



LOVELAND

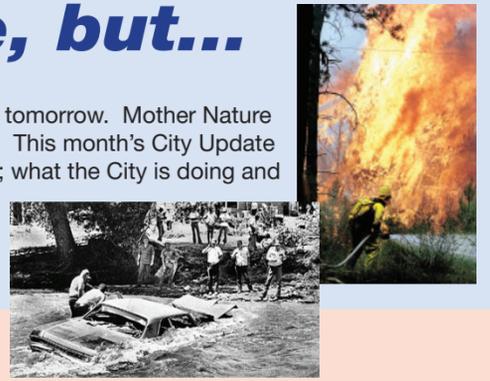
Emergencies uncommon here, but...

The Loveland area has been fairly fortunate. In the past four decades, only twice have major emergencies resulted in casualties and significant damage to property and possessions.

The 1976 flash flood 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 scorched 10,600 acres, claimed 22 structures but thankfully re-

sulted in no serious injuries.

But something could happen tomorrow. Mother Nature and human beings are unpredictable. This month's City Update focuses on emergency preparedness; what the City is doing and what residents should be doing in case a disaster or major emergency occurs.



Preparedness attention grows

In the past few years the City of Loveland has substantially increased its efforts toward emergency preparedness. More staff hours, planning, equipment and funding have been invested in disaster preparedness.

What could happen here in quiet, pleasant Loveland, you ask? One never knows. That's why preparedness takes a broad look at "what if."

Yes, some things can be eliminated; hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, for example. But many other possibilities exist and must be taken into consideration: blizzards, tornadoes, wind storms, lightning strikes, floods, drought, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, dam breaks, pandemics, hazardous material spills, power outages, technology interruptions, water contamination, civil unrest, and of course, terrorist attacks or other intentional acts.

Loveland currently has two Fire and Rescue officers fully devoted to emergency 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 receiving ongoing training for themselves.

Loveland's Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) has undergone expansion and updates. LEOP is a broad plan dealing with who, how and what resources to employ for emergency/disaster prevention, response, control, restraint, mitigation and recovery. The updated LEOP works in conjunction with the Northern Colorado Hazard Mitigation Plan, a broader geographic response 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. At 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.

Also under way is a Community Emergency Response Team for Loveland. Still a pilot program, about 50 carefully selected residents from various neighborhoods throughout the Loveland area are receiving basic training to help intervene in a time of community need. The program is organized using federally recognized procedures.

Loveland's emergency preparedness efforts, planning, LEOP and EOC are like a disaster insurance policy. You hope you never need it, but enjoy a greater sense of security knowing it's there.

Are you prepared? Self-sufficient?

Self sufficiency is the key to self-preservation and household sustainability during a widespread situation or disaster. 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.

Loveland has a total of about 200 trained first responders, including police, fire and ambulance staff. Loveland's population is more than 65,000. Plus, another 25,000 people live in the rural areas outside Loveland and normally receive assistance from 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 aren't impervious to disasters any more 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 disappears, 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 and cold war threats brought greater awareness and preparedness. Plus, today's easier lifestyle fosters complacency.

Communication is just a button or click away. Our faucets always work and power outages are very rare and very brief. Supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants are close by and always open. Life is good in Loveland.

The fact is that rural residents tend to be better prepared. Power is less reliable, many have their own water sources, pantries tend to be well stocked, and tractors and trucks are often nearby.

Now is the time to pay attention and prepare. Once a disaster occurs, it's too late.

Preparedness Resources

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

www.Ready.gov - Federal Dept. of Homeland Security. Info on preparing an at-home kit, instructional videos and summaries, creating an emergency plan, useful checklists. Additional content for seniors, persons with disabilities and pet owners.

www.Listo.gov - Spanish version of above.

www.ReadyColorado.com - Prepared by Denver area public/private agencies Emergency kit info. Emergency plan suggestions for household, neighborhood, business, finances, more.

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

www.LarimerFlu.org - Larimer County Health Dept. Pandemic flu basics info, videos, preparation suggestions, Larimer County's pandemic flu plan.

Be Prepared

--Have a Plan

- When to stay or go
- What to take
- Where to go
- Contact info: family, out-of-town contact, work, school, insurance co., doctor, pharmacy

Ready.gov Listo.gov
ReadyColorado.com CitizenCorps.gov
LarimerFlu.org

--Have a Kit

- Water; 1.5 gal./person/day
- Food; non-perishable, no cooking required
- First aid supplies
- Prescription medicines
- Common non-prescription medicines
- Supplies/tools; battery-powered radio, batteries, candles, matches, multi-function knife, etc.
- Clothes, bedding
- Specialty items; for babies, elderly, pets, disabled
- Cash, credit cards
- ID
- Important papers

--Be Informed

Some or all of these sources may be utilized during an emergency or special situation. The nature of the situation will dictate what sources will be used. Setup and staffing for some resources will not occur immediately.

City of Loveland Sources:

- www.cityofloveland.org** - Official City website
- 1610 AM** - City's AM radio station
- Channel 16** - City's cable TV channel
- 962-2020** - Info line/call center
- 911** - Emergency dispatch line
- Emergency Phone Notification (EPN)** - Outgoing recorded calls to local phones (land lines, not cell)
- Emergency Alert System (EAS)** - Emergency messages on TV & radio stations
- Info Center** - Primarily for news media, operations staff. Most likely to be located at City Council Chambers in Municipal Bldg, 500 E. 3rd St.
- Neighborhood info centers** - Locations to be determined

Other sources:

- www.larimer.org** - Larimer County website
- 211** - Area assistance info line
- www.firstcall211.org** - 211 website
- Area newspapers**
- Area radio**
- Denver TV channels**

