

**PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOULDER CO
600 AM MDT SUN MARCH 15 2015**

Flood and wildfire season is approaching. You should know your risks...make your plans...improve your outcome. Next week... March 15th through 21st...is Colorado Flood Safety and Wildfire Preparedness Week.

NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. You should know how to stay safe when flood and wildfire hazards affect your area.

Flood prone areas have been identified in over 250 cities and towns and in all 64 counties in Colorado. Over 250 thousand people live in floodplains in Colorado. It is estimated that 65 thousand homes and 15 thousand commercial...industrial...and business structures are in identified floodplains. There are likely many more structures located within unmapped flood hazard areas. The value of the property...structures...and contents located in the identified floodplains is estimated to be nearly 15 billion dollars.

Floods and flash floods have killed over 400 people and have caused billions of dollars of damage since the turn of the 20th century in Colorado. The historic weather pattern of September 2013 reminds us all that floods are a major concern across the centennial state.

On average...2500 wildfires occur across Colorado each year. Since 2012...eight people have been killed in wildfires in the wildland-urban interface.

The National Weather Service forecast offices that serve Colorado will provide information during this preparedness week.

Sunday...Introduction to the week
Monday...Flood watches and warnings
Tuesday...River floods
Wednesday...Flash floods
Thursday...Fire forecasts...watches...and warnings
Friday...Wildfire safety and mitigation
Saturday...Review of the week

More information on floods and wildfires is available at your local National Weather Service web sites...

http://www.weather.gov/denver	NWS Denver/Boulder web site
http://www.weather.gov/pueblo	NWS Pueblo web site
http://www.weather.gov/goodland	NWS Goodland web site
http://www.weather.gov/gjt	NWS Grand Junction web site

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