

**LARIMER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

**CAMERON PEAK FIRE
RECOVERY**

Community Recovery
Newsletter
March 2021



This Newsletter provides information to community members regarding the results of the Cameron Peak Fire Risk Assessment and updated information about clean-up and recovery efforts.

In this edition:

- Risk Assessment Results for Fire Area & Spring Recovery Activities
- Upcoming Webinars and Public Engagement
- Debris Survey for Community Members
- Information on how you can get involved

Upcoming Events and Webinars

The **Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed** is hosting a Citizen Science Webinar on March 31st from 5pm to 6pm.

Interested in helping with Cameron Peak Fire recovery efforts and post-fire monitoring and data collection? Join us for an informative webinar about citizen science programs that are actively recruiting volunteers in and downstream of the Cameron Peak Fire burn area. Panelists will provide information about how you can become involved in post-fire recovery efforts by sharing and contributing to data monitoring and collection programs.

To Register, go to: bit.ly/CitSci2021



OUR MISSION: To improve & maintain the ecological health of the Poudre River Watershed through community collaboration.

For Up-to-date information on activities and ways to get involved or stay informed, please follow the Larimer Recovers sites on Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LarimerRecovers>

Twitter: Larimer Recovery Collaborative <https://twitter.com/LarimerRecovers>

Upcoming Events and Webinars



2020 Wildfire-Impacted Colorado Households

(Cameron Peak, Calwood, East Troublesome, and Lefthand Canyon wildfires)



FREE expert, trustworthy help through *the* Roadmap to Recovery™ Program

Survivor to Survivor Forums

Trained UP volunteers with personal experience recovering from previous wildfires share practical tips for loss recovery and coping with insurance claims.

March 2, 2021, 8:00 PM MT, March 16, 2021, 8:00 PM MT

Workshop # 6 Taxing Matters for Wildfire-Impacted Households

Three CPAS with extensive experience advising disaster survivors will share key tips on:
Tax strategies for the underinsured; Casualty loss tax filing options; Are insurance proceeds taxable?

March 10, 2021, 5:30 PM MT

Q&A on Financial Decision-making and Tax Implications After a Wildfire

March 24, 2021, 5:30 PM MT

REGISTER FOR ANY OF THESE EVENTS: www.uphelp.org/r2r

These Roadmap to Recovery™ workshops are presented by United Policyholders, a non-profit consumer organization and trusted resource helping disaster survivors for 30 years. For more information, visit: www.uphelp.org/Colorado Questions? Email info@uphelp.org



Grand County
Colorado

Cameron Peak Fire Risk Assessment

Larimer County conducted a Risk Assessment of the Cameron Peak Fire burn area to determine levels of risk for communities and to determine possible actions to minimize post-fire flood impacts. The Risk Assessment used information from a variety of sources and expanded upon the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report completed by the United States Forest Service.

Priorities for the Larimer County Risk Assessment:

