

Montezuma County Office of Emergency Management
June/July 2026
Monthly Situation Report



REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jim Spratlen

REPORT DATE / TIME: 07/31/26 1200 MST

COUNTY LIFE LINES

Meaning of key Lifeline colors:

Green stabilization;

Yellow solution ID and plan of action in progress;

Red services were disrupted.

EOC/DOC ACTIVATIONS

County EOC:

- Dolores and Montezuma County opened a combined EOC on 6/27/26 for the Ferris Fire and terminated the EOC 7/16/26. EOC Staff and volunteers operated the EOC working closely with all stakeholders and the community in consequence management. 64,881 acres with 97% contained as of 8/1/26.
- Hybrid EOC was activated with the City of Cortez from 7/21/26 to 7/22/26 due to a rain/wind event causing flooding and damage to residents.
- All Lifelines are at "Green" Status. Web EOC reporting monthly.

Disaster Emergency Declarations:

- Statewide Drought Emergency Declaration by the Governor on 6/5/26
- Statewide Emergency Disaster Declared in Response to Ferris Fire in Dolores and Montezuma Counties 7/8/2026

Fire Ban Stages:

- Montezuma County: Fire Ban enacted May 28, 2026, by BOCC. Still in effect.
- Town of Dolores: Burn Ban in effect as of May 28, 2026. Still in effect.
- Town of Mancos: Burn Ban based on the Town code 7-9-50. Still in effect.
- City of Cortez: Open fires by permit only. Still in effect.
- Dolores County: Revised Stage 2 fire restrictions June 2026, by BOCC. Still in effect.
- Ute Mt. Ute: Stage 1 fire restrictions. Still in effect.
- BLM: Back to Stage 1 fire restrictions July 22, 2026
 - The Bureau of Land Management Tres Rios Field Office has rescinded the remaining emergency closure associated with the Ferris Fire, effective July 29.
- USFS: Back to Stage 1 fire restrictions July 30, 2026
- National Parks Service: Always in Stage 1 fire restrictions

Fires:

6/1/26 – Rd N – Structure fire shop – possible Fuse Box

6/3/26 – W. 7th street - Structure Fire – Unknown cause

6/6/26 – Rd. 26 – Brush fire – Unknown cause

6/12/26 – F.5 and 160 - House fire with brush fire cause – Welding outside

6/17/26 – Rd. N - Fire into brush, two outbuildings and one house – Burn Barrel

6/19/26 – Rd 28 and Rd P.8 – Brush Fire – Irrigation Pump short

6/27/26 – Numerous lightning strikes and single tree fires that continued up to this report date.

6/27/26 – 7/31/26 - Ferris Fire in Montezuma County and Dolores County 64,881 Acres – 97% contained.

Type 4 IMT took over July 29, 2026

Safety and Security – Green

- Law Enforcement: Normal Operations.
- Search and Rescue: Normal Operations.
- Fire Services: Normal Operations.
- Community Safety: Stabilized.

Food, Water and Shelter – Green

- Food: Normal Operations.
- Agriculture: Normal Operations.
- Water: Normal Operations.
- Shelter: Normal Operations.

Health and Medical - Green

- Medical Care: Normal Operations.
- Patient Movement: Normal Operations.
- Public Health: Normal Operations.
- Hospital: Normal Operations.
- EMS: Normal Operations.

Energy, Power and Fuel – Green

- Power (Grid): Normal Operations.
- Fuel: Normal Operations.
- Natural Gas: Normal Operations.
- Propane: Normal Operations.
- CO2: Normal Operations.

Communications – Green

- Alerts, Warnings, and Messages: Normal Operations
- 911 Dispatch: Normal Operations.
- Responder Communications: Normal Operations.
- Finance Services: Normal Operations.
- Public Information: Normal Operations.
- Infrastructure: Normal Operations.

Transportation- Green

- Transit: Normal operations.
- Railway: None.
- Aviation: Normal operations.
- Maritime: Normal operations.
- Airport: Normal operations.

Hazardous Materials - Green

- Facilities: Normal Operations.
- Hazmat, Pollutants, and Contaminants: Normal Operations.



STATE LIFELINES

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Status

Response Level 1: State EOC fully activated with multiple state agencies and FEMA staff.

