



## Routt County 2023 Seasonal Flooding Response Plan

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**I. Purpose**

- A. Provide a combined protection and response plan, incorporating the whole community, to minimize threats posed by 2023 seasonal floods and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of response operations.

**II. Scope**

- B. This plan pertains to all areas within Routt County for the 2023 seasonal flood time period. This plan augments the Routt County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Jurisdictions that are included in this plan are:
  - Routt County
  - Steamboat Springs
  - Hayden
  - Oak Creek
  - Yampa

- North Routt
  - Steamboat Spring Fire Rescue
  - West Routt Fire Protection District
  - Oak Creek Fire Protection District
  - South Routt Fire Protection District
  - North Routt Fire Protection District
- C. This plan is intended to guide preparation and initial response activities prior to the establishment of Incident Command and the activation of the Emergency Operations Center. Priorities, objectives, planning, and resource management activities will be directed by the Incident Commander and supported by the EOC once these structures are established and operational.

### III. **Situation Overview**

- A. As of April 10, 2023, Northwest Colorado is at approximately **151%** of Median of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE). The Yampa and White River Basins are at approximately 30.4 inches of SWE, slightly above 2011 levels and the is maximum recorded level for this time of year. Additionally, the long range weather outlook indicates a higher chance of above normal precipitation for the early spring. As a result, the likelihood of above average flooding along the rivers and streams within Routt County is increased, increasing the risk to residents and visitors. However, the rate of snowmelt due to warm weather and precipitation is a more significant factor in flooding than total snowpack.
- B. To be better prepared for seasonal flooding, Routt County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is developing a combined emergency action plan for the 2023 seasonal flooding timeframe to identify roles, responsibilities, mitigation measures, capabilities, and capability gaps. This plan will also include an execution matrix comprised of decision points and necessary actions.

### IV. **Priorities**

- A. The following preparedness and response priorities are in place for the 2023 season flood time period:
1. Life Safety for citizens, visitors, and first responders
    - a. Public alert and warning
    - b. High / rapid water response and recovery
    - c. Evacuation, sheltering, and evacuation routes
    - d. Medical facility availability and operations
    - e. Continuous accountability
    - f. First responder access
  2. Critical Infrastructure protection and return to service
    - a. Yampa Valley Medical Center
    - b. Assisted Living Facilities
      - A. Steamboat Springs
        1. Casey's Pond
        2. Rollingstone Respite House
        3. Mountain View Manor
        4. Selbe Apartments

- B. Hayden
  - 1. The Haven
- C. Oak Creek
  - 1. Aspen View Manor
- c. Water supply / water distribution / water treatment
- d. Restoration of utilities / power generation / power distribution / natural gas service
- e. Critical transportation and supply routes
- f. Food distribution
- 3. Agriculture
  - a. Large and small animal evacuation and sheltering
- 4. Continuity of Operations
  - a. Government services
  - b. Continued law, fire, and EMS response to non-flood related incidents
- 5. Property Protection
  - a. Mitigating flooding along government-owned infrastructure and rights-of-way could reduce the likelihood of flooding on private property
- 6. Community Awareness and Education
  - a. Registering for RouttCountyAlerts
  - b. Flood safety
  - c. Flood Insurance
  - d. Protecting Your Home
  - e. Shelter-in-Place: preparing to stay home
  - f. Preparing to Evacuate

V. **Objectives**

1. Guide the preparedness and initial response activities of emergency planners and first responders in order to enable efficient use of limited resources throughout Routt County and focus on priority vulnerabilities
2. Minimize threat to life and health through identifying and conducting well-coordinated emergency preparation activities
3. Identify roles and responsibilities for County departments and other agencies
4. Identify most at-risk areas or critical infrastructure to focus preparation and response efforts
5. Identify known deployable capabilities
6. Identify mitigation actions for known vulnerabilities
7. Identify key indicators of scale and scope of flooding and required actions to provide these actions in a timely manner

VI. **Planning Assumptions**

1. At least minimal flooding is likely along Yampa and Elk Rivers and tributaries due to higher than average snowpack and expected spring precipitation.
2. Incidents are managed at the lowest possible geographic, organizational, and jurisdictional level.

3. The combined expertise and capabilities of government at all levels, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations will be required to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents or disasters.
4. The whole community of emergency responders and managers, and capabilities that they can provide, will be included in planning and response efforts through the MAC Group and representation in the appropriate ESF in the EOC.
5. 2023 seasonal flooding will provide advanced warning of approximately one week.
6. A warming trend of at least 5 consecutive days is generally required to cause significant flooding from melting snowpack.
7. Regular rainfall will exacerbate seasonal flooding.
8. Seasonal flooding will require prolonged incident management operations and support activities.
9. The permanent location of the Routt County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located in a flood zone and may be inaccessible in the event of severe flooding. Routt County has an alternate EOC at the Yampa Valley Regional Airport 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room. The EOC can also operate virtually, if conditions warrant. All EOC participants should have the necessary equipment and technology to be able to operate in an alternate or virtual location.

