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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE CHANGES TO THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

WELD COUNTY, CO – During their Monday meeting, the Weld County Board of Commissioners approved an updated version of the Weld County Emergency Operations Plan (WCEOP). The plan, which was initially adopted in September 2009, was developed by the Weld County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in accordance with the requirements for local emergency planning under the State of Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Comprehensive Preparedness Guide and the Weld County Code.

“The purpose of the Emergency Operations Plan is to coordinate management activities before an emergency occurs,” said Commissioner Pro-Tem Mike Freeman. “With this plan, we will be able to better protect Weld County residents, property and economy during an emergency event.”

Addressed in the WCEOP are the roles, responsibilities and actions required by the Board, other elected officials, the Director of Emergency Management Roy Rudisill and county departments when preparing and responding to an emergency. The plan considers the emergencies and disasters most likely to occur in Weld County and uses an all-hazards approach, which provides planning strategies for a wide-range of complex events such as natural disasters, technological incidents, man-made hazards and emerging human illnesses. The plan is intended to be used when an emergency situation requires: multiple officials or departments to be involved in the response; coordination and integration with outside agencies; an emergency or disaster declaration; or when an incident escalates beyond the capabilities of Weld County and it becomes necessary to seek State and/or Federal assistance.

“The Weld County Emergency Operations Plan is what we call a living document, which means the Office of Emergency Management is always looking for ways to improve our plan and practices.” said Rudisill. “We review the plan after real emergencies or disasters as well as training situations, and we make updates to the plan as needed based on after-action reviews and recommended improvements.”

“The Emergency Operations Plan is a critical tool for each person who may be involved in responding to an emergency,” said Commissioner Sean Conway, Coordinator for the OEM. “It not only provides valuable information about the responsibilities of each county department but also other local, State and Federal agencies during an emergency situation.”

For more information about emergency management in Weld County, visit the OEM web page at www.weldgov.com or www.weldoem.com.

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