The Loveland area has been fairly fortunate. In the past four decades, only twice have major emergencies resulted in significant and considerable damage to property and possessions. The Black Forest fire in the Big Thompson Canyon took 145 lives and destroyed or damaged more than 700 homes and businesses. The two-week Bobcat wildfire of June, 2000 resulted in 145 lives and destroyed or damaged more than 700 homes and businesses. The Loveland fire department.

In a widespread emergency, 200 responders can’t individually serve 90,000. And of the 200, it’s likely that many will be impacted themselves by the emergency and thus become unable to respond. Their bodies, homes and work buildings are not impervious to disasters anymore than residents.

Therefore, individual preparedness is imperative.

- **Make a plan**

- **Get a kit**

- **Stay informed**

If an emergency threatens or occurs, is your household prepared to either evacuate or remain for a significant period of time? If electricity, water, heat and transportation disappear, can you deal with it?

Some emergency planners believe today’s urban society is less ready and more vulnerable than decades ago when civil defense structures brought greater awareness and preparedness. Plus, today’s easier lifestyle fosters complacency.

Preparedness attention grows

Self-sufficiency is the key to self-preservation and household survival during a widespread disaster or situation. The better prepared a household or business is, the better it can deal with an extraordinary circumstance.

Many people seem to expect government to be their caretakers during a disaster. Certainly, great effort will be made to respond and assist as much as possible. But reality and people’s expectations may not match.

Preparedness and management. Basically, 100 percent of their time is focused on preparing Loveland — creating plans, determining feasibility of response and recovery actions, developing and updating Loveland’s Emergency Operations Center, training City staff, preparing and executing emergency simulations and exercises, and seeking and securing training opportunities for themselves.

Loveland’s Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) has undergone expansion and updates. LEOP is a broad plan dealing with what, why and how what resources to employ for emergency/ disaster prevention, response, control, restraint, mitigation and recovery. The City created LEOP in conjunction with the Northern Colorado Hazard Mitigation Plan, a broader geographic range plan incorporating Fort Collins and Larimer County resources.

The LEOP includes action plans for operating Loveland’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a 13-workstation facility. It was created for each workstation, department managers direct incident command, police, fire, public works, water and power, public information, executive, legal, financial and other operations in times of emergency.

The EOC is outfitted with computers, phones, TVs, emergency radios, HAM radio and other operational materials. On a day-to-day basis, the EOC room serves as workspace for the City’s development review center, meetings, trainings, seminars and workshops.

Preparedness Resources

For detailed information for making a household or business more disaster-ready:


- **Prepare by Denver area public/private agencies** - A disaster plan with an extraordinary circumstance. Info and web links primarily related to pandemic flu.


- **CitizenCorps.gov** - FEMA “Embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared.” Info and web links primarily related to pandemic flu.


- **www.cityofloveland.org** - Dateline: Paid for by the City of Loveland