VII. **Hazard Assessment**

Identified Flood Hazard Areas	Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Probability of Occurrence	Level of Concern
Highway 40 at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CR 44</li> <li>• Saddle Mountain</li> <li>• Hotels south of Steamboat</li> </ul>	Major transportation corridor Evacuation Routes Supplies	CDOT is installing new culverts at US40 and Stone Lane and Ingles Lane	CDOT	High probability of flooding occurring but not necessarily impacting transportation	Low
Highway 131 at Twentymile	Transportation	Monitoring	CDOT	Low	Low
Yampa River Core Trail	Recreation Transportation	Closures based on visual observation	City of Steamboat Springs	High	Low concern
Confluence of Walton Creek and Yampa River (west of US 40)	Private property flooding Yampa Well field treatment plant	Private property sandbagging	Homeowner	Medium	Medium
Brooklyn Neighborhood - Railway Bridge at	Private property flooding	Private property sandbagging	Homeowner	Low	Low

Identified Flood Hazard Areas	Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Probability of Occurrence	Level of Concern
Agate Street and River Road					
Pamela Lane and Emerald Park	Private property	Private property sandbagging	Homeowner, City of Steamboat Springs	Pamela Lane: Low Emerald Park: High	Pamela Lane: Low probability, Emerald Park: low
Downtown Steamboat along Soda Creek, Butcherknife Creek, and Spring Creek	Spruce Street, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street, North Park, Logan	Identify alternate traffic routes; Streets Dept has barricades 50 type 1 sawhorse, road closed signs	Streets – City of Steamboat Springs	Butcherknife Creek: High  Spring Creek: Low	Butcherknife Creek: High  Spring Creek: Low
Soda Creek	Horizons house	Evacuate if needed	Horizons	Low	Moderate
Dream Island	Private property  May need sheltering	Sandbagging  Evacuation	Mobile home park owners, private owners	Medium-high	High concern
Sleepy Bear Mobile Home Park	Private well water supply  Private property  May need sheltering	Sandbagging  Evacuation	Mobile home park owners, private owners	Medium-high	High concern
Confluence of Elk and Yampa Rivers	Railway bridge  Localized flooding  CR 44	Monitoring  Private property  Close road	Railroad to clean the debris around bridge  Road and Bridge: monitoring CR 44  Private landowners	High	Medium high: US 40 could be impacted
Hayden Water Treatment Plant	Access to plant	Irrigation ditches  Have stockpile of chemicals available	Town of Hayden	High probability for access to facility, low probability for water quality issues	High concern if impacted
Hayden	Public and private	Newsletter to public, sign up	Town of Hayden	High	High: especially if there is need

Identified Flood Hazard Areas	Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Probability of Occurrence	Level of Concern
-Dry Creek -3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Park -Neighborhoods -Hayden Mercantile, railroad crossing, US40 culverts – 25% sunken	property flooding throughout South and West areas of Hayden	for Routt County Alerts  Sandbagging – 700-1000 sandbags to see if interest	Private property owners		for sheltering and evacuation
Hayden Wastewater Plant	Water quality Outfall into river	Hold water in plant  Riprap repairs after flood season	Town of Hayden	High	High
Milner – wastewater treatment plant lagoons	Access	Have stockpile of chemicals available  New system by 2024	Routt County	Medium	Medium
MWW Fish Creek Treatment Plant	Provides drinking water to Steamboat Springs	Frequent monitoring  Reinforced intake structure  Yampa Wells Plant will be online and operational  Potential water rationing alerts	Mount Werner Water	Low	Low to medium:  If both plants are down – would need water supplies for Steamboat (very low probability)
MWW Booster/Pump Station at Village Drive	Critical infrastructure to help provide drinking water to Steamboat Springs	Improved drainage  Box culvert	Mount Werner Water	Low	Low
MWW Sewer Lift Station	Critical infrastructure to help provide drinking water to Steamboat Springs	Historically elevation has been enough to handle any flooding	Mount Werner Water	Low	Low

Identified Flood Hazard Areas	Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Probability of Occurrence	Level of Concern
Wastewater Treatment Plants	Water quality, water treatment, outflow quality	Historically haven't seen issues	Routt County	Low	Low

VIII. **Capability Assessment**

FUNCTION	EXISTING CAPABILITY	CAPABILITY GAPS	PARTNERING AGENCIES
Public Alert and Warning	RouttCountyAlerts.com Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Social Media Radio YVEA customer notification NWS Notifications	Low RouttCountyAlerts.com registrations Complete access, especially with out-of-town guests Limited means to reach non-English speaking populations	Routt County government, incorporated area governments, Steamboat Pilot & Today, local radio, special districts Yampa Valley Electric Association National Weather Service
Water Rescue	Swift water rescue teams	Limited number of boats	West Routt Fire Protection District Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All personnel are swift water certified, have 2 boats, have dry suits</li> </ul> Oak Creek Fire Protection District North Routt Fire Protection District Routt County Search and Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can assist FPDs from river banks or bridges</li> </ul> Routt County Sheriff's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have throw bags available in vehicles</li> </ul> Yampa River State Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inflatable kayak, raft, jet boat. Park</li> </ul>

