



TOWN OF ELIZABETH

CHIEF OF POLICE JEFF ENGEL

TO: *Mayor Angela Ternus, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchins, and Board of Trustees*

FROM: Jeffery R. Engel, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Adoption of Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan

DATE: August 25, 2026

SUMMARY:

As a small community without a formal Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Town has historically partnered with the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management during large-scale emergencies and disasters that exceed local response capabilities. Elbert County OEM maintains an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that establishes the roles, responsibilities, authorities, and coordination processes necessary to effectively respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

The proposed EOP is built upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Lifelines Framework, the nationally recognized model for incident analysis, situational awareness, resource prioritization, and coordinated response operations. The framework focuses on stabilizing critical community functions and provides a common operating plan for emergency responders and decision-makers during incidents.

As identified in Section 3.3 of the EOP, Elbert County provides strategic emergency management support and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordination for municipalities that do not maintain dedicated emergency management programs. While the County facilitates Unified Command, interagency coordination, and resource support during significant incidents, the Town retains its statutory authority and operational control of incidents occurring within its jurisdiction.

Adoption of the Elbert County EOP will formally align the Town's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts with current emergency management best practices while enhancing regional coordination and access to resources during emergencies and disasters.



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Colorado Association of
Chiefs of Police



TOWN OF ELIZABETH

CHIEF OF POLICE JEFF ENGEL

ANALYSIS:

The proposed EOP incorporates FEMA's Community Lifelines Framework, which is widely used to assess incident impacts, establish priorities, and coordinate response and recovery efforts among local, state, and federal partners. Adoption aligns the Town's emergency planning efforts with current emergency preparedness standards and regional response protocols.

The plan identifies the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of local officials, departments, and partner agencies during emergencies and disasters. Establishing these expectations in advance promotes a common understanding of decision-making processes, coordination, and organizational responsibilities before an incident occurs.

Because the Town does not maintain a dedicated emergency management program, the EOP formalizes coordination with the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management and establishes procedures for requesting resources, obtaining incident support, and participating in Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activities during significant events.

Adoption of the EOP establishes a standardized framework for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. The plan promotes a coordinated approach to protecting life, property, critical infrastructure, and the continuity of essential governmental services during emergencies and disasters.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the direction of the Office of Emergency Management, staff reviewed the Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and recommended adoption of the plan by the Board of Trustees.

The EOP has been reviewed by the Town Attorney.

ATTACHMENT(S)

2027 EOP

Resolution 26R



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RESOLUTION 26R25

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE ELBERT COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP), SUPERSEDING THE ADOPTION OF 1995 ELBERT COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UNDER RESOLUTION 95R03.

WHEREAS, the Town seeks to work collaboratively with the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management during local disasters;

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to clarify roles, responsibilities, and cost arrangements related to the response to disasters; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement sets forth the mutual understanding of the Parties and does not create a binding contract for goods or services beyond the terms stated herein.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF ELIZABETH, COLORADO AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board of Trustees hereby approves **the** adoption of the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan (EOP); hereto as **Exhibit A**, and authorizes the Mayor to execute the same on behalf of the Town.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026, by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Elizabeth, Colorado, on first and final reading, by a vote of _____ for and _____ against.

Angela Ternus, Mayor

ATTEST

Michelle M. Oeser, Town Clerk

Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)



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1 Base Plan

1.1 Promulgation

The preservation of life, property, and the environment is a primary responsibility of the Elbert County government. To ensure the county is prepared to face the risks posed by natural, technological, and human-caused hazards, we hereby authorize and promulgate the Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

This plan serves as the official framework for emergency management activities within Elbert County. It establishes an organizational structure and assigns specific responsibilities to county departments and partner agencies, ensuring a coordinated and effective response under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

By signing this document, the Board of County Commissioners authorizes the following:

1. **Execution of Authority:** The Elbert County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is authorized to coordinate the activities described within this plan during a declared local disaster or emergency.
2. **FEMA Lifeline Integration:** All county departments and agencies are directed to develop and maintain the necessary Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) and resource inventories required to stabilize FEMA Community Lifelines. Our collective response will prioritize the rapid stabilization of Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; and Hazardous Materials.
3. **Supersession:** This document officially supersedes all previous versions of the Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan.
4. **Continuous Improvement:** This plan is a living document. The OEM Director is tasked with regular updates, testing, and revisions to ensure it remains current with state and federal standards.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

County Commissioners		
District 1	District 2	District 3
Mike Buck	Dallas Schroeder	Byron McDaniel

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1.2 Concurrence

The following officials have reviewed the Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). By signing below, we agree to coordinate our agency's resources and personnel in accordance with the procedures and roles outlined in this plan to ensure a unified response to disasters within Elbert County.

Elbert County Government		
Sheriff, Tim Norton	Manager, Shawn Fletcher	Coroner, Sandy Graeff
Attorney, Lance Ingalls	Public Health, Sara McIntosh	County Clerk & Recorder, Rhonda Braun
Municipalities		
Elizabeth Mayor, Angela Ternus	Kiowa Mayor, Tammy Hart	Simla Mayor, Ryan Fulmer
Elizabeth Police Chief, Jeff Engel	Simla Police Chief, Andrew Kissam	
Fire Protection Districts		
Elizabeth, T.J. Steck	Kiowa, Gerry Lamansky	Rattlesnake, Cass Kilduff
Big Sandy, Jim Haus	Agate, Larry Rector	North Central, Robert Nelson
Elbert, Brandon Homer		

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1.3 Record of Changes

Date	Subject	Page	Authorized By
	Rewrite of entire EOP		BOCC

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2 Introduction

The Elbert County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes the framework for how the county and its partner jurisdictions respond to and recover from disasters. Recognizing that emergencies often disrupt the essential services that keep a community functioning, this plan utilizes the FEMA Community Lifelines framework. Our primary objective is to protect life and property by rapidly stabilizing these vital lifelines:

- Safety and Security
- Food, Water, and Shelter
- Health and Medical
- Energy
- Communications
- Transportation
- Hazardous Materials.

2.1 Purpose and Scope

This EOP provides the legal and organizational structure for coordinating a multi-agency response. It is designed to be scalable, addressing everything from localized emergencies to catastrophic events that may require state and federal assistance. The plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of county departments, municipal governments (including Elizabeth, Kiowa, and Simla), and special districts to ensure a unified effort under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

2.2 Hazard Landscape

Elbert County is a diverse mix of growing suburban communities and expansive rural ranch lands. This unique geography presents a variety of challenges, including high-risk wildfires, severe winter storms, and tornadoes. By focusing on the stabilization of lifelines, this plan allows responders to identify where service gaps exist and prioritize resources where they are needed most, regardless of the specific hazard type.

2.3 Authorities

The EOP is developed under the authority of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-701) and is formally promulgated by the Elbert County Board of County Commissioners. It stands as the primary guide for the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management in its mission to build a resilient and prepared county.

2.4 Mission Statement

The mission of Elbert County during an emergency is to save lives, protect property and the environment, and restore the community's essential lifelines through proactive mitigation, comprehensive planning, and a coordinated response.

2.5 Situational Overview

2.5.1 Demographics

Elbert County is a rapidly growing rural-suburban community of ~31,724 residents, characterized by low population density and high homeownership. The demographic mix of families and seniors requires emergency planning that accounts for both school safety and functional access needs across a vast 1,851-square-mile area. Despite logistical challenges, the county's high median income and 94.5%

broadband connectivity provide a strong foundation for resilient emergency communications and real-time alerting.

Elbert County Demographic & Socioeconomic Summary:

Category	Statistic	Emergency Management Implication
Total Population	31,724 (37.1% growth since 2010)*	Rapid growth increases the "Wildland-Urban Interface" (WUI) risk.
Population Density	15.1 people per square mile*	Long response times and challenges in door-to-door notifications.
Vulnerable Groups	19.8% Seniors / 21.1% Children*	Requires specialized evacuation and mass care sheltering plans.
Veteran Population	2,000+ residents*	A significant demographic with potential skills for volunteer support.
Homeownership	95% Owner-occupied*	High community investment; likely high demand for property protection.
Economic Status	\$132,685 Median Income / 5.7% Poverty*	Indicates a generally self-sufficient population with low displacement vulnerability.
Connectivity	94.5% Broadband Subscription*	High efficacy for digital alerts (Elbert County Alert - RAVE) and virtual EOC updates.

***Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates; World Population Review (2026 Projections)

2.5.2 Geography

Elbert County is a diverse 1,851-square-mile region that transitions from high-elevation Ponderosa pine forests in the west to open grasslands and prairies in the east. Due to a near total lack of standing surface water, the county's vast agricultural sector (which occupies 93% of the land) and growing residential areas depend almost exclusively on the Denver Basin aquifer system for water.

Elbert County Geographic & Hydrologic Profile:

Feature	Description	Operational Significance
Total Area	~1,851 Square Miles**	Vast response area requiring coordinated district efforts.
Elevation Range	5,000 ft (East) to 7,400+ ft (West)**	Significant topographical differences impacting fire behavior.
Western Terrain	Rolling hills & Ponderosa pine forests**	Higher fuel loads and increasing residential density.
Central/Eastern Terrain	Open grasslands & high-desert prairies**	Wind-driven fire risks across agricultural lands.

Feature	Description	Operational Significance
Hydrology	Seasonal streams (Kiowa, Running, Bijou Creeks)**	Limited natural water sources for suppression operations.
Water Dependency	Denver Basin aquifer system**	Near-total reliance on groundwater for agriculture and residential use.
Land Use	93% Farming and Ranching**	Agriculture-driven economy requiring robust livestock protection plans (by the owners).

