update elected and appointed officials regarding incident costs.
- Provide updates for Situation Reports and daily briefings, monitor critical lifelines as indicated in this plan, and report lifeline changes to the EOC Manager and Incident Command.

7.7.7A.1.3 ESF-7(A) Recovery

- Continue to process and prioritize resource requests related to response and recovery efforts.
- Maintain detailed records of resource requests and activities per FEMA/DHSEM/County/Municipal standards for Public Assistance reimbursements of what equipment is used, its purpose, and in-kind resource donations.

7.7.7A.2   ESF-7(A) Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-7(A), Logistics and Resource Support, will monitor and report changes to all lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

Table 30: ESF-7 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components				
Safety and Security	Law Enforcement/ Security	Fire Services	Search and Rescue	Government Services	Community Safety
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture	
Health and Medical	Medical Care	Patient Movement	Public Health	Fatality Management	Medical Supply Chain
Energy	Power	Fuel			
Communications	Infrastructure	Alerts, Warnings, and Messages	911 and Dispatch	Responder Communications	Financial Services
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit			

Continued on next page

Lifelines	Components	
Hazardous Materials	Facilities	HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants

7.7.7(B) ESF-7(B) Disaster Finance Support (Ouray County Only)

This support function is created by and only applies to the Ouray County organization. Logistics and finance are command positions within the EOC command chart. They are responsible for preparing documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources. The Finance Section Chief will work in the EOC when it is active and meet in person. During Ouray County emergencies, the ESF-7B lead will join the Finance Section Chief in the EOC and support them.

Though the two ESF-7s, logistics and finance, work very closely together, they stand alone, and one is not under another in an organization chart.

7.7.7B.1.1 ESF-7(B) Preparedness and Mitigation
- Assist in reviewing and updating the EOP, disaster finance policies, county purchasing policy, and policies related to tracking all expenses, time, and mileage by county staff and incident staff during an emergency so the county and appropriate agencies can seek reimbursement through Public Assistance.

7.7.7B.1.2 ESF-7(B) Response
- Assist the finance section chief in procuring emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Assist the finance section chief in the:
  - Tracking of all expenses per FEMA, DHSEM, and DOLA guidelines.
  - Work with emergency management for time tracking.
  - Work with department heads, county management, and emergency management in compiling, preparing, and presenting supporting information and documentation for county requests to the State of Colorado and FEMA public assistance programs as appropriate.
  - Participating on the county damage assessment team at EOC and local-state field damage survey teams.
- Establish and maintain an incident-related financial record-keeping system.

7.7.7B.1.3 ESF-7(B) Recovery
- Support the county manager in their role as the recovery manager.
- Maintain the ability to manage or assist response and recovery support operations using command and management principles, as outlined in the National Incident Management System.

7.7.7B.2   ESF-7(B) Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

As finance is impacted by all lifelines, ESF-7(B) Disaster Finance Support will monitor and report changes to all lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

7.7.8   ESF-8 Public Health & Medical

Ouray County Public Health Agency will be the lead agency for ESF-8 in unincorporated Ouray County. The city administrator will be the ESF-8 lead for the City of Ouray, working closely with Ouray County Public Health Agency. The town manager will be the ESF-8 lead for the Town of Ridgway, also working closely with Ouray County Public Health Agency.

The ESF-8 leads will be responsible for identifying and evaluating the impact of a natural/man-made disaster on the public health and well-being of Ouray County and its municipalities. As mentioned previously, almost any disaster or emergency event can have a nexus to public or environmental health; therefore, ESF-8 will be activated by the Public Health Director, Environmental Health Director, or Emergency Manager for events such as the following:

- Disease outbreak requiring epidemiological investigation, surveillance, and quarantine/isolation.
- Laboratory services.
- Environmental health issues involving chemical spills, air quality, hazardous substances, source water contamination, domestic or wastewater breaks, outages, and food-borne illness/outbreaks.
- Behavioral health care support for community members and/or responders.
- Animal disease outbreaks in conjunction with the Colorado State Veterinary Office and Colorado State University, CDPHE, and other health agencies.
- Healthcare system surges to the hospital, clinics, and/or EMS;
- Mass casualty and/or mass fatality incident.
- Wildfires, floods, or other disasters requiring evacuation and sheltering.

Public Health, upon activation of ESF-8, should deploy personnel such as the emergency preparedness and response (EPR) coordinator to the EOC to serve as a liaison between the EOC and the Public Health Agency if either/both are activated. ESF-8 will coordinate with the West Region Healthcare Coalition and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and follow established public health plans and procedures. Supporting agencies such as EMS, the Coroner's Office, medical clinics, Axis Mental Health, and the Health Care Coalition should follow their agency plans, procedures, and legal responsibilities. They will report required information to public health and assist to secure and stabilize healthcare services in Ouray County and its municipalities during and following a disaster. Agencies should consult with medical directors and CDPHE for any waivers or directions needed related to emergency orders.

Public Health is responsible for ensuring comprehensive public health and medical response following an emergency/disaster across incorporated and unincorporated areas of Ouray County.

Healthcare providers, first responders and agencies assisting in public health response must consider residents and visitors in the county with access and functional needs and disabilities who the disaster will exacerbate. These individuals should be a priority for response efforts.

Organizations that provide services to these individuals are encouraged to participate actively in the county's training and exercise process and share information about these individuals with the EOC and responders for quick response and mitigation of future healthcare injuries.

7.7.8.1 ESF-8 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.8.1.1   ESF-8 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Review, update, and draft emergency plans related to public health responses to emergency events and exercise plans per CDPHE, as well as regional public health plans and exercise plans.
- Distribute public health plans, procedures, and information to medical and public health partners, including, but not limited to, county management, public information, emergency management, clinics, hospitals, EMS, fire, law enforcement, health care coalition, and WRETAC representatives.

7.7.8.1.2   ESF-8 Response

- Provide staff, equipment, supplies, PPE, technical expertise, and other resources during a disaster to partners to stabilize public health during the response and recovery phases of a disaster.
- EMS should assist by providing pre-hospital triage, treatment, and transport and, where applicable, community paramedicine care to residents to avoid surging the healthcare system in Ouray County and surrounding regional hospitals.
- EMS and medical providers should coordinate the transportation and movement of patients to other regional or state-wide hospitals and provide reports as to the status of EMS resources to the EOC and ESF-8 leads so coordination can occur with the State EOC, regional, and state-wide partners for medical transport.
- ESF-8 partners should monitor and report changes to the community lifelines and components as indicated within this plan to the ESF-8 lead so these changes can be included in situational updates to the EOC via the Situation Unit Leader and/or EOC Manager.
- Provide food handling and sanitation inspections before, during, and after a disaster at food distribution points, restaurants, mass feeding events, and other sites.
- Coordinate public information warnings, advisories, and instructions related to public health information, such as water boil orders or sanitation issues, and the dissemination of information to the public with ESF-15.
- Ensure continuity of operations for medical care services and availability/distribution of critical medical supplies and medications.
- Ensure medical treatment for disaster response and mass casualty incidents, including pre-hospital (EMS).
- Provide the statutorily required public health response and preparedness for communicable disease prevention and control, including, but not limited to, disease surveillance, investigation, epidemiological investigations, containment/quarantine, and coordination of public messaging.
- Provide statutory required environmental health services related to health inspections, emergency spill reporting, containment, and water quality.

- Coordinate with hospitals and all healthcare providers in the county and on the regional level as needed in response to public health events and complete statutory or state-mandated reporting requirements.
- Coordinate laboratory and testing services.
- Respond to and provide technical expertise, guidance, and testing information as well as public information guidance related to domestic water treatment, delivery, and consumption issues or wastewater infrastructure failures.
- Plan and prepare for and work alongside CDPHE, Colorado State Veterinary, and CSU Extension for the control and eradication of contagious or potentially economically devastating animal or plant infestation/disease outbreaks.
- Work with the Coroner's office during the response to any mass fatality event to expand temporary morgue space when morgue facilities at the Mesa View Mortuary/coroner's office exceed capacity.
- Provide updates to Emergency Management, the EOC, the Board of Health, the Board of County Commissioners, and State and Regional public health.
- Track and record costs and all purchases under county policies and forward them to the finance section chief for approval and recording,
- Behavioral health providers should assess behavioral health needs in the community and responders during and following a disaster and provide personnel and needed resources to address behavioral care services in the community.
- Work with ESF-6 Mass Care and Sheltering to provide health care assistance for mass care and shelters, especially regarding access and functional needs, individuals requiring oxygen and other specialized medical care, and behavioral health.

7.7.8.1.3   ESF-8 Recovery
- Continue to monitor, assess, and report changes to the community lifelines as the recovery process begins. Emphasis should be applied to individuals with access and functional needs, home-bound patients, and residents' and responders' behavioral health needs.
- The aftermath of a disaster often highlights the impact on the community and the disruption of critical lifelines such as power, domestic water, wastewater treatment, telephone, internet, and gas service. Water, wastewater, and power outages can have severe impacts on public health, ranging from food spoilage to loss of critical medical equipment and medicine storage/oxygen delivery, drinking water outages, and sewage backups.
- Following a disaster, minor to severe life-threatening injuries are possible for members of the public, first responders, and other personnel. The regional hospital, medical clinics, and EMS are critical lifelines for restoring calm and keeping medical services flowing.

7.7.8.2   Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-8 should monitor and report changes to the following lifelines and components to the EOC.

Table 31: ESF-8 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components				
Safety and Security	Community Safety				
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture	
Health and Medical	Medical Care	Patient Movement	Public Health	Fatality Management	Medical Supply Chain
Communications	Alerts, Warnings, and Messages				
Hazardous Materials	Facilities				

7.7.9   ESF-9 Search & Rescue

The Ouray Mountain Rescue Team may be activated through the Ouray County Sheriff by a jurisdiction or agency needing individuals to help conduct search and rescue activities, provide unarmed security, or provide traffic control and direction at events such as public health testing or vaccinations.

Upon activation, the Ouray Mountain Rescue Team will be notified and requested to respond to a specific destination to assemble the necessary equipment. The commander and, if possible, dispatch will maintain a roster of search and rescue members participating in the assigned mission to ensure accountabilities for all members involved in search and rescue efforts.

Communications will be routed through dispatch or Active911 so significant events can be recorded.

7.7.9.1 ESF-9 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.9.1.1   ESF-9 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Review, update, and train on the duties of ESF-9 and this Plan, as well as participate in Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meetings.
- Ensure members are trained in basic incident command training – ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800.
- Maintain an inventory of deployable equipment, including radios, vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc., and report the list of vehicles and assets with engines to emergency management for entry into the WebEOC CRRF system each spring.
- Develop and maintain mutual aid agreements with agencies for assistance during response to events.

7.7.9.1.2   ESF-9 Response

- Coordinate with the Sheriff and/or Incident Command to determine the specific SAR duties and needs for the mission. The SAR Command will be the responsible individual for identifying what capabilities are required, when, where, and the anticipated duration and how long the SAR team can sustain efforts.
- Communicate SAR needs to the EOC and emergency manager, who will request needed resources through local and regional mutual aid or agreements before submitting a request to the State EOC.
- Coordinate the need for state and federal SAR/USAR teams with incident command, emergency management, and Fire.
- Provide situational updates on SAR efforts to the Situational Unit Leader and/or EOC Manager for inclusion in daily situation briefings and situation reports.
- Identify any unmet needs for the incident and share those needs with the EOC /Emergency Manager or Incident Commander so requests for assistance and resources can be routed through the Regional Field Manager for DHSEM and/or State EOC.
- Document all expenses, donations, personnel time,, and equipment used in the mission's efforts in accordance with Disaster Finance and FEMA requirements as outlined in the EOP.

7.7.9.1.3   ESF-9 Recovery

- Coordinate with the EOC, other agencies, and the Sheriff's Office for any search and rescue or staffing needs during the disaster's recovery phase, such as staffing an evacuation point, re-entry road block assistance, damage assessment, etc.

7.7.9.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-9 Search and Rescue will monitor and report changes to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC manager to the following lifelines.

Table 32: ESF-9 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components		
Safety and Security	Search and Rescue	Community Safety	
Health and Medical	Patient Movement	Fatality Management	
Communications	Responder Communications		

7.7.10 ESF-10 Hazardous Materials

Per Colorado Revised Statutes, **§ 29-22-101,** et seq., the Ouray County Sheriff's Office is the Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) for hazardous material response incidents within unincorporated Ouray County. The fire chiefs have been designated the DERA in the county's incorporated areas. ESF-10 Hazardous Materials is responsible for coordinating local, state, and federal response to support a current and/or anticipated hazardous material response in Ouray County and its municipalities. ESF-10 will work closely with other ESFs, subject matter experts from state and federal agencies, and the private sector to ensure the proper response to contain and mitigate risk to the community from hazardous substances. ESF-10, Hazardous Materials may be called upon by other ESFs and agencies for decontamination, sampling, and PPE needs during response and recovery operations related to hazardous material spills and/or health disasters affecting humans and/or animals.

7.7.10.1 ESF-10 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.10.1.1 ESF-10 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Establish and meet as the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to involve members of first response agencies (fire, EMS, and law enforcement), communications, public health, emergency management, local industry representatives, the press, and members of the public.

- Per the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), the county, via the LEPC, is responsible for drafting and reviewing the county's Hazardous Materials Response Plan.
- Conduct training and exercises related to the Hazardous Materials Response Plan.
- Maintain a list of all EPA-rated Tier II Facilities in Ouray County that manufacture or store Extremely Hazardous Substances on-site. Per state and federal laws, such as ECPRA, these facilities are required to report hazardous chemical inventories over designated threshold quantities established by the EPA and/or CISA to local and state officials.

7.7.10.1.2 ESF-10 Response
- Ensure personnel support the EOC when activated.
- Establish and maintain contact/coordination with the Incident Commander/Command Post to determine specific hazardous material response and recovery needs—what is needed, where, when, and for how long.
- Identify and contact mutual aid and regional hazardous material resources to support current/future needs.
- Ensure downwind/downstream impacts are considered in planning and operational tasks and necessary steps are taken to mitigate the spread of the substance(s) and future contamination. Per State and Federal law/regulation, source water providers downstream of spills must be notified.
- Ensure local and state Public and Environmental Health staff have been notified and that the entity responsible for the spill is identified for state and federal agency notifications.
- Report hazardous material resource needs to emergency management or the local EOC, who will relay the request to the State EOC for state and federal partners if no resources exist locally.
- Coordinate the reception of private sector, state, and federal hazmat response and recovery resources with the ICP staff.
- Track expenses, donations, and hazmat response and recovery asset times, hours, mileage, and equipment used per Disaster Finance Policies and the EOP.
- Support other ESFs.

7.7.11.1.2 ESF-10 Recovery
- Direct, supervise or ensure the cleanup of hazardous material spills in the county per state and federal statutes.
- Recuperate response and cleanup costs associated with hazardous substance spills per state and federal law.
- Support county departments, ESFs, and outside agencies in recovering critical infrastructure and hazardous material facilities.

7.7.10.2 ESF-10 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-10, Hazardous Materials will monitor and report lifeline changes to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

Table 33: ESF-10 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components			
Safety and Security	Fire Services	Community Safety		
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit		
Hazardous Materials	Facilities	HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants		

7.7.11 ESF-11 Agriculture & Natural Resources

ESF-11 Agriculture and Natural Resources is responsible for planning for the evacuation, shelter, feeding, and welfare of domestic pets, service animals, companion animals, and livestock in Ouray County during and following a disaster. This may include natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, landslides, or an animal/species-specific infectious disease.

In an emergency involving pets, service animals, and/or livestock, the ESF-11 group will be responsible for helping coordinate the selection and activation of pet shelters across the county and requesting logistical support for the transportation and housing of pets/livestock. Animal welfare and safety, ownership documentation, and identification of pets and personal property will be top priorities for this group. Residents in the path of a disaster forced to evacuate need to feel comfortable that their pets and livestock will be cared for. ESF-11 should work closely with community leaders, ESF-15, the EOC, and law enforcement to coordinate the evacuation or moving of pets and livestock out of the path of a natural disaster whenever possible. ESF-11

can accomplish its goals by working with volunteers, animal welfare organizations, county staff, ranchers, neighboring counties, and veterinary staff to provide services to domestic pets and livestock.

Additionally, ESF-11 should develop plans and locate individuals within the community who may be subject matter experts on natural and cultural resources. It should also communicate the location and identity of these resources to incident commanders so they can be preserved whenever possible. This includes physical structures such as those on the national historic registry and other locations that may have a cultural or historical significance to the community.

7.7.11.1 ESF-11 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.11.1.1 ESF-11 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Review the PETS Act and draft an animal evacuation and sheltering plan with feedback from local veterinarians, pet supply stores, facility owners, citizens, Ouray County Cattlemen's Association, and local elected and appointed officials.
- Develop mutual aid agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with local animal supply and/or trucking companies to assist in handling the logistical needs of animal/livestock evacuation during a disaster.
- Review and exercise plans through tabletop or other exercises.
- Recruit volunteers and identify a list of resources available in the event of a disaster for the evacuation, care, and sheltering of animals.

7.7.11.1.2 ESF-11 Response

- Ensure personnel support the EOC when activated.
- Coordinate with Incident Command and the EOC to determine specific animal care issues and the need for evacuation, shelter, and care.
- Work with local veterinarians to identify injured or ill animals, determine treatment plans, determine whether animals need euthanasia, and assist owners in caring for them.
- Coordinate with local and state veterinarians, the state vet office, labs, and local and state health departments related to disease outbreaks in animals, the sampling of tests from animals, the implementation of quarantine efforts for live animals, or the proper disposition of deceased animals due to disease and/or death from the disaster to ensure environmental and public health during a disaster.
- Support and direct animal-related evacuations for individuals displaced from their homes, seeking shelter, or needing shelter for their animals.
- Communicate animal-related issues and resource needs to the EOC/Emergency Management for coordination via Mutual Aid and/or requests via WebEOC to the State EOC.
- Coordinate reception of state and federal animal response and recovery resources such as the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT).
- Coordinate documentation, shelter, and care of animals as needed.

7.7.11.1.3 ESF-11 Recovery
- Track and document animal response and recovery activities and support until no longer needed.

7.7.11.2 ESF-11 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore
ESF-11 Agriculture and Natural Resources will monitor and report lifeline changes to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

Table 34: ESF-11 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components
Food, Water, Shelter	Agriculture

7.7.12 ESF-12 Energy & Public Utilities

ESF-12 Energy & Public Utilities relies upon private companies that provide services for residents in a defined area or across Ouray County and its municipalities. ESF-12 will be coordinated by maintenance and facilities departments and municipal public works departments as internal agencies. However, lead agencies for the restoration of services will fall to the private industries such as SMPA, DMEA, Black Hills Energy, propane companies, telecom, and data companies. ESF-12-related agencies/companies are responsible for collecting damage assessments of public utilities in the field following and/or during the response to an incident/disaster.

These providers will provide evaluation damage assessment reports and share information on energy, utility, and critical infrastructure damages with the EOC. They will also estimate the impacts on the community and estimate the timeline/cost for repair. ESF-12 covers any facility or agency involved in the production, refining, transportation, generation, transmission, conservation, building, distribution, or maintenance of energy or a public utility within Ouray County and its municipalities.

Agency representatives from public utility companies will serve as subject matter experts and communicate with regulatory bodies per state and federal regulations. They are also responsible for coordinating the delivery of fuels, electricity, data, and communication services for residential, government, and commercial customers. As restoration of public utilities is a private sector responsibility, the Facilities and Maintenance Department, Road & Bridge Superintendent, and municipal public works departments will coordinate between these agencies and the EOC and provide county resources or city resources, where applicable, to the agencies to assist in facilitating the restoration of services.

7.7.12.1 ESF-12 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.12.1.1 ESF-12 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Attend Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group meetings and develop relationships with agency administrators, emergency management, and elected officials coordinating

response efforts during a disaster. Formulate relationships so private industry representatives aren't meeting government agency representatives for the first time when a disaster happens.
- Participate in training and exercise programs offered by local agencies to practice response to utility-based scenarios or use injects related to public utilities.
- Work with emergency management, law enforcement, and private sector liaisons, such as critical infrastructure owners and elected officials, to discuss how to mitigate the effects of damage to infrastructure and public utilities to minimize service interruptions.
- Discuss priorities for security and access control to critical infrastructure.
- Coordinate tours of critical infrastructure/public utility infrastructure with first responders and elected officials. Hence, local fire, EMS, and law enforcement are familiar with equipment and how to work with the private sector to restore services and minimize interruptions.

7.7.12.1.2   ESF-12 Response
- Work to restore services to residents as quickly as possible following an outage. This may require coordination with county Road & Bridge, city municipal public works, or other local, state, or federal agencies.
- Gather information and damage reports and share these updates with the EOC for situational reports and briefings.
- Work with emergency management, law enforcement, fire, EMS, and other private sector liaisons and critical infrastructure owners to assess damage to infrastructure and determine needs and priorities for restoring services.
- Support and coordinate public service restoration activities with incident command and EOC.
- Identify and report any shortfalls for service restoration or specialized needs to the EOC/Emergency Management so they can be communicated to the State EOC.
- Track and document response costs, such as personnel time and mileage/hours of equipment use, in accordance with the EOP and FEMA requirements.

7.7.12.1.3   ESF-12 Recovery
- Continue to provide and support the restoration of services to businesses and residents.
- Compile final reports for damage assessments to utility infrastructure and share reports with the EOC/Emergency Manager.

7.7.12.2 ESF-12 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-12 Energy & Public Utilities will monitor and report changes to all lifelines to the EOC Situation Unit leader/EOC Manager.

Table 35: ESF-12 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components
Safety and Security	Community Safety
Food, Water, Shelter	Water
Energy	Power Fuel
Communications	Infrastructure
Hazardous Materials	Facilities

7.7.13 ESF-13 Law Enforcement & Security

ESF-13 Law Enforcement & Security protects life and property by enforcing state laws, court orders, regulations, and county ordinances. This includes moving persons from threatened or hazardous areas and issuing evacuation orders by the Sheriff or jurisdictional law enforcement. Law enforcement is also responsible for critical infrastructure protection, security planning, response to investigate breaches in buildings and sensitive areas, crime scene security, traffic control and enforcement, and more. It is responsible for these activities before, during, and after a disaster or incident.

Local law enforcement personnel and administration at the Sheriff's Office and local police departments are primarily responsible for public safety and security for citizens within their jurisdiction and using ICS for significant incidents. In the event of a terrorist threat or incident, local law enforcement will be responsible for scene security and local activities. However, investigating the terrorist actions will fall to the United States Attorney General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and/or other federal agencies.

ESF-13 will be activated with almost every major incident to ensure public safety and security capabilities are met within the community. The role of the ESF-13 leads is to coordinate with field supervisors and agencies and obtain the resources needed in support of the incident. ESF-13 may be activated for minor activities such as roadblocks, traffic control, scene security, and threat assessments or be asked to assist with evacuations, message delivery to homeowners, and screening entry into secure areas.

The Sheriff or designee will coordinate closely with regional, state, and federal agencies to determine the best resources for the incident and the assistance needed. Additionally, the Sheriff and/or designees can communicate with the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) and other intelligence agencies about any potential threats of violence.

7.7.13.1   ESF-13 Key Tasks and Responsibilities

7.7.13.1.1   ESF-13 Preparedness and Mitigation

- Attend Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group meetings and develop relationships with agency administrators, Emergency Management, and elected officials who will coordinate response efforts during a disaster.
- Participate in training and exercise programs offered by local agencies to practice responses to scenarios and test county/local response plans.
- Provide training needs for Incident Management, Incident Command, and other Emergency Management specialized training to emergency management for inclusion in the county and West Region Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) for the three-year planning cycle.
- Coordinate tours of critical infrastructure/public utility infrastructure with private industry owners. Hence, staff are familiar with equipment and how to work with the private sector to restore services, minimize interruptions to the public, and investigate any criminal actions at such facilities.
- Coordinate public safety and security support (including personnel and equipment) for Ouray County agencies to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any real or potential threat/incident.

7.7.13.1.1   ESF-13 Response

- The Sheriff's Office, Ouray Police Department, and Ridgway Marshal will maintain the statutory authority to ensure the preservation of public order, prevention of criminal activity, preservation and collection of evidence, and criminal investigations.
- Provide for the timely and appropriate decision to evacuate or shelter in place at-risk populations during emergencies. Evacuation will be highly dependent on the circumstances and the hazard. The determination to direct the public to evacuate must

be made quickly based on facts, and clear guidance must be provided, such as identifying effective traffic routes and where evacuated individuals should evacuate.

- o Local law enforcement may order an evacuation under state statute and the sheriff's authority to keep the peace pursuant to **C.R.S. 30-10-516**. It can be enforced by criminal sanctions, and an individual who disobeys an evacuation order does so at his/her peril and assumes all inherent risks involved.
- Develop a situation assessment of all law enforcement needs within the county for response to the emergency/disaster. Report situation reports to the Incident Commander and EOC for situational updates and planning.
- Serve as the liaison with municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to determine needs, gaps, and mutual aid or specialized team requests.
- Support and coordinate law enforcement activities with Incident Command – if a law enforcement operation such as an active shooter, the Sheriff may be Incident Commander, and ESF-13 can be designated to another command-level staff official.
- Communicate resource needs to Emergency Management/EOC, document requests for additional state or federal assistance with the EOC, and clarify whether the EOC/Emergency Manager is requesting additional resources/staff through the State EOC or if the Sheriff/IC will be making direct agency notifications and contacts.
- Ensure all law enforcement-related activities, costs, and paperwork are tracked and documented in accordance with the EOP and FEMA guidelines and that planning support/staffing is scheduled until Incident Command or Operations no longer need it.
- Coordinate with ESF # 15 and ESF # 5 for critical information dissemination of public safety/security messages through mass notification systems/media.
- Facilitate and coordinate multi-agency/function public safety activities such as evacuation of areas, traffic, looting, and riot control.
- The Sheriff or another law enforcement chief, or acting incident commander should request any specialized resources (staff or equipment) that they need, such as SWAT, Bomb Squad, Drone, Explosives, etc.
- Provide security for the ICP, EOC, and other critical infrastructure or government facilities to ensure continuity of operations and operational security.
- **Evacuation-related key responsibilities:**
    - o Coordinate an evacuation point and sheltering support with Emergency Management, Human Services, the American Red Cross, and Public Information.
    - o Issue a formal evacuation order under the appropriate authority and coordinate with Emergency Management and Public Information to distribute evacuation orders with clear directions to the public and media.
    - o Provide clear guidance to populations who may need evacuation assistance and/or may be unable to comply with the order.
    - o Close roads and work with Road and Bridge and Public Works Departments to create efficient evacuation routes and traffic management using all available means, such as creating one-way exits for homeowners and other routes designated for emergency vehicles only.

- o Coordinate with Human Services, Public Health, and others at the EOC to ensure evacuation/transportation needs are addressed in planning and communicated to field staff (first responders).
- o Coordinate and staff check-points on evacuation routes to control access to disaster areas and utilize the Salamander Live/Track System to scan and verify identifications of responders or residents entering per directions from the EOC/Incident Command Team.
- o If a situation requires a shelter-in-place action instead of an evacuation, the Sheriff in coordination with other ESFs, should provide specific instructions on the threat and actions to take through all available public means.
- o **Voluntary vs Mandatory Evacuation Order:**
    - ▪ **Voluntary Evacuation Order—**The Sheriff or another government official strongly urges and recommends that persons in a designated evacuation area gather their belongings and relocate to a safer location. Personal discretion is allowed but not advised. An individual who disobeys a voluntary evacuation order does so at his/her peril and assumes all inherent risks.
    - ▪ **Mandatory Evacuation Order -** The Sheriff or Chief Executive Officer orders all persons in a designated evacuation to relocate to a safer location. Personal discretion is not a deciding factor. A mandatory order will apply to the public in general, with exceptions for public safety, disaster response, critical workforce, or essential personnel. However, all individuals will be expected to seek adequate shelter outside the evacuation area before the onset of dangerous conditions. Persons refusing to comply with a mandatory evacuation order will not be arrested or forcibly removed. However, it should be communicated that rescue personnel and equipment should not be expected after the onset of dangerous conditions and that their safety cannot be guaranteed if they fail to adhere to an evacuation order. An individual who disobeys a mandatory evacuation order does so at his/her peril and assumes all inherent risks involved

7.7.13.1.3   ESF-13 Recovery Tasks:

- Coordinate staff to work with the EOC and recovery manager for law enforcement-related duties and needs.
- Coordinate staffing for public safety and security to protect infrastructure, facilities, and/or areas to start the recovery process.
- Conduct criminal investigations/evidence collection as needed based on the size and scope of the incident.
- Finalize personnel and equipment tracking with finance and emergency management to ensure proper documentation of all law enforcement-related activities, costs, and support.

7.7.13.2 ESF-13 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-13 Public Safety & Security should monitor and report changes to the following lifelines and components to the Situational Unit Leader/EOC for inclusion in briefings and situation reports.

Table 36: ESF-13 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components			
Safety and Security	Law Enforcement/ Security	Fire Services	Search and Rescue	Community Safety
Food, Water, Shelter	Shelter			
Communications	Infrastructure	Alerts, Warnings, and Messages	911 and Dispatch	Responder Communications
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway			
Hazardous Materials	Facilities	HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants		

7.7.14 ESF-14 Long-Term Community Recovery

ESF-14 Damage Assessment and Recovery is responsible for beginning the recovery phase as soon as possible so the community, citizens, and businesses can start rebuilding and recovering from the disaster. Recovery operations can begin simultaneously alongside response efforts and often do. ESF-14 is responsible for two major tasks: assessing and documenting all damages to personal, government, and infrastructure property according to FEMA standards and starting economic recovery for the county and local businesses.

ESF-14's function will vary based on the severity of the incident and the impacts on the community and local residents and businesses. The effort will be led by the county manager, the municipal planners, and the Assessor's Office. These departments are essential to understanding the scope of damage to the community and helping rebuild in the short and long term. During a disaster, the county manager, the municipal planners, and the Assessor's Office will be utilized in the response phase to serve as liaisons between the county, EOC, and incident command team to local businesses to assess community needs, supply chain issues, and gaps in deliverable goods to the public. ESF-14 will report findings to the EOC and work with leaders in private industry to identify solutions to supply chain gaps and/or financial strains and how we can work to alleviate those issues.

The county manager and municipal planners will coordinate and direct damage assessment activities during response and recovery operations. This may include field visits by assessor office staff and building inspectors to document damage to private property, commercial property, government property, and/or infrastructure such as bridges and culverts. As the Assessor is tasked with performing property valuations, staff will need to research property records and document per damage assessment guidelines from FEMA, the before and after condition of each property involved, the extent of damage to the property, and whether it was completely destroyed and compile a report for the County Commissioners, municipal councilors, other elected officials, DOLA, Emergency Management and property owners showing damaged parcels, and any potential impact on property valuation and property taxes going forward.

The main work of ESF-14 begins as recovery begins, and lead departments, with assistance from supporting agencies, will coordinate with the EOC/emergency management, elected officials, county administration, members of the public and private industry business owners, and identify short and long-range recovery needs and goals. These goals should cover all affected agencies, departments, and community areas, both public and private. In general, elected officials such as BOCC will guide discussions on recovery goals, and departments will work to implement those goals, liaise with property owners, provide community support, and help coordinate state and federal disaster assistance efforts.

ESF-14 will work with emergency management, county management, and relevant government and private industry partners to develop and maintain a Recovery Plan for Ouray County, which will be included as an annex to this plan.

7.7.14.1   ESF-14 Key Tasks and Responsibilities
7.7.14.1.1   ESF-14 Preparedness and Mitigation
- Attend training and learn about recovery planning and operations through courses hosted by DHSEM, FEMA, and other entities.
- Work with the finance director and emergency management to develop an understanding of state and federal recovery programs and the National Response Framework.
- Develop and maintain a Recovery plan for Ouray County that will serve as an annex to this plan.

- Develop and maintain relationships between government, private industry, and non-governmental organizations in Ouray County and the Western Region/Region 10 to help facilitate response efforts to support business operations during an incident and start recovery following an incident/disaster.

7.7.14.1.2   ESF-14 Response
- Assess the social and economic consequences/impacts in the impacted area, report impacts to community lifelines and businesses to the EOC, and begin identifying plans for long-term community recovery issues and immediate needs.
- Work with local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry representatives to conduct market disruption and loss analysis and develop a community plan.
- Work with Operations Staff and incident management to get Assessor's Office staff and other county staff/volunteers into the field to document damage assessments and compile report data with damage estimates for elected officials, DHSEM, and the State EOC.
- Work with DOLA to identify financial assistance opportunities for local and county departments to assist in the response and initiation of recovery efforts and serve as a liaison between the EOC, county, private industry/business owners, and DOLA.
- Responsible for calculating the damage threshold for Ouray County and whether damages sustained in the County have risen to the level of a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

7.7.14.1.3   ESF-14 Recovery
- Assemble a rapid assessment and damage assessment team comprised of representatives from the Assessor's Office, municipal administration, county management, emergency management, planning & economic development, Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, Road & Bridge, facilities and maintenance, engineering, and IT.
- Assess damages to county buildings and infrastructure and/or municipal buildings for the development of continuity of operation plans, determine if COOP plans need to be activated, and decide what services can be provided from existing county/municipal government buildings.
- Begin assessing critical infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, fuel stations, restaurants, etc., so repairs can be formulated for essential businesses.
- Assemble a damage assessment team to assess residential and business establishments composed of support agencies and relevant community representatives such as contractors, building inspectors, plumbers, electricians, public utilities, etc.
- Coordinate damage assessment resources with the EOC and if assistance is needed from the State, DHSEM, and/or additional agencies.
- Upon assessing the county-wide impact, provide a report to emergency management, the County Manager, the municipal policy boards, and the Board of County Commissioners regarding assistance needed, damage estimates, and possible requests for state and/or Presidential Disaster Declarations per the County EOP and State procedures.