FUNCTION	EXISTING CAPABILITY	CAPABILITY GAPS	PARTNERING AGENCIES
			<p>Manager Jacob Dewhirst and Senior Ranger Mike Mueller have swift water experience</p> <p>Steamboat Lake State Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zodiac and prop motor, banana rescue raft; 2 swift water rangers</li> </ul>
Shelters	Shelter agreements	<p>Shelters if schools are in session</p> <p>Access to shelters if roads are flooded</p>	<p>Steamboat Springs High School, Steamboat Springs Middle School, Colorado Mountain College, SOROCO High School, South Routt Community Center, The Haven, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), American Red Cross, Routt County GIS</p>
Heavy Equipment	<p>Routt County Public Works --- Motorgraders, tandem dump trucks, tractor trailer belly-dump trucks, front-end wheel loaders, track-type dozers, track-type and rubber tire hydraulic excavators, rubber tire loader-backhoes, equipment trailers, pickup trucks with diesel transfer tanks.</p>	Employees to operate equipment	<p>Hayden Public Works</p> <p>Steamboat Springs Public Works</p> <p>Oak Creek Public Works – Motorgrader, dump truck, loader-backhoes, electric bucket truck</p> <p>Yampa Public Works</p>
Power generation	<p>Fixed generators are located at UHealth/YVMC, the CLEF Building, the Routt County Annex, most Public Works buildings, Hayden PD, Steamboat Mountain Station</p>	It is unknown if all critical infrastructure has a generator that may need it	Oak Creek Public Works – 1360 kW generator



FUNCTION	EXISTING CAPABILITY	CAPABILITY GAPS	PARTNERING AGENCIES
	<p>Mt. Werner Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONE – fixed Diesel-Powered Generator at the Fish Creek Plant</li> <li>• TWO – hitch-mounted Diesel Portable Generators – mainly for use at the MWW Sewer Lift Station and Booster/Pump Stations.</li> </ul>		
Animal Sheltering	<p>Routt County Fairgrounds</p> <p>Portable large animal pens</p> <p>Local animal care facilities</p> <p>CSU Extension Office – Animal Evacuation Plan</p>	Feed for large animals	Routt County Humane Society, Moffat County Fairgrounds
Emergency Management	<p>Incident Command</p> <p>Emergency Operations Center</p> <p>Type 4 Incident Management Team (IMT)</p> <p>Shelter agreements</p>	<p>Limited trained staff</p> <p>EOC and IMT staff may be needed elsewhere</p>	<p>Multiagency Coordination (MAC) Group</p> <p>Mutual aid partners</p>
Traffic Management	<p>Barricades</p> <p>Electronic Message Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road and Bridge: 2</li> <li>• Steamboat :2</li> <li>• CDOT Boards</li> </ul> <p>Law enforcement officers</p>		<p>Steamboat Springs Police Department</p> <p>Steamboat Springs Streets Department</p> <p>Routt County Road and Bridge</p> <p>CDOT</p> <p>Routt County Sheriff’s Office</p> <p>Hayden Police Department</p> <p>Oak Creek Police Department</p> <p>DFPC Mad Creek Module</p>

## IX. **Vulnerability Analysis**

- A. Limited personnel and staffing
  - 1. Law enforcement resources are limited and could be stretched thin if flooding impacts multiple areas within the County. In a flooding emergency, law enforcement will generally be relied upon for:
    - a. Traffic management, especially in the event of evacuations
    - b. Detour planning to ensure best routing based on the location of the incident
    - c. Scene security for evacuated areas and staffing re-entry points
    - d. Security at shelters
  - 2. In addition to assisting with response, law enforcement will be required to keep up with their daily call volume for other emergent and non-emergent calls and service.
  - 3. Limited trained EOC and IMT staff
    - a. These staff may be need elsewhere to perform their regular jobs
- B. Shelter locations may be limited if school is in session
- C. Transportation and evacuation routes may be impacted by flooding. Evacuation routes and detours should be carefully planned prior to announcing. Consideration should be given to road conditions, locations, and other
- D. There is a chance that I-70 could be closed through Glenwood Canyon due to flooding or another incident. If this happens, traffic is generally routed up through Routt County along Highway 40. Traffic increases will also be seen along Highway 131. This could exacerbate traffic issues and evacuation routes, and would also impact the availability of supplies and resources in Routt County. Additionally, motorists will try to find alternate routes not following the posted detour, many of which are not suitable for commuter or commercial traffic which could strain emergency responder resources even further.
- E. Radio communications could be overwhelmed in the event of a large-scale event with multiple responding agencies
- F. Atmos Energy and Yampa Valley Electric Association both have critical infrastructure, including gas and power lines, along the Yampa River. YVEA also has substations within the Yampa River floodplain. This could significantly impact large portions of the County if compromised.
- G. There is additional critical infrastructure located along the Yampa River, including wastewater and water treatment facilities.
- H. Sandbags and fill material are not readily staged prior to flooding. This can cause issues because sandbags are time consuming to fill, transport, and place.
- I. Incomplete information regarding location of members of the AFN community that may have more limited ability to respond to flooding in their community or evacuate themselves in an emergency. In an emergency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is able to provide data about power-dependent populations: <https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/outreach-individual-dataset.html>

## X. **Concept of Operations**

- A. The 2023 Seasonal Flooding Response Plan was developed with the cooperation of numerous jurisdictions and agencies that could support flood response operations. Generally,

municipalities are responsible for response operations within their jurisdictions but can request support from other jurisdictions as well as from the county when required.