**** Sources:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR); USDA Census of Agriculture; Elbert County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); Elbert County Comprehensive Plan.

2.5.3 Hazard Profile

Elbert County faces significant risks from frequent wildfires and extreme weather events that can isolate rural communities and sever critical transportation routes. The county's total reliance on groundwater, combined with potential hazardous material spills and strained infrastructure, necessitates a focus on stabilizing lifelines to mitigate disaster impacts.

Elbert County ranked hazard profile:

Risk [†]	Hazard [†]	Reason [†]
High	Wildfire	• One of the most concerning hazards for the county. • Worsening conditions (longer seasons and rapidly increasing fire sizes) elevate this to the highest priority threat.
	Severe Winter Weather	• Effects are wide-reaching and dangerous. • Historical events causing large amounts of damage and completely halting day-to-day operations. • Severe threat of isolation for vulnerable populations
	Drought	• Massive geographic footprint and frequency. • Previously affected 100% of the county for nearly a year. • Worsening water quality. • Creating dust for air quality issues. • Fueling wildfire risks.
	Public Health Hazards	• Capable of quickly affecting the entire population. • Persistent threat of epidemics and pandemics.
	Severe Weather (Hail, Lightning, Windstorm)	• Thunderstorms are a frequent occurrence that present multiple risks and have caused considerable damage. • Impacts are typically less universally paralyzing than county-wide winter weather.

Risk [†]	Hazard [†]	Reason [†]
		• Footprint is generally more localized per event.
	Flood	• Significant history of flash flooding and potential for extensive building damage. • Majority of buildings and property exposed to flooding are agricultural structures and parcels.
Moderate	Extreme Heat	• 181 extreme heat events occurred between 1979 and 2019. • Severe threat for vulnerable populations.
	Hazardous Materials Release	• 17 fixed storage facilities. • Designated transport route on I-70
	Tornado	• Occurred multiple times in the county. • Track record of reaching EF2 strength and causing some damages.
	Cyber Hazards	• No known cyber-attacks in the county to date. • Overarching threat is increasingly more common.
	Earthquake	• Very minor threat. • Future event would likely have a low magnitude.
	Dam / Levee Incident	• Lowest risk. • 82 jurisdictional dams is classified as low hazard or no public hazard (NPH).

† **Source:** *Elbert County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023.*

2.6 Planning Assumptions

Planning assumptions are the "accepted set of operational conditions" that provide the foundation for your protocols. For Elbert County, these assumptions should address the reality that while help is available, the county must be prepared to be self-sufficient in the initial hours of a disaster.

Category	Assumption
General	• All incidents will be managed at the lowest possible level and conducted in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). • While some events like winter storms allow for advanced warning, others like wildfires or tornadoes may occur with little to no notice. • Local jurisdictions should not expect significant State resources for 24 to 36 hours, or Federal resources for 48 to 72 hours after an incident. • Disasters may result in the loss of basic utilities, including electricity, water, telecommunications, and internet.

Category	Assumption
County Stakeholders	• Success depends on collaboration between all levels of government, the private sector, and volunteer organizations. • County and town governments must continue to function under all emergency conditions to provide essential services. • The public will expect timely information and guidance from the government during a threat. • If local resources are exhausted, assistance will be requested through existing mutual aid agreements and intergovernmental channels.
Functional	• The Sheriff's Office may need property access (e.g., gate codes) to conduct life-saving operations. • Planning must account for residents with specific access and functional needs (AFN) that may require specialized assistance. • Residents will need assistance with animal care and control, particularly given the county's large agricultural and ranching population.

3 Concept of Operations

The Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for Elbert County establishes a tiered and scalable response strategy designed to manage incidents from their initial local onset through full recovery. All operations are conducted under the National Incident Management System (NIMS), ensuring that field-level responders and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) utilize a unified command structure. The primary objective during any activation is the rapid stabilization of FEMA Community Lifelines. By focusing on these essential services, the county can prioritize resource allocation based on the root cause of a disruption rather than just the symptoms of the hazard itself.

The execution of this plan occurs in four distinct phases, beginning with continuous readiness and monitoring by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Once a threat is identified, the EOC may be activated to provide centralized coordination, situational awareness, and resource support for the Incident Commander in the field. During sustained operations, the EOC facilitates the mobilization of mutual aid and integrates state or federal assets as local capabilities are exceeded. Finally, as lifelines reach a stable state, the focus shifts to demobilization and the transition to long-term recovery, ensuring that essential county functions are fully reconstituted and that the community is supported as it returns to new normal.

3.1 Community Lifelines

Community Lifelines are the most fundamental services that, when stable, allow a community to function. If one or more of these lifelines are disrupted, it threatens the health and safety of the population and can lead to a total breakdown of social and economic stability.

FEMA identifies seven specific lifelines:

- **Safety and Security:** Law enforcement, fire, and government services.
- **Food, Water, and Shelter:** Basic human needs and the supply chain.
- **Health and Medical:** Hospitals, EMS, and pharmaceutical supplies.
- **Energy:** The power grid and fuel supplies (gas/diesel).
- **Communications:** Cell service, internet, 911 dispatch, and radio.
- **Transportation:** Roads, bridges, and mass transit.

- **Hazardous Materials:** Management of chemicals and environmental threats.

During a disaster, emergency managers use these as a status report to quickly identify which service is "broken" and prioritize resources there first to prevent the situation from getting worse.

3.1.1 Lifeline Assignments

The following table identifies which Elbert County departments and partners serve as lead agencies for each of the seven FEMA Community Lifelines.

Community Lifeline	Lead Elbert County Agency	Primary Supporting Partners
Safety and Security	Elbert County Sheriff's Office	Local Fire Protection Districts, OEM
Food, Water, and Shelter	Department of Human Services	Red Cross, Local Food Banks, Public Health
Health and Medical	Elbert County Public Health	County Coroner, Regional Hospitals
Energy	Office of Emergency Management	Xcel Energy, CORE, Mountain View Electric, Black Hills Energy
Communications	DCSO Dispatch	ARES, ECCA, Private Telecoms
Transportation	Public Works Department	CDOT, Town Maintenance Departments, School District Buses
Hazardous Materials	Fire Protection Districts / CSP	Sheriff's Office, Elbert County Public Health, CDPHE

3.1.2 Lifeline Objectives

The following table identifies strategic objectives for the seven FEMA Community Lifelines.

Lifeline	Objectives
Safety and Security	• Within first operational period, establish an ICP and activate the EOC for coordination. • As appropriate, initiate SAR, and evacuations (residents and animals). • Provide enhanced LE presence in evacuated areas and along evacuation routes. • Develop a phased re-entry plan for evacuated residents and animals.

Lifeline	Objectives
	Establish and manage long-term debris collection and reduction sites.
Food, Water, Shelter	- Open and staff congregate shelter(s) within 6 to 12 hours of incident. - Evaluate the status of local potable water (e.g. town water, private wells) determine need of alternate potable water delivery (PODs). - Establish temporary animal (small and large) sheltering. - Establish feeding for evacuated residents. - Develop plans to transition from emergency congregate sheltering to temporary or interim housing. - Coordinate testing, treatment, and remediation of private domestic and agricultural wells impacted from incident. - Develop plans with partners for feeding and veterinary care for sheltered animals/livestock.
Health and Medical	- Ensure continuous operation of county EMS and triage systems. - Ensure appropriate support for impacted residents with access and functional needs (AFN). - Publish immediate health and safety guidance to the public impacted by the incident. - Provide comprehensive behavioral and mental health support and services for residents and responders. - Establish long-term public health monitoring for post disaster environmental impacts. - Ensure local clinics and EMS are resupplied and operational for routine calls for service.
Energy	- Coordinate with utility providers for prioritization of power restoration. - Develop and execute a refueling plan for emergency generators both public and private. - Develop and execute a refueling plan for emergency vehicles and residents affected by the incident. - Communicate restoration plans with community. - Identify opportunities to harden the energy infrastructure in coordination with providers. - Monitor retail fuel stations and agriculture bulk fuel suppliers for effective community distribution.
Communications	- Utilize local mass notification systems and social media to issue timely, accurate emergency alerts, evacuation routes, and life-safety instructions to impacted residents. - Ensure continuous, interoperable radio communications for responding agencies.

Lifeline	Objectives
	• Coordinate with partners to identify and track primary communication networks (e.g. 911, cellular, broadband) to expedite repair. • Identify opportunities to upgrade damaged infrastructure with providers. • Support a regional joint information system (JIS) and staff a joint information center (JIC) as needed. • Create systems (e.g. 211, call centers) for residents to request specific support or receive detailed instructions for support.
Transportation	• Prioritize the clearing of hazards from transportation routes in coordination with local and State partners. • Establish liaison coordination with CDOT for clearing I-70 and State Routes within Elbert County. • Conduct rapid assessment of county roads, bridges, and culverts for damage or potential damage from the incident. • Develop plans to transition from emergency clearing to long-term repair/reconstruction of compromised infrastructure. • Ensure all local commercial routes are fully operational for commercial traffic. • Identify opportunities to upgrade damaged infrastructure and engineer long-term mitigation strategies to protect from future damage.
HAZMAT	• Rapidly identify, isolate and control entry to areas affected/threatened by hazardous materials spill/leak. • Coordinate regional HAZMAT response to support local HAZMAT capabilities. • Coordinate containment strategies to prevent hazardous runoff negatively impacting the environment. • Develop and execute long-term cleanup and decontamination of impacted area. • Coordinate with state environmental and agricultural agencies cleanup and decontamination efforts. • Identify opportunities to update county hazard risk assessment for HAZMAT and develop plan to better protect community.