- Provide finance officers with damage assessment reports detailing the damage and estimated repair cost to county buildings, as well as total county-wide damage assessment and costs and estimated impact to tax revenue in subsequent years.
- Provide situation reports during EOC briefings and for inclusion in the situation report.
- Coordinate and provide details to the State EOC and EOC as requested or as needed.

7.7.14. ESF-14 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-14 Damage Assessment & Recovery should monitor and report changes in the following community lifelines to the EOC and Situational Unit Leader.

Table 37: ESF-14 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components			
Safety and Security	Government Services	Community Safety		
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture
Health and Medical	Medical Supply Chain			
Energy	Power	Fuel		
Communications	Infrastructure	Financial Services		

Continued on next page

Lifelines	Components
Transportation	Highway/Roadway Mass Transit
Hazardous Materials	Facilities

7.7.15 ESF-15 External Affairs and Public Information

ICS established the Public Information Officer (PIO) as an essential part of the command team. That's because dissemination of information to the public, stakeholders, partner agencies, and internal staff is critical to a mission's success or failure. While for many agencies, PIO duties are handled by a single person, the role of ESF-15 is to activate public information resources and be available to assist in generating press releases, scheduling press conferences, press tours, media staging, and related tasks for the incident at the direction of the Incident Commander.

As an incident grows, so does the complexity and the need for more information to be distributed to members of the public, media, community, government partners, and first responders. This is more work than one person can manage, supporting the Incident Commander, the Unified Command, and/or the EOC. Therefore, it is recommended that, whenever possible, a team of public information officers work together to activate the Joint Information Center (JIC) at a physical location where multiple PIOs can coordinate information dissemination.

Once the JIC is operational, local, state, federal, and other agencies, including NGOs, should coordinate news releases, press conferences, official statements, and interviews concerning the specifics of the emergency response through the Joint Information Center (JIC). By default, the JIC manager will be the county's Public Information Officer (PIO) unless the incident occurs entirely within the jurisdiction of a municipality, special district, state, or federal agency. At that time, the lead PIO for that agency/district/town will take over as the JIC manager for the incident.

Public Information Officers can be utilized for critical public affairs/messaging, including, but not limited to, press releases, scheduling interviews, designing graphics, sharing information on social media sites, answering public questions, establishing call centers, running citizen word-of-mouth campaigns, facilitating public meetings, and de-conflicting information from the Incident Commanders/Unified Command and agency needs.

7.7.15.1 **ESF-15 Key Tasks and Responsibilities**

7.7.15.1.1 **ESF-15 Preparedness and Mitigation**

- Establish a Joint Information System (JIS) among local, county, state, and federal agency PIOs to build relationships before an incident and share best practices.
- Work with emergency management, county and/or city management, and IT to plan for a Joint Information Center (JIC) at a location that supports the EOC but can enable press access without access to sensitive operational details at the ICP or EOC.
- Develop and maintain media distribution lists and contact information for local and regional media at the ICP and EOC.
- Coordinate training for PIO and JIC personnel and exercises to ensure readiness. Participate in the county or regional Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) to provide feedback for a 3-year training and exercise plan related to PIO duties for local staff.

7.7.15.1.2 **ESF-15 Response**

- Provide PIO to the Incident Management Team to serve as incident PIO.
- Depending on the size of the incident, the PIO may also support the EOC.
- As the incident expands, there should be a dedicated PIO in the EOC and one dedicated to the ICP.
- Ensure media releases are consistent, accurate, and timely and that Incident Command/Unified Command approves them.
- Arrange and coordinate media requests for interviews with appropriate officials at times and locations that don't interfere with response operations.
- Coordinate media staging areas with the EOC, law enforcement, and other supporting agencies to meet media needs. Still, they aren't interfering with emergency operations or personnel or having access to restricted EOC, JIC, or ICP areas.
- Work with emergency management and law enforcement to issue press credentials to news media and coordinate field trips into damaged areas to safely document damages or response activities. Trips require the approval and sanctioning of the Incident Commander, Safety Officer, and other officials.
- Identify and report PIO resource shortfalls to ESF-5 or ESF-7 for documentation and request via local, regional, or state-wide mutual aid first, then through WebEOC requests to the State EOC.
- Coordinate PIO logistical support and resource needs and, if needed, place orders through ESF-7. Also, coordinate logistics for equipment, supplies, and personnel.
- Activate and staff a call center for the incident utilizing volunteers and county and municipal staff. Identify a call center coordinator to manage the call center and report to the PIO or JIC Manager and ESF-5.
- Coordinate social media and website updates and, whenever possible, develop an incident website or post to a website to provide a resource for individuals who may not have access to social media. Include pertinent information such as evacuated areas, shelter sites, public debriefing, meeting locations, situation status, etc.
- Manage a schedule of scheduled media briefings, publish the schedule to media, and coordinate the setup and cleanup of a briefing room at an area outside the EOC and ICP.

- Maintain files/copies of all public information releases, photos, citizen complaints, CORA requests, and other documents produced during the incident. These should be forwarded to the Documentation Unit Leader for retention.
- Monitor media broadcasts to ensure the accuracy of reports, establish methods for correcting erroneous information, and control the spread of rumors.
- If needed, activate a team of volunteers to scrub social media sites for information, help spread accurate information, and dispel rumors.
- Provide public information updates at EOC/Command Staff briefings and daily situational reports while differentiating between internal and official use information and publicly available information.
- Support other ESFs as needed during an incident.

7.7.15.1.3   ESF-15 Recovery
- Support the Board of County Commissioners, city council, town council, ESF-5, and supporting agencies in drafting press releases and advertisements, scheduling events, and sharing recovery information for citizens while considering ANF and ADA requirements.

7.7.15.2 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

ESF-15 Public Information will work with other ESFs to monitor all community lifelines. While specific components don't apply except for the status of government services and overall community safety, the PIO should be aware of changes to the status of all lifelines so they can communicate appropriately with internal and external stakeholders and the media.

Table 38: ESF-15 Community Lifelines to Monitor/Restore

Lifelines	Components				
Safety and Security	Law Enforcement/ Security	Fire Services	Search and Rescue	Government Services	Community Safety
Food, Water, Shelter	Food	Water	Shelter	Agriculture	
Health and Medical	Medical Care	Patient Movement	Public Health	Fatality Management	Medical Supply Chain
Energy	Power	Fuel			
Communications	Infrastructure	Alerts, Warnings, and Messages	911 and Dispatch	Responder Communications	Financial Services
Transportation	Highway/ Roadway	Mass Transit			

Lifelines	Components	
Hazardous Materials	Facilities	HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants

8   DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

8.1 Consequence Management

Consequence management involves the coordinated response to minimize and mitigate the impacts of a disaster on the public, environment, economy, and infrastructure within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This includes proactive measures to restore essential services, protect public health, and support community recovery efforts. In alignment with local and regional priorities, consequence management activities encompass actions such as:

- **Damage and Needs Assessment**: Conduct rapid assessments of damages and community needs to inform response efforts and resource allocation.
- **Resource Allocation and Mobilization**: Prioritize and mobilize resources, including personnel, equipment, and supplies, to support critical functions and restore essential services across all jurisdictions.
- **Risk Communication and Public Information**: Provide timely, accurate information to the public and stakeholders regarding safety measures, health risks, and available resources to manage immediate and long-term impacts.
- **Health and Safety Support**: Implement measures to protect public health, including hazard mitigation, sanitation, and mental health support for impacted populations.
- **Infrastructure and Utility Restoration**: Coordinate efforts to restore transportation, utilities, communication systems, and other infrastructure to stabilize the community and support economic recovery.
- **Coordination with Partner Agencies**: Work collaboratively with federal, state, and regional agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector partners, to leverage resources, expertise, and support for effective consequence management.

By integrating these consequence management actions, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway aim to mitigate the impacts of a disaster efficiently and support a resilient recovery for all affected residents and stakeholders.

8.2   Incident Management

Direction and control of the incident before, during, and after an emergency or disaster rests with the elected leadership of the legally recognized jurisdiction impacted at the local level. Unless a delegation of authority is completed, this authority continues throughout each stage – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery of emergency operations. Even under a

delegation of authority, statutory requirements for the responsible jurisdiction must be completed by the jurisdiction during the incident.

Regardless of the emergency or disaster event that agencies are responding to, each agency, department, or jurisdiction maintains control and authority over its staff and physical assets, such as technology, equipment, hardware, and vehicles. An agency director, chief elected official, or other individual with authority to commit resources on behalf of an agency decides how much resource support will be offered to an incident and how best to utilize their staff and resources to serve the citizens but maintain legally required services.

8.3   Incident Levels

The Federal NIMS/ICS system establishes a typing system for incident response to categorize the size and magnitude of an emergency/disaster. Jurisdictions will utilize these levels when describing an incident to responders, state and federal officials, and the media.

Type 5 incidents are the smallest and least complex, while Type 1 incidents are the most complex. These types represent the varying levels of responsibility for handling emergencies. The classification is based on the understanding that unless the incident is a case of terrorism being investigated by the federal government or takes place on state and/or federal lands, the local agency and first responders will receive assistance from state and federal agencies.

8.3.1   Type 5 Incident

8.3.1.1 Type 5 Incident Command Structure

- Local first responders and on-scene incident commander, if any.

8.3.1.2 Type 5 Incident Characteristics

- One or two single response resources with up to 6 response personnel.
- The incident is expected to last only a few hours.
- No ICS and general staff positions activated other than Incident Commander.
- The Emergency Manager may be notified, monitor response, and assist with coordination and/or dispatch efforts and notifications to command staff and elected officials.
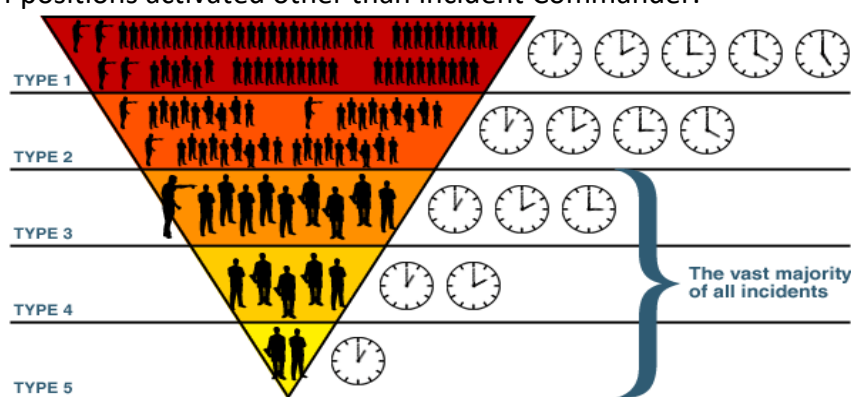
Figure 20: Incident Types Related to Personnel and Time

- Everyday incidents and response to emergencies throughout Ouray County and its municipalities.
- May involve fire, EMS, and law enforcement.
- Examples: two-vehicle accident scene, trapped person, isolated power outages from storms, minor police investigations,
- EOC is not activated.

- Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is not generated or required.

8.3.2 Type 4 Incident

8.3.2.1 Type 4 Incident Command Structure

- Several single response resources are required.
- Select ICS command and general staff activated only as needed.
- On-Scene Incident Commander.
- First Responders.
- Additional Responders requested,
- Ouray County EOC may be activated at Level 4 to monitor the incident.
- Ouray County Incident Management Team (OCIMT) may be activated.

8.3.2.2 Type 4 Incident Characteristics

- Incident Commander runs the scene, and additional positions are only activated.
- The Emergency Manager should be notified.
- Emergency Manager monitors response and assists with coordination and/or dispatch efforts and notifications to command staff and elected officials.
- Incident is limited to one operational period.
- A written IAP is not generated, but the incident should be documented, and a log of all personnel should be generated.
- An agency administrator may have briefings and complete a complexity analysis of the event.
- The incident administrator is also responsible for operational planning, such as objectives and priorities for the incident.
- Example: Multi-vehicle accident, small grass fires, minor search and rescue call out for injured or missing person.

8.3.3 Type 3 Incident

8.3.3.1 Type 3 Incident Command Structure

- Some or all ICS Command and General Staff are activated.
- First Responders.
- Additional resources requested.
- Mutual Aid agreements activated.
- For the first 72 hours, the OCIMT shall be activated according to the complexity of the incident.
- An incident complexity analysis reveals the incident will exceed local management capabilities.
- A Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is recommended to take over incident command through initial actions with significant resources committed.
- An extended response is needed until containment is achieved.
- The incident can be transitioned back to locals or expanded and transitioned to a Type 2 IMT.
- Ouray County EOC shall activated.

8.3.3.2 Type 3 Incident Characteristics

- Resource requirements will exceed the initial response resources.
- May extend into multiple operational periods.
- The incident will likely have a significant community impact and cause local municipalities and/or the county to declare a local emergency disaster.
- ICS positions are added to match the complexity of the incident.
- An EOC is activated.
- A PIO handles incident public affairs, and the JIC may be established.
- The incident is extending into multiple operational periods.
- Mutual aid is required, and state or federal partners are requested to assist.
- A written IAP is required for each operational period.
- Examples: Large wildfire/grass fire, winter storm, widespread power outage, domestic water outage or boil orders, hostage situation, officer-involved shooting, school shooting, etc.

8.3.4   Type 2 Incident

8.3.4.1 Type 2 Incident Command Structure

- All ICS Command and General Staff positions are filled.
- Ouray County EOC is at full activation.
- PIO handles incident public affairs, and the JIC shall be established.
- For the first 72 hours, the OCIMT shall be activated according to the complexity of the incident.
- An incident complexity analysis reveals the incident will exceed local management capabilities.
- A Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is recommended to take over incident command through initial actions with significant resources committed, or an extended response is needed until containment is achieved
- The incident can be transitioned back to locals, or it can expand and be transitioned to a Type 2 IMT.
- Initial and additional responders.
- Mutual aid is activated.

8.3.4.2 Type 2 Incident Characteristics

- Regional or national resources will be required.
- The incident will extend into multiple operational periods.
- Incident exceeds the capabilities for local control and is expected to last an extended duration and multiple operational periods.
- May become a declared state emergency or disaster.
- The Joint Information Center is activated full-time and staffed by local, county, state, and possibly federal partners.
- A designated JIC manager is appointed.
- A written IAP is required for each operational period.
- A large ICP is required to support the incident.

- The IMT, the Ouray County Emergency Management, and/or DHSEM Field Manager shall routinely complete a complexity analysis.
- If on private/county-owned property, the Board of County Commissioners, Ouray City Council, Ridgway Town Council, and/or the policy group retain oversight for the incident.
- There will be jurisdictional management briefings and a delegation of authority from the County to the IMT for the management of the incident (except for duties that can't be delegated by law);
- If the incident occurs on state or federal land, the agency with jurisdiction will maintain oversight. It will involve the County Commissioners, City Council, Town Council, and Administration in briefings (e.g., Fire on BLM or USFS lands that then spread to private lands).
- The Guidelines for operations personnel are less than 200 per operational period and typically less than 500 personnel per incident total.
- Examples: large wildfires that threaten structures, uncontained structures, and possibly already burned structures. Acts of terrorism, major flooding where many citizens are affected, and/or damage to critical infrastructure.

8.3.5 Type 1 Incident

8.3.5.1 Type 1 Incident Command Structure

- National-level resources are required.
- All ICS command and general staff positions are utilized, and Branches shall be established.
- Local responders assist agencies that request mutual aid, and regional and state-wide resources are hired.
- Ouray County and municipal EOCs are fully activated as is the State EOC with JIC.
- OCIMT shall be activated to match the complexity of the incident for the first 72 hours.
- An incident complexity analysis reveals the incident will exceed local management capabilities.
- A Type 3 IMT is recommended to take over incident command through initial actions with significant resources committed.
- An extended response is needed until containment is achieved and the incident can transition back to locals or the incident expands and is transitioned to a Type 2 IMT or Type 1 IMT.

8.3.5.2 Type 1 Incident Characteristics

- The most complex incident of national significance requires federal assistance and resources to safely and effectively manage.
- The incident will extend into multiple operational periods.
- The incident will have a significant impact on the county and municipalities.
- Additional staff are needed to support emergency management, administrative, and support functions.
- Large-area evacuations and shelter activations are likely to pose a significant threat to human life and personal property.

- Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period or total.
- Examples: massive wildfire burning thousands of acres with no containment, national pandemic, major dam failure, significant acts of terrorism.

8.4 Jurisdictional Authority

8.4.1 Local Control

Initial response is provided by local first responders and directed by the on-scene incident command. Activities may include rescue, firefighting, emergency medical services, crime scene investigations, traffic control, evacuations, and emergency public information releases. The on-scene command may establish a unified command to integrate the jurisdictional authority and responsibilities of participating organizations such as fire, EMS, and law enforcement.

8.4.1.1 Incorporated Area

When an incident occurs within the boundaries of an incorporated city/town (City of Ouray or Town of Ridgway) and falls within the legal authorities of an incorporated area, the city/town has the jurisdictional authority and primary incident management responsibility. It is responsible for costs incurred during the incident.

The exceptions are public health, human services, fire, and EMS. The City of Ouray does have a fire department, and there is a contract with the Ouray Fire Protection District that dictates Ouray Volunteer Fire Department covers the whole Ouray Fire Protection District. However, the Town of Ridgway does not have a fire department, and the Ridgway Fire Protection District does fire suppression. Neither the City of Ouray nor the Town of Ridgway has EMS, Public health, or human services capabilities. Ouray County EMS covers EMS for both municipalities.

8.4.1.2 Unincorporated Areas

An incident that occurs in unincorporated Ouray County will fall to the county's management. If an incident impacts both unincorporated and incorporated areas of Ouray County, the unified command will be established between the affected municipalities and the county, and they will share responsibility unless the County Commissioners/Manager agrees to take over responsibility for the incident.

8.4.1.3 Federal/State Public Lands

The state or federal agency with ownership/jurisdiction over public lands in unincorporated Ouray County will maintain management over any incident on their lands. County or municipal departments/agencies may provide initial response efforts until federal/state agency resources can arrive and relieve local resources.

8.4.1.4 Public Health Event

The Ouray County Public Health Agency is the only public health department in Ouray County. It is responsible for all incidents impacting personal and environmental health throughout Ouray County. Their jurisdiction encompasses unincorporated and incorporated Ouray County and staff members work closely with regional public health and the CDPHE to respond to public/environmental health emergencies. Ouray County Public Health Agency utilizes CDPHE to cover the environmental health response.

8.4.2 Regional Support

Regional support for incidents can be requested/come from organizations such as the West Region All Hazards Planning & Response Board, which comprises emergency managers from the West Region. Additionally, the West Region Healthcare Coalition (WRHCC), the West Central Healthcare Alliance, the Regional PIO groups, and other West Region groups are available to provide support at a regional level during an incident.

During an incident affecting Ouray County and its municipalities, these entities may be called upon as an individual group or as a cohort to assist agencies. Assistance may be in the form of logistical support, expertise, operational planning, resources, or public information assistance.

Regional partners will be secondary to local jurisdictions and in a supporting role unless their agency/group has a stake in the incident and jurisdiction (such as regional public health), who will then be involved in Unified Command.

Ouray County Emergency Management works closely with regional emergency managers from Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Hinsdale, San Miguel, and Mesa Counties on planning efforts and Homeland Security Funds. To the greatest extent possible, this EOP will be updated to reflect similar terminology, response policies, and efforts within the region to allow for easy integration of regional staff into the Ouray County response model and EOC.

8.4.3 State Agencies

State agencies such as the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), and Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) are a few of the agencies that should be notified of an incident and coordinated with as the incident progresses during the response phase. Regional staff for each agency will respond to provide assistance and guidance or remote support to the local jurisdiction and/or EOC during an incident. The DHSEM regional field manager, the CDPHE field manager, and the DFPC battalion chief will serve as the county's local representative to state resources and assistance during the incidents and help prioritize the state EOC's needs.

Emergency management will receive all local/county emergency declarations and file them promptly with the Ouray County Clerk & Recorder and DHSEM via the Regional Field Manager. Upon receipt of a local/county emergency declaration, DHSEM will communicate the status to the State EOC, the Director of DHSEM, and the Governor's Office and, if necessary, request a State Emergency Declaration and assistance from the State. If a disaster in Ouray County is of such magnitude that it requires federal assistance, the State, through DHSEM and the State EOC, will serve as the primary agency for requesting/facilitating federal assistance.

State agencies, including the Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the State Human Services, and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, can provide additional assistance during an incident's response phase. Every disaster or emergency is different, and the extent of state agency involvement will vary based on the nature and severity of the incident.

8.4.4   Federal Agencies

During response to an incident, federal agencies may provide aid or have jurisdiction and control over response to an incident or emergency. Wildfires on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or U.S. Forest Service Land (USFS) are emergencies that will be under federal jurisdiction. Once a fire is confirmed on federal public lands, the Montrose Interagency Dispatch should be notified immediately so federal partners can assess the situation, assign resources, and coordinate with local officials, including fire districts, Emergency Management, County Manager, and elected officials.

Other emergencies and disasters may fall under the jurisdiction of federal agencies, who are likely to have an extended response due to our geographic location. Examples include plane crashes or train derailments, which fall under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Explosions or terrorism fall within the ATF, FBI, and Division of Homeland Security jurisdiction.

Most of these agencies are located in Denver and/or Salt Lake City, and some have satellite offices in Grand Junction. Suppose an incident commander, elected official, emergency management, or other responder believes an emergency/disaster falls within the jurisdiction of a federal agency. In that case, the appropriate agencies should be notified as soon as possible. Local law enforcement and first responders should know that an extended delay of up to 72 hours may occur before federal partners arrive on the scene.

Local jurisdictions should be aware that federal law dictates the response and involvement of federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in local and state emergencies. FEMA will NOT respond and assist unless an emergency/disaster arises to the level of a major disaster and there is a Presidential Declaration.

Suppose an emergency is of such magnitude that it qualifies as a "major disaster" as defined by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)). In that case, DHSEM will be notified who will communicate the situation to the Governor to make a request to the President of the United States for a Federal Declaration. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies will then work in support of the State and local jurisdictions.

8.4.5   Private Sector and Volunteer Groups

Volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross and other Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) will coordinate operations and volunteer needs with the EOC.

During an emergency or disaster in Ouray County or its municipalities, the private sector will be critical to effective response and to minimizing loss or destruction of property and life. The private sector includes public utilities such as SMPA and Black Hills Energy, domestic water companies, construction companies with heavy equipment, delivery companies, restaurants, hotels, etc. The private sector will be critical to providing resources during the response and recovery phase, and keeping businesses open during an emergency will be a priority.

8.5   Delegation of Authority

During response to an incident, such as a wildfire or another Type III to Type I incident, the county, a municipality, or a special district may be required to delegate authority to another

agency or an incident management team for management of the incident and give the IMT/agency authority to order resources and direct response activities. This is specified in the Wildfire Operating Plan for wildfires. The Wildfire Operating Plan is a document that guides fire response and responsibilities for fire districts, the county and Sheriff's Office, the DFPC, and Federal Land Agencies (USFS, BLM, NPS, etc.).

A Delegation of Authority is a statement provided to the Incident Commander by the agency executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility for incident management. The Delegation of Authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, cost share terms, and other necessary considerations or guidelines.

A Delegation of Authority is required for an IMT team or other agency to assume command. Statutorily responsible duties such as those of the Sheriff cannot be delegated to another agency.

8.6   Incident Command System (ICS)

As mentioned throughout this EOP, Ouray County and its municipalities will adhere to the Incident Management System (ICS) per the guidelines set forth by the National Incident Management System (NIMS), local resolutions, and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5.

Incident Management falls to the on-scene Incident Commander (IC), defined by NIMS and the ICS. The IC will be responsible for directing the command and control of specific activities at the incident site. The initial IC/UC at an incident site will be from the service having primary jurisdiction (police, fire, EMS, Public Health, etc.). As an incident expands, the primary jurisdiction may change. If jurisdictional boundaries become unclear or an incident crosses multiple jurisdictions/agencies, a Unified Command team should be formed.

Incident Command will coordinate with the emergency manager as much as possible so that agency coordination can occur and updates can be provided to elected officials, DHSEM, and other state agencies. The ICS structure consists of five (5) primary components:
- Command Staff
- Operations Staff
- Planning Staff
- Finance Staff
- Logistics Staff

8.6.1   Incident Commander Recommended Qualifications

Persons assuming the role of an Incident Commander shall be routinely trained in NIMS and ICS and have a solid fundamental knowledge of the response for that incident. Other skills a commander should exhibit:
- Strong communication skills.
- A high-level knowledge of incident management best practices and systems.
- Problem-solving skills.
- The ability to make quick, confident decisions.
- Be able to dedicate the entire operational period to the incident.
- Previous experience with major incidents (either as a participant or an observer).
- Leadership skills—the ability to take command in a high-stress situation.

- Listening and synthesis skills.

8.6.2 FEMA National Response Framework – Incident Command Chart

The following chart from FEMA shows the ICS structure with the command and general staff followed by units, branches, down to strike teams, task forces, and single resources:
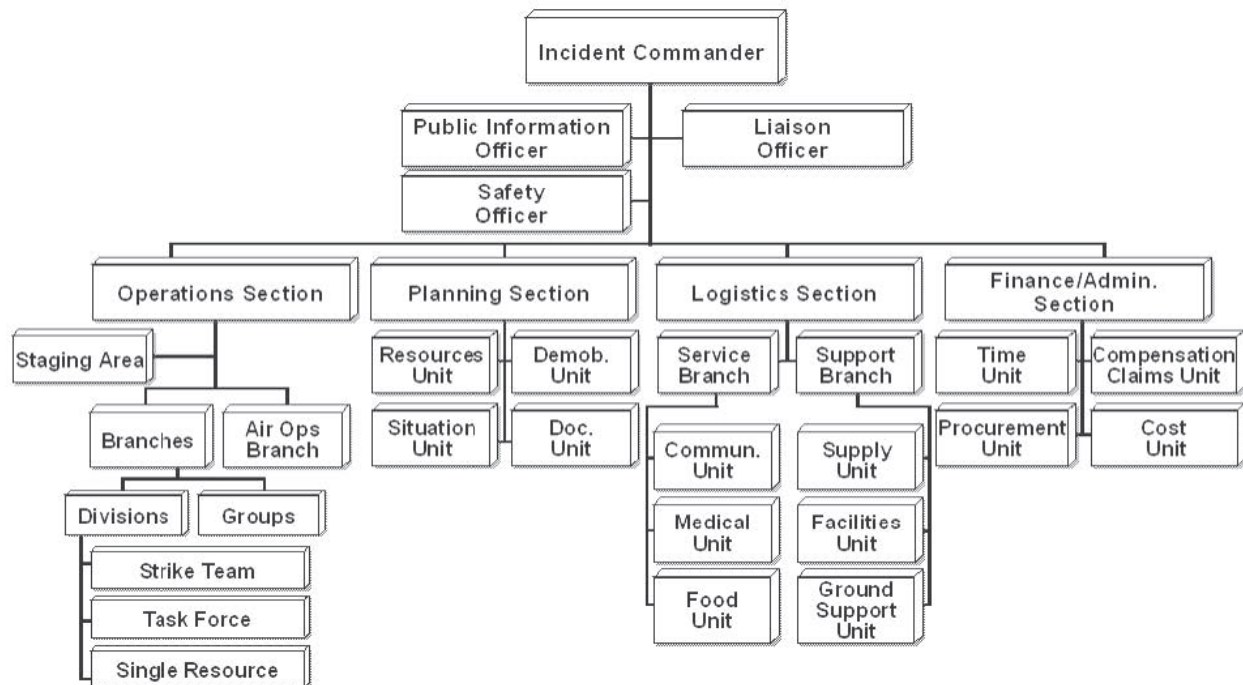
Figure 21: Incident Command Chart

8.6.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Incident Commander and General Staff

These sections extracted from ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

8.6.3.1 Incident Commander

The Incident Commander is technically not a part of the General or Command Staff. The Incident Commander is responsible for:

- Having apparent authority and knowing agency policy.
- Ensuring incident safety.
- Establishing an ICP.
- Setting priorities and determining incident objectives and strategies to be followed.
- Establishing the ICS organization needed to manage the incident.
- Approving the IAP.
- Coordinating Command and General Staff activities.
- Approving resource requests and use of volunteers and auxiliary personnel.
- Ensuring after-action reports are completed.
- Authorizing information released to the media.
- Ordering demobilization as needed.

8.6.3.2   Command Staff

The Command Staff is assigned to carry out staff functions needed to support the Incident Commander (IC). These functions include interagency liaison, incident safety, and public information.

Command Staff positions are established to assign responsibility for key activities not explicitly identified in the general staff functional elements. These positions may include the Public Information Officer (PIO), Safety Officer (SO), and Liaison Officer (LNO), in addition to various others, as required and assigned by the IC.

8.6.3.3   General Staff

The General Staff represents and is responsible for the functional aspects of the ICS. It typically consists of the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections. In some incidents, the General Staff may also include the Intelligence/Investigations Function, either operating under a staff section or as a stand-alone section.

General guidelines related to General Staff positions include the following:
- Only one person will be designated to lead each General Staff position.
- Qualified persons from any agency or jurisdiction may fill General Staff positions.
- Members of the General Staff report directly to the IC.
- If a General Staff position is not activated, the IC will be responsible for that functional activity.
- Deputy positions may be established for each of the General Staff positions.
    - Deputies are individuals fully qualified to fill the primary position.
    - Deputies can be designated from other jurisdictions or agencies, as appropriate.
    - This is a good way to bring about greater interagency coordination.
- General Staff members may exchange information with any person within the organization. Direction takes place through the chain of command, an important concept in ICS.
- General Staff positions should not be combined. For example, to establish a "Planning and Logistics Section," it is better to create two separate functions initially and, if necessary, temporarily place one person in charge of both. That way, the transfer of responsibility can be made more accessible.

8.6.3.4   Safety Officer Responsibilities

- Identify and mitigate hazardous situations.
- Ensure safety messages and briefings are made.
- Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts.
- Review the Incident Action Plan for safety implications.
- Assign assistants qualified to evaluate special hazards.
- Initiate a preliminary investigation of accidents within the incident area.
- Review and approve the Medical Plan.
- Participate in planning meetings.

8.6.3.5 Liaison Officer Responsibilities

- Act as a point of contact for agency representatives.
- Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and agency representatives.

- Assist in setting up and coordinating interagency contacts.
- Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential inter-organizational problems.
- Participate in planning meetings, providing current resource status, including limitations and capabilities of agency resources.

8.6.4   Unified Command (UC)

During the response to some incidents, the nature of the emergency may encompass the authority of multiple jurisdictions such as fire, EMS, law enforcement, and public health. IC is scalable and flexible and can combine local, county, state, and federal agencies into the same organizational system. In incidents involving multiple jurisdictions, a single jurisdiction with multiagency involvement, or various jurisdictions with multi-agency participation, unified command allows agencies with different legal and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.

During UC, the agencies appoint a spokesperson for the group, who then communicates the UC's position and directions to the EOC, agency representatives, and the media. UC should be formed with agency heads or individuals with authority to make decisions for their agency and commit agency funds and resources. UC representatives establish incident objectives and manage and coordinate EOC operations through delegation.

8.7   Ouray County Incident Management Team

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

Section 3.7.4.1 states that the Ouray County Incident Management Team (OCIMT) will be deployed during complex emergencies. Their role is to establish a command-and-control infrastructure to manage operational, logistical, informational, planning, fiscal, community, and safety issues associated with complex incidents. OCIMT is classified as a type 4 team and is designed to handle a complex incident for the initial 72 hours until Mutual Aid or other assistance can arrive.

The OCIMT is comprised of citizens trained in specific areas of response. Citizens interested in becoming members are reviewed by the OCIMT Membership Committee, comprised of the Ouray County Sheriff, Ouray County Undersheriff, Ouray County Emergency Medical Services Chief, and a designated officer from one of the local fire districts. The OCIMT Membership Committee will submit membership recommendations to the Ouray County Sheriff, who will then officially appoint members to the team.

8.8   Incident Action Planning (IAP) Process

The incident action planning process and IAPs are central to incident management. The process helps synchronize operations and ensure that they support incident objectives. Incident action

planning is more than producing an IAP and completing forms—it provides a consistent rhythm and structure to incident management.