1. Participants to this plan will generally provide resources and services to neighboring jurisdictions under mutual aid for the first operational period (generally ending at midnight of the first day of deployment of the resources unless otherwise agreed to by the provider of the resource or service) without reimbursement from the requesting agency.
  2. Requesting agency and resource provider will enter into cost share agreements or contracts for resources provided after the agreed upon mutual aid period is over.
- B. It is critical that response agencies closely monitor the environment to determine the likelihood, timing, and extent of potential or occurring flooding. Numerous information sources are available:
- Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
  - Mount Werner Water District
  - National Weather Service (NWS) / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
    - <https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?STMC2>
  - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Colorado
    - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/snow/>
  - Colorado River Basin Forecast Center
    - <https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/>
  - United States Geological Survey
    - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/09239500>
- C. Routt County OEM and its preparedness and response partners will consult with meteorology and hydrology experts to establish triggers for follow-on action. Triggers may include river/stream flow rates in cubic feet per second, flood gauge readings, forecasted precipitation, forecasted warming temperature trends, or any other meteorological or hydrological data that could help predict a flooding event.
1. Stakeholders to this plan will meet as required to discuss the potential impact of changes to these triggers and determine best courses of action using the Execution Matrix (Appendix A) as a guide.
- D. Public Alert and Warning
1. The primary means of informing the public of impending or occurring flooding and the action they should take is RouttCountyAlerts.com, a key part of the Routt County Public Alert and Warning System. Routt County is also licensed to utilize IPAWS for major disasters when it is critical to reach as many people as possible within an affected area regardless of whether they are registered with RouttCountyAlerts.com. The Routt County Public Alert and Warning Plan provides additional public communication means and the procedures to release emergency notifications.
  2. In emergency situations posing an immediate threat to life or personal safety, any public safety official in Routt County or Incident Commander (if assigned) can request the Routt County Communications (RCC) Center to issue an emergency alert or warning by the most effective means available. Normally, emergency message release approval resides with the Emergency Operations Director, the RCC Manager, or the Routt County Manager's Office.

However, for local emergencies requiring immediate action by the public to best ensure their safety, a fire department or law enforcement supervisor trained in the Routt County Alerts process and tools may coordinate directly with RCC for the release of the required message while the Routt County authorities mentioned above are being notified. RCC will not delay in the release of these messages if approved by the trained fire or law enforcement supervisor.

3. The RCC Center developed a system within RouttCountyAlerts.com to alert representatives from those organizations supporting the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) population regardless of the location of the incident. In this way, these representatives can alert their clients via their traditional notification systems. The RCC Center also implemented text to 9-1-1 to facilitate communication with the AFN community.
4. In addition to RouttCountyAlerts, local jurisdictions are also responsible for communicating with their respective populations via other means, to include social media and websites. The Routt County Public Information Officer (PIO) will be tasked with sharing emergency information and may request assistance from other PIOs in the community.
5. All jurisdictions must be prepared to conduct door-to-door notifications when required as not all persons are registered with RouttCountyAlerts.com, or have the capability or means to do so. Areas that are historically prone to flooding should also be contacted directly should triggers indicate that flooding is likely.

#### E. Incident Command

1. Most emergencies in Routt County begin with the deployment of first responders, typically Fire/EMS or law enforcement personnel. The primary responding unit will establish Incident Command and manage response operations with personnel assigned to the responding unit. Occasionally additional units are required and the Incident Commander (IC) may request support from other fire districts, municipal law enforcement, or Routt County departments, through the RCC (Dispatch).
2. In the event of widespread flooding throughout the County, Area Command may be established with the Fire Protection Districts and Law Enforcement Agencies
3. The Emergency Operations Director monitors requests made through Dispatch to make preliminary assessments of additional support requirements. The vast majority of emergency response operations are adequately managed through a single responding unit or with support from other first responders, organizations, and departments within Routt County. When Dispatch's ability to manage emergency calls throughout the county is negatively impacted by the level of effort required for any single incident, Dispatch will notify the Emergency Operations Director and transition incident support, specifically ordering of additional resources, to the Emergency Operations Director or the EOC.
4. Routt County is currently training personnel to support a Type 4 Incident Management Team. These personnel may be requested to support the local IC.

#### F. Incident Support

1. Once it is determined, usually through communication with the IC, that the flooding has the potential for requiring extensive additional support, the Emergency Operations Director and IC will perform a situation assessment (Appendix B). This assessment will determine:
  - Extent, duration, and severity of the flooding and the Routt County response

- capabilities available;
  - What additional public emergency notifications are required, to include the affected population, specific actions to take, and where to get additional information;
  - The appropriate level of activation of the EOC and which ESFs are required to be represented in the EOC;
  - Initial IC objectives, priorities, and requirements;
  - Additional resources required immediately;
  - Whether a local disaster declaration *may* be necessary.
2. Once operational, the EOC assumes the responsibilities of ordering and tracking additional required resources for the jurisdictions that are included in this plan. Dispatch will transition resource ordering responsibilities to the EOC. The Emergency Operations Director, who may also place orders for resources beyond the scope of Dispatch, will also transition these responsibilities to the EOC. The Resource Manager position of the EOC is primarily responsible for the ordering and tracking of resources.

#### G. Evacuation and Sheltering

Routt County OEM has existing shelter agreements with local school districts and other organizations that are renewed annually. The Routt County Evacuation and Sheltering Plan will be activated if evacuations are required. Shelter locations and requirements are located within the Evacuation and Sheltering Plan. ESF-6 Mass Care will be requested to help open and staff any shelters or evacuation centers. This may include representatives from Routt County Department of Human Services, the Routt County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the American Red Cross.