3.2 County Coordination

Elbert County coordinates emergencies by separating tactical command, led by on-scene Incident Commanders, from strategic support, managed by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). To handle geographic challenges, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) utilizes a scalable staffing model and a split operation approach, with a Field Coordinator on-scene and another managing the EOC.

3.2.1 Coordination Framework

Operational Element	Description	Functional Responsibility
Tactical Command	Absolute authority over the immediate incident site.	On-scene Incident Commanders (Fire, Law, Public Works).
Strategic Support	Central coordination of resources and policy.	Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Personnel.
Scalable Staffing	Flexible activation of personnel based on incident size.	OEM Leadership, County Staff, and Credentialed Volunteers.
Field Coordinator	Direct on-scene liaison to Incident Command.	Deployed OEM representative for real-time intelligence.
EOC Operations	Management of county-wide situational awareness.	Remaining OEM staff providing strategic support and resource tracking.

3.3 Municipal Coordination

3.3.1 Operational Reality and Governance

Elbert County provides strategic emergency management and EOC support, managing resource coordination for local municipalities that lack dedicated programs. While the county facilitates Unified Command, local municipalities retain statutory authority and tactical control over incidents within their boundaries.

Interjurisdictional Coordination Framework:

Element	Description	Operational Role
Tactical Response	Immediate field operations and life-safety missions.	Municipal Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Districts.
Emergency Management	Strategic coordination and resource management.	Elbert County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
Statutory Authority	Legal responsibility for the incident within town limits.	Municipal Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).
EOC Support	Centralized hub for resource prioritization and policy.	Elbert County EOC (Strategic, not Tactical).
Unified Command	Joint decision-making for multi-jurisdictional events.	Facilitated by County to integrate diverse local and state agencies.

3.3.2 Financial Accountability and Standardization

Elbert County EOC activation does not transfer financial liability from municipalities, which remain fiscally responsible for their own response and recovery costs. To ensure interoperability and maximize reimbursement eligibility, municipalities must adhere to County emergency standards, including lifeline-

based operations and integrated alert systems. Additionally, the County serves as the mandatory portal for escalating local resource requests to the State (DHSEM) once municipal capabilities are exhausted.

Municipal Financial and Operational Responsibility Framework:

Category	Policy Requirement	Operational Impact
Financial Liability	Municipalities retain full fiscal responsibility.	Response and recovery costs are not assumed by the County.
Cost Recovery	Governed by IGAs and strict documentation.	Eligibility for reimbursement depends on following County Finance Policy.
Interoperability	Alignment with County EM standards.	Mandatory use of lifeline concepts and shared alert systems (Rave).
Resource Escalation	Single path through Elbert County OEM.	Local requests must be vetted by the County before reaching the State (DHSEM or CDPHE).
Preparedness	Active participation in County efforts.	Ensures unified training and planning prior to incidents.

3.3.3 Division of Roles and Responsibilities

The following table outlines the standardized expectations and coordination pathways between Elbert County and its municipalities during an escalating incident.

Operational Function	Municipal Responsibility (AHJ)	Elbert County Responsibility (Coordination & Support)
Command & Control	- Establish and direct field Incident Command (IC). - Make tactical and life-safety decisions within local boundaries.	- Support IC through EOC activation. - Facilitate Unified Command for multi-jurisdictional incidents; never assume tactical field command.
Resource Coordination	- Exhaust local mutual aid agreements. - Notify County OEM when an incident threatens to exceed local capacity or impact Community Lifelines.	- Provide a common operating picture. - Prioritize and coordinate complex resources, logistics, and mutual aid across the entire county.
Financial & Cost Recovery	- Track and document all incident-related expenses. - Retain primary financial responsibility for local response and recovery efforts.	- Provide guidance on disaster documentation requirements. - Support municipalities in navigating state/federal (FEMA) public assistance programs.
Public Alert & Warning	Identify the need for evacuations and draft	Disseminate integrated public warnings via County systems (e.g.,

Operational Function	Municipal Responsibility (AHJ)	Elbert County Responsibility (Coordination & Support)
	localized public messaging parameters.	Rave) and coordinate regional evacuation routing.
State & Federal Escalation	Route all requests for state or federal assistance explicitly through the Elbert County EOC.	Serve as the single point of contact to process, validate, and escalate resource requests to Colorado DHSEM.
Preparedness & Standards	- Develop local Emergency Action Plans (EAPs). - Participate in County led training, exercises, and preparedness planning.	- Maintain the comprehensive EOP. - Drive standardization of lifeline reporting, ICS forms, and communication interoperability.

3.4 EOP Activation and Emergency Declaration

The Director of Emergency Management is authorized to activate the Elbert County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) based on incident conditions, anticipated impacts, or operational needs.

Activation decisions will be made in coordination with County leadership, including the County Manager and Board of County Commissioners as appropriate; however, the Director retains the authority to initiate EOC activation to ensure timely coordination and response. These activations are based on lifeline impacts, resource demands, geographic scope, expected duration of incident, and complexity of incident.

Elbert County utilizes a four-tier activation system to align response posture with incident complexity:

Activation Level	Activities
Level 4	- Routine monitoring - No EOC activation - OEM maintains situational awareness
Level 3	- Potential or emerging incident - Increased coordination with partners - Internal readiness posture elevated
Level 2	- Limited EOC activation - Focus on specific lifelines or operational areas - Targeted agency engagement - May be in-person or virtual staffing
Level 1	- Major incident or multi-jurisdictional impact - Full coordination environment - Expanded staffing - In-person staffing mandatory

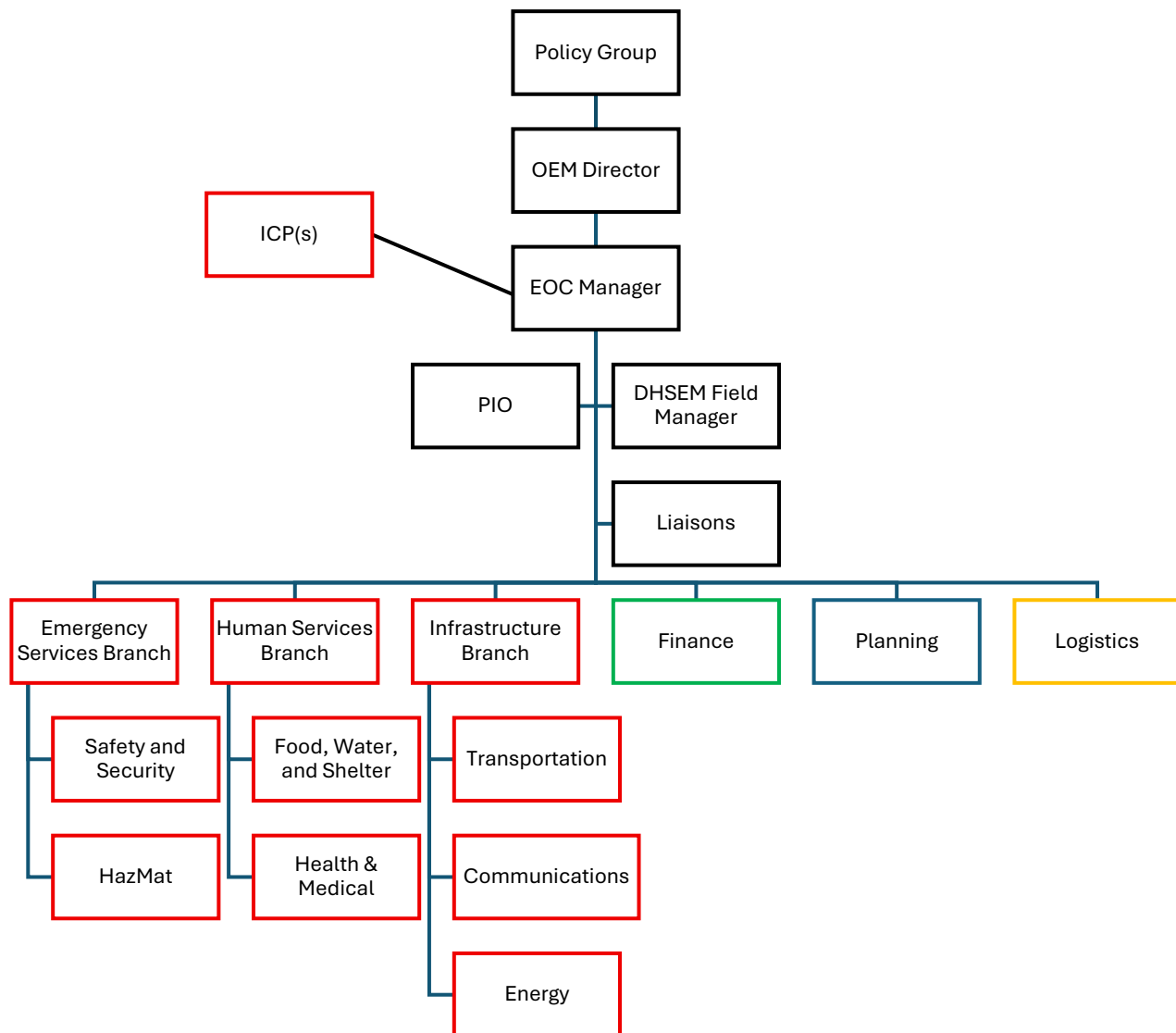
4 Organization and Assignment

The Elbert County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) follows the Incident Support Model (ISM) driven by FEMA Community Lifelines. The EOC organizes its staff into functional support groups, such as Situational Awareness and Resource Support, dedicated entirely to consequence management rather than operational disciplines. This structure allows the EOC to act as a strategic hub, continuously analyzing data to anticipate cascading impacts on critical lifelines (e.g. Energy, Transportation, and Food/Water/Shelter) and aggressively sourcing resources to resolve limiting factors, thereby freeing on-scene Incident Commanders to focus exclusively on life-safety and hazard stabilization.