Personnel managing the incident develop an IAP for each operational period. A concise IAP template guides the initial incident management decision process and the continuing collective planning activities. The IAP is the vehicle by which leaders communicate their expectations on an incident and provide clear guidance to those managing the incident. The IAP:

- Informs incident personnel of the incident objectives for the operational period, the specific resources that will be applied, actions taken during the operational period to achieve the objectives, and other operational information (e.g., weather, constraints, limitations, etc.).
- Informs partners, EOC staff, and MAC Group members regarding the objectives and operational activities planned for the coming operational period.
- Identifies work assignments and provides a roadmap of operations during the operational period to help individuals understand how their efforts affect the success of the operation.
- Shows how specific supervisory personnel and various operational elements fit into the organization.
- Often provides a schedule of critical meetings and briefings during the operational period.

The IAP provides clear direction and includes a comprehensive listing of the tactics, resources, and support needed to accomplish the objectives. The various steps in the process, executed in sequence, help ensure a comprehensive IAP. These steps support the accomplishment of objectives within a specified time.

The development of IAPs is a cyclical process, and personnel repeat the planning steps every operational period. The Operational Period Planning Cycle (Planning P) is a graphic depiction of this cycle. Personnel develop the IAP using the best information available at the Planning Meeting. Personnel should not delay planning meetings in anticipation of future information.

In Planning P, the leg of the "P" describes the initial stages of an incident, when personnel work to gain awareness of the situation and establish the organization for incident management. During the initial stage of incident management, the Incident Commander typically develops a simple plan and communicates the plan through concise oral briefings. At the beginning of an incident, the situation can be chaotic, and situational awareness is hard to obtain, so the Incident Commander often develops this initial plan very quickly and with incomplete situation information. As the incident management effort evolves, additional lead time, staff, information systems, and technologies enable more detailed planning and cataloging of events and lessons learned. The planning process steps are essentially the same for the first responders on the scene determining initial tactics and for personnel developing formal written IAPs.

Incident personnel perform the steps in the leg of the "P" only once. Once accomplished, incident management shifts into a cycle of planning and operations, informed by ongoing situational awareness and repeated each operational period.

The following are brief descriptions of the meetings and briefings repeated each operational cycle until the conclusion of the incident or event.

- **Objectives Development/Update:** The IC/UC establishes the incident objectives for the initial operational period. After the initial operational period, the IC/UC reviews the incident objectives and may validate them, modify them, or develop new objectives.

- **Strategy Meeting/Command and General Staff Meeting**: After developing or revising the incident objectives, the IC/UC typically meets with the Command and General Staff, and sometimes others, to discuss them and provide direction.

- **Preparing for the Tactics Meeting:** Once the approach to achieving or working toward achieving the incident objectives is determined, the Operations Section Chief and staff prepare for the Tactics Meeting by developing tactics and determining the resources that will be applied during the operational period.

Figure 22: The Planning "P"

- **Tactics Meeting:** In the Tactics Meeting, key players review the proposed tactics developed by the Operations Section and conduct resource assignment planning. The OPS Section Chief leads the Tactics Meeting, and key participants include the LOG Section Chief, Safety Officer, a Planning representative, and others invited.

- **Preparing for the Planning Meeting:** Following the tactics meeting, staff collaborate to identify support needs and assign specific resources to accomplish the plan.

- **Planning Meeting:** The planning meeting serves as a final review and approval of operational plans and resource assignments developed during and after the Tactics Meeting. At the end of the Planning Meeting, the command and general staff confirm that they can support the plan.

- **IAP Preparation and Approval:** At the end of the planning meeting, the incident commander or unified command approves the plan based on concurrence from all elements.

- **Operational Period Briefing:** Each operational period starts with an operational period briefing. During the briefing, incident supervisory and tactical personnel receive the IAP. Command and general staff members present the incident objectives, review the current situation and share information related to communications or safety. Following the Briefing, supervisors brief their assigned personnel on their respective assignments.
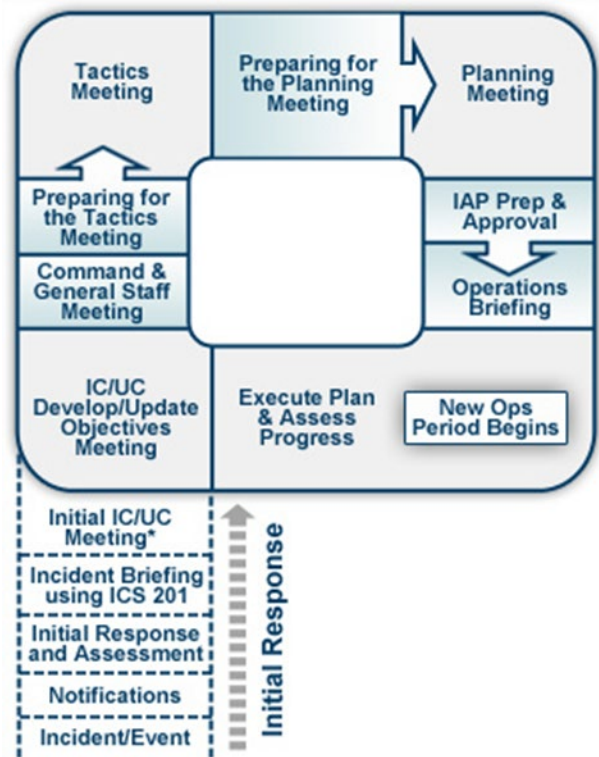
8.9 Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)

At the rural county level, an EOC is a centralized facility coordinating response and recovery efforts during emergencies or disasters. It is a hub for communication, decision-making, and resource allocation among agencies such as local government, law enforcement, fire departments, public health, and other emergency responders. The EOC ensures that responses are coordinated and that information flows efficiently between field operations and policymakers to protect the community, manage resources, and minimize the impact of the incident.

8.9.1 EOC Locations

Ouray County has identified specific physical locations to bring together all Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and essential functions during a prolonged disaster or emergency. These locations are designed to promote better documentation, collaboration, and resource mobilization to support the incident in the field by enhancing interoperability and communication. The EOC is a designated location to support the incident in the field by providing key personnel, Finance, GIS, ESFs, and other stakeholders and partners a place to support the IC's mission. The EOC Manager will manage the EOCs in Ouray County and its municipalities. All locations are multi-use areas, serving as conference rooms and training areas with movable furniture, which can be quickly converted to an EOC in the event of an activation. The EOCs will serve as a central clearinghouse for resource requests.

8.9.1.1 EOC Primary Locations

Ouray County Land Use and Road and Bridge Building—primarily in the Conference Room.

> 111 Mall Road – Ridgway CO 81432

If additional Space is required for response to the incident, Operations will expand to the following locations:

> **Ouray County EMS Station 2** | 251 N Railroad St.—Ridgway CO 81427

> **Ouray County 4H Event Center** | 22739 US-550, Ridgway, CO 81432

8.9.1.2 Alternate Locations

If the primary EOC at the county campus is unavailable, the County will activate the EOC at one of the following locations. They are ordered in a list of preferences and have formal agreements with Ouray County, but this may change based on the location of the emergency and incident management needs.

> **Ouray County Sheriff Department (Level 3 or 4 Incidents)** | 421 6th Ave—Ouray CO 81427

> **Ouray County 4H Event Center** | 22739 US-550—Ridgway CO 81432

> **City of Ouray Community Center** | 320 6th Ave—Ouray CO 81427

> **Ridgway Secondary School** | 1200 Green Street—Ridgway CO 81432

8.9.1.3   Future Locations

It is the hope to have formal agreements in place before the next EOP update is due with the following locations. Each of these has voiced that they would be willing to be alternate locations, but there are no formal agreements in place at the time of this Plan Update:

Ridgway Town Hall | 201 N Railroad St—Ridgway CO 81432

Ouray Combined Schools | 400 7th Ave—Ouray CO 84127

Ouray Elks Lodge #492 | 421 Main St—Ouray CO 81427

Divide Ranch Clubhouse | 151 Divide Ranch Cir, Ridgway, CO 81432

Loghill Station 2 | 434 Ponderosa Drive, Ridgway CO 81432

8.9.2 EOC Activation

The EOCs can be activated at any level based on several factors:
- The size or expanding size of an incident and anticipation of the need for additional resources.
- Multi-jurisdiction response or request for mutual aid.
- The incident has overwhelmed a local jurisdiction, and they have requested county assistance.
- Incidents occurring in a neighboring county affect resources and/or personnel and infrastructure in Ouray County and/or its municipalities.
- A statewide or nationwide incident, such as a pandemic, large wildfire affecting logistics and supply chains, or act of terrorism.
- Active or imminent threat to lives and property in the County from a natural disaster or impending emergency.
- Incident of increasing complexity.
- Threat or hazard risk to lives or property.

8.9.3 Activation of the EOC

Depending on the complexity of the incident, the EOCs can operate in a virtual mode (with staff working remotely) or in a physical location. Some agency partners and staff do not have to work physically in the EOC. However, in complex dynamic incidents (plane crash; fast-moving wildfire, flood, civil unrest) where decisions need to be made instantly, like purchasing and resource requests, consistent press updates, evacuations, and/or damage assessment, key members of the EOC should be present, in-person, and available to make key decisions within seconds. The EOCs are always in a remote monitoring phase by the Emergency Manager, and activation will increase the level of staff involvement from other departments and agencies.

County EOC activation levels may be changed by the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, Undersheriff, County Manager, Public Health Agency Director, or their designee. Changes in activation levels will be reported in WebEOC and shared with the DHSEM Regional Field Manager. As an emergency or disaster evolves, the EOC Manager will continually evaluate the activation level and staffing requirements and adjust accordingly.

8.9.4 Authority to Activate the EOC

8.9.3.1 Authority to Activate the Ouray County EOC

The Ouray County EOC can be activated at the request of:
- Ouray County Emergency Manager
- Ouray County Sheriff or Undersheriff
- Incident Commander (IC) of any incident in the County
- Ouray County Manager

8.9.3.2 Authority to Activate the Ouray County EOC

The City of Ouray EOC can be activated at the request of:
- Ouray County Emergency Manager
- City of Ouray Police Chief
- Incident Commander (IC) of any incident in the city
- City Administrator

8.9.3.3 Authority to Activate the Ouray County EOC

The Town of Ridgway EOC can be activated at the request of:
- Ouray County Emergency Manager
- Ridgway Town Marshal
- Incident Commander (IC) of any incident in the Town
- Town Manager

Any municipality or special district in Ouray County requesting county assistance may ask for the EOC to be activated. The request must be made through the Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or County Manager.

When the decision is made to activate the EOC, the emergency manager or their designee will send out a notification via Ouray County Alerts or texts to the agency representatives needed for that activation level. The notification should include a brief synopsis of the emergency, the location of the EOC, a reporting time, and the required equipment.

8.9.5   EOC Activation Levels

The Ouray County EOC can be activated at several levels. Not all activations require the response from every ESF or function of the EOC.

Table 39: EOC Activation Levels

EOC Activation Level	Activation Scope	Activation Example
Level 1	Full activation of the EOC. All ICS EOC support positions and ESFs report to the EOC.	Major natural or manmade events— All departments assist in responding. Citizens need assistance and/or shelter. Recovery may be long-term.
Level 2	Partial activation of the EOC only requested ICS EOC support positions and ESFs report to the EOC.	For short-term operations involving limited agencies, such as Public Works, Fire, and Police.
Level 3	Emergency Management staff and ICS EOC support positions as needed, monitoring potential hazard development when there is advance notice and/or a planned event.	The center is open. We are gaining situational awareness and monitoring the event(s). Conference calls may occur with Emergency Management and/or other county agencies.
Level 4	Activation is virtual	Gaining situational awareness and monitoring the event(s).

8.9.5.1   Personnel and Staffing

Depending on the type and nature of the incident, departments and partner agencies will be contacted to fill roles in the EOC. If an incident encompasses a municipality or directly affects one or more municipalities, municipalities are expected to assist in filling positions in the EOC.

If an incident expands and additional staffing is needed, an emergency declaration gives the jurisdiction's manager/administrator the authority to temporarily reassign county staff from one department to another or the EOC to provide staffing resources during the emergency response phase.

8.9.5.1.1   Level 4 Activation Staffing
- No staff on-site at EOC; Emergency Management monitoring virtually (ESF-5)

8.9.5.1.2   Level 3 Activation Staffing
- Emergency Management (ESF-5)
- Law Enforcement Representative(s) (ESF-13)

8.9.5.1.3   Level 2 Activation Staffing
- Emergency Management (ESF-5)
- Logistics Section Chief/Logistics & Resource Support (ESF-7A)
- Finance Section Chief/Disaster Finance Support (ESF-7B Ouray County only)
- Public Information Officer (ESF-15)
- Operations Section Chief/Law Enforcement Representative(s) (ESF-13)
- Fire Operations Liaison (as needed) (ESF-4)

- Medical Operations Liaison (as needed) (ESF-8)
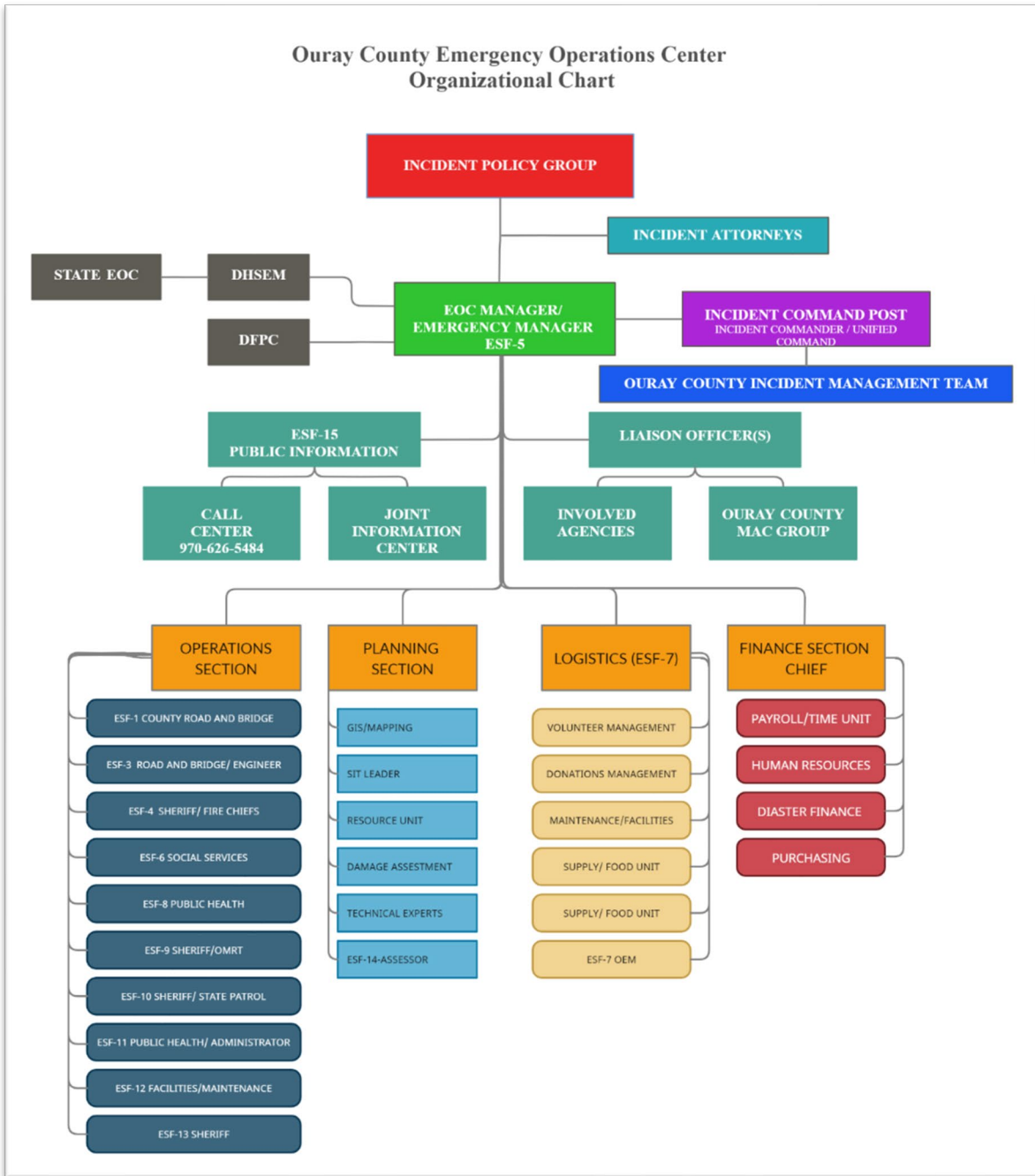
Figure 23: Ouray County EOC Organization Chart

8.9.5.1.4   Level 1 Activation Staffing

- Emergency Management/ Planning Section Chief (ESF-5)
- Logistics Section Chief/Logistics & Resource Support (ESF-7A)
- Finance Section Chief/Disaster Finance Support (ESF-7B)
- Operations Section Chief/Law Enforcement Representative(s) (ESF-13)
- Communications (ESF-2)

- Fire Operations Liaison (ESF-4)
- EMS Operations Liaison (ESF-8)
- Public Information Officer (ESF-15)
- Public Health (ESF-8)
- Mass Care (Red Cross and /or Human Services) (ESF-6)
- Public Works (County and State if applicable) (ESF-3)
- Transportation (ESF-1)
- Financial Officer, Documentation (ESF-14)
- IT/GIS (ESF-2)
- EOC Deputy Manager (ESF-5)
- Appointed Officials (ESF-15)
- State and Federal officials (as required by statute or incident type) (ESF-15)
- Other considerations for EOC staffing representatives:
  - Subject matter experts and/or private sector representatives
  - Field Staff/Runner(s), whose primary purpose is to physically take pertinent information to different locations (field ICPs). This may be necessary due to congestion/technical problems on phones, radios, and/or sensitive information.

FEMA Lifeline Organization Chart for Ouray County

Safety and Security	Health and Medical	Communications	Transportation	Food, Water, Shelter	Hazardous Materials	Energy
ESF-13 Law Enforcement	ESF-8 Public Health	ESF-2 Communications	ESF-1 Transportation	ESF-6 Human Services	ESF-10 Hazardous Materials	ESF-12 Energy and Public Utilities
ESF-1 Transportation	ESF-5 Emergency Management	ESF-5 Emergency Management	ESF-3 Public Works/Engineering	ESF-3 Public Works/Engineering	ESF-4 Fire Services	ESF-1 Transportation
ESF-3 Public Works/Engineering	ESF-8 Rest of ESF-8	ESF-13 Law Enforcement	Ouray School District R-1	ESF-11 Agriculture/Natural Resources	ESF-5 Emergency Management	ESF-3 Public Works/Engineering
ESF-4 Fire Services	Coroner's Office	ESF-14 Long-Term Recovery	Ridgway School District R-2	ESF-12 Energy/Public Utilities	ESF-13 Law Enforcement	San Miguel Power Ass.
ESF-5 Emergency Management		Chambers of Commerce				Black Hills Energy
ESF-7A Logistics		Colorado DTR/CCNC				
ESF-9 Search & Rescue						

Red Designates Community Lifeline Lead- Refer to Section on Community Lifelines and ESFs for full lists of agencies under each ESF and Lifeline.

Figure 24: Ouray Community Lifeline Organization Chart

8.9.6   Deactivation of the EOC

Each incident or disaster is unique and requires a specific response from the county and its partners. The length at which the EOC is activated depends upon the needs of the incident and its personnel. An EOC may be activated for a few hours, a few days, or a few months, depending on the type and size of the incident. The decision to reduce EOC activation levels falls to the EOC Manager in consultation with the IC or UC Team. It may be desirable to continue EOC operations into the start of the recovery phase to allow county staff and outside agencies to assist with disseminating information to the public and developing plans for long-term recovery.

Once notification has been made to limit hours/staff or close the EOC, notification will be distributed to the Ouray County MAC Group. If the situation changes, the EOC may be re-opened at any time.

8.9.7 EOC Organization-EOC Staff

8.9.7.1 EOC Manager

- Typically, the emergency manager but, in significant incidents, may be delegated to a trained EOC manager from a Type III or larger IMT or an emergency manager from the West Region or any region in the State of Colorado.
- Ensures the EOC is running smoothly, ESF leads, and agency representatives have the equipment and supplies needed to accomplish their responsibilities, collaborate with agencies, and communicate the objectives of IC/UC to the EOC.
- Delegates tasks, receives requests for assistance/equipment from the field, and assigns them to logistics or the appropriate ESF to fill.
- Provides leadership, direction, and oversight to the EOC regarding activity tracking, objectives, document and records management, adhering to finance procedures and cost tracking, and ensuring that finance, legal, and policy group members are involved in discussions. The EOC manager also serves as the point of contact for the policy group (Managers/Administrators, Board of County Commissioners, Mayors, etc.) and communicates their needs, questions, and complaints to the EOC and respective agencies.
- Assesses information, runs a complexity analysis, ensures information is correct, and requests assistance if additional assistance or activation levels are warranted.
- Assembles team members in the EOC through virtual operations, sets meetings, and establishes a clear communication and command structure.
- The two top priorities are up-to-date information and a current operational plan.

8.9.7.2 Public Information Office (PIO)

- As stated in more detail under roles and responsibilities, the PIO coordinates and manages the County's public information to internal and external messaging, including local, regional, and federal agencies and local, state, and national media if required.
- Develop press releases, coordinate information sharing through the JIC/JIS, clear official releases through incident command, manage media briefings and interviews, and monitor/post information to social media.

8.9.7.3 EOC Safety Officer

An EOC Safety Officer has the same roles for the EOC as the ICS Safety Officer has for the Command Team:

- Identify and mitigate hazardous situations.
- Ensure safety messages and briefings are made.
- Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts.
- Review the Incident Action Plan for safety implications.
- Assign assistants qualified to evaluate special hazards.
- Initiate a preliminary investigation of accidents within the incident area.
- Review and approve the Medical Plan.

- Participate in planning meetings.

8.9.7.4 Liaison Officer

- Liaisons should serve as the central point of contact with critical organizations that aren't necessarily ESF leads, such as non-profits, volunteer managers, public utility companies, and medical facilities.
- Act as a point of contact for agency representatives.
- Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and agency representatives.
- Assist in setting up and coordinating interagency contacts.
- Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential inter-organizational problems.
- Participate in planning meetings, providing current resource status, including limitations and capabilities of agency resources.

8.9.7.5 Operations Section Chief Responsibilities

The Operations Section Chief manages all tactical operations at an incident. The Incident Action Plan (IAP) provides the necessary guidance. The need to expand the Operations Section is generally dictated by the number of tactical resources involved and is influenced by the span of control considerations. The Operations Section Chief is typically filled by the lead agency managing response activities for the specific type of incident. Major responsibilities of the Operations Section Chief are to:

- Assure the safety of tactical operations.
- Manage tactical operations.
- Develop the operations portion of the IAP.
- Supervise the execution of operations portions of the IAP.
- Request additional resources to support tactical operations.
- Approve the release of resources from active operational assignments.
- Make or approve expedient changes to the IAP.
- Maintain close contact with IC, subordinate Operations personnel, and other agencies involved in the incident.
- The Operations Section Chief directs and receives reports from the seven (7) community lifelines representing Operations Branches – Public Safety, Health & Medical, Communications, Transportation, Hazardous Materials, Energy and Food, Water, and Shelter. Each Community Lifeline Branches is led by a lead Emergency Support Function (ESF) and supporting ESFs who will develop and implement plans for their respective fields of expertise.

8.9.7.6 Planning Section Chief Responsibilities

The Planning Section Chief is responsible for providing planning services for the incident. Under the direction of the Planning Section Chief, the Planning Section collects situation and resource status information, evaluates it, and processes the information for use in developing action plans. Dissemination of information can be in the form of the IAP, in formal briefings, or through map and status board displays. Major responsibilities of the Planning Section Chief are to:

- Collect and manage all incident-relevant operational data.

- Supervise the preparation of the IAP.
- Provide input to the IC and Operations in preparing the IAP.
- Incorporate Traffic, Medical, and Communications Plans and other supporting materials into the IAP.
- Conduct and facilitate planning meetings.
- Reassign personnel within the ICS organization.
- Compile and display incident status information.
- Establish information requirements and reporting schedules for units (e.g., Resources and Situation Units).
- Determine the need for specialized resources.
- Assemble and disassemble Task Forces and Strike Teams (or law enforcement Resource Teams) not assigned to operations.
- Establish specialized data collection systems as necessary (e.g., weather).
- Assemble information on alternative strategies.
- Provide periodic predictions on incident potential.
- Report significant changes in incident status.
- Oversee the preparation of the Demobilization Plan.
- The Planning Section has five primary units: GIS/Mapping, Situation/Documentation Unit, Resource Unit, ESF-14 Damage Assessment and Technical Experts.
- Depending on the size of the incident, one individual may fulfill multiple roles or a unit may not be needed.
- The Planning Section Chief and EOC Manager will determine the scale and number of people needed to support planning.

8.9.7.7 Logistics Section Chief Responsibilities

The Logistics Section Chief provides all incident support needs, except logistics support for air operations.

The Logistics Section is responsible for providing:

- Facilities
- Transportation
- Communications
- Supplies
- Equipment maintenance and fueling
- Food services (for responders)
- Medical services (for responders)
- All off-incident resources.

Major responsibilities of the Logistics Section Chief are to:

- Provide all facilities, transportation, communications, supplies, equipment maintenance and fueling, food and medical services for incident personnel, and all off-incident resources
- Manage all incident logistics
- Provide logistical input to the IAP
- Brief logistics staff

- Identify anticipated and known incident service and support requirements
- Request additional resources
- Ensure and oversee the development of the communications, medical, and traffic plans
- Oversee demobilization of the logistics section and associated resources.

8.9.7.8 Finance/Administration Section Chief Responsibilities

The Finance/Administration Section Chief is responsible for managing all financial aspects of an incident. Not all incidents require a Finance/Administration Section. The section will be activated only when the involved agencies have a specific need for finance services.

The major responsibilities of the Finance Section Chief are to:
- The Finance Section Chief and finance section receives all requests for equipment, personnel, and specialized equipment/services, reviews the cost and budget, and determines if the item(s) requested fall within purchasing policy for the County or if the item is the responsibility of another agency. If the responsibility of an agency, finance will coordinate with the agency head/representative with spending authority to approve or deny the request for the item(s) or personnel.
    - If requests are denied, the Finance Section Chief should work with IC and the requesting Agency/ESF/Lifeline to develop a budget that solves the problem of being denied assistance.
- Provide financial and cost analysis information as requested.
- Ensure compensation and claims functions are being addressed relative to the incident.
- Gather pertinent information from briefings with responsible agencies.
- Develop an operating plan for the Finance/Administration Section and fill Section supply and support needs.
- Determine the need to set up and operate an incident commissary.
- Meet with assisting and cooperating agency representatives.
- Maintain daily contact with agency(s) headquarters on finance matters.
- Ensure that personnel time records are completed accurately and transmitted to home agencies.
- Ensure that all obligation documents initiated at the incident are properly prepared and completed.
- Brief agency administrative personnel on all incident-related financial issues needing attention or follow-up.
- Provide input to the IAP.
- The default Finance Section Chief will be the jurisdiction's Finance Director.
- If multiple agencies/jurisdictions are involved in the incident response and have financial obligations, each agency or special district should designate its finance director or another employee authorized to act on behalf of the agency with financial authority to serve in the EOC.
    - These individuals shall comprise the Finance Section and be responsible for reviewing and approving or denying financial purchases and maintaining documentation to FEMA standards.
    - The purpose of shared finance section roles is that each agency is responsible for the costs incurred by their agency or the costs per a signed cost-share

agreement, and a shared finance section ensures proper review and approval/denial of purchase or contract requests.

8.10 Departmental Operations Center (DOCs)

An individual department can establish and activate a Department Operation Center (DOC) to coordinate and control actions specific to that department during an emergency event/disaster. A DOC is a physical location or room similar to an EOC. However, the DOC exists to manage departmental resources and maintain public services during a disaster/emergency.

A department head/elected official retains the authority to activate a DOC based on the department's mission during an emergency and needs to complete or provide necessary or legally required services. When a DOC is activated, its operations are subordinate to the allocation of resources and management of public information countywide by the EOC. A DOC will work to restore the department's critical business functions, those legally required to be provided, and the department head should share objectives, strategies, and status updates at regular intervals with the EOC.

When a DOC and the EOC are activated, the department will provide a liaison from the department to the EOC. It is important to note that because DOCs are primarily for departments that play a role in the immediate response during a disaster or continued long-term response to a disaster, not all departments will have or need a DOC.

8.11 Tactical and Operational Control of Response Assets

Response assets will remain under the operational control of the agency to which they belong. Individual field incident commanders always retain tactical control of resources assigned to incidents. For example, an ambulance from OCEMS used for a fire will remain under the operational control of OCEMS. Departments, first responder agencies, and municipalities should provide as many resources and logistics as possible during an emergency response. This includes but is not limited to:

- Personnel
- Emergency vehicles
- Buildings/workspace for personnel
- food, drink, lodging services
- Specialized equipment

Assisting agencies shall retain administrative responsibility for mobilized resources, including:

- Staffing
- Training
- Equipping
- Providing Workers Compensation Coverage
- Providing Liability Insurance
- Updating WebEOC, CRRF, IROC, and/or EMResource status

8.12 Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group

Multi-agency coordination occurs when personnel from different agencies with legal responsibilities to abate the emergency are involved in the response. While informal

arrangements among agencies can be made to work, it is more effective to establish MAC System procedures in advance in a planned and organized fashion.

The Ouray County MAC Group is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary planning and coordination group committed to developing and implementing all-hazards planning for preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery from emergencies and disasters. Participation is open to all local and county agencies, departments, special districts, and businesses within Ouray County and surrounding areas. Typically, these agency representatives and agency heads are the individuals who will respond to staff the EOC when it is activated. The MAC Group typically meets at least once a quarter to discuss training, exercises, and topics that affect all agencies, such as emergency plans, radio communications, and upcoming ICS training and exercises.

The Ouray County MAC Group comprises policymakers such as the County Commissioners chair, the County Manager, the Sheriff, local police and fire chiefs, the Public Health Agency Director, the Health Care Coalition, Montrose Regional Health staff, and more. Emergency Management will call the MAC Group's meetings, but any agency administrator can request them. In an emergency or developing incident that can affect multiple jurisdictions/agencies, the MAC Group should be notified via Ouray County Alert or email.

8.12.1 MAC Group Roles and Responsibilities
- Assist with plan updates, plan writing, and plan editing.
- The MAC Group will work together to fill the ESF roles in the EOC.
- Support incident management policies and priorities.
- Facilitate logistics support and resource tracking.
- Make resource allocation decisions based on incident management priorities.
- Coordinate incident-related information.
- Coordinate interagency and intergovernmental issues regarding incident management policies, priorities, and strategies.

8.12.2 MAC Group Situation Assessment
The Situation Assessment function includes collecting, processing, and displaying all information needed to make resource allocation decisions in support of emergency operations. This information helps to identify and determine operational needs for the development of the Incident.

Situation assessment may take the form of:
- Consolidating situation reports.
- Traffic conditions.
- Receipt of intelligence-related information.
- Damage assessments.
- Incident maps and status boards.
- Weather reports or forecasts.
- Resources assigned, available, and out of service.
- Geospatial Information System data.

8.12.3 MAC Group Incident Prioritization

The MAC System reviews the intelligence gathered from the situation assessment to assist the IC in establishing incident priorities. When scarce resources are requested for assignment to multiple incidents, an approved methodology should be applied that includes the following variables:

- **Situation Status:** Current and projected situation, needs, and prognosis.
- **Resource Status:** Available and committed resources.
- **Considerations:** Incident review factors.
- **Scoring System:** Incident rating scale.
- **Priority List:** A concept for listing incidents in priority order.

8.12.4 MAC Group Scarce Resource Allocation

The third MAC System function involves implementing the incident priority list to allocate available scarce resources. A three-step process can be used to address this activity:

Step 1: Identify and List the Requested Scarce Resources
1.1 Consult with staff coordinating requests for assistance
1.2 Gather and describe the requested resources that are considered scarce
1.3 List the number of units or single resources being requested

Step 2: Identify the Incidents / Jurisdictions Requesting Assistance
2.1 Identify the incidents/jurisdictions that are requesting assistance
2.2 2.2 Include contact information for follow-up coordination

Step 3: Identify the Jurisdiction / Agencies with Available Resources
3.1 List the jurisdictions/agencies with resources that meet the requested need
3.2 Each assisting jurisdiction/agency should list the number of committed and available resources within their authority
3.3 Assign available resources based on the established priority list
3.4 Document if unable to fill (UTF) the request and coordinate with the EOC to request assistance from other sources as appropriate

8.12.5 MAC Group Information Sharing

By virtue of the situation assessment, personnel in the EOC or MAC Group share information on incidents within their area of responsibility and provide agency/jurisdictional contacts for media and other interested organizations. Incident information is coordinated and disseminated for both internal and external use. Internal dissemination may include participating MAC Group agencies, EOCs, private industry and critical infrastructure partners, other federal, state, tribal, local, and volunteer agencies, elected and appointed officials, and PIOs. External dissemination includes sharing information with the news media through a JIS/JIC.