1. RouttCountyAlerts and IPAWS will be primary alerting mechanisms for the public, as well as social media, radio, and face-to-face contact as necessary. A key part of all sheltering operations is the check-in process, ensuring that necessary personal information is securely obtained (and safe-guarded) to facilitate proper and efficient unification or re-entry once safe to do so. When possible, Routt County will utilize its Salamander accountability and credentialing system.
2. The Routt County Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Office, Routt County Sheriff's Office (RCSO), municipal police departments, and the Routt County Humane Society have developed a pet and animal evacuation and sheltering plan. Service animals are allowed to accompany their owners in shelters. The Routt County Humane society has kennels to shelter pets, and the Routt County Fairgrounds is the primary location for sheltering livestock and large animals.
3. Each shelter or evacuation center will include the capability to gather information from the occupants regarding other unmet needs they have. ESF-6, Mass Care, will be responsible for coordinating with partner agencies to meet these unmet needs, as available.
4. Additional law enforcement will be required to secure evacuated areas and provide security at shelters. Law enforcement officers may need to be requested from agencies outside of Routt County to meet this need.

## XI. Responsibilities

- A. Routt County Departments and other agencies participating in the EOC will comply with the responsibilities identified in the EOP and the EOC Activation and Operations Guide. Other specific responsibilities are included below.
  1. Routt County OEM
    - a. Lead emergency flood planning efforts for Routt County
    - b. Manage the Routt County Public Alert and Warning plan
    - c. Coordinate with the IC to determine additional resources required and establish response priorities
    - d. Fly Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and take video and pictures of flooded areas as required
    - e. Manage the Execution Matrix
  2. Law Enforcement
    - a. Issuance of evacuation orders
    - b. Detour planning and traffic management
      - i. Working with Road and Bridge and Public Works Departments
      - ii. Signage and barricades
    - c. Security for evacuated areas and shelters
  3. Routt County GIS
    - a. Plot expected or possible flood area and its impact on critical infrastructure in Routt County.
    - b. Assess available data and create dashboard to monitor conditions  
Create and publish maps of identified detours
  4. Routt County Road and Bridge, Municipal Public Works and Streets Departments
    - a. Regularly inspect County roads, bridges, and culverts, and drainages, especially those areas know to flood or become blocked due to debris or sediment.
    - b. Remove debris and obstructions in waterways and culverts if safe to do so
    - c. Coordinate with law enforcement for optimal detour routing
  5. Municipal governments and special districts
    - a. Determine critical flood areas and assess threat to critical infrastructure within jurisdictional boundaries; provide historical context
    - b. Determine which critical infrastructure is defensible and the appropriate defensive measures.
    - c. Provide flood damage assessment to Routt County OEM.
    - d. Provide representation to the MAC Group and EOC when activated.
    - e. Coordinate with law enforcement for optimal detour routing.
    - f. Prepare delegations of authority or local disaster declarations
  6. Policy Group
    - a. Provide policy direction to Routt County OEM
    - b. Determine the need for a local disaster declaration
  7. Colorado Department of Transportation
    - a. Coordinate with Routt County on detours, especially if I-70 in Glenwood Canyon is closed
    - b. Assist with mitigation measures along Highways 40 and 131

- c. Provide equipment and crew to perform work on State and US highways
- d. Maintain roadways and associated critical infrastructure (bridges, culverts, guardrails, rockfall mitigation nets, etc.)
- e. Update highway message boards as needed
- f. Coordinating road closure messaging with local agencies

**XII. Information Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination**

- A. Information collection, analysis, and dissemination is a responsibility of every section and ESF within the EOC. Information is posted to WebEOC and Incident Command System (ICS) wall charts for maximum visibility. However, information may require more direct dissemination methods as well, such as phone calls or face-to-face, when key stakeholders or decision-makers are not present and action is required.
- B. Essential Information. Essential information must be disseminated as soon as it becomes available since it usually requires more immediate action by Incident Command or EOC personnel. A non-inclusive list includes:

Information Required	Information Provider(s)	Primary Information Recipient(s)	Primary Dissemination Mechanism(s)	Expected Action
Trigger conditions in Appendix A are met	Observers, subject matter experts, water districts	Emergency Operations Director, IC, EOC	Phone, e-mail, face-to-face	Described on matrix
Large events occurring	ESF-1, ESF-13	Emergency Operations Director, IC, EOC, PIO	Phone, email, face-to-face	Monitor expected gathering areas and hazard areas; additional public information may be needed as Routt County Alerts won't reach visitors
Evacuations required --- areas and population	Sheriff, Incident Command, first responders	Emergency Operations Director, ESF 1, ESF 13, ESF 6, public	Radio, phone, RouttCountyAlerts.com, social media, WebEOC	Issue Routt County Alerts Activate Public Alert and Warning Plan Initiate planning for optimal routes
Evacuation or detour routes	ESF 13, IC	ESF 13, PIO, public	Radio, social media, RouttCountyAlerts.com, WebEOC	Work with GIS to map and publish
Failure, destruction, or significant damage to critical infrastructure	Critical infrastructure owners/operators, first responders	Public works, appropriate ESF	Radio, phone, WebEOC	Secure area Identify alternatives Request additional resources
Hospital capacity	UCHealth/YVMC, ESF 8	First responders, EOC	Phone, radio, WebEOC	Utilize EMResource or other communication for regional hospital capacities
Shelter required	Incident Command	Emergency Operations Director, ESF 6, American Red Cross	Radio, phone, WebEOC	Activate Evacuation and Sheltering Plan
Shelter population, capacity, when at 75% of capacity, and shortfalls	Shelter managers	Emergency Operations Director, ESF 6	Phone, WebEOC	Identify and open additional shelter location(s)
Key transportation routes blocked	Incident Command, First responders	ESF 1, ESF 3, ESF 6	Radio, phone, WebEOC	Work with law, public works, and CDOT to establish detours Work with GIS to map and publish Send out Routt County Alert