4.1 Disaster Organization

Group	Expectations	Function
Policy (BOCC, Town, Dist. Board)	Declaring local states of emergency, authorizing emergency expenditures, and setting overall policy priorities.	Acting as the primary link to constituents and the media to provide public assurance.
Coordination (OEM)	Managing interagency coordination, facilitating resource requests between local, state, and federal levels, and maintaining situational awareness.	Serving as the bridge between town departments, special districts, and NGOs.
Operations (Town)	Task-specific roles based on daily capabilities (e.g., Public Works for debris removal, Police for security).	Designating departmental representatives to staff the EOC during activation.
Stake Holders (Fire Dist.)	Managing their own specific infrastructure and resources while following the EOP's unified command structure.	Participating in mutual aid agreements and providing technical experts to the EOC as needed.
Community Partners (NGOs)	Managing mass care (sheltering/feeding), volunteer management, and social services.	Operating under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to ensure their resources are integrated into the broader response framework.

4.2 EOC Organization Chart



Detailed descriptions and Job action Sheets for the EOC command and general staff positions can be found in Appendix 3, 4, and 5 of this document.

5 Coordination

5.1 ICS Integration

By adopting Incident Command System (ICS) principles and aligning functional sections, the county ensures Emergency Operations Center (EOC) personnel share a common language with on-scene responders to accelerate resource delivery. Integrating the seven Community Lifelines into this structure enables an outcome-based approach that prioritizes resources based on community-wide stability and critical service gaps.

5.1.1 ICS and Lifeline Integration Framework

Integration Element	Methodology	Operational Impact
Common Terminology	Aligns EOC language with ICS field standards.	Eliminates communication barriers between the EOC and Incident Command.
Functional Sections	Mirrors Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance.	Creates a seamless flow of information and authority for scaling to State/Federal levels.
Reporting Framework	Uses Lifelines to categorize incident status (Red/Yellow/Green).	Provides a clear, color-coded Common Operating Picture for decision-makers.
Outcome-Based Priority	Prioritizes stabilization of critical community functions.	Ensures resources are directed to the most urgent threats to life and safety.
Strategic Bridging	Links tactical on-scene data to long-term restoration goals.	Transforms technical field reports into high-level policy and recovery actions.

5.2 Command vs Coordination

The distinction between command and coordination lies in their scope and location. Command is a tactical, on-scene function led by an Incident Commander to manage immediate life-safety actions and personnel. In contrast, coordination is a strategic, off-site function managed by the EOC that focuses on the "big picture," including resource prioritization across multiple scenes and liaison with state or federal partners.

5.2.1 Command vs. Coordination Framework

Feature	Command (Tactical)	Coordination (Strategic)
Primary Location	At the scene of the emergency (Incident Command Post).	Off-site (Emergency Operations Center).
Focus	Direct life-safety actions and immediate hazard stabilization.	The "big picture," county-wide awareness, and long-term stabilization.
Authority	Direct orders to personnel and tactical resource management.	Strategic support, resource prioritization, and policy integration.
Decision-Making	Rapid, site-specific decisions to resolve a specific incident.	Resolving resource conflicts between multiple scenes and external liaison.
Stakeholders	Direct responders (Fire, Law, EMS, Public Works).	County leadership, state/federal partners, and NGOs.

6 Intelligence

6.1 Lifeline Status Reporting

Lifeline status reporting is a consequence driven framework that shifts EOC focus from raw infrastructure damage to critical community impacts, enabling rapid, data driven resource prioritization. By using a standardized color-coded system justified by the Root Cause, Action, and Limiting Factor (RAL) format, it provides leadership with a clear picture of unmet needs and cascading operational threats. This approach streamlines traditional, narrative heavy Situational Reports (SitRep) into actionable matrices, directly driving the EOCs planning cycle to better utilize tactical resources for life sustaining services first.

Color Coded Status Spectrum	
Green (Stabilized)	Operational – May have sustained damage or be operating on temporary workarounds (e.g. generator power), but essential service is being provided to the community.
Yellow (Stabilizing)	Disrupted – Stabilization is underway. Workarounds are being implemented and work is being conducted to make Operational to the community.
Red (Unstable)	Disrupted – Services are not being provided. No viable workarounds are in place or underway. Cascading negative impacts on other Lifelines exists. Immediate intervention and resources are required.
Grey (Unknown)	Undetermined – more information is needed to assess the Lifeline.

An effective Lifeline Status Report needs more than just a color, it needs to be justified as well. This can be accomplished from a RAL format (Root Cause, Action, Limiting Factor)

- Root Cause – a concise statement of why the Lifeline is unstable and the specific consequence to the community.
- Actions – What are the specific, tactical steps underway to stabilize the Lifeline.
- Limiting Factors (Unmet Needs) – What are the friction points preventing stabilization.

6.2 Information Tracking and Lifeline Stabilization

The EOC collects and analyzes data directly from the seven lifelines to build a comprehensive picture of the community impact. This allows the EOC to better predict cascading consequences of the incident. This Lifeline centric practice ensures EOC sections share a unified operational picture focused on community stabilization.

6.2.1 Information Tracking

Example of information tracking and predictive analysis:

Lifeline	Key data streams	Predictive outcome
Safety and Security	• 911 call load • Fire units assigned • Social Media threat indicators	• Predicting local responder burnout. • Tracking incident clusters

Lifeline	Key data streams	Predictive outcome
Food, Water, Shelter	- Shelter intake rates - Private well disruption - Impacted livestock	- Predicting long-term interim housing. - Losses due to livestock impact
Health and Medical	- EMS transport times - Local hospital capacity - AFN affected population	- Real time tracking of EMS resources. - Real time tracking of hospital capacity.
Energy	- Percentage of residents without power - Tracking fuel burn rates for power generators	- Tracking timeline of power restoration - Predicting necessity of refueling
Communications	- Percentage of outage across county - Monitor RAVE delivery failure rates	- Preemptively deploy alternate communication systems (ARES) - Use alternate alerting methods
Transportation	- Monitor road clearing rate - Unpaved roads washout reports	- Forecast clearing rate to delivery interruption - Forecast road restoration
HAZMAT	- Environmental impact reports - Agricultural impact reports	Predict short and long term environmental impacts

6.2.2 Lifeline Stabilization Metrics

Metrics are used to determine Lifeline Stabilization; these are objective focused used to determine if a Lifeline is shifting from Red to Green. These targets help determine Incident Support Plans (ISP) to coordinate resources.

Lifeline	Operational Metric	Stabilization Target
Safety and Security	Percentage of evacuation zones secured for repopulation	- All hazards mitigated - New normal of operations
Food, Water, Shelter	- Trajectory of shelter populations - Percentage of commercial food supply operational. - Percentage of commercial agriculture supply operational.	- Shelter population steadily decreases. - Food supply chain functioning without support - Agriculture supply chain functioning without support

Lifeline	Operational Metric	Stabilization Target
Health and Medical	911 calls answered with standard response. - AFN population self sufficient	- Residents with AFN supported by normal support means. - EMS operating without regional support
Energy	- Percentage of primary grid restored. - Grid restoration to critical facilities	100% commercial power restored to the county.
Communications	Percentage of cellular, broadband, emergency networks fully restored	Emergency systems, responder radio systems, public alert systems stable and fully functional.
Transportation	Percentage of roads cleared and open for all traffic	All roads (county and state) fully open for all traffic.
HAZMAT	Percentage of HazMat sites contained and mitigated.	100% of HazMat sites contained, waterways and agriculture land cleared of HazMat hazards.

6.3 Situational Reporting

To effectively deliver Lifeline status reports the situational report is divided into two sections: an executive matrix (stop light report) and a detailed RAL breakdown for each Lifeline.

Example:

Lifeline	Status	Trending	Impact Driving Status	Root Cause	Action	Limiting Factor
Safety and Security	Operational					
Law Enforcement Operations	Yellow	Degrading	Snow drifts limiting patrol and fire response times			
Fire Operations	Green	Improving				
Search and Rescue	Green	Stable				
Community Safety	Yellow					
Government Service Continuity	Green					
Food, Water, Shelter	NOT Operational					
Evacuations and Mass Care	Red					
Sheltering Operations	Red					
Food and Water Distribution	Yellow					
Agriculture Operations and Livestock Protection	Yellow					
Health and Medical	Damaged					
EMS Routing and Coordination	Yellow					
Public Health	Red					
Medical Supply Chain	Green					
Patient Movement and Fatality Management	Red					
Energy	NOT Operational			Ice accumulation and high winds causing down power lines along HWY 24	Power company requesting mutual aid line crews for restoration	Crews are experiencing limited access to down lines due to deep snow and ice covered roads
Electrical Grid	Red					
Rapid Utility Restoration Operations	Red					
Fuel Supply Chain and Distribution	Yellow					
Communications	Operational					
Public Safety Comms and Cyber Resilience	Green					
Infrastructure (Cell, Broadband, TV/Radio)	Green					
Alerts, Warnings, and Public Information	Green					
911 and Dispatch	Red					
Financial Services Resiliency	Green					
Transportation	Operational					
Highway and Road Infrastructure	Green					
Aviation Operations	Green					
Railway	Green					
Mass Transit Coordination	Green					
Hazardous Material	Operational					
Fixed Facility Inspections and Response	Green					
HAZMAT Incidents	Green					
Environmental Remediation Support	Green					

7 Communications

7.1 Interoperable Radio Systems

Elbert County first responders rely on the State of Colorado Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) as their primary communication backbone, with local infrastructure managed by the Elbert County Communications Authority (ECCA). Since the county lacks its own dispatch center, the Douglas Regional 911 Communications Center serves as the primary PSAP, coordinating the Sheriff's Office and fire districts through dedicated talkgroups. This partnership ensures seamless regional interoperability, enabling unified operations and rapid dispatching across the county's rural landscape.