8.12.6 MAC Group Coordination with Elected and Appointed Officials

Another function of the system is keeping elected and appointed officials at all levels of government informed. Maintaining the awareness and support of these officials and decision-makers, particularly those from jurisdictions within the affected area, is extremely important, as scarce resources may need to be moved to a higher-priority incident.

Elected and appointed officials may participate in MAC System activities and should clearly understand their roles and responsibilities for successful emergency management and incident response. These officials can include administrative and political personnel, department or agency administrators/executives with leadership roles in a jurisdiction, and legislators and chief executives, whether elected or appointed.

Elected and appointed officials may also be called upon to help shape and revise laws, policies, and budgets to aid in preparedness efforts and to improve emergency management and incident response activities.

8.12.7 MAC Group Coordination between MAC System Components

A critical part of the MAC System is outlining how each component communicates and coordinates. Gaps or disconnects can negatively impact scarce resource support for emergency operations in the field.

Personnel involved in multi-agency coordination supporting an incident may be responsible for incorporating lessons learned into their procedures, protocols, business practices, and communications strategies. These improvements must be coordinated with other appropriate emergency management and/or public safety organizations.

8.13 Consideration and Integration of Other Local EOPs within the Jurisdiction

Planners achieve unity of purpose through coordinating and integrating plans across all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and individuals and families. This supports the fundamental principle that, in many situations, emergency management and homeland security operations start at the local level and expand to include Federal, state, territorial, tribal, regional, and private sector assets as the affected jurisdiction requires additional resources and capabilities. Plans must, therefore, integrate vertically to ensure a common operational focus. Similarly, horizontal integration ensures that individual department and agency EOPs fit into the jurisdiction's plans and that each department or agency understands, accepts, and is prepared to execute identified mission assignments. Incorporating vertical and horizontal integration into a shared planning community ensures that the sequence and scope of an operation are synchronized.

A shared planning community increases the likelihood of integration and synchronization, makes planning cycles more efficient and effective, and facilitates plan maintenance.

9   INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION

9.1 Identified Critical Information Requirements

One of the most critical tasks following an incident or catastrophic disaster is obtaining situational awareness. Effective information collection involves established processes, procedures, and systems to ensure timely, accurate, and accessible communication regarding the incident's cause, size, and current situation. This information must be disseminated to the public, responders, and all relevant stakeholders, both directly and indirectly affected.

Information must be coordinated and integrated across jurisdictions and organizations involving federal, state, and local governments, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to achieve this.

Developing education strategies and communication plans ensures that lifesaving measures, evacuation routes, threat alerts, and other public safety information are delivered consistently and promptly to diverse audiences.

Like obtaining situational awareness, public information management encompasses the necessary processes, procedures, and organizational structures for gathering, verifying, coordinating, and disseminating information. This approach ensures that all communications are accurate, consistent, and responsive to the community's needs during emergencies.

9.2 Process for Information Collection & Reporting of Critical Information

All information acquired by Ouray County must be analyzed and verified before dissemination, and any decisions must be made based on that information. The analysis process should include the following steps:

- **Dating and Credibility Rating:** Each piece of information should be dated and assigned a credibility rating.
- **Comparison to Similar Information:** Information should be compared against other collected data on the same or similar topics.

When activated, the Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will serve as the central hub for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information regarding incidents and county needs. The flow of information sharing and intelligence reporting will occur as follows:

- **Information Collection Sources:** Information will be gathered from a variety of sources. According to the Incident Command System (ICS), the planning section at each operational location will be responsible for information collection. Examples of potential sources include:
  - On-scene responders
  - ICS 214 Activity Logs
  - City, town, or county departments
  - Public agencies and NGO partners
  - Television, radio, and print media
  - Social media
  - Victims or members of the general public
  - Subject matter experts

9.2.1 Field Level Reporting

First responders in the field should report to their division or group lead, who will relay information to the Incident Command Post (ICP). The ICP will forward relevant information to the EOC. Dispatch may also relay requests to the EOC, where efforts will be made to deconflict requests to avoid duplication and address any conflicting intelligence reports.

9.2.2 Emergency Operations Center Reporting

The EOC will summarize and deconflict reports received from the field and departmental operation centers. EOC staff will coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as NGOs and private sector businesses. Information collected during an incident will be managed by the Situation Unit Leader, who will prepare a daily situation report. The EOC Manager and

Incident Commander (IC) will review and approve this report before distribution. The EOC Manager and/or Emergency Manager will determine the recipients, typically including agencies in the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group and those directly affected by the incident.

Updates will be entered into WebEOC, and communication will occur with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) Regional Field Manager, the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and the State EOC.

9.2.3 State Emergency Operations Center Reporting

The State EOC will receive local reports and distribute them as necessary to state agencies and officials, including the DHSEM Director and the Governor's Office. The State EOC will manage state responses and EOC activations based on the needs and requests received from the county level.

9.3 Process for Analyzing & Filtering Information

Analytics play a vital role in emergency response by providing accurate data to assist business leaders, first responders, healthcare professionals, and essential workers in their roles. Additionally, data collected from emergency scenarios can inform future planning and preparedness efforts.

After information is collected, it must be analyzed to assess its operational relevance. Emergency management personnel (or Planning Section staff, if the EOC is activated) will analyze the information received and prepare intelligence reports for leadership.

9.3.1 Media Monitoring and Rumor Control

The risk of disseminating false or misleading information during an emergency is high, which can create operational challenges for responders and confusion among the public. Sources of misleading information can include television, radio, print media, and particularly social media. Therefore, the county, city, and town will establish a media monitoring and rumor control element within the Joint Information Center (JIC) or EOC.

Media monitoring will be closely coordinated with public information partners, including the County of Ouray, the Town of Ridgway, the City of Ouray, and regional partners.

9.4 Process Used for Information Sharing

9.4.1 Sharing Information Locally

Ouray County will utilize the following methods for local information sharing:

- Agency and Policy Group Liaisons
- The Joint Information System (JIS)
- The Joint Information Center (JIC)
- Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)
- Community or Town Hall Meetings
- Press Conferences
- Press Releases

9.4.2 Sharing Information Regionally and Statewide

9.4.2.1 Slack

Emergency managers in the West All Hazards Region utilize Slack, a proprietary business communication platform, for real-time communication and collaboration. Slack provides persistent chat rooms (channels) organized by topic, private groups, and direct messaging.

Using Slack, emergency managers can send instant messages to other emergency managers in the region and the DHSEM West Region Field Manager. This tool allows for rapid, informal regional updates, enabling emergency managers to disseminate critical information through a single text-style message, ensuring a swift response and coordination during emergencies.

9.4.2.2 WebEOC

WebEOC is the primary platform used for formal status updates and reporting between regional boards, DHSEM, and the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). WebEOC is maintained and owned by DHSEM and is used to submit official status updates, incident details, and daily situation reports.

All significant events outside of the standard situation reports should also be reported through WebEOC following DHSEM's established policies and procedures. Agency representatives assigned to the EOC must ensure their WebEOC accounts are active and up to date, and should work in coordination with the Emergency Manager or DHSEM Regional Field Manager to resolve any account issues.

9.4.2.3 ReadyOp

ReadyOp is the regional notification system used by counties within the West Region for instant communication with internal staff and first responders. This system is contracted annually through the West Region All Hazards Planning Board, which includes Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale, San Miguel, and Ouray counties.

The system allows emergency managers to issue notifications at the request of neighboring counties or to request notifications from others as needed. ReadyOp enables the rapid dissemination of texts, emails, automated phone calls, or a combination of these methods to a wide range of recipients simultaneously.

Additionally, ReadyOp's dispatch console and gateway feature allow agencies to communicate via 800 MHz or VHF radio channels through the ReadyOp app on a secure phone connection once emergency management has set it up. This capability ensures seamless and secure communication across different radio frequencies and agencies during emergencies.

9.5 Process Used for Dissemination to Policy Group, ESFs, and Public

Message dissemination is categorized into internal messaging and public messaging. Internal messaging refers to messages crafted for responders and partners, while public messaging refers to messages crafted for public dissemination.

9.5.1 Public Information Officer (PIO)

PIOs are vital in ensuring effective communication during emergencies in a rural community. They are the primary link between the incident command and the public, media, and other stakeholders, such as elected officials. Their responsibilities are critical in maintaining public

trust, ensuring safety, and providing clear, coordinated messages that help guide the community through emergencies.

9.5.1.1 Key Roles of PIOs in a Rural Community:
- Support to Leadership and Command Staff:
    - PIOs work closely with their agency's directors, managers, administrators, and chiefs, offering crucial support in public communications. The lead PIO is an advisor to the EOC Manager or the IC in the field, helping shape public messaging and communications strategies that align with the overall response effort.
    - In rural areas with limited resources, the PIO's expertise is essential in ensuring that clear, concise information is disseminated to help with public safety and the smooth coordination of multi-agency responses. This includes coordinating efforts across different jurisdictions (county, municipal, tribal, etc.).
- Media and Public Inquiries:
    - During emergencies, PIOs are the primary point of contact for the media, the public, and elected officials. They handle media inquiries and conduct briefings to ensure that accurate, updated information is available. In rural areas where the population may rely heavily on local media (radio, community newspapers), PIOs must maintain close relationships with these outlets to ensure timely information distribution.
    - PIOs also respond to the public's questions and concerns. In a rural setting, these inquiries may often come directly from residents, who may be more personally connected to local officials and responders.
- Emergency Public Information and Warnings:
    - PIOs are crucial in issuing public safety warnings and emergency notifications. The communication infrastructure may be less robust in rural areas, so PIOs must be skilled in using multiple platforms for information dissemination. This could include local radio stations, community bulletin boards, text alerts, social media, or even face-to-face briefings at community gathering points.
    - In emergencies such as wildfires, floods, or health crises, PIOs ensure the community knows how to stay safe, when to evacuate, and where to find resources.
- Monitoring and Responding to Rumors:
    - One of the PIO's critical tasks is monitoring rumors and misinformation, which can spread quickly, especially in tight-knit rural communities where word of mouth is prevalent. Inaccurate information can cause panic or lead to unsafe behaviors. The PIO is responsible for correcting misinformation by providing timely and accurate updates and ensuring that rumors are debunked through clear communication strategies.
    - This may involve scanning social media platforms, local news outlets, or even listening to conversations within the community to identify misinformation early and address it before it spreads further.
- Media Monitoring:

- o PIOs are also responsible for monitoring the media to ensure that the reported information is accurate and consistent with official communications. In rural areas, where smaller media outlets may not have extensive resources, PIOs may need to work closely with journalists to provide the necessary details, background, and context for accurate reporting.
  - o Monitoring also helps the PIO understand public sentiment, identify potential concerns, and adjust the communication strategy as needed.
- Information Gathering, Verification, and Dissemination:
  - o The PIO's role involves gathering critical information from different agencies and response teams, verifying its accuracy, and disseminating it in a way that is accessible and easy to understand. This includes translating complex technical or scientific information into terms that are meaningful to the public.
  - o This role is even more crucial in a rural community, where many residents may be personally affected by an emergency (e.g., ranchers during a drought or wildfire). The PIO must ensure that information reaches all segments of the population, including vulnerable groups like seniors, people with disabilities, or those without internet access.
- Collaborating with Joint Information Systems (JIS) and Centers (JIC):
  - o PIOs collaborate with the Joint Information System (JIS) and often work within the Joint Information Center (JIC) to coordinate public messaging with other local, state, and federal agencies. This ensures that all communication is consistent and accurate and reflects the coordinated response of multiple agencies.
  - o In rural settings, PIOs may also need to facilitate communications with neighboring counties or regions, especially in widespread emergencies like natural disasters that affect multiple jurisdictions.
- Public Health, Safety, and Protection Information:
  - o One of the most important aspects of a PIO's job is informing the public about health, safety, and protection measures. This might involve instructions on evacuation routes, shelter locations, water contamination alerts, or public health orders during disease outbreaks.
  - o In rural areas, where healthcare access may be limited and populations can be spread out over large areas, this kind of information is crucial for ensuring that residents know how to protect themselves and where to seek assistance.

9.5.1.2 Challenges Faced by PIOs in Rural Areas:
- **Limited Infrastructure**: PIOs in rural areas may have to work around limited communication infrastructure, requiring them to rely on alternative or multiple methods of communication.
- **Resource Constraints**: With fewer resources, PIOs may need to handle multiple roles simultaneously, such as managing media relations, public inquiries, and monitoring rumors without much external support.

- **Close-knit Communities**: In rural areas, personal relationships can impact how information is received and perceived. PIOs must navigate these relationships carefully to build and maintain trust.

Overall, PIOs in rural communities play a central role in ensuring that timely, accurate, and accessible information is provided to protect public health and safety during emergencies. Their work is essential in building community resilience and facilitating an effective response to crises.

9.5.2   The Joint Information System (JIS)

The Joint Information System (JIS) in a rural community is a framework that coordinates communication during emergencies. It integrates various agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure a unified and efficient flow of information. In rural areas, where resources and communication infrastructure may be limited, the JIS facilitates timely, accurate, and consistent messaging to the public, media, and emergency response teams. It helps minimize confusion, ensures information is shared rapidly, and supports collaborative decision-making during emergencies like natural disasters or public health crises.

The Joint Information System (JIS) is the broad mechanism that organizes, integrates, and coordinates information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging activities across multiple jurisdictions and/or disciplines with the private sector and NGOs. It includes the plans, protocols, procedures, and structures for public information. Federal, State, tribal, territorial, regional, local, and private sector PIOs and established Joint Information Centers (JICs) at each level of NIMS are critical elements of the JIS.

9.5.3   Joint Information Center (JIC)

The Joint Information Center (JIC) for rural communities is a central hub for coordinating emergency communication. It facilitates the Joint Information System (JIS) by bringing together personnel with public information responsibilities from multiple agencies, departments, and local governments. These individuals perform critical functions such as emergency information dissemination, crisis communications, and public affairs to ensure consistent messaging during incidents.

In rural settings, JICs can be established at various levels, such as local, tribal, or regional, depending on the scale and needs of the emergency. They may also be set up at incident sites or integrated into Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) groups or Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). For example, during incidents requiring an EOC's activation, counties, cities, and towns establish a JIC to coordinate messaging for the entire operational area.

In Ouray County, the county manager's office manages the activation of the JIC for unincorporated areas. Public Information Officers (PIOs) coordinate the JIC activation in their respective jurisdictions for municipalities within the county. Additionally, depending on the situation, JICs may be established at the field level to support incident commanders directly.

By coordinating these efforts through the JIC, rural communities ensure that public messaging is unified, timely, and accurate, enhancing the community's ability to respond effectively during emergencies.

9.5.4   Internal Messaging

Public information representatives in the JIC (if activated) or EOC will assist in conveying information as necessary to the Policy Group. The Planning Section will also maintain and update an IAP containing critical information and intelligence updates for responders and partners.

Other methods of internal information dissemination include county-wide emails and Ouray County Alerts messages.

9.5.5   Message Development and Approval

Messages intended to be disseminated to the public, other agencies, or organizations may be developed by subject matter experts working in support of the response efforts. These messages are reviewed by the PIOs at the JIC to correct inaccuracies and to maintain consistency in messaging. Approval of the messages is, in most cases, granted to the head of the agency claiming responsibility for releasing the message. If it is a message on behalf of Ouray County, the message must have direct approval by the county manager unless it is from the office of an elected official.

9.5.6   Methods of Dissemination

The county and its municipalities use various mechanisms to disseminate public information. Among them are:
- Local, Regional, Statewide, and National press releases via contact lists
- Press Conferences
- Website Updates
- Social Media
- Radio
- Emergency Alert System
- Emergency Notification Systems
- IPAWS

Additional methods are used for those with access and functional needs.

9.6   Process for Information Storage and Retention

9.6.1   Electronic Messaging

Electronic messaging refers to various communication processes transmitting information between computer users. Email is one common form of electronic messaging. These systems handle messages, delivery information, and addresses. Desktop programs implementing electronic messaging often include additional functions such as calendars, notes, task management, appointment scheduling, telephone messages, and even form routing and publication distribution. These bundled features are designed to facilitate communication and information sharing among users. The combination of messages and related services is collectively known as an Electronic Messaging System (EMS). These systems enable the creation, routing, and delivery of electronic information within a small office or on a global scale.

The retention of records stored in electronic systems, including electronic messages, is governed by **C.R.S. 24-80-101** to **24-80-115** (State Archives and Public Records Law). Electronic

messages must be retained or deleted in compliance with these statutory requirements. Electronic messages should be relocated from the electronic messaging system and stored alongside other documents with similar retention policies.

The Colorado State Archives emphasizes that users of electronic messaging systems are responsible for their appropriate use. The following guidelines will assist users in determining the proper use of electronic messaging systems:

- **Business Use Only**: Electronic messaging systems are for official business purposes only. Use them solely to conduct State of Colorado business.
- **Message Forwarding**: If you do not want your message forwarded, clearly mark it as "Do Not Forward—For Your Eyes Only." If you wish to forward a message, asking for the original author's permission is good etiquette.
- **Avoid Private or Confidential Matters**: Do not use electronic messages for private or confidential topics, as privacy and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Instead, use other communication methods for sensitive matters requiring privacy.
- **Limited Privacy Expectations**: Electronic messaging offers minimal privacy, unlike traditional mail systems. Messages may be considered public records, and state employees should expect only the confidentiality provided by disclosure exemptions under C.R.S.
- **Employer Oversight**: Recent court rulings grant employers broad access to employee electronic mailboxes. This may be done for monitoring, enforcement, or when access is needed in the employee's absence.
- **Embarrassing Content**: Avoid sending electronic messages that could embarrass you, the recipient, or the agency if made public.
- **Departmental Policies**: Each department should establish and distribute policies regarding electronic messaging to prevent misunderstandings and conflicts.
- **Password Security**: It is critical to maintain password security at terminals. Leaving a terminal signed on or keeping a password in a visible place allows unauthorized individuals to send messages that appear to be from the account holder.

9.6.2   Social Media

Social media content presents new challenges for recordkeeping. Social media refers to platforms where users can post written messages, images, audio, video, or multimedia files to share with others. Examples include Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and other similar platforms.

One of the primary challenges is the shared control of information posted on social media. Unlike traditional record retention systems, social media platforms are typically managed by non-contracted third-party entities, which are not subject to the same regulations as government agencies. This means there are no guarantees that the municipality can retain control over or capture all content posted.

Whether social media posts are public records depends on how the county uses the platforms. Generally, posts containing substantive communication, unique announcements, notices, or information about issues or initiatives should be considered records. Conversely, if the posts

are duplicates of documentation already retained by the county, they likely do not need to be captured or retained.

The retention period for social media content is determined by its nature, not its format. For example, posts that serve as news releases, meeting notices, or other official notifications are subject to the same retention requirements as their paper or electronic counterparts.

If a government or jurisdiction engages with the public via comments on social media, such interactions are considered records and must follow proper retention guidelines. Some social media platforms allow users to disable public comments, which can help manage content volume and simplify retention practices.

9.6.3 Paper and Electronic Preservation

There is no single foolproof method for permanently preserving electronic records. Electronic storage media is inherently unstable, and technological advancements rapidly make both hardware and software obsolete.

For **paper records**, preservation involves placing the document in a managed filing system where it can be retrieved for the retention period. Proper storage and management ensure the document remains accessible and intact over time.

Preservation of **electronic records** requires transferring the document from its operational environment into a managed recordkeeping system. As technology evolves, it may be necessary to renew, copy to new media, or transfer the records to updated systems to ensure long-term accessibility and readability.

The **long-term preservation** of archival information in digital format poses significant challenges because of the rapid obsolescence of technology. Therefore, preserving records with extended retention periods solely in digital format should be done only if the following conditions are met:

- The value of the data and the benefits of preserving it digitally are clear and substantial.
- Preservation in a fixed format, such as paper or microfilm, is not an option because the digital format is necessary to support essential business functions.
- Converting the data to a static form (such as print or microfilm) would reduce its value or render it unusable.
- The information was "born digital," meaning it was created and intended for use in a digital format.

Regular review of records management practices is essential to ensure that both paper and electronic records are preserved in compliance with retention policies and remain accessible for the entire retention period.

9.6.4 Storage Media

The following recommendations for record storage are based on guidance from the Colorado State Archives Records Management Services:

Paper Records

- **Longevity**: With proper care, good quality paper can last over 100 years. Unlike electronic formats, paper deteriorates slowly, providing time for action before information is lost.
- **Cost and Usability**: Storing records on paper may be the most cost-effective solution for records with a retention period longer than 10 years, especially for rarely referenced documents.

Microfilm Records

- **Longevity**: Microfilm that adheres to industry standards and is properly maintained can last over 100 years. Warning signs of deterioration allow time to recopy before images
- **Archival Benefits**: Microfilm is eye-readable and widely accepted for long-term archival storage, making it a reliable option for preserving low-reference records with retention periods exceeding 10 years. It is also effective for disaster recovery scenarios.

Digital Records

- **Limited Longevity**: Without regular migration, computer-based records may last as little as five years, with the maximum lifespan typically being 20 years due to hardware and software changes.
- **Digitization Advantages**: Digital records are ideal for frequently accessed files, records shared by multiple users, or documents requiring ease of access. However, digital formats may not be suitable for long-term retention unless a backup exists in paper or microfilm format.

Storage Media Best Practices

- **Media Verification**: Regardless of the storage medium (paper, microfilm, or digital), verify the accessibility and readability of content every 5 to 10 years to ensure data integrity.
- **Records Destruction**: Ensure a process is in place for the proper destruction of records at the end of their retention period. Legal holds must be placed on records slated for destruction if they are needed for legal proceedings, regardless of the storage format.

Metadata for Digital Records

To ensure the integrity and management of electronic records, collect and maintain the following metadata:

- **Access Restrictions**: Details about any restrictions on who can access the records.
- **Retention Information**: Information on how long the record must be kept and the trigger for its destruction (e.g., end of a fiscal year).
- **Security Measures**: Data on security protocols and encryption used to protect the records.
- **Audit Trails**: Document any actions taken, such as revisions and audit logs.
- **Technical Information**: Details on the software versions and platforms used to create and store the records.

- **System Documentation**: Manuals and documentation created during the installation of hardware and software systems used for record creation and storage.

10 COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 Internal Communications/Notifications

Ouray County utilizes the Ouray County Alerts, to send notifications to internal staff and first responders. This system integrates cell phones, landlines, and email to ensure rapid communication. Ouray County Alerts operates under an annual contract through the Ouray County Emergency Telephone Service Authority.

Ouray County Alerts can quickly alert staff about emergencies or disasters and guide necessary actions. EOC activation levels for each Emergency Support Function (ESF) are integrated into Ouray County Alerts, enabling streamlined notifications.

Ouray County Alerts is accessible to Emergency Management, dispatch, and authorized agency representatives with login credentials. This allows them to send text and email alerts to designated personnel.

10.2 Communications with the State EOC/DHSEM

Communication with the Colorado State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) is primarily facilitated through WebEOC, which is used to provide status updates, daily situation reports, and significant incident information. WebEOC is a state-managed system that tracks incident management resources, staff, costs, and requests, fostering a common operational picture across local, county, and state agencies.

In the event of intelligence related to a terrorist threat or major criminal activity, such information is communicated by law enforcement through the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) and to appropriate state and federal agencies.

10.2.1 PACE Communications Plan with the State EOC

To maintain reliable communication during a disaster or major emergency, when standard infrastructure like power and phone systems may be disrupted, Ouray County follows the Primary, Alternate, Contingent, and Emergent (PACE) communication model for contact with the State EOC in Centennial:

- **Primary**: Telephone – State EOC landline or direct contact with DHSEM staff
- **Alternate**: WebEOC message and/or email
- **Contingent**: Email to DHSEM staff, Slack chat with the Regional Field Manager, or text messages
- **Contingent**: State DTR Radio via OEM talk groups
- **Emergent**: High Frequency (HF) Amateur Radio (AuxCom/ARES)

10.3 External Communications

10.3.1 Media Relations

Public Information activities at the County EOC are coordinated by ESF-15 (External Affairs) through the County Public Information Officer (PIO) or the Joint Information Center (JIC) if

activated. ESF-15 ensures that information from multiple agencies is deconflicted and that timely, accurate statements are released to the media and public.

The JIC can be activated for large-scale incidents, and coordination can take place through the Joint Information System (JIS) to involve multiple PIOs and reduce the burden on a single PIO.

The PIO/JIC will distribute information via email, phone calls, social media, and arrange interviews with key personnel such as agency heads and incident managers.

10.3.2 Routine Public Information

Ouray County may also collaborate with municipalities like the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway to share information through their websites and social media.

During routine operations, public information is shared through various platforms, including:

10.3.2.1 Ouray County PIO Platforms
- Ouray County website: ouraycountyco.gov
- Ouray County Facebook pages:
    - County Government: facebook.com/ouraycountygov
    - Emergency Management: facebook.com/OurayCountyEM
    - Sheriff's Office: facebook.com/ouraycountysheriff
    - Public Health Agency: facebook.com/OurayCountyPublicHealthAgency
    - Road and Bridge: facebook.com/OurayCountyRoadandBridge
    - Ouray Couty Alerts: facebook.com/ouraycountyalerts/
- Ouray County Instagram pages:
    - County Government: Instagram.com/ouraycountygov
    - Sheriff's Office: Instagram.com/ouraycountyso
    - Road & Bridge: Instagram.com/ouraycountyroadandbridge

10.3.2.2 City of Ouray PIO Platforms
- City of Ouray website: cityofouray.com
- City of Ouray Facebook page: facebook.com/CityOfOuray

10.3.2.3 Town of Ridgway PIO Platforms
- Town of Ridgway website: townofridgway.colorado.gov/
- Town of Ridgway Facebook page: facebook.com/TownOfRidgway

10.3.3 Emergency Alerts for the Public

10.3.3.1 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

IPAWS, established by Presidential Executive Order 13407, is FEMA's national system for public alerting. It enables federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities to disseminate life-saving information through various channels, including mobile phones (via Wireless Emergency Alerts), radio, TV, and NOAA Weather Radio.

Local jurisdictions use IPAWS only for life-threatening emergencies, and only authorized emergency management personnel can access the system.

10.3.3.2 Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that enables emergency messages to be broadcast via radio, television, cable, and satellite services. The system ensures that the President can communicate with the public during a national emergency within 10 minutes.

10.3.3.3 Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are short, targeted messages sent to mobile devices in areas impacted by imminent threats such as natural disasters, active shooters, or other emergencies. WEAs are sent without the need for apps or subscriptions, ensuring timely communication to those in harm's way.

10.3.3.4 NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

The NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) provides continuous broadcasts of weather information and alerts directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR also covers hazards such as chemical spills and public safety emergencies and is an integral part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

10.3.3.5 Local Emergency Notification System (ENS)

The West Region Emergency Notification System (ENS), provided through CodeRED, allows emergency management to send telephone, text, and email alerts for local emergencies. This system is used for life-threatening situations such as evacuations, public health emergencies, and criminal activity and automatically alerts landline phones. However, residents must register cell phones and VOIP devices to receive notifications.

10.4 Regional Communications Network and Interoperability

Ouray County law enforcement and emergency services primarily use the State of Colorado Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS), operating in the 800 MHz range, for dispatch and interagency communication. Fire departments and EMS units still utilize VHF radios in remote areas and for ground-to-air communication, though efforts to transition fully to DTRS are ongoing.

Departments are instructed to switch to VHF radios during a DTRS network outage, though not all vehicles are equipped with fully operational VHF radios.

10.4.1 Interoperability

The State DTRS system allows communication across various jurisdictions through regional talk groups, including Mutual Aid Channels (MAC) and tactical channels. The Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) manages this system and follows strict programming protocols.

The West All Hazards Planning & Response Board developed a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TIC). This plan outlines the region's communication strategies and priorities and provides a framework for interoperability across agencies.

11 ADMINISTRATIONS

11.1 Authorities and Policies for Reassignment of Employee Duties

Under this EOP, all county, city, and town employees in the affected jurisdictions are designated as disaster service workers during a declared emergency or disaster. They may be reassigned to perform emergency services as directed by their supervisors.

According to **Ouray County Resolution #2024-043**, emergency functions across County government will generally align with regular duties. However, large-scale disasters may require personnel to take on new roles based on the needs of the emergency. Non-essential day-to-day operations may be suspended, and personnel redirected to address critical emergency functions.

Each department in the affected jurisdiction has emergency roles outlined in this EOP. Upon declaration of an emergency, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and/or councils, elected officials, managers/administrators, and department heads will assume the roles designated in the plan to support response and recovery.

Requesting Employee Reassignment: Requests for reassignment of employees, temporary hires, or volunteers during an emergency may be initiated by the Incident Commander, EOC Manager, BOCC, County Sheriff, or County Manager. These requests must be submitted to the EOC via a Resource Request form (213RR). The request will be processed through Logistics Support (ESF-7A), Operations, Finance Support (ESF-7B) (Ouray County Only), Incident Command, the jurisdiction manager(s)/administrator, and policy board chair/mayor for approval. Once approved, the manager/administrator and the Human Resources Director will fulfill the request.

In assigning employees or volunteers during an emergency, efforts will be made to maintain the continuity of essential county functions in accordance with the Colorado Constitution. Non-essential functions may be reprioritized or suspended to meet emergency needs.

11.2 Responder Personnel Compensation

County employees will be compensated at their regular wage or salary during emergencies. According to Ouray County's Personnel Manual (Section 2-10), overtime compensation requires advance approval from the department supervisor and the County Manager. In compliance with state and federal laws, overtime will be paid only for hours worked beyond 40 hours per week.

Ouray County **Resolution 2015-033** specifies that exempt and non-exempt personnel requested to respond to a declared emergency will be eligible for overtime pay, if approved in advance by the Department supervisor and County Manager.

Assisting agencies will maintain administrative control over their personnel, including payroll and reimbursement, as agreed upon through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or other agreements.

11.3   Emergency / Disaster Workers Compensation Policies

County employees are covered under the County's Workers' Compensation policy, per Section 7-7 of the Ouray County Personnel Manual. Volunteers in disaster response must sign a waiver of their right to Workers' Compensation. Assisting agencies are responsible for the Workers' Compensation of their deployed personnel. Ouray County will cover their Workers' Compensation if a county employee is deployed to assist another jurisdiction.

The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway have similar policies in their personnel manuals.

11.4   Emergency / Disaster Insurance Policies

Assisting agencies retain administrative responsibility for their resources, including liability insurance. Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway follow state and local guidelines for insurance coverage on government-owned vehicles and equipment during emergencies.

11.5 Emergency / Disaster Timekeeping Policies

11.5.1 Personnel

During emergencies, employees and volunteers are required to track their time. The jurisdictions have established timesheets specifically for emergency use. Paid personnel and volunteers should track their hours and activities as accurately as possible. The requesting party is responsible for tracking time, work/rest periods, and equipment costs, and the responding party will invoice for reimbursement.

11.5.2 Equipment

Emergency equipment usage, including time and mileage, must be accurately tracked. The jurisdiction in charge of the incident is responsible for tracking all assigned resources and their associated costs. Without a state disaster declaration, reimbursement will be handled through agreements between jurisdictions.

11.6 Emergency / Disaster Records Retention Policy

Ouray County offices must follow state and federal laws regarding records retention related to disaster response and recovery.

11.6.1 Law Enforcement

The Sheriff's Office, Ouray Police Department, and Ridgway Marshal's Office follow the Colorado Record Retention Schedule (C.R.S. 24-80-103). Records must be retained for the minimum required time before disposal, subject to legal or administrative review.

11.6.2 Treasurer's Offices

The County, City, and Town Treasurers adheres to the Colorado Treasurer Records Retention Schedule. The schedule ensures accountability for the receipt and expenditure of public funds, with minimum retention periods based on legal and operational standards.

11.6.3 Public Trustee

The Public Trustee follows the Colorado Public Trustee Records Retention Schedule, which is similar to the Treasurer's retention requirements.

11.6.4 Other Departments

All other departments will follow relevant state and federal guidelines on public records retention, particularly those related to disaster and emergency operations.

11.7 Emergency / Disaster Volunteer Policies

Managing volunteers during an emergency is critical for coordinating community assistance. Ouray County has experienced strong volunteer responses during crises such as the 2014 plane crash and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

ESF-6 will designate one or two Volunteer Coordinators to manage volunteers during emergencies. These individuals may be employees or community members with strong organizational skills and familiarity with the county, its municipalities, and its first responders. Volunteer Coordinators report to the Operations Section Chief in the EOC and handle tasks such as recruiting, managing spontaneous volunteers, completing paperwork, ensuring waivers and insurance forms are signed, and addressing volunteer needs.

11.8 Documenting Response and Recovery Operations

Effective documentation of response and recovery operations is essential to maintain a clear record of actions taken, resources utilized, and lessons learned throughout emergency management efforts in Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This documentation supports transparency, facilitates resource tracking, aids in post-event analysis, and fulfills requirements for financial reimbursement, grant applications, and compliance with state and federal guidelines.

