



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204

Fax: 970-352-0242

1150 O Street

P.O. Box 758

Greeley, CO 80632

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

**WELD COUNTY AND AREA AGENCIES
PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING**

WELD COUNTY, CO – An emergency preparedness training exercise involving several Weld County entities was successfully conducted and completed Wednesday afternoon in east Greeley. The exercise, organized by the Weld County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), simulated a mass casualty event requiring response by multiple agencies.

Wednesday’s exercise, Operation WMCI (Weld Mass Casualty Incident), involved Weld County OEM, the Weld County Coroner’s Office, the Weld County Regional Communications Center, Greeley Police, Greeley Fire, the 233rd Space Group, Banner Health/NCMC and Banner Health Paramedics. The purpose of the exercise was for agencies to implement and evaluate their emergency response plans and procedures for a mass-casualty incident.

“Today’s exercise was one of several exercises the Office of Emergency Management organizes each year,” said Roy Rudisill, Director of the Weld County OEM. “The goal of each exercise is to bring together different agencies and work through various emergency scenarios for training and testing purposes of individual and collective agency response.”

Following the exercise, participating agencies will review their response to the simulated emergency and identify the strengths, as well as the gaps, in the planning process.

“It is important for the community to know that Weld County, through the Office of Emergency Management, is dedicated to exercising and improving our response plans for a variety of possible emergency situations,” said Weld County Commissioner Chairman William Garcia. “Participating in exercises with other agencies helps everyone build relationships, communication skills and response plans that in turn benefit everyone living, working or traveling through our county.”

The OEM plans for response to emergencies and disasters, and coordinates the activities of the county during actual events. Each level of government is responsible to handle their own emergency until that emergency exceeds that government’s capabilities or resources. The county emergency plan is ready to activate at a moment’s notice from any incorporated municipality in the county. To learn more about the Weld County OEM, please visit www.weldgov.com.

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