7.1.1 System Interoperability & Mutual Aid Support

Capability	Technical Mechanism	How it Supports Mutual Aid & Operations
Unified Dispatching	Dedicated DTRS Talkgroups: Douglas Regional consoles are programmed with native Elbert County Law and Fire channels.	Allows a single dispatch center to tone out, track, and manage Elbert County resources as if they were their own local units.
Seamless Roaming	Dynamic Talkgroup Assignment: Responding DTRS-equipped agencies simply switch to an Elbert County Fire-Tac or Law-Tac channel.	Integrates incoming regional partners (e.g., Castle Rock Fire, CSP) immediately into the local Incident Command System (ICS) structure.
Cross-Network Links	ISSI Integration: (Inter-RF Subsystem Interface) securely connects different regional radio system cores.	Enables mutual aid units from the broader Denver Metro area to roam into Elbert County's footprint without losing radio connectivity.
Wildland Interop	VHF Console Patching: Douglas dispatchers bridge analog VHF frequencies (e.g., VFIRE21) directly into a DTRS digital talkgroup.	Ensures state and federal wildland strike teams (USFS, DFPC) can communicate directly with local digital units and the EOC, even if they lack DTRS radios.
Large-Scale Events	MAC Channels: Statewide Mutual Aid Channels are pre-built into the DTRS architecture.	Provides dedicated, off-dispatch channels to coordinate highly complex, multi-agency responses without overwhelming primary emergency traffic.

7.2 ARES Coordination

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) provides critical auxiliary communications for Elbert County by establishing independent radio stations in the EOC during infrastructure failures. Operating under ARESDEC (Region 1, District 5), these volunteers bridge "dead-zone" gaps to relay formal requests and ground-truth data between the EOC, field command posts, and shelters. This ensures a continuous common operating picture and resilient connectivity during severe events like wildfires or blizzards.

7.2.1 ARES Emergency Coordination Functions

Function	Description	Impact on EOC Operations
Auxiliary Communications	Establishes independent HF/VHF/UHF stations within the EOC.	Provides a "fail-safe" link if cellular, broadband, or CAD systems fail.
Infrastructure Bridging	Utilizes local repeater nodes (Simla/Westcreek) to bypass dead zones.	Ensures continuous contact between the EOC and remote field units or shelters.
Formal Message Relay	Digitally and verbally passes standard incident forms and resource requests.	Maintains the integrity of official documentation and logistical tracking.
Ground-Truth Intelligence	Analyzes data from mobile units and trained weather spotters.	Feeds localized, real-time details to leadership to refine the operating picture.
Interagency Liaison	Links the EOC to ICPs and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).	Synchronizes tactical and strategic communication across the incident.

7.3 Public Alert and Warning Systems

Elbert County uses a multi-layered alert system centered on Rave (Elbert County Alert) and federal IPAWS to send life-safety notifications via voice, text, email, and geo-targeted wireless broadcasts. The framework complies with CO CRS 24-33.5-719 and SB 25-031, which requires multi-language translations to ensure all residents, regardless of language proficiency, receive critical directives. This integrated approach ensures comprehensive coverage and minimizes information barriers during rapid-onset emergencies like wildfires or floods.

7.3.1 Public Alert and Warning Framework Overview

Component	Technical/Statutory Basis	Operational Impact
Elbert County Alert (Rave)	Opt-in subscription system	Direct, multi-channel (voice/text/email) messaging to registered residents.
IPAWS (WEA/EAS)	Federal FEMA integration	Geo-targeted "pushed" alerts to all cellular devices in a specific danger zone.
Messaging Compliance	CO CRS 24-33.5-719	Ensures the county meets state statutory standards for emergency notification.
Language Accessibility	SB 25-031	Provides mandatory multi-language translation to reach non-English speaking populations.
Multi-Hazard Utility	Integrated Communications	Rapidly disseminates evacuation and safety orders for wildfires, floods, and blizzards.

8 Administration, Finance, and Logistics

The Administration, Finance, and Logistics functions provide the structural support necessary for sustained incident response and legal accountability. Administration maintains the official historical and legal record of the emergency, while Finance tracks all disaster-related expenditures to ensure compliance with County policy and maximize state or federal reimbursement eligibility. Simultaneously, Logistics sources critical equipment, personnel, and supplies through mutual aid or contracts to fulfill resource gaps and maintain community lifelines.

8.1 Emergency Support and Accountability Framework

Function	Primary Responsibility	Strategic Impact
Administration	Maintains the official historical and legal record of the emergency.	Documents incident logs and action plans to guide future mitigation and fulfill legal requirements.
Finance	Tracks all disaster-related expenditures and manages purchase limits.	Ensures compliance with County policy and maximizes eligibility for state and federal reimbursement.
Logistics	Identifies resource shortfalls and sources equipment, personnel, and supplies.	Sustains community lifelines by fulfilling the physical needs of the response through mutual aid or contracts.

8.2 Resource Tracking

To ensure operational awareness and financial accountability, all participating agencies must track resources—including personnel time, equipment usage, and supplies—from deployment through demobilization. During EOC activations, Elbert County maintains a centralized record of these assignments to ensure compliance with County Finance Policy and protect reimbursement eligibility. Failure to maintain continuous, detailed documentation from the onset of an incident may result in the loss of state or federal funding and leave the originating agency financially responsible.

8.2.1 Resource Tracking and Financial Accountability

Category	Requirement	Strategic/Financial Impact
Comprehensive Tracking	Monitor personnel time (volunteers/staff), equipment usage, and supplies from deployment to demobilization.	Maintains real-time situational awareness and supports accurate operational decision-making.
Centralized Coordination	Elbert County EOC maintains a master record of all resource assignments across all agencies.	Ensures strict alignment with County Finance Policy and unified reporting to state/federal partners.

Category	Requirement	Strategic/Financial Impact
Documentation Standards	Record specific hours, rates, materials, and mission assignments starting at the onset of the incident.	Essential for meeting the rigorous evidence requirements for state and federal reimbursement programs.
Non-Compliance Risk	Failure to provide continuous, detailed documentation of all utilized resources.	Results in the loss of reimbursement eligibility and the assignment of financial liability to the originating agency.

8.3 Demobilization

Demobilization in Elbert County is the controlled release of incident resources to ensure an orderly, safe, and fiscally responsible return to normal operations. Managed through a partnership between Incident Command (IC) and the EOC, the process serves as a final audit point to reduce costs and verify that all personnel and equipment are accounted for.

8.3.1 Resource Demobilization and Accountability

Feature	Requirement / Responsibility	Operational & Financial Impact
Coordinated Release	All resources must be demobilized via direct coordination with Incident Command (IC) and the EOC.	Ensures a safe, orderly exit and prevents "freelancing" or unmanaged departures.
Operational Control	Agencies must verify that all operational assignments are complete and equipment is accounted for.	Confirms mission completion and maintains high levels of responder safety.
Financial Control	Personnel time must be documented and equipment usage/costs recorded prior to release.	Serves as the final "audit" point to ensure cost recovery and reimbursement eligibility.
County Oversight	Elbert County monitors the process to confirm documentation is complete across all agencies.	Reduces unnecessary rental/personnel costs and maintains county-wide accountability.

8.4 Cost Recovery and Finance Protocols

Elbert County aggressively pursues disaster cost recovery through state and federal programs, primarily by coordinating with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). To remain eligible for reimbursement, participating agencies must maintain strict documentation—including time records, equipment usage, and procurement files—that aligns with County Finance Policy. As the lead coordinator, the county provides guidance on these standards and serves as the official liaison to state and federal authorities to prevent the denial of claims due to insufficient documentation.

8.4.1 Disaster Cost Recovery and Reimbursement Framework

Element	Requirement / Responsibility	Operational & Strategic Impact
Recovery Strategy	Aggressively pursue eligible cost recovery through state and federal programs.	Minimizes local financial burden following major incidents.
Primary State Liaison	Coordination with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM).	Ensures access to the State Recovery Task Force and federal disaster declaration processes.
Agency Documentation	Maintain strict time records, equipment usage logs, and complete procurement files.	Essential for meeting the high evidence standards required for reimbursement.
Policy Alignment	Ensure all financial records and procurement actions align with County Finance Policy.	Protects the county from denied claims due to procedural non-compliance.
County Coordination Role	Serve as the lead coordinator and official liaison for all participating local agencies.	Provides centralized guidance on standards to prevent the denial of regional claims.

9 Plan Development and Maintenance

Plan Development and Maintenance is a continuous, collaborative process that directly anchors the county's operational readiness to the stability of the Community Lifelines. Elbert County OEM spearheads regular plan reviews, training, exercises, and after-action reports (AAR) specifically targeted at safeguarding vital community lifelines. These lifelines act as the standard metrics by which plan updates are prioritized. By structuring the maintenance cycle around the rapid stabilization and restoration of these seven lifelines, Elbert County guarantees that its foundational planning document remains a risk-informed tool. This lifeline centric focus actively supports a synchronized whole community response, preserving public health and minimizing service disruptions across the county's vast rural landscapes.

10 Authorities and References

This EOP is promulgated under the authority of, and guided by, framework from local, state, and federal statutes, directives, and regulations.