Key elements of documenting response and recovery operations include:

- **Incident Action Logs**: All agencies and personnel involved in emergency response and recovery will maintain accurate and timely logs of activities, decisions, and resource deployments. These logs provide a chronological account of operations and are essential for analyzing response effectiveness.

- **Resource Tracking and Expenditure Reports**: Detailed tracking of personnel, equipment, and supplies used during operations is required to ensure accountability and facilitate reimbursement processes. Expenditure reports will include all costs associated with response and recovery activities to support financial accountability and future budget planning.

- **Situational Reports and Briefings**: Situational updates, both written and verbal, will be regularly documented to reflect the evolving status of the incident, operational priorities, and resource needs. These reports ensure all responding entities are informed and aligned in their efforts and provide a reference for post-event reviews.

- **After-Action Reports (AARs) and Improvement Plans (IPs)**: Following the conclusion of response and recovery efforts, each agency will contribute to an After-Action Report (AAR) to assess operational strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement. Improvement Plans (IPs) will be developed based on AAR findings to address identified gaps and enhance preparedness for future events.

- **Legal and Regulatory Compliance Documentation**: Records of response actions, particularly those involving public health, safety, and resource allocation, will be maintained to ensure compliance with legal, regulatory, and environmental requirements. This includes documenting approvals, permits, and any waivers or exceptions granted during the emergency.

- **Community Communication and Public Information**: Documentation of public information activities, including press releases, community updates, and social media posts, will be maintained to provide a complete record of information shared with the public and stakeholders. This helps evaluate communication strategies and enhances community trust.

- **Data Management and Archiving**: All response and recovery records will be securely stored and archived in accordance with local, state, and federal records management policies. Archived data will be easily accessible for post-incident analysis, planning updates, and future training and exercises.

By implementing thorough documentation practices, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway ensure that response and recovery operations are effectively recorded, promoting accountability, continuous improvement, and stronger community resilience.

11.9   After Action Reporting (AAR)

To promote continuous improvement in emergency preparedness and response, all training exercises and real-world activations of the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) must be followed by a comprehensive written After-Action Report (AAR). These reports provide a structured analysis of activities, challenges, and successes and serve as a foundation for identifying areas for improvement. Each AAR should include, at a minimum, the following elements:

- **Overview of Activities**: A detailed account of the actions taken during the event, outlining the sequence of events, decision-making processes, resource allocations, and operational phases. This section provides context for assessing the effectiveness and timeliness of the response.

- **Identified Issues and Challenges**: Documentation of any issues encountered, including resource limitations, communication barriers, logistical constraints, or policy gaps. Identifying these challenges is essential to understanding obstacles and making targeted improvements.

- **Opportunities for Improvement**: A candid evaluation of areas needing enhancement, informed by input from involved personnel and partners. This section should identify specific weaknesses in planning, training, or execution and prioritize them based on impact and feasibility.

- **Key Successes and Best Practices**: Recognition of successful strategies, effective coordination efforts, and best practices that contributed to positive outcomes. Highlighting these successes helps reinforce effective practices and provides valuable insights for future incidents.

- **Improvement Plan (IP)**: A structured plan that addresses the identified areas for improvement, including actionable steps, timelines, and responsible individuals, offices, or agencies. The IP should outline specific tasks to correct deficiencies, enhance capacity, and optimize response capabilities across Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway.

Each AAR should be reviewed and referenced prior to conducting any training exercise or operational activation to ensure that prior issues are acknowledged and corrective actions are applied effectively. The AAR process will engage all relevant stakeholders, with input from participating agencies, community partners, and, where appropriate, members of the public. All finalized AARs and improvement plans will be retained for future reference, training, and updates to the EOP.

By implementing a consistent and thorough AAR process, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway can continuously refine and strengthen their emergency management practices, ensuring readiness and resilience in future incidents.

12 FINANCE

Effective disaster financial management relies on strong project and portfolio management skills. Ouray County and its municipalities should establish and follow structured steps to meet its recovery vision and goals, balancing scope, time, cost, quality, resources, and risks.

From a disaster financial management perspective, project management entails managing a complex budget, ensuring timely payments, releasing funds according to a predefined schedule, tracking and reporting expenditures, performing financial analysis, and preparing for audits by maintaining accurate records. Figure 12 illustrates how the Project Management Institute's five process groups—Initiate, Plan, Execute, Monitor and Control, and Close—apply to disaster financial management.

12.1 Finance Roles and Responsibilities

During an emergency response, rapid procurement of equipment, resources, personnel, and supplies is essential, often leading to significant expenses. The Finance Officer or County Manager leads the administration of financial policies and procedures, overseeing the jurisdiction's primary financial roles and responsibilities across four key functional activities:

Financial Policy

- Provide policy guidance and establish procedures for fund allocation, payment commitments, and the management of monetary donations.
- Offer recommendations to and receive direction from the Policy Group on County-wide financial decisions.

Employee Compensation

- Track personnel time during emergency response and recovery phases.
- Ensure continuation of employee pay, health insurance, and retirement benefits.

Accounts Payable

- Track and process payments for vendor orders, contracts, claims, and other necessary expenditures.

Cost Recovery

- Maintain accurate accounting of all response and recovery costs, including personnel time, service costs, and costs for facilities, materials, and equipment.
- Document damage and injury claims, ensuring thorough and accurate records to support disaster reimbursement claims to State and Federal agencies.

12.2 Financial Oversight and Documentation

Large purchases and resource orders should be discussed with the Incident Commander/Unified Command and Administration/Management before proceeding. From the outset, all departments and staff should prioritize **documentation** to accurately track response costs and maintain eligibility for FEMA Public Assistance and other State and Federal aid. This requires all departments to keep detailed records of:

- Expenses, including supplies and materials

- Employee hours and tasks performed

- Mileage in personal or county vehicles

- Other necessary documentation as specified by FEMA

Ensuring a comprehensive and well-documented financial management process not only supports effective response efforts but also helps secure essential funding for recovery and future resilience.

12.3 Authorities for Disaster Spending, Procurement and Contracting

12.3.1 Procurement for Ouray County

12.3.1.1 County Purchasing and Contracting Policy

The "Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants" was initially adopted on March 27, 2006, under Ouray County Resolution 2006-023, and was amended on March 21, 2017, by Resolution 2017-007. This manual establishes guidelines for purchasing and contracting, with special provisions for emergency-related expenditures.

12.3.1.2 Ouray County Emergency Management Fund

Ouray County Resolution 2015-053 created an Emergency Management Fund, introducing a specific line item called the MJ Excise Tax within this fund. This line is dedicated to supporting both Declared Disaster Response and Pre-Disaster Mitigation efforts. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) may allocate funds from the MJ Excise Tax annually to the Emergency Management Fund, aiming to accumulate an adequate reserve for covering costs during complex declared emergencies and supporting pre-disaster mitigation. This fund is specifically intended for disaster response and mitigation, as recommended by the Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan and other Emergency Operations Plans for Ouray County. It is not to be used for routine operational costs or regular staff salaries.

12.3.1.3   Sheriff's Emergency Procurement Authority

Ouray County Resolution 2020-030 authorizes the Ouray County Sheriff to procure resources up to $25,000 annually during an emergency. In such cases, the Sheriff must notify the Ouray County Manager immediately, providing full documentation of the emergency acquisition and associated costs within 24 to 48 hours. The County Manager will then advise the BOCC as soon as possible and determine whether to place the acquisition on the next available BOCC agenda for advisement or ratification. This resolution is reviewed and reconsidered annually to ensure its continued effectiveness and alignment with County needs.

12.3.1.4   Ouray County Emergency and Disaster Event Procurements

The "Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants" includes provisions for Emergency/Disaster Event Procurements:

- **Authorization and Limitations**: During a declared emergency or disaster event, the BOCC or its designee may approve emergency purchases up to $150,000. Such procurements are exempt from the standard purchasing requirements outlined in the manual, such as obtaining informal bids, formal bids, or Requests for Proposal (RFP).
- **Documentation Requirements**: To the extent possible, all documentation and procedures necessary for reimbursement from state and/or federal agencies should be followed, even when standard procurement protocols are bypassed.
- **Definition of Emergency/Disaster Event Procurements**: These procurements apply in the event of a declared disaster by the BOCC that involves an imminent or immediate threat to public health, welfare, or safety due to a sudden, urgent, and often unexpected incident or natural disaster that requires prompt action and assistance.

12.3.1.5   Ouray County Emergency Procurement and Spending

All purchases—whether for emergency or non-emergency purposes—must follow the guidelines outlined in the "Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual for Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants." Exceptions to this policy can, however, be made by the Board of County Commissioners on a case-by-case basis, as circumstances dictate.

In emergency situations, two specific procurement thresholds are recognized:

1. The Ouray County Sheriff is authorized to procure emergency resources up to $25,000 annually without prior approval.
2. For declared Emergency/Disaster Events, procurements can be approved up to a limit of $150,000 by the Board of County Commissioners or its designee.

12.3.1.5.1   Ouray County Purchasing and Contracting Price Matrix

The following table, the Price Matrix for Purchasing and Contracting, outlines procurement thresholds and requirements across different cost levels. This policy ensures adherence to standardized purchasing and contracting procedures across all County departments, including those managed by elected officials and their designees listed on the Authorized Signatures list. The policy is designed to:

- **Ensure Compliance**
  Meet all requirements of the Colorado Revised Statutes and other relevant State regulations.

- **Promote Fair Competition**
  Encourage maximum competition, providing a fair and equal opportunity for all qualified and interested vendors.
- **Establish Uniform Procurement Procedures**
  Standardize procedures for procuring materials, equipment, supplies, and services.
- **Achieve Best Value**
  Prioritize obtaining the "best overall value" for taxpayer dollars by considering several factors, including:
    o Price
    o Warranty
    o Service Quality
    o Availability of goods and services
    o Vendor's past performance
    o References

This policy applies to all County departments, ensuring that procurement activities align with regulatory compliance, transparency, and fiscal responsibility in routine and emergency situations.

Table 40: Ouray County Price Matrix for Purchasing and Contracting

Expenditure	Who has the authority to make this purchase?	What Purchase method may be used?	Who has the Authority to review and/or approve this level of expenditure?
Under $500	*Elected Official *Department Head County Manager	Competitive Pricing from multiple sources is encouraged	Elected Official Department Head County Manager
$500 - $4,999.99	*Elected Official *Department Head County Manager	Informal verbal bids must support the purchase or service. Telephone quotations are acceptable, as are faxed, mailed, and electronic quotations.	The Financial Officer/County Manager will review for departmental budgetary availability and ensure quotes are attached.
$5,000 - $24,999.99	*Elected Official *Department Head County Manager	Informal written bids must support the purchase or service. Faxed, mailed, and electronic quotations are acceptable.	The Financial Officer/County Manager will review for departmental budgetary availability and to ensure quotes are attached. Final approval by the County Manager is required.
$25,000 and over	*Elected Official *Department Head County Manager	Formal sealed bids are required. The bid must be advertised in the legal paper of record at least 14 days prior to the dates set for	Board of County Commissioners

Expenditure	Who has the authority to make this purchase?	What Purchase method may be used?	Who has the Authority to review and/or approve this level of expenditure?
		opening. Bids are opened under dual control.	
Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request for Quotation	*Elected Official *Department Head County Manager	Formal sealed bids are required. The bid must be advertised in the legal paper of record at least 14 days prior to the dates set for opening.	Board of County Commissioners The Board must approve Service Contracts, leases, and lease purchases of County Commissioners.

*Or designated representative 8S indicated on the Authorized Signatures list.

12.3.1.6 Ouray County Process for Emergency Contracting

In accordance with the amendment to the "Policy and Procedures Manual for Purchasing and Contracting, Credit Cards, and Grants" under Ouray County **Resolution 2017-17**, the Finance Office/County Manager (FOCA) holds the authority to manage key procurement responsibilities for the County. These responsibilities include:

- **Procurement Authority:** The FOCA is authorized to conduct procurements, solicit bids and proposals, make determinations and recommendations, and oversee all County purchasing functions. This includes ensuring that all purchasing activities align with budgetary requirements and County policies.
- **Vendor Management:** The FOCA will maintain and periodically update a list of approved vendors to streamline purchasing and ensure that procurement activities align with County needs.
- **Bid and Quotation Currency:** All bids, quotations, and vendor pricing must be current within a six-month window to ensure accurate, competitive, and up-to-date pricing.

12.3.1.6.1 Prequalification of Suppliers and Services

To facilitate efficient procurement, the County may prequalify vendors for specific supplies, services, or construction projects. This process includes:

- **Request for Qualifications (RFQ):** RFQs will be solicited and advertised to establish a prequalified list of vendors for particular categories of supplies, services, or construction.
- **Requests for Proposals (RFP) or Quotations:** Once a prequalified vendor list is established, requests for proposals or quotations may be directly issued to vendors on this list, expediting procurement processes while maintaining quality standards.

This approach ensures that Ouray County's procurement processes are transparent, competitive, and responsive to both routine and emergency needs, with a focus on efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

12.3.1.7 Ouray County Process for Contracting Land Use Agreements

In the event of a natural disaster, such as a flood or wildfire, Ouray County—through the Land Use Department—will coordinate with property owners to facilitate the rebuilding and

restoration of damaged structures and associated infrastructure. Property owners will work directly with the Land Use Department to obtain the necessary building and septic permits required for reconstruction.

The Ouray County Land Use Department, along with the Building Inspector and Assessors Office, will collaborate with property owners, builders, engineers, and architects to evaluate the extent of damage to properties or structures. This assessment will determine safety standards and the suitability of properties for new construction. To address any significant increase in service requests or permit applications following a disaster, the Land Use Department may hire temporary contract staff to manage the additional workload effectively.

Suppose supplemental funding, such as grants, becomes available from local, state, or federal agencies. In that case, the Land Use Department will act as the primary coordinator, working with these agencies to share information with property owners. This coordination aims to expedite the rebuilding process, ensuring property owners receive the guidance and support necessary to restore their properties safely and efficiently.

12.3.2 Procurement for the City of Ouray

Certain emergency purchases may be necessary during a declared disaster or emergency that do not lend themselves to a competitive selection process. In such cases, the City of Ouray exempts these purchases from its standard competitive bidding requirements. The specific guidelines for this exemption will be detailed in the City of Ouray Disaster Policies Annex (currently under development).

To ensure eligibility for state and federal reimbursements, all emergency procurements must meet or exceed the procurement standards set forth by state and federal policies. These procedures will be outlined in the City of Ouray Finance and Logistics Annex (also under development).

12.3.3 Procurement for the Town of Ridgway

During a declared disaster or emergency, certain emergency purchases may be necessary that do not lend themselves to a competitive selection process. In such cases, these purchases are exempt from the Town of Ridgway's standard competitive bidding requirements. The specific guidelines for this exemption will be detailed in the Town of Ridgway Disaster Policies Annex (currently under development).

To ensure eligibility for state and federal reimbursements, all emergency procurements must meet or exceed the procurement standards set forth by state and federal policies. These procedures will be outlined in the Town of Ridgway Finance and Logistics Annex (also under development).

12.4 Process for Tracking Costs

The Finance Department can reserve Account Codes that may be assigned to an emergency as required. When an emergency occurs, either the Finance Section Chief, the Manager/Administrator, or the Emergency Manager will notify Finance to activate one of these reserved accounts for the emergency. Finance will then send an email from the Finance EOC to the entire jurisdiction with detailed expense reporting instructions, including:

- Emergency Name and Account Code
- Relevant Pay Codes
- Latest Version of Form 213RR

Personnel involved in the emergency response will be asked to regularly submit their expense-related documents to the Finance EOC email or to a designated drop-off location at the EOC if electronic submission is not possible.

Each supporting agency is responsible for monitoring its own staff hours and using internal tracking systems to document these hours, requesting financial reimbursement for personnel hours associated with ESF-7A and ESF-7B (County only) operations. The EOC will provide guidance and the necessary forms to support efficient tracking and reimbursement.

12.4.1 Salamander System
The Salamander Credentialing and ID system, adopted statewide, is utilized by Search and Rescue, EMS, Fire Departments, State Patrol, Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Office, and municipal law enforcement in Ouray County, its municipalities, as well as by other counties in the region. The Salamander system provides various tracking options, including assigning critical resources a tag for EOC distribution. Additional options include:

- **RapidTag:** RapidTag enables public safety check-in and re-entry ID during emergencies. The RapidTag Evac feature tracks movement during a mass evacuation.
- **Salamander Track App**: This app identifies resources en route and on-scene, providing real-time location and assignment tracking.

12.4.2 Tracking Personnel
Resource tracking requires detailed documentation, including personnel hours worked, overtime authorization, and any adjustments to staff schedules. It is essential that personnel accurately report activities related to the emergency response, particularly those conducted outside the EOC. Employees should record the following details when engaging in off-site or inter-agency coordination:

- **Meeting Details**: Document meeting topics, duration, attendees, and location.
- **Time Reporting**: Report activities in 10-minute increments if possible. For example, a two-hour meeting should include a description of the meeting purpose and attendees. Similarly, EOC activities should specify task types (e.g., "4 hours in EOC managing sheltering activities").

This tracking includes staff time, overtime (for both exempt and non-exempt employees), and volunteer time.

12.4.3 Tracking of Equipment, Supplies, Purchases, and Contracts
Expenditures for cost tracking and recovery are documented throughout the incident response, recovery, and close-out periods using the WEB EOC system. Each supporting agency is responsible for tracking its ESF #7A and #7B operational costs in line with its standard accounting procedures, which includes tracking the following:

- **Purchases and Contracts**: Document purchases, initiated or modified contracts, copies, mileage, and vehicle use (county or personal) as required.

- **Equipment Tracking**: Track equipment mileage and/or operating hours through the Salamander system.

These procedures ensure accurate financial tracking for potential reimbursement and recovery efforts following the disaster.

12.5   Establishing Burn Rates

The burn rate is a metric used to monitor the rate at which allocated hours for a project are consumed. It helps identify when a project may be going out of scope or when efficiencies are lost. During multi-jurisdictional incident responses, it is essential that each jurisdiction recognizes that any agency requesting additional resources, personnel, specialized equipment, or other support is financially responsible for the associated costs, unless covered under pre-arranged mutual aid or cost-sharing agreements. It is not the county's responsibility to cover these costs.

The Finance Section, including the Finance Section Chief and their staff, as well as ESF-7B (County only) staff within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), plays a critical role in financial documentation and tracking of burn rates. This team manages and records all requests for equipment, specialized equipment, and personnel timesheets to ensure accurate accounting.

To support comprehensive cost tracking for the emergency response, each elected or appointed official, along with each department head with personnel assigned to the event, is required to submit a Daily Departmental Disaster Finance Report. This report ensures accurate tracking of personnel, equipment, and supplies used during the incident and provides a daily burn rate of costs. These reports are shared with the State of Colorado, Incident Command, and the EOC to support applications for any state or federal disaster relief.

Personnel, vehicle, and equipment burn rates will be calculated based on FEMA rates entered into WebEOC and the Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF).

In cases involving a FEMA Mission Assignment (MA), maintaining an accurate burn rate is critical. Agencies must not exceed the authorized amount specified in an MA. Continual monitoring of expenditures against approved funding throughout the MA's duration is essential to ensure compliance and effective resource allocation.

12.6   Process for Disaster Reimbursement

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) administers the State's Emergency Assistance Grant Program. This program provides financial assistance to local governments (cities, counties, and special districts) and individuals affected by a disaster that has led to a proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor. Federal resources for emergency and disaster relief are authorized by Congress through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which establishes FEMA's disaster assistance programs and a national framework for emergency response. The implementation of these provisions is supported by formal agreements among Federal and State agencies.

Each department head is responsible for maintaining complete documentation to justify purchases and ensure reimbursement eligibility. All expenditures, income, donations, and

procurement transactions must comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) procurement guidelines, as well as Ouray County and/or agency purchasing policies.

Bills and receipts should be submitted promptly to the Finance Department. The County Finance Department, along with supporting Special Districts and Municipalities, is responsible for documenting all emergency-related expenditures in accordance with generally accepted accounting and procurement practices.

12.6.1 Documentation Requirements

Department heads and agency administrators must be prepared to document and retain all records, including but not limited to:

- **Personnel Records**: Sign-in sheets for personnel, volunteers, and members of the public/media. The ICS-211 form and the Salamander Live program may be used to scan responder/employee ID cards and track hours and costs associated with work performed and equipment used.
- **Timekeeping**: Timecards, certified timesheets, and employee records showing the normal and overtime rates for all employees involved in the disaster. Timesheets must indicate time spent on normal duties versus overtime duties, as well as any reassignment to disaster response tasks.
- **Incident Reports**: Incident complexity analysis and damage assessment reports.
- **Visual Documentation**: Photographs and videos of the incident response.
- **Logs and Reports**: Incident command logs and daily activity reports for all personnel. All staff and volunteers should complete an ICS-214 form and an Ouray County Disaster Timesheet to document their daily activities.
- **Financial Documents**: Purchase orders, invoices, receipts, and cost recovery forms.

12.6.2 FEMA Recommendations for Documentation and Financial Tracking

To ensure compliance with FEMA guidelines and maximize reimbursement for FEMA Public Assistance, the County and its municipalities will implement the following practices:

- **Separate Accounting**: Track all costs and revenues from the emergency incident separately from daily operating expenses and income.
- **Equipment and Vehicle Records**: Maintain detailed records for every vehicle and piece of heavy equipment used in response to the emergency, including:
    - Mileage logs for both personal and department-owned vehicles.
    - Vehicle information and insurance details.
    - Documentation required by FEMA for travel justification, including the driver's identity, starting and ending mileage, total mileage driven, fuel usage and cost, start and end times, trip purpose, and destination. For vehicles used in debris removal, document the weight of the debris removed.
- **Labor Hours Tracking**: Track employee, volunteer, and contract labor hours separately from vehicle, equipment, and other expenses.
- **ID Assignment and Tracking**: Assign Salamander ID cards or barcodes to personnel, vehicles, and equipment to facilitate tracking of FEMA rates. Equipment and personnel should be checked in and out using Salamander and maintained on paper logs. The burn

rate (hourly, mileage, or daily) will be calculated based on the latest FEMA rates. The Salamander Live/Track system will be utilized for personnel tracking by both Ouray County and the State of Colorado, while vehicle and equipment burn rates will be calculated using FEMA rates entered into WebEOC and the Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF).

- **Supply Requests**: Maintain and submit all supply requests (213RR forms), purchase orders, invoices, and other documentation to the Finance and Documentation Units.
- **Resource Usage Documentation**: Ensure that documentation clearly indicates where resources were utilized and for what purpose. All non-competitive procurements must be justified.
- **Cost Justification**: Document that all costs were reasonable and justified. For high-value or specialized equipment that remains the property of a County department or agency, record the item's serial number or VIN, track the responsible department, and add items valued over $5,000 to the County's inventory.

In coordination with the EOC, each support agency will file for reimbursement of costs incurred through its own accounting and reimbursement processes.

12.7 Financial Records Retention

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway, including all Offices, Departments, and Agencies, will strictly adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local regulations and protocols regarding financial records retention. This commitment ensures full compliance with regulatory requirements and supports accountability, transparency, and audit readiness for all financial transactions related to emergency management activities.

Key components of financial records retention include:

- **Compliance with Regulatory Standards**: Financial records will be maintained in accordance with regulations set forth by entities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and other relevant federal, state, and local bodies. This includes adherence to specified retention periods, formats, and documentation requirements.

- **Documentation of Emergency Funds**: All financial transactions involving emergency funds—whether sourced from grants, federal assistance, or local budgets—will be meticulously documented. This includes payroll, equipment purchases, contracts, service agreements, and any other expenditures associated with response and recovery efforts.

- **Centralized Record Management**: Financial records will be stored in a centralized, secure location accessible to authorized personnel. Both electronic and physical records management systems will be utilized to ensure that all documentation is organized, protected, and easily retrievable.

- **Audits and Reviews**: Periodic internal and external audits will be conducted to assess the accuracy and completeness of financial records. These audits ensure that

expenditures align with budgetary allocations, and they verify compliance with funding guidelines. Identified discrepancies will be promptly addressed and corrected.

- **Training and Compliance Monitoring**: Financial personnel and relevant staff members will receive ongoing training on records retention requirements, best practices, and documentation standards to ensure consistency and accuracy. Compliance monitoring will be conducted to ensure adherence to established protocols.

- **Support for Reimbursement Processes**: Comprehensive and well-maintained financial records facilitate the reimbursement process with federal and state agencies following an emergency. This includes maintaining all required documentation for disaster relief funds, grants, and other financial assistance programs to ensure timely and accurate reimbursements.

Through these records retention practices, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway ensure the highest standards of financial accountability and readiness to meet both immediate and long-term needs of emergency management activities. This commitment reinforces fiscal responsibility and supports the integrity of all emergency operations within the region.

12.8   FEMA Mission Assignments

When FEMA provides assistance, it may issue a Mission Assignment (MA). FEMA collaborates with State, Tribal, and Territorial governments to identify unmet needs during disaster response efforts. When appropriate, FEMA issues MAs to direct the relevant Federal agency to address these needs. It is important to note that an MA is neither a grant nor a contract but a reimbursable work order designated for a specific task, which may be executed before or after a formal disaster declaration. MAs are essential for leveraging Federal agency resources in life-saving and life-sustaining activities during disaster response. They apply solely to emergency work, excluding permanent restorative projects or long-term studies. Examples of emergency work under MAs include:

- Debris clearance to facilitate safe access for emergency vehicles
- Debris removal to mitigate immediate health and safety risks

(*Reference: FEMA IS-0293: Mission Assignment Overview*)

12.8.1 Categories of Mission Assignments (MAs):
- **Federal Operations Support (FOS):** Requested by a Federal agency to aid Federal operations, FOS provides support directly to Federal operations as requested by the Federal Government. FOS is 100% federally funded and can be initiated before or after a formal disaster declaration.
- **Direct Federal Assistance (DFA):** Requested by a State when additional resources are required beyond State and local capabilities, DFA provides disaster assistance resources. This type of support is subject to a cost-sharing arrangement—typically a 75% Federal share and a 25% State share, with the local jurisdiction contributing based on a pre-established cost-sharing agreement. DFA is only available following a formal declaration.

Per **44 CFR 206.208**, the standard period of performance for completing a DFA Mission Assignment is within 60 days post-declaration. FEMA may grant extensions (usually authorized by the FEMA Regional Administrator or Federal Coordinating Officer) based on extenuating circumstances. Establishing an MA requires a well-prepared cost estimate distinguishing between eligible and ineligible costs.

12.9 Disaster Finance Management Plan

In order to streamline financial coordination and accountability during disaster events, each jurisdiction within the County will create a tailored Disaster Finance Management Plan. These plans will outline specific financial processes, tracking, reimbursement protocols, and cost-sharing agreements. Each jurisdiction will integrate these into the broader emergency management plan.

12.9.1 Ouray County Disaster Finance Management Plan

The Ouray County Manager, Finance Director, ESF-7B lead, and Emergency Management will collaborate to develop a comprehensive Disaster Finance Management Plan. This plan will cover protocols for funding allocation, resource tracking, expense documentation, and reimbursement processes during emergencies. Once completed, it will be annexed to the main Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

12.9.2 City of Ouray Disaster Finance Management Plan

The City Administrator, Finance Director, and Emergency Management will jointly create a Disaster Finance Management Plan specific to the City of Ouray. This plan will include detailed procedures for managing disaster-related expenditures, tracking resources, and ensuring alignment with Federal and State reimbursement guidelines. Once finalized, it will be annexed to the EOP.

12.9.3 Town of Ridgway Disaster Finance Management Plan

The Town Manager, Finance Director, and Emergency Management will work together to establish a Disaster Finance Management Plan tailored to the Town of Ridgway. This plan will focus on cost-tracking procedures, resource documentation, and coordination with county and state agencies for potential reimbursements. Once complete, this plan will be annexed to the EOP.

12.10 Financial Support of Planned Activities

The successful execution of emergency management activities within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway relies on securing and allocating financial resources to support preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation initiatives. Financial support for these activities is planned to ensure the availability of resources, sustain operational readiness, and enhance community resilience. This includes funding from local budgets, grants, and cooperative agreements with state and federal agencies.

Key elements of financial support for planned activities include:

- **Local Budget Allocations**: Each jurisdiction—Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway—allocates funding within their annual budgets specifically designated for emergency management activities. This includes support for training, equipment

purchases, public education, and other preparedness activities essential for maintaining readiness.

- **Grant Funding and State/Federal Assistance**: Financial support is enhanced through state and federal grant programs, including funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Colorado Department of Public Safety. These grants support a variety of initiatives, including hazard mitigation projects, emergency planning, and capacity-building activities.
- **Mutual Aid and Cooperative Agreements**: Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway have established mutual aid and cooperative agreements with neighboring counties and municipalities to share resources and personnel during emergencies. These agreements provide financial support for resource sharing, reducing emergency response and recovery costs.
- **Emergency Reserve Funds**: Each jurisdiction maintains emergency reserve funds to address unforeseen costs associated with disaster response and recovery. These reserves allow the jurisdictions to act quickly and effectively, minimizing delays in critical response activities.
- **Public-Private Partnerships**: Collaborating with private sector organizations and non-profits provides additional financial and in-kind support. These partnerships help expand funding sources for community outreach programs, emergency supplies, and resilience projects, enhancing the community's capacity to prepare for and recover from disasters.
- **Documentation and Financial Accountability**: Strict adherence to financial documentation and reporting protocols ensures that all funds are tracked and accounted for according to local, state, and federal guidelines. This includes record-keeping for each planned activity, which supports compliance, audit readiness, and eligibility for reimbursement in the event of federally declared disasters.

By leveraging these funding sources and partnerships, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway can maintain a robust and sustainable approach to emergency preparedness and response, ensuring that planned activities receive the financial support necessary for successful implementation.

13. LOGISTICS

In emergency management, logistics involves the efficient flow of relief services and essential information from relief distribution centers to affected areas. Unlike traditional business logistics, which primarily support product delivery from producer to consumer, emergency logistics requires managing complex, interdependent tasks with specific objectives and constraints under rapidly changing conditions.

13.1 Mutual-Aid and Regional-Aid Agreements
Per **Colorado Revised Statutes 24-33.5-705.4(1)(b) and 24-33.5-713**, Ouray County has established Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring Montrose, San Miguel, and Delta Counties, as well as other jurisdictions, to facilitate access to critical resources during disaster

events. These agreements ensure that support, such as personnel, equipment, and materials, can be provided efficiently when resources within the County are limited.

The County Emergency Manager is responsible for assisting jurisdictions and agencies in developing mutual aid and automatic aid agreements within Ouray County and surrounding areas. These agreements are established in advance to streamline response efforts during an incident. All agreements under County jurisdiction must be reviewed, approved, and signed by the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners before they can be activated.

Mutual aid agreements recognize that no single agency in rural Ouray County can meet all resource needs during major emergencies. Through these agreements, an agency may request personnel or equipment from neighboring jurisdictions, often with clauses for providing up to 12–24 hours of support free of charge. If assistance extends beyond this period, an agreed-upon rate applies. The WebEOC Colorado Rate Resource Forms (CRRF), using FEMA-approved rates, provide a standardized basis for reimbursement rates.

Elected authorities in each jurisdiction are ultimately responsible for the safety and security of their residents. Municipalities and special districts must ensure emergency operations are well-coordinated with mutual aid partners as necessary, in alignment with Colorado statutes.

13.1.1 West All-Hazards Region / DHSEM Field Service Region

Ouray County is a member of the West All-Hazards Region, encompassing Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Ouray, San Miguel, and Hinsdale Counties. This region manages Homeland Security grant funds and is governed by an executive board composed of emergency managers from each county. In addition, the counties in this region are part of the West Region Healthcare Coalition (WRHCC) and the regional Public Health team from Mesa County Public Health, in coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Ouray County is also within the Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) West service area, which includes Garfield, Mesa, Pitkin, Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, and Ouray counties. The DHSEM service area is managed by a field manager, who coordinates assistance requests and resources during emergencies. For escalating incidents, especially where regional or state assistance may be required, the DHSEM Regional Field Manager should be informed and kept updated.

DHSEM West Region Field Service Manager
Bobbie Lucero
Email: bobbie.lucero@state.co.us
Phone: (970)846-3912
State Emergency Line: 303-279-8855

13.1.2 Fire Protection and Control: Uncompahgre River Region

Ouray County is part of the Uncompahgre River Region under the Colorado Division of Fire Protection and Control (DFPC), along with Montrose and San Miguel Counties. For large-scale incidents, especially those on state land or that require regional coordination, the DFPC Fire Management Officer (FMO) Manager should be notified.

DFPC Uncompahgre River Region Fire Management Officer
Joe Duensing
Email: joe.duensing@state.co.us
DFPC Assistance Line: 303-279-8855
Interagency Dispatch: 970-249-1010

In instances where regional assets are not available, requests for specialized resources, such as specific fire apparatus, may extend beyond the West Region. The WebEOC system will be used to locate these resources, ensuring rapid deployment when immediate assistance is required.