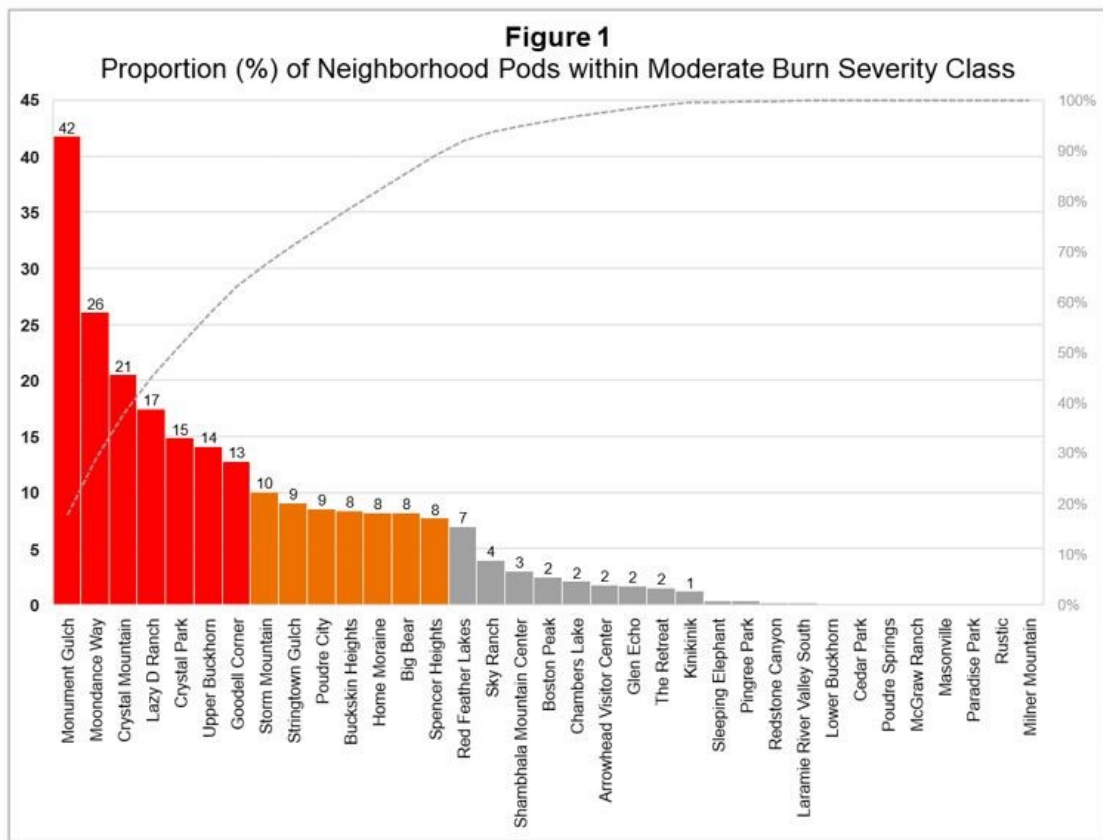
- 1) Life Safety
- 2) Property Protection
- 3) Environmental Protection



In order to meet these priorities, the county focused on analyzing the following areas:

- Neighborhood Analysis—The County used the Neighborhood Pod maps established by the Emergency Services agencies to analyze specific neighborhoods within the fire area.
- Debris Flow Analysis—The county analyzed data regarding potential debris flow areas to determine impacts to infrastructure, lives and property.
- Public Road Infrastructure—The County analyzed all road infrastructure within the fire area, including roads, culverts, bridges, and downstream impacts.
- Private Road Infrastructure—The County analyzed private roads at risk from flooding and debris flows.
- FEMA Floodplains—The County analyzed FEMA Floodplain locations in relation to possible flood risks.

Neighborhood POD Burn Severity



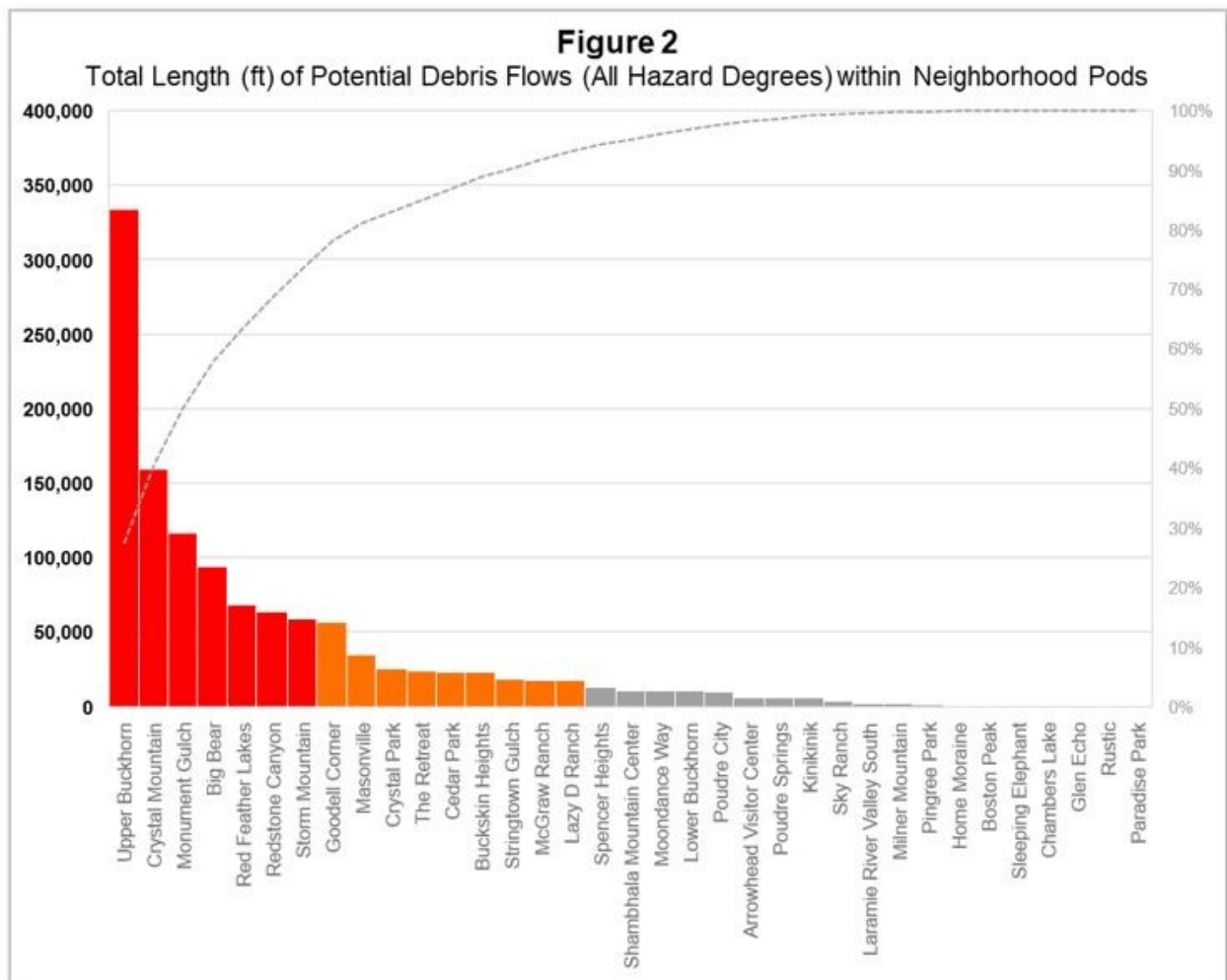
We started with Burn Severity in Neighborhood Pods.