Inadequate potable water supply / delivery	System owners/operators	Emergency Operations Director, ESF 1, ESF 2, ESF 3, ESF 4, ESF 5, ESF 8, ESF 11, ESF 12, ESF 14	Phone, Rapid Needs Assessment, WebEOC	EOC: request additional supplies Implement Boil Water Order Send out Routt County Alert
Inability to deliver food to grocery stores due to blocked or degraded transportation routes	Local resource provider partners (grocery stores, distributors, restaurants)	Emergency Operations Director, EOC Planning Section, EOC Resource Management, ESF-6	Phone, WebEOC	Coordinate mass feeding operations
Fatalities	Coroner	ESF 8, hospital, elected officials	Phone, WebEOC	

Additional essential information requirements may be identified during or following an event and will be communicated to the EOC via the EOC Manager.

### XIII. **Communications**

- A. Standard Routt County radio communication channels will be used. Should additional radio communications channels be required for interagency coordination then the Routt County MAC Channel will be dedicated to the incident.
- B. DTRS channel use must be minimized in order not to overload the DTRS system. SIMPLEX channels will be used whenever possible.
- C. Local first responder agencies will be paged via FIRE 1 (Fire/EMS) or LAW 1 (law enforcement) talk groups. The RCC Center maintains a mobile communications and command vehicle to provide dispatch services if required due to problems with the Communications Center, or to augment the ICP or EOC if needed due to operating in remote areas with insufficient power or connectivity to fully support response operations. The Emergency Operations Director and Communications Center Manager have the authority to deploy the mobile communications and command vehicle as needed.
- D. The RCC will be expected to manage the expected increase in non-emergent calls requesting additional information during flood response operations until the EOC is activated and a Joint Information Center/System (JIC/JIS) can be established, if required. The JIC/JIS will be tasked with staffing a hotline to answer non-emergent questions and share information related to the incident.

### XIV. **Administration, Finance, and Logistics**

- A. A major function of the Finance and Administration Section of the EOC is overseeing and tracking the various MAAs, MOUs, and Cost Share Agreements, collectively identified as "Agreements." These agreements provide information on resources made available during times of emergency by different government agencies at the local, state, and federal level, and the processes used for requesting these resources and reimbursing the respective providers. All agreements entered into by the participants in this plan will be made available to the EOC Finance and Administration Section.
- B. Routt County, municipal government, and other agency employees may serve in the ESFs in the EOC when activated. The Routt County Accounting Office will determine procedures to use for proper accounting of time spent on emergency management by county employees instead of their normal duties. EOC participants that are not Routt County employees will coordinate their work hours and accounting with their parent organization. The use of overtime is not generally authorized – requests will be made when necessary from the Emergency Operations Director to the Routt County Department Heads (for individual cases) or to the County Manager's Office for all EOC participants.
- C. While the Planning and Resource Management Sections are responsible for ordering and tracking resources, the Finance and Administration Section in the EOC, and ultimately the Routt County Accounting Office, are responsible for managing all financial matters for the emergency response. As such, all cost share agreements, invoices, crew time reports (CTRs), and equipment shift tickets (ESTs), will be maintained initially by the Finance and Administration Section of the EOC and made available to Routt County Accounting when the EOC is deactivated. Similarly, the Routt County Purchasing Office, also represented in the Finance and Administration Section of the EOC, will maintain copies of all contracts entered into by the EOC or Emergency Operations Director for emergency resources. Expendable items purchased for use in the EOC will be maintained by the Routt County OEM for future activations of the EOC.

Non-expendable or capital purchases will be transferred to the most applicable department as determined by the County Manager’s Office once these purchases are no longer required for response or recovery operations.

**XV. Public Information**

- A. It is critical to begin sharing information with the public before any seasonal flooding begins in order to minimize impacts to communities. Information shared pre-flooding should focus on preparedness activities, including signing up for RouttCountyAlerts, preparing to evacuate or shelter-in-place for an extended amount of town, and preparing their property for potential flooding. An example of public education campaigns could be:
  - a. March
    - i. Flood insurance
    - ii. Regular maintenance as snow builds up
  - b. April
    - i. Seasonal outlook
    - ii. Comparisons to prior years?
    - iii. Register for Routt County Alerts
    - iv. Define the different flood advisories from National Weather Service
    - v. Supplies to prepare your home; sandbags and sandbagging technique
    - vi. What to do if septic system floods
  - c. May
    - i. Ongoing education for current conditions
    - ii. How to receive information
    - iii. Preparing for evacuations or shelter in place; building an emergency kit
    - iv. Returning home after
- B. Information shared during the incident will focus on life safety, including evacuation areas and routes.
- C. Information shared after an incident will focus on re-entry and recovery

It is important that information shared to the public is timely, accurate, and consistent. Information will need to be shared from a variety of sources across different mediums, as indicated in the table below:

<b>Media Source</b>	<b>Who Should Post</b>	<b>What Should be Posted</b>	<b>When</b>
Routt County Website	Routt County PIO	All information related to the incident as approved by the Incident Commander. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affected areas</li> <li>• Impacts</li> <li>• Evacuation routes</li> <li>• Evacuation center locations</li> <li>• Shelter locations</li> <li>• Who to contact for information</li> </ul>	Once approved by Incident Commander
Routt County OEM Website	Emergency Management Specialist	All information above	Once posted to Routt County website
Routt County Social Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook</li> <li>• Twitter</li> <li>• Instagram</li> </ul>	Routt County PIO or Emergency Management Specialist	All information above Donations information Link to Routt County Website Who to contact for more information	Once approved by Incident Commander

Routt County ArcGIS Online	Routt County GIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Dashboards</li> <li>• Situational awareness products</li> </ul>	As soon as available
Press Release	Routt County PIO	All information related to the incident as approved by the Incident Commander. When the next update will be provided	Once approved by Incident Commander
Steamboat Pilot & Today	Staff	Routt County Press Release Link to Routt County website	Once issued by Routt County
Steamboat Radio	Staff	Routt County Press Release Link to Routt County website	Once issued by Routt County
External Social Media	Steamboat Pilot & Today Steamboat Radio	Share Routt County Post(s)	Once posted by Routt County

**XVI. Re-entry of Evacuated Areas**

- A. A Safe for Re-entry Task Force will be established before residents are permanently allowed back onto their property. This information will be shared with residents as it becomes available.

The task force will consist of representatives from:

- Law enforcement
- Fire Protection Districts
- Yampa Valley Electric Association
- Atmos Energy
- Routt County Environmental Health
- Routt County Building Department

Some considerations include:

- Working with utility providers to relight pilot lights, if needed
- Ensuring electrical service is restored or no longer poses a threat
- Water testing
- Contamination clean-up
- Mold remediation
- Information and documentation needed for damage assessments

**XVII. Recovery**

- A. The EOC is intended to provide an effective way to support the Incident Commander and coordinate consequence management operations. It is also the intent to minimize the activation time of the EOC so that the ESF representatives can get back to their normal duties as soon as possible and minimize the disruption to their normal business activities. As ESF participation requirements are reduced to a point that the representatives can provide any continued support virtually or as a part of their normal business functions they will be deactivated by the Emergency Operations Director. At the point where remaining response activities and recovery operations could be effectively managed without a continuous presence at the EOC, the EOC will be deactivated.
- B. In the event there are substantial impacts to a community from the seasonal flooding, recovery operations will begin as soon as possible and may continue for a significant length of time. Routt County OEM will coordinate necessary recovery actions based on the specific incident.

- C. Recovery is generally broken into two phases. Phase one is short-term recovery and begins during response operations. Short term recovery operations may include debris removal, clean-up, management of human remains, and restoration of essential services such as water, electricity, sewer systems, and essential governmental services.
- D. Long term recovery is identified in weeks and months following a disaster. If the need for ongoing long-term recovery operations becomes necessary, Routt County OEM will form a Recovery Task Force to manage recovery. Long-term recovery operations include returning the community back to its pre-disaster state to the extent possible.

## Appendix A: Decision Matrix

**NOTE: This is a draft decision matrix for seasonal flooding actions occurring in 2023. This matrix will be updated based on actual observations.**

Action	Trigger	Responsible Agency	Notes	Expected Observation
Daily monitoring and status meetings	CFS > 3500 or Gauge at 6 feet (Elk OR Yampa)  Visible flooding causing public concern	All	This will be a daily call to review flood indicators and discuss unanticipated requirements. Must cover status of critical infrastructure in potential flood zone  Public information	Elk River: at Bankfull, some minor low-land flooding is likely  Yampa River: portions of the Core Trail and Emerald Field are flooded
Focused outreach to historically flood prone areas (move earlier)	CFS > 4000 (Elk) or Gauge at 6.5 feet	Appropriate jurisdictions of flood prone areas	Jurisdiction's discretion on method of engagement	Elk River: Some low-land flooding
Purchase bulk sand, deliver to specified location(s) (move earlier)	CFS > 4300 or Gauge Height at 6.5 feet (Yampa)	Jurisdictional Purchasing Offices	Government reps will determine whether a single purchase with multiple delivery points and cost share agreement will be most effective	Yampa River: at Bankfull, out of bank flow near Sleepy Bear Mobile Home Park, minor low-land flooding
Request public service announcement on radio and Steamboat Pilot	CFS > 4800 (Elk) or Gauge Height at 7 feet	Routt County OEM; separate jurisdictions	Advise public of necessary precautions, register for RouttCountyAlerts.com	Elk River: Low-land flooding observed; water is reaching ranch building and homes near CR 44 Bridge  National Weather Service Action Level
Public Notification	CFS > 5100 or Gauge Height at 7 feet (Yampa)  Visible flooding in Routt County	Routt County Emergency Operations Director, RCC, Steamboat Springs Communication Manager	Notification via RouttCountyAlerts.com; jurisdictions may have to conduct via personal contact; use polygons for actual, forecasted, or historical flooded area	Yampa River: Minor flooding observed upstream and downstream of Steamboat Springs  National Weather Service Action Level

