



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

Date: 02/11/14

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

Re: Manufactured Housing Park Issues in Evans

WELD COUNTY, EVANS BRING ATTENTION TO POTENTIAL HEALTH ISSUES IN FLOOD DAMAGED MOBILE HOME PARKS



A January 30th inspection of the Eastwood Village MHP by the Weld County Public Health team revealed debris and rubble throughout the park. Both parks face issues with trash, rotting food, household hazardous waste and other potential health hazards that will increase in severity if not addressed before warmer weather arrives.

WELD COUNTY, CO – One of the hardest hit communities from the September 2013 flood is warning of potential health-related issues if help isn't made available soon. More than 208 manufactured homes in the city of Evans were destroyed by the devastating flood. The city has had discussions with the landowners of the two housing parks regarding their responsibility to remove the debris from their property; however, the parks remain in the same state as they were immediately following the flood.

While residents in the parks were able to return to their damaged homes briefly to retrieve a few belongings, the majority of the contents of their homes still remain, including trash, food left in refrigerators, and household hazardous waste. In addition to those items, the presence of mold, and human sewage throughout the parks are also a huge concern for city and county officials.

As the result of complaints received by the City of Evans, the Weld County Department of Public Health (following inspections conducted at the parks in late January) sent letters to the two land owners warning that if removal of the debris remains unaddressed, residents near these parks will face increased risk of disease, offensive odors, as well as increased presence of rodents and other disease causing varmints.

A joint letter from Evans Mayor Lyle Achziger and the Weld County Board of Commissioners was also sent to Governor Hickenlooper and Executive Director of DOLA Reeves Brown, requesting a meeting to discuss the issues Evans is facing with regard to flood recovery. "The road to recovery is long, and while the issue of debris removal in the manufactured housing parks is a top priority, we know there are other issues that will need attention and assistance in the future," the joint letter states.

Evans has received bids for the debris removal which is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million – money the community does not have available. The city did apply for the Private Property Debris Removal Grant offered from FEMA but was denied; they are currently appealing that denial.

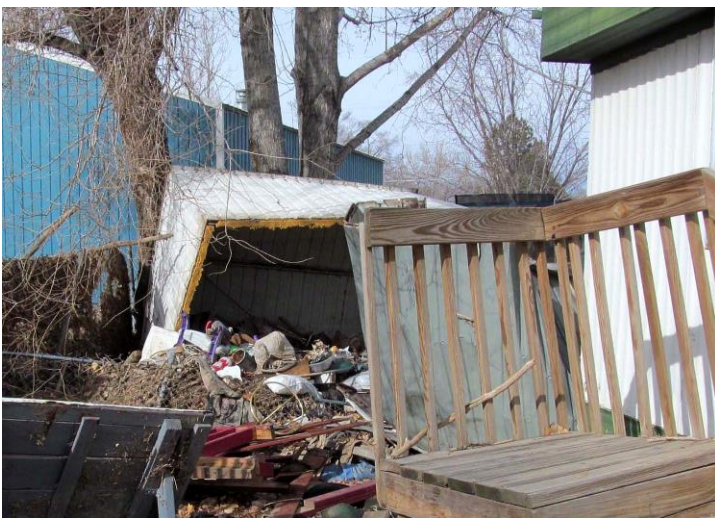


Left: An aerial view of the Eastwood Village manufactured home park taken September 18, 2013. (Image provided by the City of Evans.)

Right: On January 24, 2014, members of the Weld County Department of Health conducted the first of several inspections of the park, revealing little change from the condition the park was in immediately following the flood to now.



County inspection teams entered the Eastwood Village park on January 30, 2014, and found mold in homes (left) as well as trash and household hazardous waste throughout the neighborhood (right).



A letter from the Weld County Department of Health sent to the landowners of the parks warns of “...increased risk of disease, offensive odors, as well as increased presence of rodents and other disease causing varmints...” if the parks are not cleaned up.