13.2 Identification of Resource Gaps Based on Defined Threats/Hazards

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, the Town of Ridgway, and special districts across the County have limited resources, especially specialized resources that may be essential in specific emergencies or disasters. Key resources that are currently unavailable within the County and may need to be obtained through mutual aid or other partnerships include but are not limited to:

- Hazardous materials (Hazmat) response/cleanup teams
- SWAT and Bomb Squad teams
- Specialized subject matter experts (e.g., Epidemiologists, Water Engineers)
- Specialized equipment (e.g., Leak detection equipment, advanced medical support)

It's important for all agencies to recognize that no single county, special district, or even the state has access to every resource needed for all emergencies and disasters. Depending on the specific threat or hazard, resource gaps may involve specialized personnel or equipment. In such cases, Emergency Management and the EOC logistics section will coordinate requests for external resources.

13.2.1 Resource Request Process

As an incident unfolds, the IC or UC should assess the situation and identify any specialized resources or capabilities beyond those available within Ouray County and its municipalities. Identified resource gaps should be promptly communicated to agency administrators to evaluate associated costs and to Emergency Management for potential action.

If external resources are required and authorized, the requesting agency will initiate a Resource Request through the EOC/Emergency Management following the procedures outlined in this plan. Documentation of resource requests is essential to support financial tracking and potential reimbursement efforts.

13.3 Mutual-Aid Agreement Procedures, Processes, and Review

13.3.1 Activating Mutual Aid Agreements

When a municipal or county department, agency, or special district reaches its resource or capability limits, mutual aid requests should be initiated within Ouray County, escalating to neighboring counties only when additional support is necessary. Notification to Emergency Management is required when seeking assistance from outside Ouray County.

If a municipality or special district finds that an incident exceeds their response capabilities, the agency head or chief elected official may formally request County assistance through the

Emergency Manager or Sheriff. For non-routine or significant resource requests extending outside of county resources, the request should be managed through the EOC (if activated) or the Emergency Manager.

13.3.1.1   Resource Ordering Compliance

To streamline operations and maximize eligibility for State and Federal reimbursement during recovery, all participating departments, agencies, and municipalities must comply with resource ordering protocols through the Ouray County EOC when it is active. Centralizing these requests ensures effective coordination and financial accountability.

13.3.2   Development & Maintenance of Mutual Aid Agreements

Copies of all Mutual Aid Agreements and Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) relevant to Emergency Response should be filed with the jurisdiction's manager or administrator. These agreements must be accessible to Emergency Management, the Sheriff, EMS Chief, fire chiefs, and the EOC upon request.

Local jurisdictions, including municipalities, fire districts, EMS districts, and law enforcement agencies, are responsible for negotiating, coordinating, and regularly renewing mutual aid agreements for their respective departments. The Ouray County Emergency Manager serves as the primary contact for reviewing and updating mutual aid agreements across the County, in coordination with relevant jurisdictions to address emergency and disaster response needs.

13.3.2.1 Agreement Review and Updates

Emergency Management will collaborate with agency heads, elected officials, neighboring jurisdictions, and other emergency managers to update Mutual Aid Agreements and IGAs as necessary. Proposed changes will be presented to the Ouray County Attorney's Office for review. Following legal review, agreements involving County resource commitments for mutual aid must be approved by resolution and signed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The goal of maintaining updated agreements is to enhance coordinated emergency response capabilities, ensure legal and financial clarity, and improve readiness to respond to emergencies effectively.

13.4 Resource Management

The management of resources during an incident is essential to maintaining a coordinated, efficient, and effective response. When the EOC is activated, resources will be prioritized to meet incident needs, with each department retaining control of its resources until formally requested by the EOC. The Logistics, Operations, and Planning Section Chiefs hold primary responsibility for resource coordination and will establish priorities for equipment, personnel, and other resources to meet incident objectives.

In cases of resource disputes or when response needs exceed department resources, the Emergency Manager or County Sheriff will make the final resource allocation decision. Resource prioritization will follow these guidelines:

- **Maximize Impact**: Resources should be allocated where they will provide the most benefit.

- **Needs-Based Allocation**: Resources will be directed to areas with the greatest need, and public information will be disseminated to inform citizens.
- **Leverage Mutual Aid**: Mutual aid agreements should be activated before making requests for resources from outside the County or region.
- **Exhaust Local and Regional Resources**: Only after local and regional resources are exhausted should requests be made to the State EOC via the Emergency Manager through WebEOC.

Resource requests, especially for external personnel, equipment, or materials, will follow established financial responsibility guidelines. The requesting agency is responsible for costs incurred outside pre-arranged mutual aid or cost-share agreements. All requests should be documented using an ICS-213RR form or WebEOC 213RR, specifying details such as the type of resource, cost, delivery location, required timeline, and duration needed.

13.4.1 Ordering Resources

During EOC activation, agencies lacking a necessary resource may submit a 213RR (Resource Request) form with detailed information, including the location, timing, budget, and requester information. The EOC Logistics Division (ESF-7) will coordinate efforts to source the requested resource locally, regionally, or through state resources, updating the requesting agency on progress.

13.4.2 Demobilization

Demobilization is the orderly and efficient return of resources to their original status after an incident. Planning for demobilization should start early in the response phase to facilitate resource accountability and maintain cost-efficiency. The Planning Section Chief will initiate the demobilization process and develop an Incident Demobilization Plan that includes specific instructions.

Key elements of demobilization include:

- **Coordination**: Incident Command and Multiagency Coordination System elements work together to manage resources and adjust deployments as needed.
- **Resource Reassignment**: As objectives are met, resources may be reassigned, rehabilitated, or released. The **Incident Commander** oversees demobilization planning to ensure the effective return of resources.
- **Sign-Out and Documentation**: Personnel and equipment should check out with the IC/EOC Logistics and Finance sections to record all expenses and emergency repairs. Documentation, including ICS forms and resource logs, is essential for financial accountability.

Steps for Demobilization:

- **Validation of Demobilization Orders**: Mobilized personnel must have orders validated by the IC/EOC Planning Section.
- **Accountability**: Supervisors ensure all personnel, equipment, and forms are accounted for and completed.

- **Communication with the State EOC**: The Demobilization Unit Leader will notify the State EOC when resources are released and provide an estimated return time.
- **Final Reporting**: All personnel will complete required reports for their assigned position before departure.

13.4.3 Assistance for Residents and Visitors with Access and Functional Needs (AFN)

Ouray County departments, special districts, response agencies, and municipalities must address the needs of residents and visitors with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) during incidents. Specific resources and actions for AFN populations include:

- **Multi-Language Messaging**: Provide warning messages in multiple languages.
- **ASL Interpretation**: Ensure that American Sign Language interpreters are present on camera during live press conferences.
- **Closed Captioning**: Enable closed captioning on emergency videos posted online or on social media.
- **In-Person Contact for Remote Residents**: Dispatch deputies or law enforcement for in-person contact in remote areas without reliable phone service.
- **Assistance with Evacuation**: Plan for residents and visitors who lack access to personal transportation.
- **Multi-Platform Notification**: Use multiple platforms, including social media, emergency notification systems, and website alerts, to reach all community members.
- **Consideration for Broadcast Reach**: Recognize that unincorporated areas may receive satellite TV services from outside the region, and plan communications accordingly.

For evacuations, shelter-in-place orders, or other public health directives, agencies should work with organizations that serve vulnerable populations, including the elderly, homebound, and those with physical or cognitive disabilities, to ensure these individuals understand and can comply with emergency instructions.

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) provides support through an Access and Functional Needs Coordinator, who can assist agencies in developing inclusive emergency plans. Integrating AFN considerations is essential to uphold the whole-community approach to emergency management.

13.5 Identifying Specialized Resources

Ouray County utilizes **WebEOC** and the **Colorado Rate Resource Form (CRRF) library** to track, locate, and request emergency response personnel, equipment, and specialized resources. This tool allows departments to assess available resources within the County and access additional resources from regional or state partners as necessary.

If a county department or agency in Ouray County requires a resource not available in its inventory, they should follow these steps:

1. **Check In-County Availability**: Contact other agencies and partners within Ouray County to determine if the required resource is locally available.
2. **Use WebEOC for Regional Search**: If the resource is unavailable in-county, use the CRRF Equipment dashboard in WebEOC to search regionally or statewide. This dashboard

provides a directory of resources, such as trained personnel, emergency response vehicles, and specialized equipment, allowing quick access to FEMA-approved rate information for equipment like fire trucks, bulldozers, ambulances, and specialized crew members.

3. **Submit Annual Equipment Listings**: All Ouray County first responder agencies must submit and verify an annual inventory of vehicles and engine-powered equipment to WebEOC. This ensures an updated database for local, county, and state-level resource searches. Agencies should submit equipment lists as directed by the Emergency Manager.

4. **Access to CRRF and Rate Information**: Agencies can request WebEOC access as a CRRF administrator through the Emergency Manager or the DHSEM Regional Field Manager. The CRRF provides a cost estimate, detailing FEMA-approved rates for equipment and personnel, allowing requesting agencies to anticipate the financial implications of using external resources.

5. **Escalate Requests for State or Federal Resources**: When a specialized resource is required but is unavailable locally or regionally, the County Logistics Division will notify the EOC Manager or Emergency Manager to escalate the request. The Emergency Manager will coordinate with the Regional Field Manager to forward the request to the State EOC via WebEOC.

13.5.1 State Resource Management and Shortfall Notification

According to the State EOP, counties are responsible for managing local and regional resources and notifying the State EOC of any anticipated shortfalls in required resources. Proactively communicating potential resource gaps is essential to support state assistance requests and avoid operational disruptions.

13.6 Resource Management Plan

Ouray County Emergency Management, in coordination with local, regional, and state partners, will develop and maintain a Resource Management Plan to ensure efficient identification, allocation, and coordination of resources during emergencies and disasters. This plan will include:

- **Resource Identification and Inventory**: Establish and maintain a comprehensive inventory of county-owned resources, including equipment, personnel, and facilities, with updates incorporated annually or as resources change. The inventory will be available in WebEOC to facilitate regional and state-level coordination.
- **Mutual Aid Integration**: Outline agreements and protocols for activating mutual aid, including pre-established mutual aid agreements, to support rapid access to additional resources when needed.
- **Prioritization and Allocation Guidelines**: Define criteria for prioritizing resources based on incident severity, impact, and strategic objectives. This section will provide guidance on allocating scarce resources effectively to maximize public safety and operational success.

- **Resource Request and Tracking Procedures**: Detail procedures for requesting resources through WebEOC, tracking resource use, and maintaining cost accountability. These procedures will ensure compliance with state and federal reimbursement requirements.
- **Training and Exercises**: Coordinate training sessions and exercises to ensure all agencies understand and can implement the Resource Management Plan. Exercises will simulate resource requests, activation of mutual aid, and escalation to regional or state partners to test plan effectiveness.
- **Review and Maintenance**: Emergency Management will review the Resource Management Plan annually, updating it based on operational lessons learned, changes in available resources, and evolving best practices in emergency management.

The Resource Management Plan will serve as a guiding document for efficiently managing resources during incidents, ensuring readiness, and supporting coordinated emergency response across jurisdictions.

13.7 Logistical Support for Planned Events

Effective logistical support is critical to the success of planned events and emergency operations within Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. This logistical framework ensures the coordinated provision, management, and distribution of essential resources, including personnel, equipment, facilities, and supplies, to maintain readiness and support both community events and emergency responses.

Key components of logistical support for planned events include:

- **Resource Inventory and Management**: Each jurisdiction maintains a comprehensive inventory of equipment, vehicles, communication tools, and emergency supplies necessary to support planned events and emergencies. Regular assessments and updates of this inventory ensure resources are available, well-maintained, and strategically positioned.

- **Coordination with Partner Agencies**: To optimize logistical efficiency, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as neighboring jurisdictions. Pre-event planning sessions and resource-sharing agreements ensure that logistical needs are met with minimal duplication of efforts and efficient use of resources.

- **Personnel and Volunteer Management**: Trained personnel and volunteers are essential for executing large-scale planned events and emergency operations. Each jurisdiction has a system for mobilizing and managing personnel, including designated roles, schedules, and responsibilities. Volunteers are pre-registered and trained for specific tasks, ensuring that adequate staffing is available when needed.

- **Facility and Staging Area Preparation**: Designated facilities and staging areas are pre-identified to support event logistics, including space for supply distribution, command centers, and emergency shelters if needed. These facilities are inspected regularly, and logistical plans are developed to streamline setup, operations, and demobilization.

- **Supply Chain Coordination**: Robust relationships with vendors and suppliers help ensure a steady flow of necessary materials and supplies. Agreements with local suppliers for food, water, fuel, medical supplies, and other essentials enable quick procurement and resupply during events, enhancing logistical resilience.

- **Transportation and Mobility Planning**: Efficient transportation logistics are essential for moving resources, equipment, and personnel. Pre-established transportation plans, including designated routes and vehicle allocation, ensure rapid deployment and movement throughout Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway. Traffic management and access control are coordinated to ensure public safety and operational efficiency.

- **Communication and Information Management**: Reliable communication systems are in place to ensure seamless coordination among logistics teams, field personnel, and partner agencies. Communication protocols, including radio networks, mobile devices, and information-sharing platforms, facilitate real-time updates and effective resource management throughout the duration of planned events.

By integrating these logistical support measures into the EOP, Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway are well-prepared to provide seamless, organized support for planned events. This ensures community safety, enhances operational efficiency, and strengthens local readiness for emergency response and recovery activities.

14   PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

14.1 Jurisdictional Planning Process

This current Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) supersedes all prior versions and becomes effective immediately upon signature by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Ouray City Council, and Ridgway Town Council. Updated versions and changes should be distributed electronically to the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group and Department Heads.

The Ouray County Emergency Manager is responsible for drafting the EOP. Once a draft is ready, whether a complete plan or individual sections, the Emergency Manager will distribute it to the MAC Group, County Management/Administration, BOCC, County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Regional Emergency Managers for review and feedback. The review process includes at least one MAC Group meeting. After incorporating feedback, the plan will be presented at a public hearing during a regularly scheduled BOCC Meeting or Work Session, allowing for public input. Following final updates, the EOP will be formally adopted by BOCC resolution.

14.2 Responsibility for Planning and Coordination

The Ouray County Emergency Manager holds primary responsibility for maintaining and updating the EOP. To ensure readiness, Ouray County Emergency Management will coordinate regular training sessions and exercises so that all departments and offices with assigned responsibilities are familiar with and prepared to implement the EOP's provisions.

Departments, offices, and organizations identified in the plan are responsible for ensuring their staff members understand relevant sections and are adequately trained to perform assigned emergency duties.

14.3 Establishing Cycles for Training, Review, Evaluation, and Updates of the EOP

14.3.1 Training

Ouray County Emergency Management, partially funded by the **DHSEM Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**, is required to fulfill training deliverables. This includes the Emergency Manager's participation in at least three exercises annually and ensuring adequate training opportunities for County personnel. Training and exercises are therefore scheduled on an annual cycle, with specific sessions conducted in coordination with local and regional partners.

14.3.2 Reviewing

The EOP should undergo continuous review, particularly after incidents or emergencies, to assess the effectiveness of relevant sections. Additionally, sections of the EOP are updated quarterly during MAC Group meetings, ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of and contribute to ongoing improvements. Lead agencies for each Emergency Support Function (ESF) or Community Lifeline must review their respective sections and annexes annually. A comprehensive review and update of the EOP will be completed every two years in compliance with CPG 101.

14.3.3 Evaluating

After any real-world event or training exercise that simulates an emergency scenario, the EOP will be evaluated to assess performance, identify areas for improvement, and validate current protocols. This process allows Ouray County Emergency Management to make informed updates to strengthen the EOP's effectiveness.

14.3.4 Updating

Updates to the EOP will be made as identified through the review and evaluation processes. When multiple sections or annexes require updates, a prioritized recommendation will be submitted to the BOCC. The BOCC will review and establish the official prioritized list for updates, guiding Emergency Management on areas of focus for revision and improvement.

14.4 Process for Training, Reviewing, Evaluating, and Updating the EOP

14.4.1 Training

Each fall, Ouray County Emergency Management will conduct an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop for Ouray County and the West Region in partnership with the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group, regional partners, and the DHSEM Training & Exercise Division. This workshop will develop the annual Training and Exercise Plan for the County and identify training needs, such as tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises. These exercises address operational gaps and test the EOP's policies and procedures under simulated conditions, ensuring applicability in real-world scenarios.

Following each incident or exercise, the plan should be referenced in an After-Action Report (AAR) to identify any necessary updates based on lessons learned.

14.4.2 Reviewing

In coordination with the County Sheriff and municipal law enforcement, the Emergency Manager will present portions of the EOP for review during regularly scheduled Ouray County Department and MAC Group Meetings throughout the year. This collaborative review process allows for open discussion and examination of each section with input from department and agency heads. Any suggested updates or changes will be circulated to all departments for review, and if no objections are raised, the changes will be finalized.

For major amendments or additions, the Emergency Manager, County Sheriff, County Manager, and/or County Attorney will provide final approval. Special districts, municipalities, and partner agencies not directly under Ouray County jurisdiction may request a review of a specific EOP section or annex at any time. When significant changes are proposed, the MAC Group will review and vote on the updates, requiring a majority vote to finalize amendments.

14.4.3 Evaluating

Following any real-world incident or exercise simulating an emergency, the EOP will undergo evaluation. All participating departments and agencies will complete after-action reports (AARs) documenting successes, areas for improvement, and recommended changes.

A "hot wash" session will be held before resources depart the incident site to gather immediate feedback. Within 30 days of the incident, a formal AAR meeting will occur with all relevant stakeholders. For prolonged incidents (six months or more), a mid-incident review should be conducted to track progress and identify ongoing needs.

AARs will include:

- Incident summary, damages, response actions, and associated costs (if available).
- Assess county, agency, and EOC management during the incident.
- Identify effective policies, procedures, and plans that facilitated incident management.
- Areas needing improvement, including gaps at the County or agency level and additional training needs.
- An Improvement Plan outlining actions, responsible parties, and completion timelines.

AARs will be reviewed by the County Administration and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and filed with DHSEM. To support transparency and accessibility, AARs should be written in plain language with minimal acronyms and posted on the County website when appropriate.

14.4.4 Updating

Emergency Management and the MAC Group will update the EOP at least biennially and as needed following any incident, ensuring it remains accurate and functional for emergency responders and residents. Emergency management may make minor updates, which are documented in the Record of Changes at the beginning of the plan. Major updates, including policy changes or additions, will be reviewed and re-adopted by the BOCC at a public meeting.

Annexes, appendices, and reference documents within the EOP can be updated independently of the main plan. Once finalized, all updates will be distributed to the MAC Group and county departments and included in the master copies.

Emergency Management, Department Heads, and MAC Group members should update the Ouray County Alerts system roster and notification lists every six months to ensure that emergency contacts are accurate and include after-hours information.

14.4.5 Public Review and Comment on the Emergency Operations Plan and Annexes
Public awareness and preparedness are critical to effective emergency response. To enhance community resilience, the EOP will be posted on the County website for public access, excluding sensitive or under-development annexes.

Ouray County will encourage residents and businesses to provide feedback on the EOP and participate in preparedness activities. Public feedback on the EOP can be submitted to Emergency Management by email at gboyd@ouraycountyco.gov or by scheduling a meeting with the Emergency Manager. Recommendations will be reviewed with the County Administration, Sheriff, Department Heads, and other relevant agencies. While public input is valuable, not all recommendations can be adopted, as operational and safety priorities must be considered.

Involving the entire community in the planning process fosters resilience and enhances the community's capacity to respond to and recover from disasters.

15. LAWS, AUTHORITIES, AND REFERENCES

Under the **Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-700 et seq.)**, each county is responsible for establishing an emergency management agency and maintaining an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that outlines the responsibilities of all local agencies and officials and the disaster chain of command. Ouray County's commitment to emergency management began with the establishment of the Ouray County Emergency Manager by the Board of County Commissioners in 1995 (**County Resolution #1995-086**).

15.1 Federal Authorities and References
The following federal laws, policies, and guidance documents provide foundational authority and guidance for the Ouray County EOP:

- **Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 v.2**
- **Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (SARA Title III)**
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
- **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288)**
- **Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act**
- **National Planning Framework**
- **Homeland Security Act and Homeland Security Information Sharing Act (H.R. 5710)**
- **Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5): Management of Domestic Incidents**
- **PETS Act of 2006** (Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards)

- **Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8): National Preparedness Goal**
- **Plain Language Guidance**
- **Homeland Security Act 2002**
- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

15.2 State Authorities and References

The following Colorado state laws and plans provide additional legal guidance and requirements for emergency operations:

- **Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. §24-33.5-700 et seq.)**
- **Colorado All-Hazard Resource Database Creation**
- **Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**
- **Open Meetings Law (C.R.S. §24-6-401 and 402)**
- **Records Retention (C.R.S. §24-80-103)**
- **Public Health Reauthorization Act (SB08-194)**
- **County Public Health Agency Requirements (C.R.S. §25-1-506 et seq.)**

15.3 Local Authorities and Resolutions

15.3.1 Emergency Management Authorities

Local authorities include resolutions by the Ouray County Board of Commissioners and local municipalities that establish emergency management roles, protocols, and responsibilities. Key resolutions include:

- **Resolution #1979-00234**: Ridgway Fire Protection District Service Plan
- **Resolution #1982-00044/45**: Ouray Fire Protection District Service Plan
- **Resolution #1994-00416**: Formation of the Regional Planning Committee
- **Resolution #1995-086**: Establishment of the Emergency Preparedness Manager position
- **Resolution #2006-014 and City of Ouray 2006-02**: Adoption of NIMS
- **Resolution #2008-023**: Adoption of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- **Resolution #2014-015**: Recognition of emergency and disaster preparedness and operations
- **Resolution #2014-040**: Adoption of the Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan
- **Resolution #2015-033**: Authorization of overtime pay for emergency responders
- **Resolution #2015-053**: Establishment of the Emergency Management Fund
- **Resolution #2017-007**: Adoption of the Ouray County Policy and Procedures Manual
- **Resolution #2017-037**: Designation of County Road 17 as an emergency access route
- **Resolution #2019-049**: Adoption of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- **Resolution #2020-030**: Annual Sheriff's Office expenditure allowance for emergencies
- **Resolution #2021-08**: Ridgway Town Council's adoption of NIMS
- **Resolution #2021-048**: Adoption of EOP, designating the County Manager as Chief Executive Officer
- **Resolution #2024-043**: Adoption of this Multijurisdictional EOP

15.3.2 Public Health Authorities The following resolutions provide authority for public health emergency management and related responsibilities:

- **Resolution #2019-019**: Establishment of Public Health Director's supervisory structure
- **Resolution #2019-036**: Amendments to establish the Ouray County Public Health Agency, appoint the Public Health Director and Medical Officer

15.3.3 School District Authorities

- **None Noted**

These federal, state, and local laws, along with adopted plans and resolutions, provide the legal framework and guidance for Ouray County's emergency management practices, ensuring compliance and coordination across all levels of government and community stakeholders. Further information and copies of local resolutions can be accessed at Ouray County Documents Center.

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Approved and adopted this _____ day of December, 2024

Voting for:
Voting Against:

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

_____
Michelle Nauer, Chair

_____
Lynn Padgett, Vice Chair

_____
Jake Niece, Commission Member

</div>

ATTEST:

_____
Cristy Lynn, Clerk and Recorder

Annex: 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application

Annex: 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application

Annex to the Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan

Glenn Boyd
OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 421 6th Ave Ouray CO 81427

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INTRODUCTION

The *Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)* serves as the framework for a coordinated response to disasters and emergencies across Ouray County. The EOP outlines the roles, responsibilities, and processes necessary for mitigating risks, managing incidents, and ensuring the continuity of vital community functions.

This annex, titled *"Annex: 1983 National Register of Historic Sites Application"*, underscores the historical and cultural significance of assets within Ouray County that were formally recognized in the 1983 application to the National Register of Historic Places. These sites represent an essential component of Ouray County's heritage and are integral to its identity and resilience. The preservation of these historic locations during emergencies is paramount, not only as a matter of cultural stewardship but also to ensure the continuation of tourism and educational activities that sustain the region's economy.

The annex provides historical context, an overview of the 1983 application, and guidelines for integrating these protected sites into emergency response planning. By doing so, it aligns cultural preservation with the broader goals of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

PURPOSE

This annex outlines the specific considerations for the protection and preservation of historic sites within Ouray County as identified in the 1983 National Register of Historic Places application. It aims to integrate these sites into the emergency operations framework to minimize damage and ensure their long-term viability.

BACKGROUND

The following table lists the buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

Building Name	Jurisdiction	Address	List	Date Registered	Site Number
Bank Building	Ridgway	523 W. Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.772
Beaumont Hotel	Ouray	3rd St. & 5th Ave., Ouray	National	Oct 30, 1973	5OR.62
Colona School	Ouray County	County Rd. No. 1, Colona	State	Dec 13, 2000	5OR.1173
Fort Peabody - Ouray County	Ouray County	Uncompahgre National Forest, Ouray vicinity	National	Mar 30, 2005	5OR.1377 / 5SM.3805
George Jackson House	Ridgway	129 Citadel Dr., Ridgway	National	Jan 11, 1996	5OR.113
Hartwell Park	Ridgway	Bounded by Sherman, Lena, Clinton St., and D&RG right-of-way, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.999
Herran House	Ridgway	146 N. Cora St., Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.111
Holmes-Duckett House	Ridgway	810 Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.998
Ouray City Hall & Walsh Library	Ouray	6th Ave. between 3rd & 4th Sts., Ouray	National	Apr 16, 1975	5OR.61
Phillips House	Ridgway	282 S. Mary, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.791
Rasmussen House	Ridgway	191 S. Charlotte, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.792
Sherbino Building / Theater	Ridgway	604 N. Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.1368
Stanwood-Carmichael House	Ridgway	709 W. Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.776
Walther House	Ridgway	755 Clinton, Ridgway	State	Aug 14, 1991	5OR.781

In 1983, the City of Ouray submitted an application to the National Register of Historic Places, highlighting the historical and architectural significance of key structures, districts, and landmarks. This application reflected a commitment to preserving the county's cultural legacy, which dates back to its early mining and settlement history.

The listed sites include:

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
3	300 Second	1956	Ouray County	Comm / NC
3	322 Second	1956	Idarado Mine	Res / NC
3	145 Fourth Ave.	1956	Idarado Mine	Res / NC
3	125 Fourth Ave.	1956	Idarado Mine	Res / NC
4	101 Fourth Ave.	1960s	Ouray Baptist Church	I / NC
4	102 Fourth Ave.	1888; 1969	Billy Jo Rash	Res / NC
4	135 Fourth Ave.	1898	Spencer	Res / C
4	416 Second Street	1895	Barry	Res / C
5	101 Sixth Ave.	1967	Dorr	Res / NC
5	115 Sixth Ave.	1888; 1967	Kuboski	Res / NC
5	125 Sixth Ave.	1989	Staford & Covey	Res / C
5	546 Second Street	1876; 1898	Unknown Owner	Res / C
5	536 Second Street	1898	Flor	Res / C
5	530 Second Street	1896	Baum	Res / C
5	530 Second Street	1898	Spangler	Res / NC
5	520 Second Street	1898	Spangler	Res / C
5	514 Second Street	1898	Poole	Res / C
5	502 Second Street	1890s;1970s	Scoggins	Res / NC
7	118 Seventh Ave. (# 6)	1888	Coachlight Rest	Comm / C
7	110 Seventh Ave.	1880	Barn Motel Office	Comm / C
7	110 Seventh Ave.	1970s	Barn Motel	Comm / NC
7	2nd & 7th (#6B)	1888	Mattivi	Res / C
7	2nd & 7th	1888	Mattivi	Res / C
8	200 Eighth Ave. (#19)	1900	Thurman	Res / C
8	SW corner, 3rd & 8th Ave. (#18)	1903	Rawley Stable	Comm / C
8	SW corner, 3rd & 8th Ave. (#18)	1896	Rawley Stable	Comm / C
9	NE 2nd & 7th Ave.	1892	Western Hotel	Comm / C
9	221 7th Ave.	1892	Switz Of America Tours	Comm / C
9	709 2nd Street	1889	Grant	Res / C
9	719	1946	Rae	Res / NC
9	725 2nd Street	1945	Boyd	Res / NC
9	SW 3rd & 8th ave (#17)	1893	Nugget Restaurant	Comm / C
9	738 3rd Street (#17)	1888	Ouray Liquors	Comm / C
9	736 3rd Street (#16)	1906	Cascade Grocery	Comm / C
9	736 3rd Street (#16)	1898;1930	S & S Market	Comm / C
9	700 3rd Street (#14)	1892	Story Building & Wilson Hotel	Comm / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
10	200 6th Ave.	1900;1968	Unknow Owner	Res / NC
10	200 2nd Street	1888	Bonatti	Resc/ C
10	615 2nd Street	1888	Bonatti	Res / C
10		1970s	San Miguel Power	Comm / NC
10	SE 2nd & 7th Ave. (#6A)	1898	Kahn House	Res / C
10	SE 7th Ave.	1970s	San Miguel Power	Comm / NC
10	630 3rd Street (#13)	1954	Chipeta Theater	Comm / NC
10	620 3rd (#13)	1965	Post Office	Comm / NC
10	614 3rd (#13)	1979	Columbine Gift	Comm / NC
10	612 3rd (#13)	1979	Cabin Fever	Comm / NC
10	610 3rd (#13)	1889	Outlaw	Comm / C
10	606 3rd (#12)	1900	Bonatti	Comm / C
10	600 3rd (#12)	1889	Bank Block	Comm / C
10		1896	Rebecca Hall	Comm / C
11	5th Ave.	1903	Hayden Block	Comm / C
11	512 2nd Ave.	1914	Foster	Res / C
11	201 6th	1977	Bright Diamond Motel	Comm / NC
11	225 6th	1963	Pilkington	Res / NC
11	520 3rd	1900	Witherspoon/Alpine Rest	Comm / C
11	516 3rd	1979	Sampler	Comm / NC
11	514 3rd	1898	Relics Of Past	Comm / C
11	512 3rd	1975	Bear Creek Store	Comm / NC
11	510 3rd	1888	Hogan	Comm / C
11	NW 3rd & 5th (#10)	1962	Chalet Motel	Comm / NC
12	403 2nd Street	1888	Johnson	Res / C
12	4th Ave.	1938	Castillo	Res / NC
12	2nd Ave.	1898	Gibbs	Res / C
12	2nd Ave.	1898	Neilson	Res / C
12	421 2nd Ave.	1888	Montano	Res / C
12		1960	Yake	Res / NC
12	SW 2nd & 5th	1978	Alpine Glow	Comm / NC
12	5th	1970s	Mtn. State Telephone	Comm / NC
12	SW 3rd & 5th (#9)	1880	Wright Bldg	Comm / C
12	480 3rd (#9)	1888	Wright Opera House	Comm / C
12	426 3rd (#8)	1899	St. Elmo Hotel	Comm / C
12	NW 3rd & 4th	1950s	Cottage Motel	Res / NC
12	220 4th St.	1900	Unknow Owner	Res / C
13	301 2nd Street	1898	Crawford	Res / NC
13	303-305 2nd Street	1975	Killerstrand/Hopkins	Res / C
13	315 2nd Street	1876	Smith	Res / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
13	317 2nd Street (#5)	1890	Nixon (Baker's Manor)	Res / C
13	331 2nd Street	1888	Rae	Res / C
13	335 2nd Street	1898	Sayers	Res / C
13	339 2nd Street	1898	Kier	Res / C
13	347 2nd Street	1890	Kier	Res / C
13	SW 3rd &4th Ave.	Unknown	Sonza	Res / C
13	338 3rd	1895	Sonza	Res / C
13	334 3rd	1898	Main Street House	Comm / C
13	326 3rd	1888	Keith	Res / C
13		1898	Keith	Res / C
13	318 3rd (#7B)	1878	Keith	Res / C
13	310 3rd	1898;1924	Pauliska	Res / C
13	306 3rd	1898	Berry	Res / C
13	226 3rd (#7B)	1890s	Crawford	Res / C
14	201 2nd Street	1968	Unknow Owner	Res / NC
14	215 2nd Street	1900	Anderson	Res / C
14	221 2nd Street	1938	Gunnelson	Res / NC
14		1900	Rubendorf	Res / C
14	229 2nd Street	1888	Klein	Res / C
14	231 2nd Street	1898	Park	Res / C
14	235 2nd Street	Unknown	Sylvester	Res / NC
14	245 2nd Street	1888	Muransky	Res / C
14	231 3rd Ave.	1886	Trujillo	Res / NC
14	240 3rd Street	1886	Baumgarten	Res / C
14	232 3rd Street	1888	Mtn View	Comm / C
14	224 3rd Street	1890	Swift	Res / C
14	220 3rd Street	1890	Gorrard	Res / C
14	200 3rd Street	1962	Unknow Owner	Res / NC
15		1982	Rasmussion	Res / NC
16	N/E 3rd St & 8th Ave.	Unknown	Al Fedel Conoco	Comm / NC
16		1979	The Deli	Comm / NC
16	823 3rd Street	1898	Barbershop	Comm / C
16		1898-1929	Clark	Res / C
16		1898	Former Wilderness Hut	Comm / C
16	829 3rd Street	1898	Rossi	Res / C
16	846 4th Street	1898	Hart	Res / C
16	836 4th Street	1898	Minnick	Res / C
16	830 4th Street	1898	Handschun	Res / C
16	804 4th Street	1898	Powell	Res / C
16	326 8th Ave.	1898	Cole	Res / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
16	320 8th Ave.	1930	Graves	Res / C
17	N/E 3rd & 7th Ave.	1920s	KOA Garage	Comm / NC
17	703 3rd	1970s	Store Block	Comm / NC
17	725 3rd	1900	Curl C. & Real Estate	Comm / NC
17	729 3rd	1970	Calhoon	Res / NC
17		1898	Caldwell	Res / C
17	744 4th	1880	Hollingsworth	Res / C
17	736 4th Street	1880	Gonzales	Res / NC
17	734 4th Street	1970s	Unknown Owner	Res / NC
17	718 4th Street	1888	Burns	Res / /C
17		1970	Unknown Owner	Res /NC
17	332 7th Ave.	1895	Larson-Story Home	Res / C
18	N/E 3rd & 6th	1981-1982	Smith Office Bldg	Comm / NC
18	605 3rd	1898-1920s	Apteka Drugs	Comm / C
18	611 3rd	1972	550 Inn	Comm / NC
18	619-23 3rd	1982	Ducketts (2 bldgs)	Comm / C
18	629 3rd	1894	Viking	Comm / C
18	633 3rd	1896	Columbine & Office bldg	Comm / C
18	645 3rd	1953	Alpine Motel	Comm / NC
18	325 7th Ave.	1892-1932	Ducketts	Res C
18	632 4th Street	1970	Henze	Res / NC
18	628 4th Street	1890	Ruth	Res / C
18		1888	Duden	Res / C
18	622 4th Street	1897	Kaiser	Res / C
18	N/W 4th & 6th Ave	1982-1983	City of Ouray	Comm / NC
18	320 6th Ave.	1890s	City Hall	Comm / NC
19	N/E 3rd & 5th Ave.	1886	Beaumont Hotel	Comm / C
19	3rd Street	1888	Store & Apts.	Comm / C
19		1890-1930	Benham	Res / C
19	539 3rd Street	1886	Chief Ouray Trading Post	Comm / C
19	545 3rd Street	1893	Hess Block (Long-branch)	Comm / C
19	6th Ave.	1890s	Staufer Art Shop	Comm / NC
19		1898	Antique Shop	Comm / C
19		1980	Schoenebaum Bldg	Comm / NC
19		1982	Georgie's Place	Comm / NC
19	6th Avenue	1888	Cline Leather Shop	Comm / C
19	532 4th Street	1890s	Lyday	Res / NC
19	524 4th Street	1888	Schweitzer	Res / C
19	520 4th Street	1888	Schweider	Res / C
19	506 4th Street	1893-1982	Bach	Res / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
19		1979	Bach	Res / C
19	322 5th Avenue	1883	Reed Building	Comm / C
20	407 3rd	1889-1964	Antlers Motel	Comm / NC
20		1905	Elks Lodge	Comm / C
20	S/E 3rd & 5th Avenue	1890s	Masonic Lodge	Comm / C
20	334 5th Avenue	1880	St. John's Episcopal Churh	Comm / C
20		unknown	Parish Hall	Comm / NC
20	432 4th Street	1888	Spencer	Res / NC
20	428 4th Street	1898	Siemer	Res / C
20	422 4th Street	1900	Boland	Res / C
20	410 4th Street	1898	Throckmorton	Res / C
20	N/W 4th & 4th Ave.	1890	Presbyterian Church	Comm /C
20	330 4th Ave.	1888	Head	Res/ C
20	328 4th Ave.	1888	Stewart	Res / C
21	305 Main	1904	Idarado Mine	Res / C
21	315 Main	1898	Idarado Mine	Res / C
21	325 Main	1904	Handardt	Res / C
21	329 Main	1898	Kuehn	Res / C
21		1900	Apostolas	Res / C
21	315 4th Ave.	1900	Apostolas	Res / C
21	321 4th Ave.	1900	Apostolas	Res / C
21	347 4th Ave.	1900	McAfoos	Res / C
21	346 4th Street	1900-1970s	Barr	Res / NC
21	334 4th Street	1900-1979	Scoggins	Res / NC
21	318 4th Street	1900	Kosh	Res / C
21	324 4th Street	1898	Butler	Res / C
21	302 4th Street	1898	Lawarence	Res / C
21		1898	Lawarence	Res / C
22	213 3rd Street	1890-1970s	Kessler	Res / NC
22	321 3rd Ave.	1888-1913	Colemere	Res / C
22	323 3rd Ave.	1898	Knapp	Res / C
22	335 3rd Ave.	1898	Griffin	Res / C
22	4th Street	1898	Niehuis	Res / C
23		1889	Zanin	Res / C
24	801 4th Street	1889	Zanin	Res /C
24	809 4th Street	1898	Rosser, Kermit	Res / C
24	821 4th Street	1898-1912	Hudgens	Res / C
24	827 4th Street	1898-1981	Rodriguez	Res / NC
24	436 8th Ave.	1898	Garcia	Res / C
24		1898	Charles	Res / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
24	444 8th Ave.	1898	Toan	Res / C
25	723 4th Street	1898	Kunz	Res / C
25		1888	Carter & Stone	Res / C
25		1898-1978	Johnson & Sherman	Res / C
25	747 4th Street	1898-1982	Hunt	Res / C
25	445 8th Ave.	1898-1978	Gregory	Res / NC
25		1898-1970s	Fedel	Res/ NC
25	736 5th Street	1888-1970s	Ratcliff	Res /NC
25		1888	Ratcliff	Res / NC
25	730 5th Street	1895	Fedel	Res / C
25		1895	Unknown	Unknown
25	7th between 4th & 5th	1938	Ouray Public School	Comm / NC
26	408 6th Ave	1936	Bates	Res / NC
26	615 4th Street	1880	Rule	Res / C
26	621 4th Street	1898	Dunn	Res / C
26		1898	Unknown	Res / C
26	629 4th Street	1879	Rahm	Res /C
26		1875	Unknown	unknown
26	643 4th Street	1898-1928	Codotti	Res / C
26	645 4th Street	1898-1928	Unknown	Res / C
26	405 7th Street	1898	Clark, J.	Res / C
26	425 7th Street	1898	Clark, L.	Res / NC
26		1945	Clark, J.	Res / NC
26	S/W 5th St. & 6th Ave	1960s	School Gym	Comm / NC
26	5th Street	1967	Flor	Res / NC
26	5th Street	1898	Jindra	Res / C
26	614 5th Street	1960s	St. Daniels Church	Comm / NC
26	420 6th Ave.	Unknown	Ouray Museum/ Hospital	Comm / C
26		1878	McIntire Cabin	Comm / C
26		1878	No. Main St. Cabin	Comm / C
27	505 4th Street	1891	Coha/Ashley	Res / C
27	515 4th Street	1888	Gibson	Res / C
27	521 4th Street	1890	Harvey	Res / C
27	529 4th Street	1898-1960	Franz	Res / NC
27	541 4th Street	1888	Ouray CO. Courthouse	Comm / C
27	541 4th Street (rear)	1898	County Jail	Comm / C
27	425 6th Ave.	1898	Klein	Res / NC
27		1898	Idarado Mining	Res / C
27	528 5th Street	1898-1928	Sterienz-Azarello	Res / C
27	510 5th Street	1890-1908	Vann	Res / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
27	5th Street	1888-1905	Price/ Emerson	Res / C
28	336 4th Ave.	1950s	Presby Manse	Res / NC
28	419 4th Street	1898-1920	Clark	Res / C
28		1888-1924	Wood	Res / C
28	445 4th Street	1888	Hurlburt	Res / C
28		1888	Unknown	Res / NC
28	431 5th	1888-1940	Brookins	Res / NC
28	444 4th	1900-1960	Rainville	Res / NC
28	432 4th	1898	Thompson	Res / C
28	430 4th	1898-1970s	Dunn	Res / NC
29	301 4th Street	1982	Unknown	Res / NC
29	307 4th Street	1898	Murray	Res / C
29	311 4th Street	1898	Fox	Res / C
29	319 4th Street	1900	Fay	Res / C
29	327 4th Street	1898	Miers	Res / C
29	335 4th Street	1898-1910	Cockle	Res / C
29	343 4th Street	1898-1929	Jones	Res / C
29	344 5th Street	1899-1928	Massard	Res / C
29		1899	Unknown	Unknown
29	330 5th Street	1898	Fay	Res / C
29	324 5th Street	1891	Fries	Res / C
29	316 5th Street	1898-1928	Smith	Res / C
29	310 5th Street	1890	Ehrlmann	Res / C
29	306 5th Street	1898	Sutak	Res / C
30	237 4th Street	1890	Unknown	Res / C
30		1878	Unknown	Res / C
30	433 3rd Ave.	1898-1980	Wolney	Res / NC
30		1898	Wolney	Res / C
32	540 8th Ave.	1900-1932	Jorgenson	Res / C
32	550 8th /ave.	1898-1920	Baker	Res / NC
32	811 5th Street	1898-1974	Thomass	Res / NC
32	560 1/2 8th Ave.	1970	Pederson	Res / NC
32	532 8th Ave	1969	Williams	Res / NC
33	520 7th Ave	1900-1930	Sayers	Res / C
33	5th Street	1893	Michbelis	Res / C
33	707 5th Street	1898-1928	Armstrong	Res / C
33	715 5th Street	1898	Unknown	Res / C
33	721 5th Street	1895	Hash	Res / C
33	735 5th Street	1898-1854	Nordlander	Res / C
33	8th Avenue	1946-1954	Schmidt	Res / NC

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
33	8th Avenue	1960	Fedel	Res / NC
34	501 6th Avenue	1920	Weisbaden Lodge	Comm / NC
34	637 5th Street	1883	Woods	Res / C
34	647 5th Street	1898	Schultz	Res / C
34	6th Avenue	1898	Poehnert	Comm / C
35	510 5th Ave.	1898	McCoy	Res / C
35	525 5th Street	1969	Ficco	Res / NC
35	545 5th Street	1900	Sigfrid	Res / C
35	6th Avenue	1898	Eastman	Res / C
35	550 5th Ave.	1969	Koepp	Res / NC
35	530 5th Ave.	1960	Kern	Res / NC
36	401 5th Street	1875	Pesman	Res / C
36	417 5th Street	1900-1932	Hogan	Res / C
36	429 5th Street	1900-1930	Nixon	Res / C
36	533 5th Ave.	1898-1928	Songster	Res / C
36	537 5th Ave.	1898	Naueert	Res / C
36	545 5th Ave.	1898	Verges	Res / C
36	426 6th Street	1898	Ellis	Res / C
36	420 6th Street	1898	Hilander	Res / C
36	410 6th Street	1891	Merrill	Res / C
36	404 6th Street	1891	Fish	Res / C
37	301 5th Street	1898	Crim	Res / C
37	315 5th Street	1886-1910	Stark	Res / C
37	325 5th Street	1898-1941	Dismant	Res / C
37	335 5th Street	1976	Sutton	Res / NC
37	347 5th Street	1900	McAfoos	Res / C
37	535 4th Ave.	1898	Smith	Res / C
37	541 4th Ave.	1889	Edfast	Res / C
37	338 6th	1898	Smith	Res / C
37	320 6th	1989-1980	Dunn	Res / NC
37	526 3rd Ave.	1893-1970	Krupvensky	Res / NC
37	536 3rd Ave.	1898	Karr	Res / C
37	524 3rd Ave.	1896-1927	Curry	Res / C
38	509 3rd Ave.	1898-1928	Brown	Res / C
38	541 3rd Ave.	1900	Duvall	Res / C
Oak Street	306 Oak Street	1900	Wilison	Res / C
Oak Street	308 Oak Street	1897	Gregory	Res / NC
Oak Street	322 Oak Street	1889	Brower	Res / C
Oak Street	326 Oak Street	1889	Idarado	Res / C
Oak Street	400 Oak Street	1887	Evans	Res / C

Block #	Historical Property / Address	Construction Date	1983 Owner	Classification
Oak Street	422 Oak Street	1896	Ford	Res / C
Oak Street	442 Oak Street	1878	Gregory	Res / C
Oak Street	516 Oak Street	1899	Obrien	Res / C
Oak Street	532 Oak Street	1880	Icke	Res / C
Oak Street	538 Oak Street	1980	Harding	Res / NC
Oak Street	546 Oak Street	1881	Schoenebaum	Res / C
Oak Street	602 Oak Street	1882	Meckel	Res / C
Oak Street	610 Oak Street	1961	Ludeman	Res / NC
Oak Street	620 Oak Street	1898	McCormick	Res / C
Oak Street	650 Oak Street	1890	Dettons	Res / C
Oak Street	656 Oak Street	1989	Johnson	Res / NC
Parcels	55 4th Avenue	1980	Rice Lumber CO	Comm / NC
Parcels	Unknown	1890s	Ute Power House	Comm / C
Cascade Addition	Lots 9-10	1892-1925	Martinez	Res / C
Cascade Addition	Lots 11-12	1888	Zanella	Res / C
Cascade Addition	956 3rd Street	1898	Fellin	Res / C
Cascade Addition	958 3rd Street	1898	Kuelin	Res / C
Cascade Addition	961 3rd Street	1898	Johnson	Res / C
Cascade Addition	959 3rd Street	1888	Cramp	Res / C
Cascade Addition	941 3rd Street	1900	Duckett	Res / C
Schultis Addition	917 3rd	1975	The Depot	Comm / NC
Schultis Addition	915 3rd	1898-1928	Parry	Res / C
Schultis Addition	9th Ave	1900	Vince	Res / C
Schultis Addition		1898	Chesley	Res / C
Schultis Addition	420 9th Ave	1898	Bullard	Res / C
Andrews Placer	Main Street Part of A&B	1882	Gerdes	Res / NC
Andrews Placer	964 ½ Main Street	1878	Trujillo	Res / NC
Andrews Placer	960 Main Street	1898-1928	River	Res / C
Andrews Placer	960 ½ Main Street	1971-78	River	Res / NC

INTEGRATION INTO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

The historical significance of these sites necessitates specialized planning in the following areas:

- **Mitigation:** Proactive measures to reduce risks to historic structures from natural and human-made hazards.
- **Preparedness:** Development of protocols for first responders, volunteers, and preservationists to safeguard these sites during incidents.
- **Response:** Coordination between emergency management agencies and preservation experts to prioritize actions that limit damage to historic properties.

- **Recovery:** Strategies for restoration and repair of sites in the aftermath of an incident, ensuring adherence to preservation standards.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Legal Protections: Compliance with state and federal preservation laws.
- Community Value: Recognition of these sites as assets that contribute to community identity and cohesion.
- Economic Impact: The role of historic sites in tourism and economic recovery.

ANNEX MAINTENANCE

This annex will be reviewed and updated regularly in collaboration with local historical societies, preservation organizations, and emergency management stakeholders to ensure it reflects current priorities and best practices.

AGENDA ITEM #8

To:	Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From:	Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date:	January 3, 2025
RE:	**Rights of Nature Annual Report**

SUMMARY

On November 10, 2021, the Ridgway Town Council adopted **Resolution No. 21-09** to support the protection of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries and its watershed by recognizing the "rights of nature" and the Town's responsibilities to care for and protect them. This written report serves as the annual update regarding the health and state of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries, and its watershed. It also serves as an update on the realization of the rights of nature for the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries and the Uncompahgre River Watershed.

THE HEALTH AND STATE OF THE UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER, ITS TRIBUTARIES AND ITS WATERSHED *(December 2024, report produced by Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership)*

Report starts on next page.

The health and state of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries, and its watershed
December 2024, report produced by Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

The health of the Uncompahgre River watershed remained stable in 2024. No major human or natural events degraded the river beyond its condition from the past few decades, nor did any projects greatly improve or restore water quality, riverine function, or water supply.

The Town of Ridgway continues to work with and provide funding for the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, a nonprofit focused on monitoring, preserving, and restoring watershed health. As part of an action plan created during the 2023 Growing Water Smart workshop, the town completed a small turf replacement project at Hartwell Park that will conserve water in the river's watershed.

Unusual precipitation patterns in summer 2024 overshadowed the peak flow by spring runoff, swelling the river to its highest point in August and second highest point at the end of June. The more typical date of peak flow is late May to mid-June. The August storm caused major damage to roads, fields, ditches, and most importantly the Beaver Creek diversion, the main source of the Town of Ridgway municipal water. However, the flooding mostly occurred on tributaries of the Uncompahgre River and not the Uncompahgre itself.

The Uncompahgre River through Ridgway continues to be a popular recreation spot from May to August, with boaters, paddleboarders, swimmers, waders, tubers, anglers, and dogs enjoying the water. Access has become a bit more difficult downstream of the pedestrian bridge as the river has changed shape, making descending the west bank difficult and submerging the trail on the east bank under water.

The banks of the Uncompahgre River at Rollans Park continue to erode due mainly to high-flow events and the meandering nature of the river in that area. The erosion is creating high banks, exposing large boulders meant to anchor the bank, and pushing a great deal of pebbles and stones downstream to other banks and bars. The rapid water feature in the park also continues to fill in with stones, decreasing its effectiveness.

Bank erosion is also a conspicuous problem downstream, especially at the parking area adjacent to the San Miguel Power Association. Lateral migration toward the Riverwalk as well as bank steepness has become more notable after the summer's peak flow events.

These river changes are not uncommon in our geography, where many rivers face increased erosion and detachment from the floodplain. This is both natural, as we are no longer in a period of orogeny and instead a period of erosion, and anthropogenic with changes in land use including development and ranching increasing velocity, weather, and erosion.

Construction of the 38-unit residential development, RiverFront Village, neared completion with units going on sale during the summer. The Certificates of Occupancy are expected for Phase I in February 2025 and Phase II in Summer 2025. Because this development is located in the

Uncompahgre River Overlay District[1] the development was subject to additional review in previous years, including increased setbacks and perpetual easements for the River Corridor trail. While no data is available on specific water quality or riparian/wetland impacts caused by this development, more hardened, non-porous surfaces, less vegetated ground, and concentrated runoff moving at increased velocity into the river from this riverside land parcel are concerns.

The town council approved the preliminary plat of another development on the banks of the Uncompahgre River, called The Preserve. It does not have to follow the regulations in the UROD, due to the original council approval of the plat happening just before the UROD was enacted. The development has been delayed and approval of the plat postponed several times. This development will change the character of the river and riparian area. Of note, the town, county and developer are planning a sewer facility to avoid impacting water quality.

Gunnison Basin Water Supply Report

The Uncompahgre River is located within the Gunnison River Basin of Colorado. In September, the following water supply update was produced by Gunnison Basin Roundtable Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Coordinator Savannah Nelson.

> *After a summer of moisture, the Gunnison Basin's water supply situation offers a mixed outlook. Following a promising snowpack season, water conditions have settled into an average range.*
> *As noted in the Colorado River District's July memorandum, the Upper Gunnison Basin experienced a favorable snowpack during the winter of 2023-2024, with snow water equivalent levels peaking slightly above the long-term median. This strong snowpack promised a healthy runoff season, contributing to above-average water supplies across many of the region's reservoirs. Blue Mesa Reservoir peaked at about 79% capacity this summer.*
> *The Gunnison River Basin, which includes critical agricultural areas like the Uncompahgre Valley, experienced near-normal water conditions. Most upstream reservoirs, such as Taylor Park and Ridgway, filled.*
> *Looking ahead, recent precipitation has bolstered soil moisture across the basin. This should help moderate water demands through the remainder of the season.*
> *While the Gunnison Basin's water supply for 2024 was generally positive, it is underscored by a need for ongoing adaptive management to navigate the challenges posed by fluctuating climatic conditions and variable inflow forecasts.*

UWP Note: Although we were slightly above the long-term average, this is 30-year climate normal that runs from 1990-2021, and includes the worst drought in roughly 1,500 years.

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[1] The Uncompahgre River Overlay District establishes increased development setbacks near the Uncompahgre River. The standard setback, 75 feet, is larger than the stream setback adopted in many communities. On the Western Slope stream setbacks range from as little as 12 feet to as much as 100 feet.

UWP River Watch Report on Water Supply

In the Uncompahgre River Watershed, a comparison of water years 2023 and 2024 provides an interesting picture. Water year 2023 had one of the largest snowpacks in 20-plus years, with a peak of 31.1 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) at the Red Mtn Pass SNOTEL site. This occurred on April 29, 2023, and was 124% of the median SWE peak. In contrast, for water year 2024, at the Red Mtn site SWE peaked at 21.8 inches on April 11, 2024, which was 87% of the median peak.
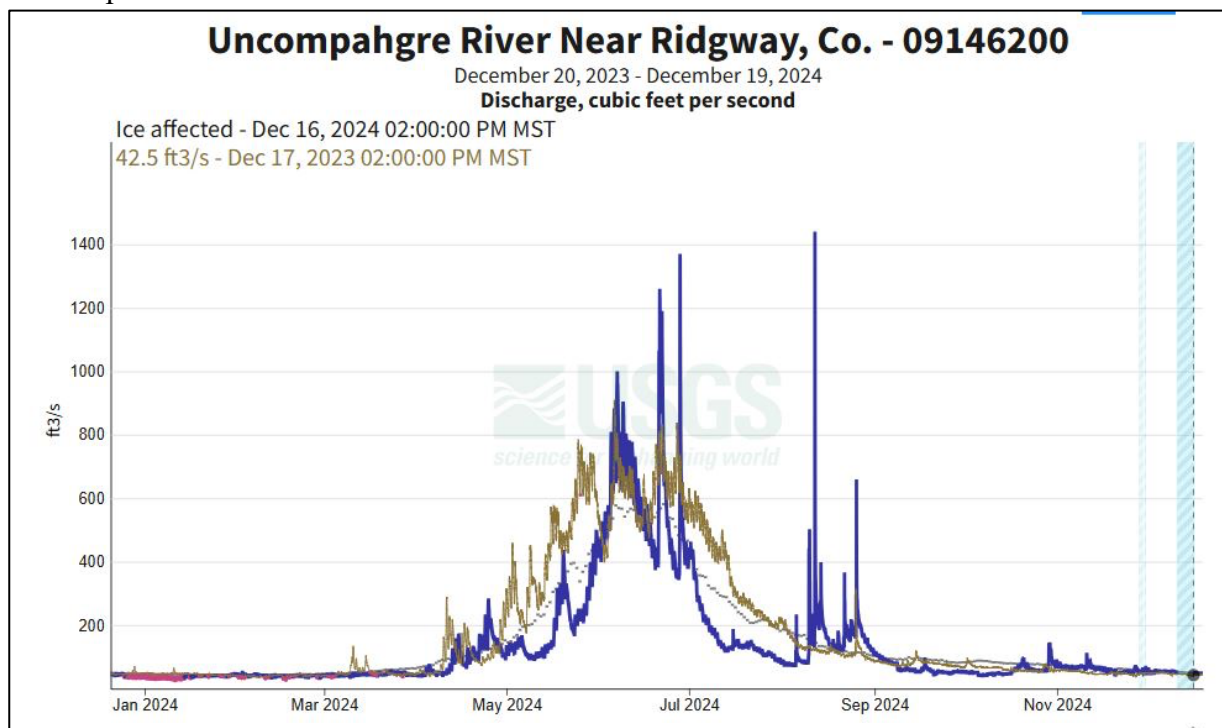
Figure 1. Discharge plots from the USGS stream gauge near Ridgway, CO. Brownish line is for 2023 and blue line is for 2024. The dotted line shows the median discharge.

Figure 1 shows that the runoff pattern on the Uncompahgre River differed markedly for 2023 and 2024. 2023 runoff from snow melt began in early May, and a relatively cool spring produced a lengthy runoff season that was like the duration of seasonal runoff noted by the median discharge curve. However, 2023 flows exceeded median values from May through the end of July. Peaks in streamflow rarely exceeded 800 cubic feet per second (cfs), so flooding from snow melt runoff was minimal.

In 2024 the discharge plot shows runoff began about two weeks later than in 2023, and occurred much more rapidly, ending around mid-July. The rapid runoff led to much higher peak flows (> 1000 cfs) than in 2023. The other main difference between the two years is the lack of increased streamflow from monsoon storms in 2023, compared to the very high peaks in flow during the monsoon season in 2024. One peak of 1440 cfs in August 2024 corresponded to a storm that produced considerable flood damage throughout Ouray County.

The late start of the runoff season in 2024 was also noted on smaller streams in the county, particularly Dallas Creek. On Dallas Creek the irrigation season began well before the main

runoff on the creek began and the streamflow dropped to less than 2 cfs from late April to early June. The low flow situation, which is very detrimental to aquatic life, prompted the Colorado Water Conservation Board to make a call on their instream flow right of 10 cfs. However, the call did not result in a flow increase. Streamflow only increased as runoff began in early June. This early season low flow pattern on Dallas Creek has been noted several times in the past 10 years.

Proposed Projects Related to Water Supply

The Cow Creek Pipeline and Ramshorn Reservoir, filed as an application in December 2019 by Ouray County and partners, is still being reviewed by the water court with negotiations ongoing between the applicants and parties that filed statements of opposition (opposers). The proposal is to divert additional water into Ridgway Reservoir. The Cow Creek diversions would benefit junior water rights holders in Ouray County as exchanges for continued water use from the Uncompahgre River that would otherwise be halted when downstream Uncompahgre Valley Water Users with senior rights put a call on that water.

The proposed pipeline and reservoir operation may decrease Uncompahgre River flows through Ridgway, though no clear data has been presented to demonstrate whether decreases would happen or not. Decreased river flows through town could potentially impact the ability for recreation to happen at Rollans Park, and the town's compliance with wastewater treatment regulations downstream of the park. More data and analysis are necessary.

The county convened a meeting in late 2023 to share modeling data prepared by contracted engineers, and the county attorney sent a proposed settlement to opposers in late November. While the county is no longer including the reservoir project in their application, other entities such as Tri-County Water Conservancy District are still discussing going forward with reservoir planning. Communication about the water rights case was at a standstill in 2024, though Tri-County, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, and some other organizations promoted the projects during several public water-related gatherings.

UWP River Watch Report on Water Quality

The long-term health of the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries is adversely affected by high concentrations of dissolved and suspended metals that enter streams from many sources, but primarily from natural weathering and erosion as well as inactive mines that are still actively discharging water. Aquatic life, from the smallest invertebrates to larger fish species, are impacted due to the presence of high metal concentrations. Fish are generally absent above Ridgway Reservoir, except for non-native bass and Kokanee salmon, which are often seen as far south as Ridgway during their seasonal upstream run in the fall.

Ridgway is located on the Uncompahgre River segment COGUUN03C, from Dexter Creek to the Dallas Creek confluence just above the reservoir. This segment was evaluated in 2022 by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) using data from 2015 through 2019, primarily collected by the Colorado Parks & Wildlife River Watch program.

UWP River Watch volunteers monitor the three water quality sites in segment COGUUN03C. The result of the 2022 evaluation by WQCD showed that all aquatic life and water supply standards for all metals were attained for this river segment. However, data collected by UWP since 2019 indicate that the water supply standard for total arsenic may be exceeded, since about 87% of samples collected show concentrations that exceed the current standard of 0.02 µg/liter. Further, although the aquatic life standard for total iron is attained using median values from the three sites in the segment, one site at Potters Ranch showed the total iron standard was exceeded using data from 2022 and 2023.

Since 2021 UWP has added seven water quality sites in the upper segments of the Uncompahgre watershed. These have been added to aid WQCD in assessing potential impairment by metals (where data was previously lacking), as well as determining total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) of metals. [A TMDL is the maximum mass of a metal that can be added to a stream each day, so that the metal concentration stays below the standard for that metal.]

Long-term Threats to Uncompahgre River Health
- Climate change, drought, and aridification decrease snow accumulation and change the precipitation regime, which in turn reduces groundwater recharge, decreases the amount of water stored in reservoirs and lakes, and causes stream flows to fall below the rates needed to sustain watershed health and provide for various human uses. Reduced stream flows can contribute to elevated water temperatures, and increased metal concentrations, and even loading. Existing temperature data indicate that stream temperatures in the Uncompahgre Watershed remain cool enough to support aquatic life.
- Dust and microplastics in snow impact the rate and timing of snowmelt as well as water quality. While water treatment can improve the quality of public water supplies, the demands on the treatment processes are increased.
- The risk of wildfires is an ongoing concern due to potential impacts to life, economic health, wildlife habitat, watershed health, and water supplies.
- Legacy mine sites with tailings, waste rock and open rock tunnels are a major source of acid drainage and metal pollution impacting water quality in the Uncompahgre River. Restoration projects have been difficult to implement due to insufficient funding and liability issues.

Potential Changes in Uncompahgre River Health
- Thorin Resources purchased the former Ouray Silver Mines Inc. mining properties and owns the Camp Bird mine site, along tributaries to the Uncompahgre River. The company has plans for some type of mining operation that could have potential negative impacts on water quality upstream of the Uncompahgre, though careful permitting and compliance could prevent those impacts.
- Crystal Reservoir was drained by the U.S. Forest Service in April 2024, due to concerns about reservoir safety and necessity. Government leaders are considering how to manage the reservoir area into the future. The current and future management of the wetlands and fens will affect environmental and water quality upstream of the Uncompahgre, which could be positive or negative.

Uncompahgre River Health Protection & Restoration
- The City of Ouray completed constructing its new wastewater treatment facility and it began operation in November 2024. The inadequate existing facility was removed at the end of December. The new facility improves Ouray's ability to protect water quality in the Uncompahgre River.
- UWP Technical Coordinator Ashley Bembenek led a field trip along the Uncompahgre River Corridor in Ridgway in September 2024, to help citizens better understand river conditions.
- Land managers have been implementing information campaigns to reduce the risk of wildfire, and fire risk reduction measures, such as the U.S. Forest Service's Baldy Mountain Fire Protection measures (brush and tree cutting with prescribed burns). By reducing wildfires, water quality will be protected.
- The Uncompahgre Multibenefit Project, upstream of Ridgway, is aimed at improving agricultural ditch operation, reconnecting floodplains, and reestablishing native biodiversity. The project became fully funded, designed and permitted in 2024, and is expected to have a positive impact on the Uncompahgre River after implementation in 2025. The project could serve as a model for similar projects along the river.
- In November 2024, UWP submitted a major grant application for multiple fen restoration projects, seeking U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funding. If this grant is awarded in 2025, the projects will begin by 2026 and could lead to improved water quality upstream of Ridgway in the Ironton area of Red Mountain Pass.
- The U.S. Congress and President enacted the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act in Dec. 2024. This new law authorizes 15 pilot mine site remediation projects and is expected to make it easier for nonprofits and other restoration leaders to implement water quality improvement projects, resulting in significant future water quality improvements in watersheds like the Uncompahgre River.

REALIZATION OF RIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING THEIR WELFARE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Town continues to recognize that the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries possess, at minimum, the following fundamental and inalienable rights:

A. The right to maintain natural flow sufficient in quantity to maintain ecosystem health;
B. The right to support essential functions within its ecosystems, including by horizontal and longitudinal connectivity, recharging groundwater, moving and depositing sediments, and providing adequate habitat for native plants and animals;
C. The right to feed and be fed by sustainable precipitation, glaciers, and aquifers;
D. The right to maintain native biodiversity;
E. The right to restoration and preservation of adequate ecosystem health.

The Town also continues to recognize that the watershed and its living and non-living natural components and communities possess, at minimum, fundamental and inalienable rights to exist, maintain integral health, regenerate, evolve, and be restored.

As described in the Uncompahgre River Corridor Ecological Assessment and Recommendations Report produced by DHM Design in late 2021, the current river corridor function and riparian ecological health within the Town of Ridgway is in overall good health. There are opportunities for ecological interventions including restoration, creation and preservation that have been identified and mapped within the Town of Ridgway and individual projects have been identified for the Town to undertake in the future.

The Town will continue to protect the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries, and its watershed to the full extent of its ability and to effectuate the rights recognized in Resolution No. 21-09.

A special thank you goes out to Tanya Ishikawa, UWP Executive Director, and others at UWP for their efforts in putting together the information on the health and state of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries and its watershed.

AGENDA ITEM #9

To:	Town of Ridgway Mayor and Town Council
Cc:	Preston Neill, *Ridgway Town Manager* Angie Kemp, AICP, *Ridgway Town Planner*
From:	TJ Dlubac, AICP, *CPS, Contracted Town Planner* Max Garcia, AICP, *CPS Contracted Town Planner*
Date:	January 3, 2025
Subject:	Second Reading of Ordinance No. 03-2024 amending Accessory Dwelling Unit standards for the January 8th Town Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

Following the 2023 updates to the Ridgway Municipal Code ("RMC"), The Planning Commission suggested subsequent updates to the RMC for the calendar year 2024. Evaluation of the Town's Accessory Dwelling Unit ("ADU") standards was chosen as a priority.