Action	Trigger	Responsible Agency	Notes	Expected Observation
Activate EOC	CFS > 6000 or Gauge Height at 7.5 feet (Yampa Or Elk)	Routt County Emergency Operations Director	Activation via RouttCountyAlerts.com	Elk River: Lower portions of CR 44 are flooding; water is approaching homes near south side of Hwy 40 by confluence of Elk and Yampa Rivers. Where CR 42 goes over Elk.  Yampa River: minor flooding observed in town; water is flowing across properties adjacent to the river and approaching buildings  National Weather Service: Minor Flooding Alert
Begin evacuation or detour route planning	CFS > 6800 or Gauge Height at 8 feet(Yampa)	ESF 13	Begin traffic management planning for most likely or flood-prone areas and subsequent likely evacuation	Yampa River: Water reaching buildings near Yampa Street and 9 <sup>th</sup> Street
Shelter Availability	CFS > 7600 or Gauge Height at 8 feet (Elk)	Routt County Office of Emergency Management	Check with shelter owners per existing shelter agreements; search for additional shelters if necessary	Elk River: Backwater flooding possible due to debris blocking the culverts at Elk River and Yampa River confluence  Water reaching buildings between CR 44 and Elk River
Alert area residents, plan for detour	CFS > 9800 or Gauge Height at 8.5 feet (Elk)	ESF-13		Moderate flooding is occurring  Water approaching private bridge near CR 42  Water reaching homes along Elk River  National Weather Service: Moderate Flooding Alert
Alert businesses and residents, close Yampa Street	Gauge Height 8.5 feet (Yampa)	ESF-13		Yampa Street is experiencing flooding, water is reaching commercial buildings  National Weather Service: Moderate Flooding Alert

Action	Trigger	Responsible Agency	Notes	Expected Observation
Activate Type 4 IMT	Request by IC	Emergency Operations Director	Available personnel that have volunteered or expressed interest in Type 4 IMT will fall into established ICP	

**Key Actions and lead time required (estimated)**

1. Public Messaging; 2 weeks
  - a. RouttCountyAlerts
  - b. Home emergency kits
  - c. Expected flooding areas
  - d. Septic system and water precautions
2. EOC Activation; 3 days (activated within 2 hours)
  - a. Create WebEOC event
  - b. Create FEMA Lifelines document
  - c. Establish initial meeting schedule
3. IMT Activation; 1 hour
4. Sandbag and sand made available to public (Steamboat Springs; Hayden?); 2 weeks
5. Culvert and bridge monitoring, clearing, reporting; 2 weeks
6. Pre-positioning of electronic message boards and road blocks; 2 days
7. Identification of alternate routing/detours around known and expected hazard areas; 3 days
8. Door-to-door canvassing of known/expected flood areas for expected shelter requirements; 1 week
9. Identification of shelters to be used; 1 week
10. Activation of CERT and other volunteers to set-up shelters; 2 days
11. Monitoring and reporting of flood effects on livestock and potential large-animal sheltering and transportation
12. Request and positioning of ARC trailer; 2 days
13. Shelter set-up; 3 days
14. Monitoring of grocery store and pharmacy stock; 1 week
15. Monitoring of critical transportation routes closed or re-routed outside of Routt County



- 16. Request for CAP flights; 3 days
- 17. Purchase and storage of bottled water; 1 week
- 18. Stage or store additional supplies, parts, chemicals or other needed materials to support critical infrastructure
- 19. YVEA: Reroute load to all other available stations; berms around Brooklyn substation; 8 hours to complete work; 2-3 days lead time
- 20. Public Health: hygiene at shelters, respiratory infection vaccinations, PPE or quarantine areas

**HISTORICAL REFERENCES**

Elk River at County Road 42		Yampa River at 5 <sup>th</sup> Street in Steamboat Springs	
Highest Observed Gauge Height	Recent Observed Gauge Height	Highest Observed Gauge Height	Recent Observed Gauge Height
10.40 feet on 5/19/1917 10.5 feet on 5/29/1906 9.90 feet on 06/05/1905 9.75 feet on 05/24/1904 <b>8.08 feet on 6/21/2019</b>	6.84 feet on 06/02/2020 8.08 feet on 06/21/2019 5.88 feet on 05/11/2018	8.9 feet on 06/08/1905 8.9 feet on 6/13/1906 7.65 feet on 06/03/1997 7.5 feet on 05/25/1904 7.44 feet on 06/01/2003  <b>Recent High Snowpack Years</b> <b>7.08 feet on 06/07/2011 (7<sup>th</sup> highest)</b> 6.34 feet on 06/04/2008 (20 <sup>th</sup> highest)	4.29 feet on 05/23/2021 6.21 feet on 06/02/2020 6.44 feet on 06/21/2019

## Appendix B

### Situation Assessment

Identify the following to determine what response and/or recovery measures need to be implemented. This information will be used to determine to define potential impacts of the incident.

1. Location of the incident
2. Type of area (business, residential, industrial, mobile home parks, rural)
3. Size of involved area - actual and potential/future
4. Ease of Access, ability for safe ingress/egress of first responders
5. Number of affected residents/visitors
6. Topography (are landslides/rockfall a concern in the area)
7. Emergency conditions that could occur and require evacuation
8. Characteristics of the Hazard/Threat
9. Magnitude/extent
10. Intensity
11. Speed of onset/timeliness
12. Duration
13. Impact on local community; impact on local business centers; economic impact or potential for impact
14. Weather conditions and expected changes - forecast, current and future
15. Population groups requiring assistance to evacuate
16. Vulnerable populations, nowhere else to go, access and functional needs populations
17. Ingress/egress routes; accessibility; safety
18. Is it safer for people to stay home and shelter in place?