LOW severity areas generally have intact and recognizable litter layers (organic material on the forest floor, such as pine needles and twigs). These litter layers may be charred, but are not consumed. Underlying topsoil is intact and near-surface fine roots are unburned. These soils have enough cover to protect them from erosion during rain events because their natural porosity and structure allow rain to soak into the soil instead of running off.

MODERATE severity areas generally have more—up to 80% of their pre-fire surface litter layers consumed by fire. Black or gray ash may be present on the soil surface. Fine roots near the surface may be scorched and killed. Soils with moderate severity are more susceptible to erosion in post-fire rain events because they have lost protective surface cover and may have less surface stability because of root mortality.

HIGH severity areas generally have had all their pre-fire surface litter layers consumed by fire. Fine roots are often fully burned/consumed within several inches of the soil surface, and even large tree roots may have burned deep into the soil. Soil may be powdery or grainy and loose, unable to bind together and retain water. These soils are very susceptible to erosion and often have high surface run-off during rainstorms. - Source: Inciweb

Neighborhood POD Debris Flows



Next, Neighborhood Pods were assessed to determine the total length of potential debris flows (length in feet) across all debris flow severities [High, Moderate, Low, or None] within each of the 35 neighborhood polygons. In addition to analyzing by hazard class, the sum of all hazard classes was calculated for each neighborhood.

This examination of neighborhoods by debris flow potential resulted in the identification of 8 neighborhoods that have potential to experience significant debris flows (>50,00 feet total) within the neighborhood pod.

These neighborhoods include the following: Big Bear, Crystal Mountain, Goodell Corner, Monument Gulch, Red Feather Lakes, Redstone Canyon, Storm Mountain, and Upper Buckhorn.

High Risk Neighborhoods

Based on the burn severity analysis, potential for significant debris flows, and percentage of neighborhood area within a FEMA flood zone, the following neighborhood pods ranked the highest comparatively, from post-fire flooding and debris flows:

Big Bear
Crystal Mountain
Goodell Corner

Monument Gulch
Poudre City

Upper Buckhorn
Storm Mountain



NFIP Flood Insurance

Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy that can cover buildings, the contents in a building, or both, so it is important to protect your most important financial assets — your home, your business, your possessions.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides flood insurance to property owners, renters and businesses, and having this coverage helps them recover faster when floodwaters recede.

Flood insurance is available to anyone living in Larimer County. Homes and businesses in high-risk flood areas should have flood insurance, especially after a wildfire impacts their area. For more information about what's covered and to find a policy visit: [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov).

