

**BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING No. 121  
January 24, 2017**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Board was held at the Beulah Community Center in Beulah, CO.

Board members present were: Chair and President Steve Douglas, Vice President Stephen McLaughlin, Treasurer Joni Smith, Secretary Kim Toman, and Fundraising Coordinator Bob Thompson. Also attending was Chief Bryan Ware. Also attending were Theresa Springer, Recovery Coordinator, Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. (CO-CO), Tom Magnuson, National Weather Service, and Jill Filer, Pueblo City/County Health Department. There were about 65 total attendees including Board Members and volunteer responders.

**Chair and President Steve Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

There were no additions or changes to the Agenda as presented.

*Motion was made by Kim Toman to approve the agenda as presented/amended, seconded by Joni Smith. Motion carried with no objections.*

**3. Beulah Hill and Junkins Fire Flash Flood potential and mitigation options**

There were three separate presentations made by Theresa Springer, Tom Magnuson and Jill Filer.

**The first presentation was by Theresa Springer, Recovery Coordinator CO-CO.**

Theresa conducts assessments on the properties potentially affected by flash flooding from recent wildland fire burn scars. The ultimate goal is life safety. A flood plan is very much needed by both individuals and the community. This plan must identify potential dangers and available options to combat these dangers when a flood happens. It is not a matter of “if” a flood will happen, a flood WILL happen in both of the fire areas: Beulah Hill and Junkins. In fact, it is likely that flash flooding will occur from those burn scars a number of times in the coming years.

It is recommended that those individuals and businesses in the identified flood areas purchase flood insurance. Bryan will be coordinating a community flood insurance meeting. This meeting is set for February 11 at 1pm.

When flooding happens it is imperative that vehicles are not driven through water flowing over roadways. In addition, flood evacuation should never include driving a vehicle anywhere. It is much safer to quickly proceed uphill from any low lying areas. Unlike fire evacuation, flood evacuation must occur much faster and is much shorter in duration. Efforts will be made to approach every household in the potential flood areas so resources can be presented to individuals about establishing an escape route and emergency items to have on hand.

Theresa presented ideas on protecting valuables during a flood as well as processes for minimizing the effects of a flood. The details are available upon request from the District Office.

**The second presenter was Tom Magnuson**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Pueblo. Flooding will occur in and downstream from the two fire areas. The level of flooding will depend on previous rainfall and is a very complex calculation based on watershed size, slope, rainfall total, rainfall rate, and mitigation efforts. When a flood happens, “black water” will run off the burn scar areas. Each burn scar may react differently in the same rain storm.

A Flash Flood WATCH is issued when rainfall is predicted to be greater than 1” per hour. They are issued in the time frame from the afternoon before to the day of concern. This gives those in the potential flash flood area time to evacuate the area prior to the storm actually arriving. A Flash Flood WARNING is issued by the National Weather Service when heavy rain is actually occurring and flash flooding is either imminent or is occurring. The goal of the WARNING is to give tens of minutes of lead time for individuals to get to safety with a minimum of false alarms. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE** out of a drainage such as North Creek if a flash flood WARNING has been issued. If a flash flood WARNING is issued, immediately evacuate uphill, even if that means walking to higher ground. We are more accustomed to wildland fire evacuations. Given ample time, a wildland fire pre-evacuation order is much like getting notice of a flash flood watch. Both may give individuals a little time to make final evacuation preparations, including driving out of the area. If the order is to actually evacuate, for flash flooding that means get to higher ground immediately; while for a wildland fire the desired action is to leave the area immediately by the fastest means available. With wildland fire evacuations in Pueblo County, we often see the Sheriff’s personnel driving roads and doing route alerting. We should not expect that to happen for a flash flood evacuation. There are several ways to receive flood alerts: reverse 911, weather alert radios, website ([weather.gov/pueblo](http://weather.gov/pueblo)), WEA (wireless emergency alert) on mobile devices; Twitter & Facebook; local media via television and radio; private weather apps are also available on personal cell phones. It is each individual’s responsibility to discover what method works best for them and to then monitor it, especially once a flash flood watch has been issued. It is also important to identify our neighbors that may need assistance in the event of a flash flood. For instance, not all are physically able to walk to high ground.

If strange or unusual weather conditions exist, individuals are encouraged to contact the National Weather Service with reports and observations at 719-948-9429.

Training is available to become a Weather Spotter for the NWS. This information is available upon request from the District Office.

A NWS Webpage will be launched when a warning is issued. More details will be available as the website is developed for the fire scar areas.

The important things to remember are to keep eye on the weather, know your risk, and have a plan of action to improve your outcome.

**The third presenter was Jill Filer**, Pueblo City/County Health Department. Chad Wolgram was also in attendance with her.

Again the importance is to have a plan in place and make arrangements for a flood. The goal is for life safety. The things to have a plan for are:

- Health and medical, (supply of medication, oxygen, or other medical devices)
- Water
- Food
- A place to stay if your home is damaged or destroyed by a flood
- Standing water after spring runoff
- Mold in homes
- Propane systems

The Health Department can have water systems tested if you believe it has been compromised. They can also check septic systems as well. Please contact the Health Department for more information or if these services are needed.

Things individuals can do if their property has been flooded:

Inspect well heads, make sure they are sealed and secure. If cracked, get water tested  
If a septic system is present, keep water off the leachfield. Standing water may cause a back up in the septic lines and may back up into the home  
Make sure septic tank lids are sealed. Tanks can lift and float downstream.

A Question/Answer session followed. If anyone has additional questions or concerns, they are encouraged to contact the District Office.

In addition, any individual in the flood area who did not receive a mailing about the meeting tonight is highly encouraged to contact the District Office to have their name, address and phone number put on the contact list.

**4. MOTION TO ADJOURN:** *Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Thompson, seconded by Joni Smith. Motion carried with no objections.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Kim Toman  
Secretary, Board of Directors

Final

Attachments

-Agenda

-Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District – Resident Preparedness Meeting – Post Beulah Hill and Junkins Fires Flood Risk