Recovery Level 1: State Recovery Task Force (SRTF) activated on June 30

Statewide Drought Emergency Declaration

6/5/26

Statewide Emergency Disaster Declared in Response to Ferris Fire in Dolores and Montezuma Counties

7/8/2026



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) Legislation Committee

- We have been reviewing several bills over 2026. No current bills are being reviewed this month.

Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA)

- The CEPA for 2025 is completed. Next one will be in 2028.

Community Animal Response Team (CART) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- Trainings are on the Thursday of each month at 18:00 at various locations.
- Total Exercises and Events Deployed:
 - Volunteer Expo
 - Red Cross Regional Shelter Exercise
 - Team Ready for 4th of July event in Cortez
 - Ferris Fire assisted in the EOC, Sheltering Center and Evacuation Center

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

- 8 county buildings completed.

Communications

- Grant submission for a new generator at the Dolores tower site through Homeland Security (SHSP) grant for \$30,800. Using a separate fiscal agent, not the county. We received the award and are waiting for final documents and approval from FEMA to begin the project. Project pending.
- SW Regional Infrastructure Group have been meeting for 16 months developing a strategic regional communications infrastructure plan to enhance the 800MHz system. The group is in the final stages of completion, listing the gaps in our areas with recommendations and costs. Once this is completed, we will seek funding from the State to ensure sustainability for the equipment, then we will seek funding from the federal government. Project in progress.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG):

- 2025-2026 EMPG Grant Submission: It is now from 10/1/25 to 12/30/26 for \$54,943. 5 Quarters.
- We have received State approval for funding to the end of 2026.
 - 1st Qtr. 2025-2026 EMPG reimbursement October-December 2025 was submitted for \$28,111.48.
 - Received \$11,626.16 reimbursement.
 - 2nd Qtr. 2025-2026 EMPG reimbursement January-March 2026 was submitted for \$25,078.46.
 - 3rd Qtr. 2025-2026 EMPG reimbursement April-June 2026 was submitted for \$22,703.30.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC):

- Dolores and Montezuma County opened a combined EOC on 6/27/26 for the Ferris Fire and terminated the EOC 7/16/26. EOC Staff and volunteers operated the EOC working closely with all stakeholders and the community in consequence management. 64,881 acres with 97% contained as of 7/31/26. Checked in 270 Evacuees/Permittees and housed 17 in various shelters.
- Hybrid EOC was activated with the City of Cortez from 7/21/26 to 7/22/26 due to a rain/wind event causing flooding and damage to residents. Emergency Managers compiled damage reports based on information gathered.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):

- The EM and the State are still researching funding opportunities through other grants and agencies. Cost of the project is projected at \$121,138. Project on hold.

Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP)

- The 2026 - 2029 IPP/TEP completed and submitted.
- Monthly updates to 2026 Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) based on the IPP and ongoing input from the stakeholders.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (From LEPC Chair):

- Regional and Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings were held this month.
- Inspections of facilities for 2026 completed: 3

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

- EM has been approved for no-match grant. These grants do not pass through the County for financial support or approval. They are an outside fiscal agent.
- Status on the projects are:
 - SHSP Generator grant - \$30,800 approved by the State, waiting on FEMA approval. Project on hold.

Training/Drills:

- EM held employee training on E3 for PHD and Clerk's Office 6/4/26
- EM attended Lewis-Arriola Fire Department Exercise 6/16/26.
- EM held EOC Staff and ESF Training and exercise on 6/18/26 Hazmat spill
- EM attended Ready, Set, Go! Training 6/15/26
- EM attended Crisis Track Training on 6/23/26
- EM attended State Radio 101 Training for Dispatch on 7/23/26

2025 Stats Report**2026 Stats Report**

• Total calls assigned – 51	29
• Total declarations County wide – 1	2
• Total fire bans – 1	1
• Total deployments for EM Staff – 0	1
• Total EOC activations – 1	2
• Total Alert and Warnings sent out – 769	960
• Total SAR missions – 18	6
• Total LEPC facilities inspected – 6	3
• Total Biomass facilities inspected – 4	3
• Total trainings held – 36	36
• Total EOC training held – 6	4
• Total exercises/tabletops – 9	15
• Total training certificates received – 16	7
• Total planning/stakeholder meetings – 400	165
• Total Committees/Boards representing – 24	24
• Total MOU, IGA, MMAs completed – 4	1
• Total COOP Plans Completed – 7	1
• Total plans/policies written – 17	4
• Total grants involved in – 9	5

END OF REPORT