County Road Analysis

County Roads were assessed to determine:

- 1) the proportion of each County Road segment (segments were delineated as road sections within the fire's burn perimeter) within mapped burn severity classes [High, Moderate, Low, or Very Low/Unburned]; 2
- 2) the total number of locations where potential debris flow hazards [High, Moderate, Low, None] intersect with each road segment; and
- 3) the proportion of each road segment within a mapped FEMA flood zone.

County Roads that have been determined to be at high risk for debris flows and possible flooding include portions of the following: Laramie River Road, Manhattan Road, Pingree Hill, Buckhorn Road, CR 44H.

Private Road Analysis

Private roads were assessed similarly to the county roads, by assessing the road length within the fire area, the proportion of road per degree of burn severity (percentage of length), debris flow modeling, and the proportion of the road in a FEMA Floodplain. The private roads most at risk include:

- Agate Court
- Broadtail Road
- Cool Grove Lane
- Forest Road 129
- Marpa Point Road
- Moondance Way
- Stringtown Gulch Road
- U Bar U Lane
- Aspen Grove Hill Lane
- Calcite Court
- Crystal Mountain Road
- Granite Road
- Monument Gulch Way
- Quartz Road
- Skyline Ditch

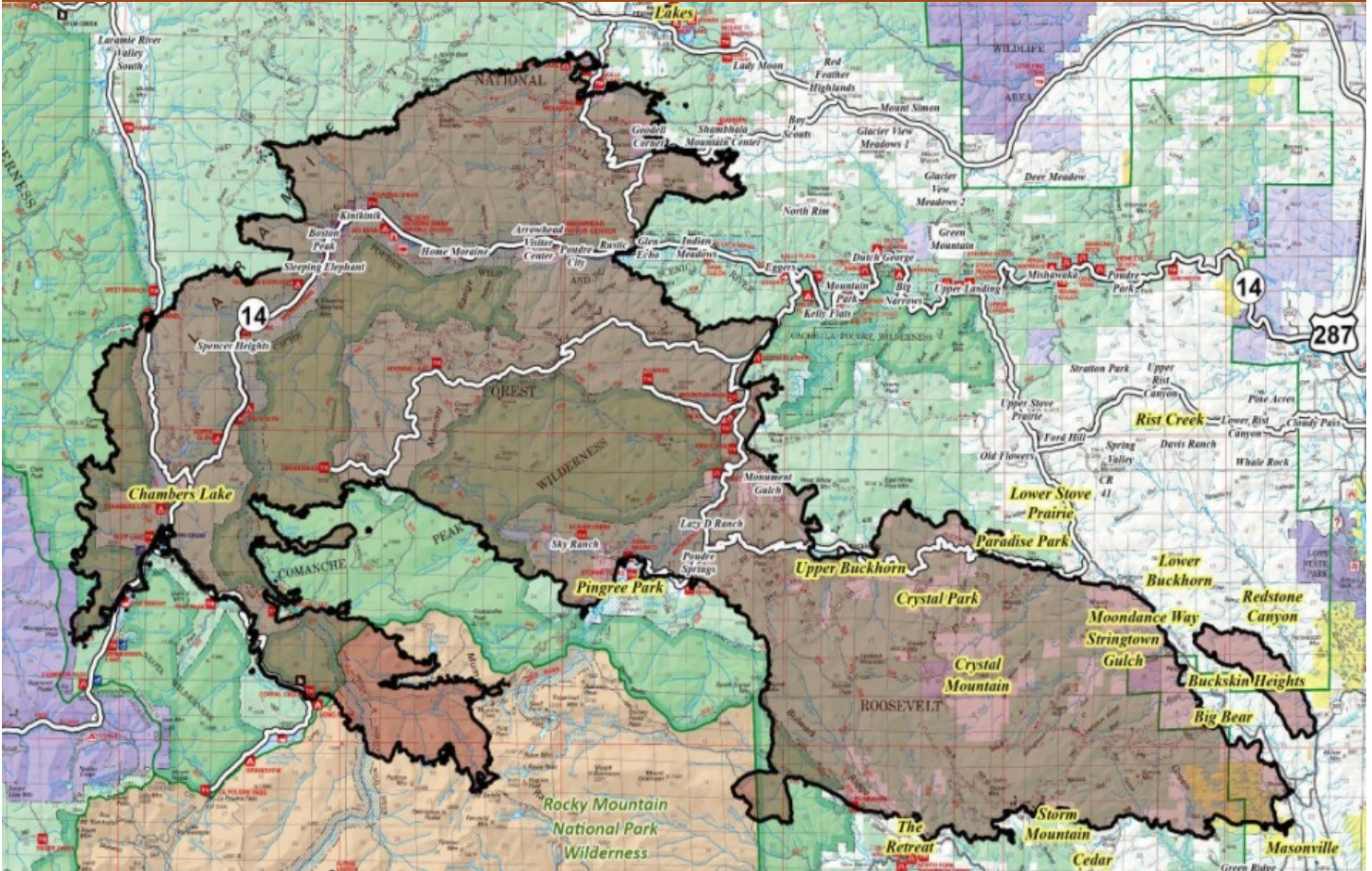
Areas of Greatest Concern

Laramie River Area

Buckhorn / CR 44H

Rustic / Glen Echo / Goodell Corner

Monument Gulch / Pingree Park Road



From the results of the Larimer Risk Assessment and the USFS BAER Assessment, the areas of greatest concern will be the areas of focus for initial mitigation work this Spring and Summer. Larimer County is currently working with the USFS, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and other partners in an effort to do the following:

- Remove loose debris in stream systems throughout the fire area to minimize the impact of debris clogging culverts or creating dams which would lead to flooding.
- Conduct erosion control measures along county road systems, including upsizing culverts, where appropriate, debris removal, and armoring of public roads and culverts against higher flows.
- Conduct erosion control along roads and hillsides on private and public lands, including possible tree felling efforts, use of silt socks, and other erosion control techniques.

Debris Removal & Property Clean-Up

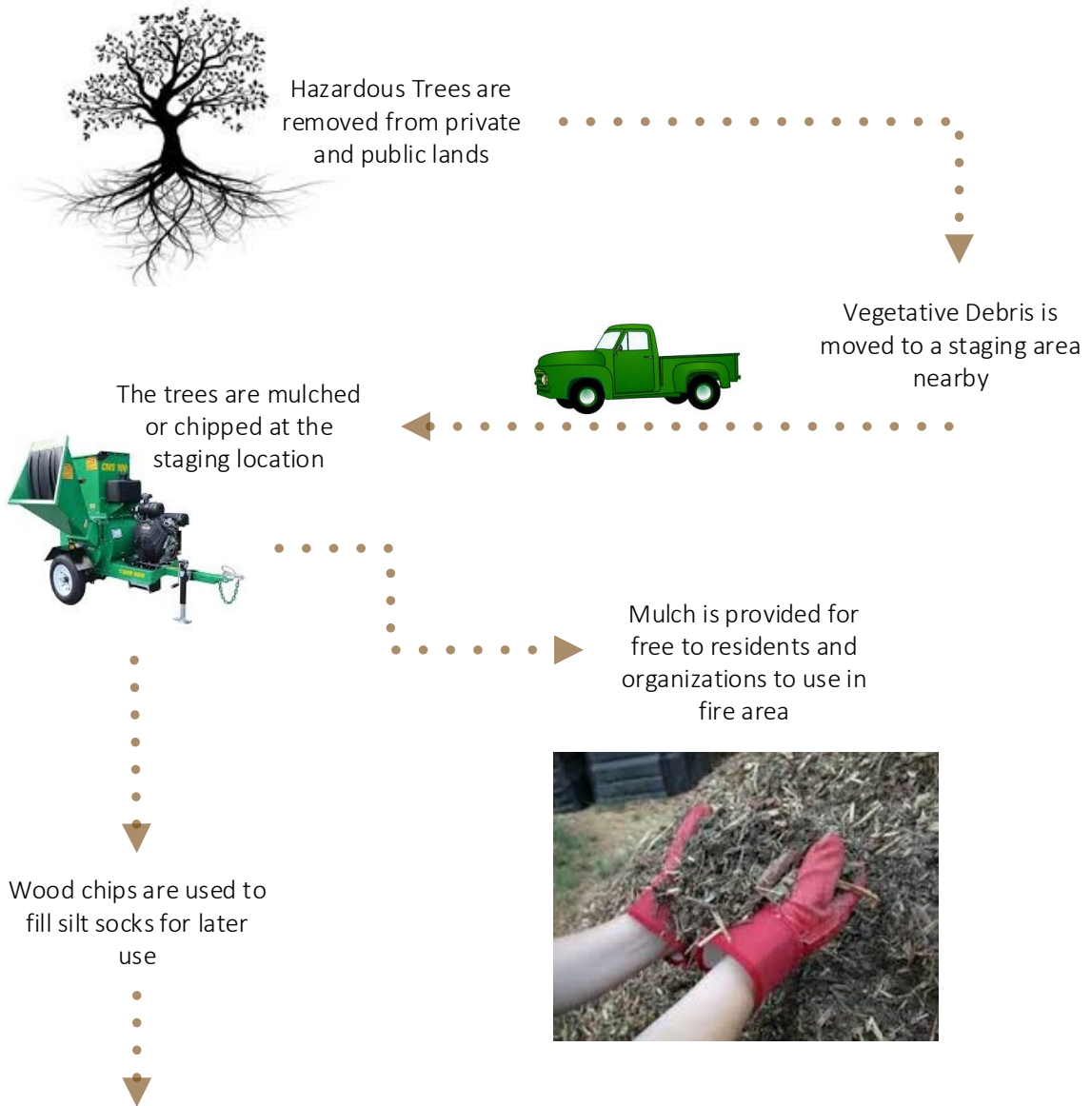
Debris Programs to Assist Community Members include: Streamway Debris Removal, Right of Way Debris Removal, Hazardous Tree Removal and Private Road Debris Removal.