Ridgway has determined that ADU development is one portion of the solution to address housing affordability and has successfully implemented ADU standards in the current RMC. The objective of this project was to evaluate the current language against lessons learned and best practices gleaned after years of supporting ADU development in Ridgway to recommend policy changes. Over the past year, Community Planning Strategies (CPS), town staff, and the Planning Commission have been drafting, evaluating, and revising proposed amendments to the ADU Standards within the Town limits. At the previous Town Council meeting on December 11th, 2024 the proposed ADU code update was approved on first reading.

The team also had numerous conversations with the public, The Planning Commission, and Town Council to identify appropriate adjustments to Section 7-4-6(A), Accessory Dwelling Units, of the RMC.

MEETINGS AND INPUT

The table below identifies the meetings held about Section 7-4-6(A), Accessory Dwelling Units, of the RMC and summarizes the topics discussed:

January 26, 2024	*Project kickoff with Planning Commission. Identified ADUs as one of the four projects to complete first. PC provided direction to prepare research to present at the next meeting.*
February 23, 2024	*Discussed best practices research and developed strategy for the code update. PC directed CPS to begin preparing a draft of updated code standards.*
March 26 ,2024	*CPS edited and updated the draft based on the PC discussion.*
April 30, 2024	*Reviewed code draft with PC and evaluated ADU density scenarios.*
May 29, 2024	*Edited and updated the draft based on the discussion with PC.*
June 25, 2024	*Edited and updated the draft based on the discussion. PC provided direction to finalize document and prepare for public hearing in August.*
July 30, 2024	*Made final edits to draft based on previous discussion with Planning Commission.*
August 27, 2024	*Reviewed final draft and recommended approval to Town Council.*
September 11, 2024	*Town Council rejected the proposed ADU code update and sent the project back to Planning Commission.*
September 24, 2024	*Planning Commission discussed updates to code draft in alignment requests by Town Council.*
October 24,2024	*Review 2nd ADU code draft with Planning Commission. Discussion was focused on the number of ADUs permitted and clarifying occupancy standards.*

November 26, 2024	*The draft amendments were updated based on Planning Commission comments. Planning Commission discussed the proposed standards and provided a recommendation to approve for the Town Council's consideration.*
December 11, 2024	*The ADU standards were reviewed by Town Council and approved on first reading.*

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS

There have been many adjustments to the proposed language since this amendment process started. This section will summarize each section of the ADU Standards and identify what the purpose is and how it changes the current standards.

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

This section identifies general provisions applicable to all ADUs, in all zone districts, and across all situations. It starts by stating the intent and purpose of ADUs as an important element to addressing affordable housing in Ridgway. Subsection (e) authorizes reduced Plan Review fees for ADUs. The Town Manager may reduce plan review fees by up to 100% for attached ADUs and up to 75% for detached ADUs. The fee reduction is a new concept which is not in the current standards.

SECTION 2: DIMENSIONAL AND DESIGN STANDARDS:

Much of the conversation over the last few months have revolved around this section. This latest round of revisions proposes restructuring of this section to separate the use allowances from the number of permissible ADUs. Subsection (a) permits ADUs as accessory to Single-Family Dwelling, Duplex Dwelling, or Triplex Dwelling. Subsection (b) states that only one ADU may be permissible on a lot greater than 3,000 square feet and two ADUs may per permissible on a lot greater than 7,500 square feet. These two subsections are new concepts discussed and proposed in these updates.

Skipping ahead to Subsection (i), the proposed amendments include a provision limiting the maximum square footage of an ADU at 1,000 square feet. Most of the other subsections clarify that other provisions of the RMC such as setbacks, parking, and architectural standards still apply to ADUs.

SECTION 3: INCENTIVES

This is a new section contemplated through this update process. Through early discussions, Town priorities were identified, and appropriate levels of allowances were identified for ADU proposals which met certain criteria. The Planning Commission identified Affordable Housing, Landscaping, and Sustainable Construction Methods as important initiatives the Town is working on and would allow incentives for furthering those initiatives through ADU development. The program can allow additional square footage for an ADU or for example, if an ADU is deed restricted as affordable housing, on additional ADU may be permitted.

Subsections (ii) and (iii) were added recently to clarify that while an extra ADU may be permitted, all zoning district dimensional standards need to be met. In no cases, shall there be more than two (2) ADUs on any parcel.

Landscaping incentives section allow that if less than 750 sf of turf or 80% of non-live groundcover are proposed on the lot, the ADU square footage may be increased by up to 10%.

Similarly, if sustainable construction methods are proposed, the ADU square footage may be increased by up to 200 square feet.

SECTION 4: OWNERSHIP AND OCCUPANCY

The area of the update that has received the most scrutiny over the last few months are the occupancy requirements.

Upon Town Council sending this update back to Planning Commission, we had a more in-depth conversation pertaining to the regulation of Short-Term Rentals (STR) and their relationship to ADUs. The commissioners were initially hesitant to allow ADUs to have blanket approval to be used as STRs. Ultimately, the Planning Commission agreed that their concerns are more adequately addressed in licensing and the regulations set forth in RMC Sec 8-5, Short-Term Rentals. The primary concern voiced by the public, as well as by the Planning Commission, is pertaining to a lack in housing supply due to outside investment by large housing developers. It is not an issue with ADUs specifically, as it was made clear in public hearing that some Ridgway residents utilize STRs so that it is financially feasible to remain in Ridgway. After many discussions, the proposed language states three components very clearly and succinctly:

1. The ADU, principal unit, and the lot upon which they are located shall remain in undivided ownership.
2. An ADU may be used as an STR if it complies with other sections of the code and has a Short-Term Rental License.
3. An ADU shall be rented for a minimum of a 90-day period, unless it is owner-occupied.

These ADU occupancy statements capture the goals shared by the Planning Commission and Town Council. By only including these three statements, this means that there is not a requirement for any of the units to be occupied by the homeowner. The current standards do require that either the ADU or the primary dwelling be owner occupied.

Much of the Discussion with the Planning Commission since the ADU standards were sent back to them for additional evaluation revolved around occupancy concerns. As the discussion evolved, the concern also reached into the relationship between ADUs and STRs. At their November 26th meeting, the Planning Commission recommended the provision that prohibits ADUs as STRs be amended to read as follows:

> (b) An ADU may be usedshall not be used as a Short TermShort-Term Rental provided it complies with all provisions of. Short Term Rentals are regulated in RMC Section 7-4-6(N), Short Term Rental Regulations, and Section 8-5, Short TermShort-term Rentals.

At the December 11, 2024, Town Council meeting staff explained that the code sections pertaining to STRs will be updated and brought before Town Council as soon as possible.

SECTION 5: UTILITIES

The ADU may be served in the same water and sewer tap as the principal building. This is slightly different from the current standards, which *require* the ADU to be served on the same water and sewer tap.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND NOTICE

The public meeting has been noticed in accordance with Sec. 7-1-5 of the RMC.

Significant public comments and feedback have been received during public meetings and hearings related to ADU owner occupancy and its relationship to the Short-Term Rental requirements. The comments were received and discussed by the Planning Commission, ultimately the Planning Commission recommended approval of the attached language which has amended the occupancy requirements from the current RMC provisions.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

At their public hearing on November 26, 2024, the Town of Ridgway Planning Commission recommended approval of Ordinance No. 03-2024 with the condition that the ADU may be utilized as a Short-Term Rental, in compliance with the RMC. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL FIRST READING

At their public meeting on December 11, 2024, the Town of Ridgway Town Council considered Ordinance No. 03-2024 on first reading. Following a presentation by Town staff and listening to public testimony, the Town Council approved Ordinance No. 03-2024 on first reading by a unanimous vote and set the second reading of the ordinance to be on January 8, 2025.

APPROVAL CRITERIA

The Town Council may approve Ordinance 03-2024 upon finding that the following criteria, set forth in RMC §7-4-3(D)(3), have been satisfied:

(a) The text amendment is consistent with the intent of applicable portions of the Master Plan in the reasonable judgement of the approving body; and

(b) The proposed text amendment is necessary to correct an omission or error in the code; or

(c) The proposed text amendment is necessary to adapt to a change in conditions within the town; or

(d) Changes in public policy are needed to advance the general welfare of the town.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Town Council approve Ordinance No. 03-2024, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code regarding Accessory Dwelling Units.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

"I move to approve Ordinance No. 03-2024, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code regarding Accessory Dwelling Units, finding that the criteria set forth in RMC §7-4-3(D)(3) have been met.

ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:

Approval with conditions:

"I move to approve Ordinance No. 03-2024, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code regarding Accessory Dwelling Units, finding that the criteria set forth in RMC §7-4-3(D)(3) have been met with the following conditions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

<u>Denial:</u>

"I move to deny Ordinance No. 03-2024, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code regarding Accessory Dwelling Units, finding that the criteria set forth in RMC §7-4-3(D)(3) have not been met."

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Ordinance No. 03-2024*

2. *ADU Standards update – redlined version*

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
ORDINANCE NO. 03-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
AMENDING SECTION 7-4 "ZONING REGULATIONS" OF THE RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL
CODE REGARDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado ("Town") is a home rule municipality existing pursuant to the laws of the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Town's Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, the zoning and land use powers conferred upon the Town by the State of Colorado as a Home Rule Municipality empower the Town to manage land use to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Town currently regulates land uses within the Town limits in accordance with Chapter 7 "Land Use Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code ("RMC"), adopted pursuant to its Home Rule Constitutional authority and the Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act of 1974, as amended, §§29-20-101, et seq. C.R.S; and

WHEREAS, Accessory Dwelling Units ("ADUs") are a vital form of housing in the state of Colorado and in the Town of Ridgway, and is generally encouraged as an effective means to improve housing affordability, provided that each ADU complies with the Town's ADU standards; and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that ADU development is a potential solution to the housing affordability issue, and has made substantial efforts to evaluate the current ADU standards against lessons learned and best practices gleaned after years of the ADU movement; and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that it is appropriate to amend RMC Subsection 7-4-6(A) "Accessory Dwelling Units" as the new standards will facilitate the development of ADUs within the Town and are necessary for maintaining orderly growth and development patterns; and

WHEREAS, modifications to the Town's ADU regulations will help advance ***POLICY COM-2.2: HOUSING OPTIONS*** in the Town of Ridgway Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Town staff and the consultant team provided public engagement opportunities, held a number of discussions with the Ridgway Planning Commission, and received recommendations from the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgway Town Council finds that this ordinance furthers and is necessary to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Ridgway community.

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO the following:

Section 1.   Recitals Incorporated. The above and foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council.

Section 2.   Amendment of Subsection (A) of Section 7-4-6 "Accessory Dwelling Units". Subsection (A) of Section 7-4-6 of the Ridgway Municipal Code is hereby repealed and reinstated to read as set forth in ***Exhibit A***.

Section 3.   The definition of "Dwelling Unit, Accessory", within Section 7-9-2 General Definitions is amended to read as follows:

DWELLING UNIT, ACCESSORY: A dwelling unit located within, attached to, or detached from the principal structure~~dwelling.~~ ~~, that~~ T~~t~~he unit includes its own independent living facilities with provisions for sleeping, cooking, and sanitation, and is designed for residential occupancy independent of the primary use. ~~contains no more than 800 square feet of gross floor area,~~ t~~T~~he use ~~of which~~ is associated with and subordinate to the principal ~~dwelling~~ structure and ~~that~~ is located upon the same lot as the principal ~~dwelling~~structure.

Section 4.   The definition of "Accessory Dwelling Unit" within Section 7-9-2 General Definitions, is repealed in its entirety.

Section 5.   Amendment of Table T-4.3, Land Use Table, of Section 7-4-4. Amend the permitted uses for "Accessory Dwelling Unit" in Table T-4.3, Land Use Table, hereby repealed and reinstated to read as set forth below:

Use Category	Land Use	R	HR	MR	FD	HB	DS	GC	LI	GI	Use-Specific Standards
Accessory Uses	Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7-4-6(A)

Section 6.   Codification of Amendments. The Town Clerk, as the codifier of the Town's Municipal Code, is hereby authorized to make such numerical and formatting changes as may be necessary to incorporate the provisions of this Ordinance within the Ridgway Municipal Code. The Town Clerk is authorized to correct, or approve the correction by the codifier, of any typographical error in the enacted regulations, provided that such correction shall not substantively change any provision of the regulations adopted in this Ordinance. Such corrections may include spelling, reference, citation, enumeration, and grammatical errors.

Section 7.   Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each provision thereof, even though any one of the provisions might be declared unconstitutional or invalid. As used in this Section, the term "provision" means and includes any part, division, subdivision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase; the term "application" means and includes an application of an ordinance or any part thereof, whether considered or construed alone or together with another ordinance or ordinances, or part thereof, of the Town.

Section 8.   Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of final passage in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

Section 9.   Safety Clause. The Town Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the Town of Ridgway, that it is promulgated for the health, safety and welfare of the public, and that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The Town Council further determines that the Ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

Section 10.   No Existing Violation Affected. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, liability or right or affect any audit, suit, or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing which may have been incurred or obtained under any ordinance or provision

hereby repealed or amended by this Ordinance. Any such ordinance or provision thereof so amended, repealed, or superseded by this Ordinance shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings and prosecutions, for the enforcement of such penalty, liability, or right, and for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits or proceedings, or prosecutions imposing, inflicting, or declaring such penalty or liability or enforcing such right, and shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proceedings, actions, hearings, and appeals pending before any court or administrative tribunal.

Section 11. **Publication.** The Town Clerk is ordered to publish this Ordinance in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING on December 11, 2024, and setting such public hearing for January 8, 2025, at Ridgway Town Hall, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

BY: ATTEST:

_____   _____
John Clark, Mayor   Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

ADOPTED on January 8, 2025.

BY: ATTEST:

_____   _____
John Clark, Mayor   Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney

Exhibit A:

Amendment of Subsection (A) of Section 7-4-6 "Accessory Dwelling Units".

7-4-6 SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

(A) Accessory Dwelling Units.

(1) General Provisions.

    (a) The creation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) is generally encouraged as an effective means to improve housing affordability, provided that each ADU complies with the standards of these regulations.

    (b) The goal of improving housing affordability requires flexibility with landscaping requirements, building typologies, and construction methods. Sustainable construction methods including, but not limited to, utilizing local resources and energy efficient designs are encouraged to increase long-term affordability.

    (c) The burden shall be upon the owner of any ADU to provide adequate proof to the Town that the criteria of this Section are met. In the event that the Town determines that the criteria have not been shown to be satisfied, the unit may not be occupied as an ADU.

    (d) A dwelling unit constructed before a principal building, which meets these criteria, may be converted to an ADU following construction of a new principal dwelling unit.

    (e) Plan review fees as calculated by the Building Official may be waived by the Town Manager for ADU(s) as set forth below.

        (i) Plan review fees may be reduced by up to one-hundred (100) percent for attached ADU(s).

        (ii) Plan review fees may be reduced by seventy-five (75) percent for detached ADU(s).

        (iii) Permit fees may not be reduced for any ADU(s).

(2) Dimensional and Design Standards.

    (a) ADUs are only allowed as an accessory use to the following dwellings:

        (i) Single-Family Dwelling;

        (ii) Duplex Dwelling; or

        (iii) Triplex Dwelling

    (b) The quantity of ADUs on a single lot is permitted in accordance with the following:

        (i) One (1) ADU may be allowed on a lot that is at least 3,000 square feet in area.

        (ii) Two (2) ADUs may be allowed on a lot that is at least 7,500 square feet in area.

    (c) ADUs may be located within a detached structure, attached to the principal structure, or converted room or rooms within the principal structure.

    (d) The ADU(s) must be constructed in accordance with applicable requirements of Town Building Codes.

    (e) All lots where an ADU is proposed shall comply with all dimensional standards applicable to the underlying zone district.

        (i) Required setbacks may be reduced by up to fifty (50) percent, or two (2) feet, whichever is greater, when adjacent to open space. Such a reduction shall be approved in writing by the Town Manager or their designee.

    (f) The ADU shall not be located within the sight triangle as determined by Section 7-4-8(F)(8), Sight Triangles.

    (g) The architectural design of an ADU shall be compliant with the regulations set in RMC 7-4-9, Residential Design Standards.

    (h) An ADU shall comply with the parking requirements as set out in subsection 7-4-6(M).

(i) The maximum size of an ADU shall not exceed 1,000 square feet of gross floor area unless otherwise allowed by this section.

    (i) For purposes of this Section, the calculation for the "gross floor area" shall be the total square footage of the ADU measured to the interior walls of the area comprising the dwelling unit excluding internal parking areas and stairways.

(j) The proposed property on which the ADU is located shall be compliant with an approved Landscape Plan, consistent with Section 7-4-8, Landscape Regulations, if one exists.

    (i) If the property does not have an approved Landscape Plan, the Town Manager or their designee may determine if Section 7-4-8, Landscape Regulations, applies to the proposed improvements.

(3) Incentives.

(a) <u>ADU Affordable Housing Provisions.</u> All single-family, duplex, or triplex dwellings may be allowed to construct one (1) additional ADU above the allowed quantity in subsection 7-4-6(A)(2)(b) when the ADU is income-restricted pursuant to this subsection.

    (i) <u>Affordable Housing Covenants and Restrictions.</u> The property owner shall record a restrictive covenant with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorders' office that includes the following provisions:

        a. <u>Area median income (AMI).</u> The income range shall be equal to or less than 150 percent AMI for Ouray County as determined by the US Department of Housing and Development or US Census.

        b. <u>Income-restricted units.</u> Describe the quantity of income-restricted units, their square footage, and bedroom count.

        c. <u>Compliance report and leasing period.</u> The duration of the tenant's lease. Upon reasonable request by the Town of Ridgway or Ouray County, the property owner shall submit a compliance report outlining how the restricted units comply with covenant requirements.

        d. <u>Income verification and rent limitations.</u> Provide the method for determining tenant income and calculating the rent limitations for each income-restricted unit.

    (ii) All dimensional standards of the underlying zone district shall still be met.

    (iii) In no case shall there be more than two (2) ADU's on any one parcel.

(b) <u>Landscaping.</u> When a property owner requesting an ADU meets one of the applicable water conservation standards below, the proposed ADU may increase its maximum gross floor area by up to ten (10) percent without an administrative adjustment.

    (i) The proposed live ground cover does not include more than 750 square feet of turf or;

    (ii) The proposed landscape area has a minimum of eighty (80) percent non-live ground cover.

(c) <u>Sustainable construction methods.</u> When an applicant meets the applicable sustainable construction standards as set forth below, the proposed ADU may exceed the maximum gross floor area by two hundred (200) square feet.

    (i) The proposed construction is certified by a professional sustainable construction organization;

    (ii) The applicant provides proof of energy efficient design that exceeds industry standards from a certified construction professional; and

    (iii) The applicant sources fifty (50) percent of the construction materials from the State of Colorado.

(4) Ownership and Occupancy. The following shall be met for any proposed or existing ADU within the Town of Ridgway:

 (a) The ADU, principal residential unit(s), and the lot or parcel upon which they are located, shall remain in undivided ownership.

 (b) An ADU may be used as a Short-Term Rental provided it complies with all provisions of RMC Section 7-4-6(N), Short Term Rental Regulations, and Section 8-5, Short-term Rentals.

 (c) A minimum of a ninety (90) day rental period shall be required by written lease for an ADU, unless the ADU is owner-occupied.

(5) Utilities

 (a) The ADU(s) should be served off of the water and sewer tap for the principal residence, in which case it shall not be subject to additional tap fees.

7-4-6 SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

(A) Accessory Dwelling Units.

 (1) General Provisions.

  (a) The creation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) is generally encouraged as an effective means to improve housing affordability, provided that each ADU complies with the standards of these regulations.

  (b) The goal of improving housing affordability requires flexibility with landscaping requirements, building typologies, and construction methods. Sustainable construction methods including, but not limited to, utilizing local resources and energy efficient designs are encouraged to increase long-term affordability.

  (c) The burden shall be upon the owner of any ADU to provide adequate proof to the Town that the criteria of this Section are met. In the event that the Town determines that the criteria have not been shown to be satisfied, the unit may not be occupied as an ADU.

  (d) A dwelling unit constructed before a principal building, which meets these criteria, may be converted to an ADU following construction of a new principal dwelling unit.

  (e) Plan review fees as calculated by the Building Official may be waived by the Town Manager for ADU(s) as set forth below.

   (i) Plan review fees may be reduced by up to one-hundred (100) percent for attached ADU(s).

   (ii) Plan review fees may be reduced by seventy-five (75) percent for detached ADU(s).

   (iii) Permit fees may not be reduced for any ADU~~.~~(s).

 (2) Dimensional and Design Standards.

  (a) ADUs are only allowed as an accessory use to ~~single-family, duplex, and triplex~~the following dwellings:

   (i) Single-Family Dwelling;

   (ii) Duplex Dwelling; or

   (iii) Triplex Dwelling

  ~~(a)~~(b) The quantity of ADUs on a single lot is permitted in accordance with the following:

   (i) One (1) ADU ~~is~~may be allowed on a lot~~(s) between~~ that is at least 3,000 square feet ~~and 7,500 square feet~~ in area.

   ~~(ii)~~ Two (2) ADUs ~~are~~may be allowed on ~~lot(s) between 7,501 square feet and 15,000 square feet.~~

   ~~(iii)~~(ii) ~~Lot(s) that are greater than 15,000 square feet may have more than two (2) ADUs; however; the total number of ADUs on the subject property shall never exceed double the total number of dwelling units in the principal structure. All properties that propose two (2) or more ADU(s) on~~ a lot ~~shall be subject to a Site Plan review as set out~~that is at least 7,500 square feet in ~~Section 7-4-3(H), Site Plan.~~area.

  ~~(b)~~(c) ADUs may be located within a detached structure, attached to the principal structure, or~~a~~ converted room or rooms within the principal structure.

  ~~(c)~~(d) The ADU(s) must be constructed in accordance with applicable requirements of Town Building Codes.

  ~~(d)~~(e) All lots where an ADU is proposed shall comply with all dimensional standards applicable to the underlying zone district.

(i) Required setbacks may be reduced by up to fifty (50) percent, or two (2) feet, whichever is greater, when adjacent to open space. Such a reduction shall be approved in writing by the Town Manager or their designee.

(e)(f)   The ADU shall not be located within the sight triangle as determined by Section 7-4-8(F)(8), Sight Triangles.

(f)(g)   The architectural design of the proposedan ADU shall be compliant with the regulations set in RMC 7-4-9, Residential Design Standards.

(g)(h)   The parking requirementsAn ADU shall comply with the parking requirements as set out in subsection 7-4-6(M).

(h)(i)   The maximum size of an ADU shall not exceed 1,000 square feet of gross floor area unless otherwise allowed by this section.

(i)   TheFor purposes of this Section, the calculation for the "gross floor area" shall be the total square footage of the ADU measured to the interior walls of the area comprising the dwelling unit excluding internal parking areas and stairways.

(i)(j) The proposed landscapingproperty on which the ADU is located shall be compliant with an approved Landscape Plan, consistent with Section 7-4-8, Landscape Regulations, if one exists.

(i)   If the property does not have an approved Landscape Plan, the Town Manager or their designee may determine if Section 7-4-8, Landscape Regulations, applies to the proposed improvements.

(3) Incentives.

(a) ADU Affordable Housing Provisions. All single-family, duplex, or triplex dwelling usesdwellings may be allowed to construct one (1) additional ADU above the allowed quantity in subsection 7-4-6(A)(2)(ab) when the ADU is income-restricted to moderate-to-low income residents only, pursuant to this subsection.

(i) Affordable Housing Covenants and Restrictions. The Town encourages the growth of affordable housing in all residential areas. To provide affordable housing units on private property, theThe property owner shall record a restrictive covenant with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorders' office that includes the following provisions:

a.   Area median income (AMI). The covenant shall identify the AMI limitations placed on the unit. The income range shall be equal to or less than 150 percent AMI for Ouray County as determined by the US Department of Housing and Development or US Census.

b.   Income-restricted units. Describe the quantity of income-restricted units, their square footage, and bedroom count.

c.   Compliance report and leasing period. Include theThe duration of the tenant's lease. Upon reasonable request by the Town of Ridgway or Ouray County, the property owner shall submit a compliance report outlining how the restricted units comply with covenant requirements.

d.   Income verification and rent limitations. Provide the method for determining tenant income and calculating the rent limitations for each income-restricted unit.

(ii) All dimensional standards of the underlying zone district shall still be met.

(iii) In no case shall there be more than two (2) ADU's on any one parcel.

(b) Landscaping. When a property owner requesting an ADU meets one of the applicable water conservation standards below, the proposed ADU may increase its maximum gross floor area by up to ten (10) percent without an administrative adjustment.

      (i)   The proposed live ground cover does not include more than 750 square feet of turf or;

      (ii)   The proposed landscape area has a minimum of eighty (80) percent non-live ground cover.

(c) <u>Sustainable construction methods.</u> When an applicant meets the applicable sustainable construction standards as set ~~out~~<u>forth</u> below, the proposed ADU may exceed the maximum gross floor area by two hundred (200) square feet.

      (i)   The proposed construction is certified by a professional sustainable construction organization~~.~~<u>;</u>

      (ii)   The applicant provides proof of energy efficient design that exceeds industry standards from a certified construction professional~~.~~<u>; and</u>

      (iii) The applicant sources fifty (50) percent of the construction materials from the State of Colorado.

~~(4)~~ Ownership and Occupancy.

    ~~(a) One of the dwelling units on the property must be, and remain, owner occupied.~~

~~(b)~~<u>(4)</u>   ~~A minimum of a ninety (90) day rental period~~ <u>The following</u> shall be ~~required by written lease~~<u>met</u> for ~~an~~<u>any</u> proposed or existing ADU<u>~~.~~ within the Town of Ridgway:</u>

    ~~(c)~~<u>(a)</u>   The ADU, principal residential unit(s), and the lot or parcel upon which they are located, shall remain in undivided ownership.

    <u>(b) An ADU may be used as a Short-Term Rental provided it complies with all provisions of RMC Section 7-4-6(N), Short Term Rental Regulations, and Section 8-5, Short-term Rentals.</u>

    <u>(c) A minimum of a ninety (90) day rental period shall be required by written lease for an ADU, unless the ADU is owner-occupied.</u>

(5) Utilities

    ~~(a)~~ The ADU(s) should be served off of the water ~~or~~<u>and</u> sewer tap for the principal residence, in which case it shall not be subject to additional tap fees.

    <u>(a)</u>

AGENDA ITEM #10

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 2, 2025
Agenda Topic: **Resolution No. 25-01 Amending the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule**

_____

SUMMARY:
During the most recent budget preparation process, Council agreed to add a goal in the 2025 Strategic Plan that reads, "Reevaluate the fee schedule for private use of the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area." Council has the authority to approve and establish, by resolution, a fee schedule for fees required to be paid for private use of public property, including permitted uses of Town parks, facilities, and rights-of-way.

Staff recommends that Council consider amending the fee schedule for private use of the Concession Area to what is provided below and what is found in the attached Resolution No. 25-01.

- Use Fee (non-profit) $0.00
- Use Fee (private) $50.00
- Damage Deposit $50.00

PROPOSED MOTION:
"I move to approve Resolution No. 25-01 Amending the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule."

ATTACHMENT:
Resolution No. 25-01

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, AMENDING THE ATHLETIC PARK PAVILION CONCESSION AREA FEE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (the "Town") is a home rule municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado organized and existing under a home rule charter pursuant to Article XX of the Constitution of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgway Town Council has the authority to approve and establish, by resolution, a fee schedule for fees required to be paid for private use of public property, including permitted uses of Town parks, facilities, and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgway Town Council desires to amend the fees for private use of the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgway Town Council finds that the amendment of the *Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule* will promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Ridgway community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ridgway Town Council hereby approves the following fee schedule:

> *Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule*
>   *Use Fee (non-profit)*   *$0.00*
>   *Use Fee (private):*   *$50.00*
>   *Damage Deposit:*   *$50.00*

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this _____ day of January 2025.

_____
John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

AGENDA ITEM #11

<div align="center">

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, TO JOIN MOUNTAIN TOWNS 2030

</div>

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (the "Town") is a home rule municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado organized and existing under a home rule charter pursuant to Article XX of the Constitution of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgway Town Council recognizes the significant impacts to our community and many others that are already taking place due to climate change, and the likelihood that these impacts will continue to intensify in the coming years, including additional infrastructure costs, health impacts to community members, economic impacts to businesses, water supply and water quality challenges, and others; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Towns 2030 is a climate accelerator for mountain and outdoor communities, building capacity and empowering them to achieve zero-carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgway Town Council desires to unite with other mountain and outdoor communities that are members of Mountain Towns 2030 by gaining access to resources and tools to accelerate Ridgway's climate leadership.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado will join Mountain Towns 2030.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this _____ day of January 2025.

_____
John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

AGENDA ITEM #12

To:	Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From:	Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date:	January 3, 2025
Agenda Topic:	**Request for authorization of staff to expend budgeted funds and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department**

_____

ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:
Council is asked to consider authorizing staff to expend budgeted funds and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
"I move to authorize staff to expend budgeted funds and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department at a total sales price of $135,500.29."

SUMMARY AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
Council earmarked funds in the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget for the purchase of a new backhoe for the Public Works Department. A new backhoe is needed to replace the aging John Deere backhoe that is largely used in a backup capacity. The new backhoe from 4 Rivers Equipment, LLC out of Grand Junction that the Public Works Department has elected to purchase, with Council authorization, is a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader, has been quoted at $135,500.29, and is well below the budgeted amount of $170,000 (split between General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund).

The Town's Procurement Manual states that contracts for the purchase of supplies, goods, equipment and services in excess of $25,000 shall be approved by Council. Staff has followed all provisions of the Procurement Manual in exploring this purchase.

AGENDA ITEM #13

AGENDA ITEM #14

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 3, 2025
Agenda Topic: Review and potential action on Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster
               in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the Beaver Creek Diversion

_____

SUMMARY:

On August 14, 2024, the Town Manager issued an Order Declaring a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway. The Order was issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Manager and issued with the approval and support of the Mayor. Subsequently, the Town Council has extended the Declaration several times and it is now set to expire on January 9, 2025.

Staff has prepared the attached *Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway* for Council to consider. If approved, the Order would be extended to February 13, 2025, unless the date is modified by Council.

Given where we are at with the overall response to the Beaver Creek Diversion emergency and the fact that the financing pieces (i.e., loan and grants) for the Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration Project are now in place, staff does not feel that the Order needs to be extended any further.

ATTACHMENT:
Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
ORDER EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY

WHEREAS, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, et. seq. (the "Act"), provides procedures for statewide and local prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster emergency may be declared unilaterally by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision; for the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (the "Town"), the principal executive officer is the Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager issued an Order Declaring a Local Disaster (the "Order") on August 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Order was issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Manager, and issued with the approval and support of the Mayor for the Town; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2024, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to September 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2024, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to October 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2024, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to November 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2024, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to December 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2024, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to January 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to extend the Declaration of a Local Disaster; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, an "emergency" is an unexpected event that places life or property in danger and requires an immediate response through the use of state and community resources and procedures; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, this Declaration activates the response and recovery aspects of any applicable disaster emergency plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), the declaration of a local emergency shall not be continued beyond a period of seven (7) days or removed except by action of the governing board of the political subdivision for the Town, the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster "shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the county clerk and recorder, the [Town] clerk ... and with the office of emergency management"; and

WHEREAS, the Town has suffered from significant moisture, monsoonal events, and other hazards that have caused severe damage to public property and disruption to municipal water supply and utility service, and the Town is suffering and has suffered a disaster emergency as defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town is now in need of assistance from subject matter experts and outside agencies and governments to assess, collect, and report damages that have been incurred by the municipal water system and any other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Town is also in need of assistance for restoration and recovery considerations and operations, and the Town intends to work collaboratively with Ouray County to achieve all objectives, including communicating to stakeholders and members of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED on this 8th day of January 2025, that the disaster emergency that was declared in and for the Town of Ridgway beginning on August 14, 2024, is extended to February 13, 2025, unless further extended or amended by action of the Town Council for the Town of Ridgway.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity, filed immediately with the office of the Ouray County Emergency Manager and a copy filed with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder, as well as to the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THIS 8th DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

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John I. Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

AGENDA ITEM #15

STAFF REPORT

Subject: Annual Election to be held on April 1st
Initiated By: Pam Kraft, Town Clerk
Date: December 26, 2024

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Pursuant to the Town Charter and Municipal Code, the Town conducts an annual election on the first Tuesday in every April. This years election falls on April 1st.

During this election three councillor seats, with two year terms, will become vacant. These seats are currently held by Polly Kroger, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer.

The nomination period will begin on January 27th and close on February 14th. All persons interested in running for office must obtain a nomination petition from the Town Clerk, and file it prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday February 14th.

Per State Election Law a Notice and Call to Candidates will be published and posted beginning the week of January 20th, and the openings will be noticed on the Town website and vertical response app.

AGENDA ITEM #16