Federal	- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121) - Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) - FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 - National Incident Management System (NIMS) - National Response Framework (NRF)
State	- Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-701) - Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP)

	- Colorado State Executive Orders - Executive Order D 011 04: designated NIMS as mandated for all incident management.
Local	- Elbert County Resolution Adopting the EOP - Resolution 23-51 - Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and Mutual Aid Agreements - Local Emergency Declarations Protocols - Elbert County Hazard Mitigation Plan

11Annex List

Emergency plans are structured as annexes because the Basic Plan serves as an overarching foundational document that permits additional incident-specific details to be combined without repeating general policies. This modular format allows the county to keep the main document focused on broad strategies while providing specialized, operationally oriented guidance for unique functions or hazards like wildfires and hazmat incidents. By using annexes, the county can more easily update specific procedures as regulations or resources change without having to revise the entire comprehensive plan.

Annex	Description
Continuity Of Government (COG)	Ensuring that the county's constitutional and statutory functions remain operational during and after a catastrophic event; the COG plan specifically addresses the preservation of leadership and legal authority.
Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP)	Ensures that specific county departments can continue their day-to-day mission-essential functions during and immediately after a disaster. While COG focuses on high-level legal authority, a COOP plan is tactical, focusing on keeping services like public health, human services, and road maintenance running.
Damage Assessment Plan	Provides a structured method for determining the nature and extent of loss or harm to the community following a disaster. This data is critical for achieving situational awareness and determining if the county meets thresholds for state or federal disaster assistance.
Debris Management Plan	Outlines how the county will clear, remove, and dispose of waste generated by a disaster (such as a tornado, blizzard, or flood). Given the county's mix of rural roads and residential areas, this plan is vital for restoring access and ensuring public safety.
Disaster Recovery Plan	Provides the framework for transitioning the community from "crisis mode" back to a state of normalcy. While the initial response focuses on saving lives, the recovery plan focuses on long-term economic, physical, and social restoration.
EOC Operations Plan	Acts as a manual for the county's central command hub, detailing activation triggers and an organizational structure that integrates various departments into a unified response. It ensures a common operating picture by managing facility requirements, redundant

Annex	Description
	communications like Veoci, and the logistics for 24-hour staffing through to deactivation.
Evacuation and Re-Entry Plan	Explains the systematic relocation of residents from threatened zones using pre-determined routes and a clear hierarchy of notifications disseminated via Elbert County Alert. It manages specialized logistics for evacuation centers, including provisions for individuals with disabilities and livestock, while utilizing a tiered approach to ensure a safe, credentialed return for residents once infrastructure and safety standards are met.
HazMat Plan	Establishes protocols for identifying and containing toxic releases while coordinating technical mitigation with specialized regional teams like the Colorado State Patrol. It also details decontamination requirements and environmental monitoring to protect groundwater, ensuring the responsible party is identified for remediation costs.
Joint Information System Plan	Establishes a framework for ensuring that all participating agencies deliver a consistent, "one voice" message to the public during a disaster. It outlines the process for gathering, verifying, and coordinating information across local, state, and federal partners to prevent conflicting reports and reduce misinformation.
Mass Care & Sheltering Plan	Coordinates the large-scale provision of food, water, and secure housing for residents displaced by disasters like wildfires or blizzards. It establishes pre-identified shelters equipped to handle access and functional needs, medical support, and animal sheltering for household pets. Additionally, the plan outlines systems for family reunification and the distribution of emergency supplies to ensure the immediate well-being of the community.
Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan	Establishes a coordinated triage, treatment, and transport system to manage a sudden surge of patients that exceeds the capacity of local emergency medical services. It outlines the specific roles of fire, EMS, and law enforcement in securing a scene and establishes protocols for "field triage" to prioritize care based on injury severity before coordinating transport to regional trauma centers.
Public Information and Warning Plan	Establishes a unified process for delivering life-saving instructions to the community using tools like Elbert County Alert and the Wireless Emergency Alert system. It identifies the specific personnel authorized to craft messages and outlines the multi-channel strategy used to reach residents, including social media, sirens, and local news, ensuring accurate information is disseminated during a crisis.
Recovery Operations Plan	Explains a framework for transitioning from emergency response to long-term community restoration, focusing on rebuilding infrastructure and revitalizing the local economy. It describes a Long-Term Recovery Committee to coordinate individual assistance for residents and navigate state or federal grant processes to ensure the county is reimbursed for public asset repairs.

Annex	Description
Resource Management Plan	Describes a systematic process for identifying, inventorying, and deploying personnel, equipment, and supplies needed to respond effectively to an incident. It outlines protocols for mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions and details the logistical tracking of resources to ensure financial accountability and operational efficiency.
Severe Weather Plan	Establishes protocols for monitoring and responding to high-impact events like tornadoes, blizzards, and floods by integrating early warning systems with rapid-response coordination. It outlines the dissemination of urgent instructions through Elbert County Alert.
Training and Exercise Plan (TEP)	Outlines a multi-year schedule of drills and simulations designed to test the effectiveness of the EOP and ensure personnel are proficient in their emergency roles. It incorporates a building-block approach, ranging from simple table-top discussions to full-scale exercises, to identify planning gaps and satisfy state and federal compliance requirements for disaster preparedness.
Volunteer and Donation Management Plan	Establishes a structured system for vetting, registering, and deploying spontaneous volunteers while coordinating the intake and distribution of financial and in-kind contributions. It outlines the activation of a Volunteer Coordination Center to match local needs with available resources and identifies specific protocols to prevent "the disaster within a disaster" caused by unmanaged piles of unsolicited goods.
Wildfire Response Plan	Outlines a coordinated framework for fire suppression and community safety, prioritizing the protection of lives and essential infrastructure through strategic fuel reduction and active fire management. It outlines the specific roles of local fire protection districts and the Sheriff's Office in executing emergency notifications, large-scale evacuations for residents and livestock, and the coordination of specialized state or federal aerial firefighting resources.

12Acronyms

Acronym	Key Term
AA	Agency Administrator
AHJ	Agency Having Jurisdiction
AOP	Annual Fire Operating Plan
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Services
BOCC	Board of County Commissioners

Acronym	Key Term
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CIAC	Colorado Information and Analysis Center
DECART	Douglas/Elbert County Animal Response Team
DFPC	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
DHSEM	Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
DPS	Department of Public Safety
ECSO	Elbert County Sheriff's Office
EDAR	Emergency Delegation of Authority Resolution
EM	Emergency Management
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMCG	Emergency Management Coordinating Group
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning Satellite
HazMat	Hazardous Materials
HS	Homeland Security
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IMT	Incident Management Team
JIC	Joint Information Center

Acronym	Key Term
JIS	Joint Information System
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
MACS	Multi Agency Coordination System
MCI	Mass Casualty Incident
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NRF	National Response Framework
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
PIO	Public Information Officer
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
RB	Road & Bridge
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SEOP	State Emergency Operations Plan
UC	Unified Command
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
USFS	United States Forest Service
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

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Appendixes

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Appendix 1 – Local Disaster Declaration

A local disaster declaration is a legal proclamation issued by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners (or a designated successor) when an incident, such as a wildfire or blizzard, exceeds Elbert County's response capabilities. Governed by C.R.S. 24-33.5-709, this declaration activates the county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), authorizes emergency funding, and suspends standard purchasing limits to expedite resource acquisition. Critically, the declaration serves as the mandatory legal step for requesting state or federal assistance and expires after seven days unless officially extended by the full Board.

Sample Disaster Declaration

WHEREAS, the Elbert County Emergency Manager has advised the Board of County Commissioners of Elbert County ("the Board") of a disaster (as that term is defined in C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709) currently present in the area of Elbert County bounded on the east by _____, on the north by _____, on the west by _____, and on the south by _____; the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from a _____, requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, which occurred at approximately _____; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the impact of this event is far in excess of the County's available resources, and all available resources are being utilized or have been expended; and

WHEREAS, an imminent threat exists to citizens of Elbert County, due to _____; and

WHEREAS, an imminent threat exists to the following communities: _____, _____ of residents. The combined population of these communities consists of approximately _____ homes and _____ businesses, with an estimated total value of _____ dollars, in an area of approximately _____; and

WHEREAS, approximately _____ households have been forced to flee imminent threats, requiring the housing of approximately _____ residents in shelters to date; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that a large number of residents are believed to be under insured or uninsured for their homes or personal property; and

WHEREAS, the _____ has disrupted traffic and posed an imminent threat to the safety of motorists on _____, which is a key transportation route through Elbert County; and

WHEREAS, the Elbert County Emergency Manager has recommended that the Board declare a local disaster; and

WHEREAS, it would be appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety, and would further protect property, for the Board to implement said recommendations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 and the emergency operations plan and the Delegation of Authority Resolution of Elbert County, Colorado the Board is authorized to declare a local disaster.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Board hereby declares that there is a Local Disaster in the area of Elbert County bounded on the east by _____, on the north by _____, on the west by _____, and on the south by _____; to wit, the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from _____, a _____ requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage.
2. The effect of this declaration of Local Disaster shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable Local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the principal executive officers of all other municipalities in Elbert County affected by said disaster are proclaiming similar declarations and to cooperate with Elbert County as necessary to cope with this incident.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective upon the date and time given below, and shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed seven days thereafter except by or with the consent of a majority of the members of the Board. True copies will be filed promptly with the Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Office of Emergency Management and the Elbert County Clerk and Recorder, and shall be promptly distributed to the appropriate representatives of the news media.

SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE at Kiowa, Colorado this _____ day of _____. 20_____.