- Streamway Debris Removal—Removing loose vegetative debris from the streams and rivers to decrease the chances of debris causing dams along culverts and bridges.
- Right of Way Debris Removal—Removing debris from county roads and county right of ways. This includes hazardous trees and woody debris that can cause a hazard. The county may also be able to set up staging locations for private debris.
- Hazardous Tree Removal – Post-wildfire, many burned trees become a significant hazard for falling, creating a danger to people on trails or roads. Larimer County Plans to request funding for hazard tree removal on both public and private roadways.



Vegetative Debris Removal Cycle

It is our hope that we will be able to use trees that are removed from the fire area for other post-fire recovery activities, saving money on transportation and providing a valuable service to community members.



Workers place the silt socks on public and private lands to help with erosion control



Community Input re: Debris

We need your help in determining the extent of the debris concerns within the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fire areas. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey at the following link to help us determine the extent of debris needs.

<https://forms.gle/Bev8rEVB64mn2EV17>

Responses should be received no later than March 31st. From that point, Larimer County will work with our debris contractor and with our volunteer partners to determine how best to approach debris needs within the county.



What Can Community Members Do?

- **Stay informed**
 - Attend educational sessions regarding post-fire impacts
 - Sign up for emergency Alerts at nocoalert.org
 - Purchase a weather radio to stay informed about weather changes in your area
- **Get Involved**
 - Organize Community Efforts for post-fire recovery
 - Neighbors helping neighbors is a great way to help those who most need it while building community connections.
 - Organize rehabilitation days or weekends for seeding, erosion control work or Planting
 - Take a Weather Spotter Course through the National Weather Service
- **Make a Plan**
 - Have a plan of action for wildfire and flood preparedness, response and recovery

Long-Term Recovery Group

We are working with several agencies to create large community volunteer projects to help with restoration and flood mitigation. Keep watching this newsletter for information

or visit <https://www.nocovolunteers.org/>

and sign up for fire recovery volunteer announcements.

<https://uwaylc.org/post/Larimer-County-Fire-Recovery-Fund>

LARIMER COUNTY FIRE RECOVERY FUND



Case Managers are working with fire survivors on unmet needs and rebuilding strategies.

To connect, call 970-232-1150 or

Email at: LarimerFires2020@lfsrm.org

Larimer County's Next Steps

- Determine staging locations for debris and for tree mulching/chipping efforts.
- Determine staging areas for sandbags for community use
- Obtain all necessary permits for work in the fire area
- Begin contractor work for debris operations
- Work with the Larimer Conservation Corps on summer project areas
- Obtain additional funding for mitigation projects
- Recruit volunteers for community work
- Educate the public about flood risk and debris flow risk
- Train community members as Weather Spotters
- Get to Work!



For more information:

Larimer County Office of Emergency Management

(970) 498-7120

oem@larimer.org

www.larimer.org/wildfire-resources