Elbert County Board of County Commissioners

By: _____ Chair, Elbert County Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____ Elbert County Clerk & Recorder

Appendix 2 – Delegation of Authority

A Delegation of Authority is a formal written agreement that transfers specific decision-making powers (such as the authority to spend funds, execute agreements, or order evacuations) from an official with legal accountability to a subordinate or an incoming Incident Management Team (IMT). In Elbert County, this tool is vital during complex disasters that exceed local capacity, ensuring that external teams have the legal backing to act rapidly while the Board of County Commissioners maintains ultimate oversight. By defining clear constraints and termination triggers, it preserves the chain of command while enabling life-saving actions in the field.

Sample Delegation of Authority

Agency authority and responsibility for managing and controlling the _____ incident impacting Elbert County, is hereby transferred to _____ as Incident Commander.

As Incident Commander, you are accountable to the Agency Administrator for the overall management of this incident, including its control and return to local Agency control. You are expected to adhere to the standards of the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System, relevant and applicable laws, policies, professional standards and policy direction from the Agency Administrator.

The protection of emergency responders and citizens is your highest priority task. The protection of public and private property, including key economic infrastructure, is your next highest priority. Priorities of the Agency also include the protection of economic, cultural, social and environmental assets in the affected area. Suppression of this incident is your primary assignment and you are expected to do so to the best of your ability in a manner that provides for the safety and well-being of involved personnel.

Specific direction for this incident is as follows:

1. Transition with existing forces will be handled smoothly but as rapidly as possible.
2. Ensure coordination, cooperation and communication with the Agency Administrator, the Elbert County Emergency Operations Center Manager (EOC), Agency Representatives, and the local, State and Federal agencies involved.
3. Ensure coordination of public information through the EOC and a Joint Information System / Joint Information Center that may be established for the incident.
4. _____

This transfer includes the authority to obligate agency funds necessary to pay for controlling this incident up to \$ _____ for the first operational period and ending _____, subject to the following limitations:

1. Coordination with Elbert County Finance Department staff and adherence to Agency procedures regarding use of the Emergency-Disaster Fund.
2. Reasonable cost-effective and cost-containment practices will be used at all times with keen attention to avoiding duplicate resource ordering. At which time the EOC is activated, all resource ordering will take place through the EOC.
3. _____

This Delegation of Authority becomes effective at _____(time) on _____, 20____, and may be changed or updated by written addendums should the incident extend into additional operational periods. Any transfer of command shall be done only with the written approval of the Agency Administrator for Elbert County Government.

Agency Administrator

Date & Time

Agency Administrator

Date & Time

Appendix 3 – Job Action Sheet – EOC Manager

The mission of the Emergency Operations Center Manager is to provide executive-level direction and control over the Elbert County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC Manager ensures multi-agency coordination, facilitates strategic decision-making, and maintains the primary operational focus on stabilizing the Community Lifelines. This role acts as the critical bridge between the tactical field operations (Incident Command Posts) and the strategic/statutory authority of the County Policy Group.

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
EOC Manager	• Maintain situational awareness with Director of Emergency Management and the Policy Group • Assume the Role of EOC Manager • Activate EOC (partial or full) make notifications - BOCC - Dispatch - SEOC - DHSEM Field Manager - ICP(s) • Appoint all Command and General Staff positions required for this incident • Brief Senior Leaders of Lifeline Status • Establish regular scheduled Senior Leader / Policy Group briefings • Define operational period and regular updates of Lifeline Status • Confer with Command Staff and General Staff to develop Incident Support Plan (ISP) for upcoming operational period and establish priorities/objectives • Approve the ISP prior to next operational period • Authorize the opening of shelters by the Red Cross as needed • Maintain log and Veoci entries, push appropriate posts to significant events • Authorize resources as needed/requested by General Staff, through the Finance/Admin Section Manager • Make final determination on scarce resource allocation based on Lifeline priority • Schedule routine briefings with Command and General Staff to receive status reports and update the ISP regarding continuance and/or termination of ISP • Maintain contact with relevant agencies	• Command Staff - Safety Officer - Public Information Officer - Liaisons - DHSEM Field Manager • General Staff - Emergency Services Branch - Human Services Branch - Infrastructure Branch - Finance Section Chief - Planning Section Chief - Logistics Section Chief

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
	• Approve media release submitted by the PIO • Ensure the completion of ICS214s and ICS213RRs for accurate tracking and accountability • Observe all staff for signs of stress • Ensure all staff have rest periods • Prepare end of shift report for oncoming EOC manger • Plan for possibility of extended operations, develop with Liaison staffing plan for continued operational periods • Start developing demobilization plan	

Appendix 4 – Job Action Sheet – EOC Command Staff

The mission of the EOC Command Staff is to provide strategic leadership, multi-agency coordination and comprehensive resource support to tactical field operations, ensuring the rapid stabilization of critical lifelines across Elbert County. The EOC Command staff ensures unified public messaging, and acts as a critical bridge between the local emergency response efforts and the statutory authority of the County Policy Group.

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
Safety Officer	- Conducts continuous safety analyses of all incident facilities and locations to identify and mitigate hazardous situations. - Prepare the Incident Action Plan (IAP) Safety and Risk Analysis (ICS Form 215A) and provide safety messages (ICS Form 202) for shift briefings to ensure all responders are aware of transit and operational hazards. - Has the direct authority to stop or prevent any unsafe acts that pose an immediate threat to life or health. - If an accident occurs within the incident area, the Safety Officer initiates a preliminary investigation, preserves the scene, and ensures proper documentation for risk management and future prevention. - Review and approve the Medical Plan (ICS Form 206) to ensure adequate care and transport options are available for injured personnel. - Ensure that tactical movements to clear transportation routes or restore power (Energy Lifeline) do not create secondary hazards for the community or response teams.	N/A
Public Information Officer (PIO)	- Directly responsible for supporting the Communications Lifeline by managing alerts, warnings, and messages to the public. - Reframes complex incident data into impact statements that describe how basic services (e.g., food, water, energy) are affected and what is being done to restore them. - Coordinates through a Joint Information System (JIS) to ensure all agencies (including the Sheriff's Office, Fire Districts, and OEM) deliver a consistent message regarding evacuation routes, shelter locations, and resource availability. - Prioritizes and issues emergency notices and warnings, such as Elbert County Alert, to	Joint information System for Elbert County

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
	ensure resident safety during rapid-onset events like wildfires. - Actively monitors media and social platforms to identify and correct misinformation that could hinder lifeline stabilization or create secondary safety issues. - Translate technical "incident speak" into commonly understood language, ensuring that information about root causes and interdependencies (e.g., how a road closure impacts food delivery) is accessible to all stakeholders.	
Liaisons	- Liaisons are the representatives from essential organizations (e.g., utility companies for the Energy Lifeline or the Red Cross for the Food, Water, and Shelter Lifeline) ensuring their needs and capabilities are integrated into the overall response. - Liaisons translate technical agency status reports into "impact statements" that describe how disruptions affect the community's basic functions. - Serve as the single point of contact for assisting agencies to request resources or process mission assignments, ensuring that external help is directed where it will most effectively stabilize failing lifelines. - Liaisons monitor for cross-agency problems, such as how a lack of power (Energy) might be preventing water treatment (Food, Water, and Shelter) or medical facilities (Health and Medical) from operating. - They resolve inter-organizational issues and friction points, ensuring that the diverse groups involved in a multi-agency incident—such as a large-scale wildfire—work together seamlessly toward shared objectives.	N/A
DHSEM Field Manager	- Provides the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) with critical impact statements regarding community lifelines and identifies the root causes of service disruptions. - Serves as the primary point of contact for requesting state resources and specialized equipment (e.g., DFPC fire assets) once local mutual aid is exhausted. - Directly facilitates the integration of federal agencies into local response efforts and	N/A

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
	manages the allocation of State Disaster Emergency Funds. • Maintains a direct link between Elbert County officials and state leadership, delivering unified reporting on incident status and recovery priorities. • Assists in formulating incident management groups and provides guidance on ensuring that local Response and Recovery plans align with state standards for reimbursement and accountability. • Collaborates with Planning Section to identify early recovery priorities and supports the transition from response to stabilizing long-term lifelines like housing and infrastructure.	

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Appendix 5 – Job Action Sheet – EOC General Staff

The mission of the EOC General Staff is to provide data-driven resources and situational support to field operations, ensuring the rapid stabilization of Elbert County's Community Lifelines. The General Staff is tasked with anticipating cascading community impacts, procuring and deploying scarce resources, and managing the administrative, logistical, and financial complexities of an incident. The overarching goal is to bear the strategic and administrative burden to allow field commanders to focus on life-safety and incident mitigation.

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
Infrastructure Branch Director	- Direct debris clearance and emergency road repairs to ensure that evacuation routes remain open and that emergency apparatus have clear access. - Oversees teams that conduct rapid assessments of county-owned buildings, bridges, and culverts, providing "damage assessments" that hinder other lifelines. - Serve as the primary liaison to private utility providers (electric, gas, and telecom) to prioritize the restoration of power to critical facilities, such as the EOC, sheltering sites, and water treatment plants. - In coordination with local districts, they monitor the status of potable water systems and wastewater infrastructure, ensuring that fire-fighting water supplies are maintained and that public health is protected. - Working with the Sheriff's Office, deploy barricades or heavy machinery to assist with perimeter control and prevent unauthorized entry into hazardous zones. - Identify why a service is down (e.g., "Roads are closed due to downed power lines, not fire") assisting the EOC Director to prioritize the deployment of the correct resources.	- Transportation - Communications - Energy
Human Services Branch Director	- Oversee the activation and management of emergency shelters, coordinating with partners like the American Red Cross to provide safe housing, cots, and blankets for evacuated residents. - Ensures the delivery of potable water and shelf-stable meals to both shelter occupants and populations sheltering in place who may have lost access to local grocery services. - Prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations, including individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those with specific dietary or medical requirements, ensuring	- Food, Water, & Shelter - Health & Medical

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
	they have communication support and appropriate medical supplies. - Working closely with the Public Health Department, monitor for public health concerns in shelters (e.g., sanitation or disease outbreaks) and coordinate behavioral health support for survivors experiencing trauma. - Provide "impact statements" to the EOC Director regarding the status of the population (Shelter capacity is at 90% or A boil water advisory is in effect) to drive prioritization of restoration efforts. - Serve as the point of contact for non-profit and volunteer organizations (VOAD), managing the flow of donated goods and spontaneous volunteers to ensure they support, rather than hinder, lifeline stabilization.	
Emergency Services Branch Director	- Oversees all law enforcement, firefighting, and search and rescue operations to ensure a safe environment for both survivors and responders. - Coordinate the activities of the local Fire Protection Districts, ensuring that firefighting capabilities are balanced across the county and that mutual aid is requested when district coverage limits are reached. - In direct coordination with the Sheriff's Office, manages the movement of people out of hazardous zones and ensures that perimeter security is maintained to protect property. - Monitor the status of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and local healthcare facilities, tracking resource availability, patient transport, and fatality management. - Identifies how conditions (like extreme wind) impact multiple services simultaneously - Provide the EOC Director with real-time "impact statements" in plain language, describing the status of life-safety missions and identifying the root causes of any operational delays. - Identifies gaps in countywide response capabilities and coordinates with the CO-DHSEM Field Manager to request state or	- Safety & Security - HazMat

Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Supervises
	federal specialized assets, such as aerial fire suppression.	

Appendix 6 – Lifeline Responsibilities

The mission of community lifelines is to provide a standardized, outcome-oriented framework for stabilizing the county's most essential services during an incident. By shifting the focus from individual agency actions to the status of critical systems this model allows the EOC to rapidly identify the root causes of service disruptions and prioritize resources where they will have the greatest impact on life and property. Ultimately, lifelines serve as a common language for leadership to translate complex technical data into clear "impact statements," ensuring that decision-making remains focused on the rapid restoration of community stability across the entire county.

Branch	Lifeline	Responsibilities
Infrastructure	Transportation	• Highway and Road Infrastructure: Focuses on maintaining open access for emergency responders and ensuring safe evacuation routes for the public across Elbert County's expansive terrain. The EOC, through the Road & Bridge department, coordinates debris clearance, identifies bridge weight limits, and monitors road conditions to prevent the east and west sides of the county from becoming isolated during events. • Aviation Operations: Ensures that Elbert County airfields and temporary helispots are operationally ready to support aerial firefighting and emergency medical evacuations. The EOC coordinates with state partners and local landowners to secure airspace and ground support for assets like air tankers and helicopters, which are critical for reaching remote areas on both the east and west sides of the county. • Mass Transit Coordination: Focuses on mobilizing large-capacity vehicles, such as school district buses or regional transit assets, to assist residents who lack personal transportation during an evacuation. The EOC coordinates with local partners to establish designated pick-up points and ensures that transit routes are clear of hazards and effectively integrated into the broader traffic management plan.
	Communications	• Public Safety Comms and Cyber Resilience: Ensures the integrity and availability of radio networks and dispatch systems that allow first responders to coordinate during incidents. The EOC monitors these networks for technical failures and implements cyber resilience protocols to protect emergency data and infrastructure from unauthorized access or disruptive digital attacks • Infrastructure Restoration (Cell. Broadband): Focuses on the rapid repair and temporary replacement of cellular and broadband assets to ensure residents and responders remain connected during an incident. The EOC coordinates with private service providers to prioritize the deployment of mobile assets, such as Cells on Wheels, to areas where fire or wind has damaged permanent towers. • Alerts, Warnings, and Public Information: Focuses on the rapid dissemination of life-safety messages to the community through systems like Elbert County Alert (Rave) and the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS). The EOC

Branch	Lifeline	Responsibilities
		coordinates a Joint Information System (JIS) to ensure that evacuation orders, shelter locations, and incident updates are consistent, accurate, and delivered in plain language across all media platforms. • Financial Services Resiliency: Focuses on maintaining the data connectivity required for the public to access funds and for the county to process emergency procurements during a disaster. The EOC monitors the status of broadband and cellular networks that support ATM operations and electronic payment systems at critical retail hubs like grocery stores and gas stations.
	Energy	• Electrical Grid: Focuses on maintaining and restoring power to critical infrastructure, such as water pumps and emergency facilities, to prevent cascading service failures. The EOC coordinates directly with local providers like Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) and CORE Electric Cooperative to prioritize grid repairs and manage tactical power shutdowns during high-wind wildfire events. • Rapid Utility Restoration Operations: Focuses on the immediate coordination between the EOC and utility providers to clear hazards and repair downed infrastructure following a wildfire or high-wind event. This process prioritizes the restoration of power to essential facilities like the EOC, emergency shelters, and communication towers to ensure no secondary failures occur in other critical lifelines. • Fuel Supply Chain and Distribution: Focuses on ensuring a continuous flow of gasoline, diesel, and propane to support emergency response vehicles, heavy equipment, and backup generators. The EOC monitors local fuel levels and coordinates with regional distributors to prioritize deliveries to critical facilities like the Sheriff's Office, Fire Districts, and Road & Bridge depots.
Human Services	Food, Water, & Shelter	• Evacuations and Mass Care: Serves as the operational foundation for mass care by ensuring that evacuated residents have immediate access to life-sustaining supplies and climate-controlled housing. During an evacuation, this lifeline is stabilized by activating designated shelters and coordinating with partners like the Red Cross to provide potable water and shelf-stable meals to displaced populations. • Sheltering Operations: Focuses on providing a safe, climate-controlled environment that fulfills the basic physiological needs of displaced residents. Stabilization requires the continuous provision of potable water and nutritionally adequate meals while ensuring that facilities remain accessible to individuals with functional or access needs (AFN). • Food and Water Distribution: Manages the logistical pipeline for distributing life-sustaining supplies to residents who are either displaced or sheltering in place due to incident impacts. This process involves establishing "Points of Distribution"

Branch	Lifeline	Responsibilities
		(PODs) where bulk potable water and shelf-stable meals can be efficiently handed out to the community when local commercial supply chains are disrupted. • Animal Protection: Focuses on the rapid evacuation and temporary housing of domestic animals. Stabilization involves establishing designated domestic animal shelters and coordinating with local partners to provide necessary food, potable water, and veterinary oversight for displaced domestic animals.
	Health and Medical	• EMS Routing and Coordination: Ensures that emergency medical services are seamlessly routed and coordinated to maintain life-saving coverage across Elbert County's expansive geography. During an incident, the EOC monitors the operational status of the Fire Protection District ambulances to identify and bridge gaps in coverage caused by road closures or high call volumes. • Public Health: Focuses on monitoring and mitigating environmental hazards, such as smoke inhalation risks and water contamination, that threaten community well-being during a wildfire. Public health officials coordinate with the Human Services Branch to ensure sanitary conditions and disease prevention protocols are maintained within mass care sheltering operations. • Patient Movement and Fatality Management: Focuses on the coordinated transport of injured or vulnerable individuals from incident zones to appropriate care facilities while maintaining regional EMS coverage. Simultaneously, the EOC manages fatality management by coordinating with the County Coroner to establish secure recovery areas and process victim identification with dignity and legal accuracy.
Emergency Services	Safety & Security	• Law Enforcement & Security: Focuses on maintaining public order, securing impacted areas, and protecting critical infrastructure from looting or damage. In Elbert County, the Sheriff's Office will coordinate with neighboring mutual aid agencies to cover large patrol sectors during regional disasters. • Fire Service: Encompasses wildland and structural firefighting, as well as fire prevention. Given the severe wildfire threats across the county's vast rangelands, local fire protection districts must coordinate closely with the Elbert County OEM to establish containment lines and conduct perimeter control. • Search and Rescue (SAR): Orchestrates the location and extraction of individuals who are lost, trapped, or injured. During severe Front Range blizzards, local SAR teams and heavy equipment operators are dispatched to reach stranded motorists on remote county roads. • Government Service: Ensures the continuous operation of critical governance, judicial centers, and election facilities. This component triggers continuity of operations protocols so county

Branch	Lifeline	Responsibilities
		leadership can continue legal execution and emergency fund authorizations without disruption. • Community Safety: Manages public safety concerns outside of immediate active response, such as code enforcement, animal control during large-scale livestock evacuations, and perimeter lockdowns around hazardous sites.
	HazMat	• Fixed Facility Inspections and Response: Focuses on maintaining up-to-date inspections and risk assessments for local industrial sites, agricultural chemical storage, and fueling depots to prevent secondary toxic releases during a wildfire. The EOC coordinates with fire districts to identify these high-risk locations and ensures that tactical response plans include specialized containment and mitigation strategies for known chemical hazards. • Transportation - HAZMAT Incidents: Focuses on the rapid detection and containment of toxic substances spilled during accidents on major county transit corridors, such as Highway 86 or I-70. The EOC coordinates specialized regional HazMat teams to mitigate environmental contamination and ensures that Road & Bridge and the Sheriff's Office establish safe isolation perimeters for the public. • Environmental Remediation Support: focuses on the long-term cleanup and restoration of areas contaminated by toxic releases during an incident. The EOC coordinates with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and local agencies to oversee the removal of hazardous debris and the protection of local watersheds from toxic runoff.