

Montezuma County Office of Emergency Management
September 2026
Monthly Situation Report



Cloudy rainy day

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REPORT DATE / TIME: 10/6/26 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.

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.
- C02: 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 2: State EOC fully activated with multiple state agencies and FEMA staff.
 - - Recovery Level 1: [State Recovery Task Force \(SRTF\) activated on June 30](#).
 - Initial SRTF meeting scheduled for today, July 3.
 - Debris and Watershed working groups activated.
 - - July 29 and 30 | Aspen Acres Fire Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments.
- [October 2, 2026 Colorado Daily Status Report](#) | All community lifelines are stable at the state level.

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

County EOC:

- No Activations
- 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

Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Summaries

1. Transportation

- CDOT
 - Working on HWY 184 and Rd. 25 intersection. Planning process to fix the intersection.
- Air Services
 - Durango airport exercise scheduled for October 7.
 - Classic Air Medical:
 - Currently busy coordinating several fall community relations and public outreach events. This season, our team will be participating in the MCI event in Durango as well as activities with Pleasant View Fire.
 - Looking for opportunities to collaborate with our regional partners and support local agencies. If your department, organization, or facility is interested in hosting a training, educational session, skills workshops, or agency presentation, please feel free to reach out. We would be happy to work with you to provide training and strengthen partnerships throughout the communities we serve.
- Montezuma County Transportation (MOCO):
 - Home Delivered Meals (HDM): 754 meals
 - August: 660
 - Increase: 94 meals
 - 14.2% increase
 - MOCO Transportation: 930 rides
 - August: 794
 - Increase: 136 rides
 - 17.1% increase

- Road Closures:
 - 9/4/26 – 12400 Blk HWY 145 road closure due to traffic accident
 - 9/5/26 – Rd M and Hwy 491 road closure due to traffic accident
 - 9/11/26 – 19,800 Blk HWY 145 closed due to vehicle accident in the river.
 - 9/16/26 – 45,400 Blk HWY 160 road closed due to a vehicle accident
 - 9/25/26 – 24,000 Blk Road E flooding. Road open with minor debris removal.

2. Communications

- Dolores Tower Site:
 - Grant submission for a new generator at the Dolores tower site through Homeland Security (SHSP) grant for \$30,800 has been approved by FEMA. We sent out a Request for Quote (RFQ). Closing will be October 15th. Project is in progress.
 - Refurbishing CR V.6 from the cattle guard to the Dolores Tower site with gravel on county road and USFS road. Project is approved and will begin in October.
- Interagency Dispatch:
 - Discussions and plans since 2021 on moving the Rocky Mountain Area Dispatch Zone Center in Durango to the Grand Junction area. The SW regional partners have been monitoring this decision since 2021. The move has been planned for 2027-2028. Further discussions are continuing.
- Park Point Site:
 - Early warning camera system will be purchased in the coming months and placed on NPS property for wildfire detection. Project planning is in progress.
- Regional:
 - SW Regional Infrastructure Group have been meeting since 2025 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.

- Information Technology:
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.

3. Public Works/Road and Bridge

- Montezuma County Road and Bridge:
 - Cleaning out culverts across the county that are plugging up due to weeds, silt and resident trash.
 - Refurbishing CR V.6 from the cattle guard to the Dolores Tower site with gravel on county road and USFS road. Project is approved and will begin in October.
 - New project on a ditch located along McElmo canyon MM 8 that flows water onto Rd G. Waiting for approval.
 - EM has 13,000 sandbags prepared for water runoff emergencies that may occur in 2027.

4. Fire Fighting

- Fire Ban Stages:
 - Montezuma County: Burn Ban will be lifted October 7th at 06:00 am
 - Town of Dolores: Burn Ban will be lifted October 7th at 06:00 am
 - Town of Mancos: Burn Ban in effect based on the Town code 7-9-50
 - City of Cortez: Open fires by permit only. Year round
 - Ute Mt. Ute: No fire restrictions
 - BLM: No restrictions as of 9/16/26
 - USFS: No restrictions as of 9/16/26
 - National Parks Service: Stage 1 fire restrictions year round

- Fires:
 - 9/1/26 – Brush Fire Hwy 160/Rd D – ½ Acre
 - 9/18/26 – Structure Fire 815 S. Chestnut – Cause unknown.
 - Single tree fires and some brush fires under 0.25 of an acre
- Total Fire bans/restrictions in all the county: – in 2025 = 8, in 2026 = 8

5. **Information and Planning**

- 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 used 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.
- 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.

- NOTE: the last two quarters of 2026 have been approved, but these quarters have strong implications in the FEMA guidelines of supplanting language, which means there is a strong possibility that 2026 Budget funds cannot be used as a match, only specific items will be submitted.
- 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.
- 4th Qtr. 2025-2026 EMPG specific item reimbursements and workplan for July-September 2026 will be submitted this month.
- Emergency Operation Plan (EOP):
 - Current EOP was updated 12/10/24. Pre-Planning has begun for updating the EOP for 12/15/27.
- 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):
 - 2026 - 2029 IPP/TEP completed and submitted. Monthly updates to 2026 Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) based on the IPP and ongoing impute from the stakeholders.
 - SW Regional ICS Training for 300 and 400 was held at the Aztec Fire Department, NM on September 28 through October 1. 34 students attended both 300 and 400 classes.
- Planning Department:
 - County was working on Rubbish Ordinance, based on the public survey and the lack of funding to support it, it was not approved by BOCC.
 - \$50,000 planning grant for a short-term rental ordinance development.
 - Monthly discussions on adjustments to the land use code.

- MOU Regional:
 - Meetings were held on developing a regional MOU for 6 counties and 2 tribes for resource sharing across the SW Region. In progress.
 - Training/Drills:
 - EM assisted in evaluations on Law Enforcement training at PCC on 9/3/26
 - EM attended HazMat and Livestock workshop on 9/9/26
 - EM assisted in Active Threat Exercise Planning for the County on 9/15/26
 - EM attended IMT workshop 9/22 to 23/2026
 - EM instructed ICS 300 and 400 Classes on 9/28 to 10/1/26
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|--|---------------|--------------|
| ○ Total training held - | in 2025 = 36, | in 2026 = 46 |
| ○ Total EOC training held - | in 2025 = 6, | in 2026 = 6 |
| ○ Total exercises/tabletops - | in 2025 = 9, | in 2026 = 19 |
| ○ Total training certificates received – | in 2025 =16, | in 2026 = 9 |
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- Total planning/stakeholder meetings – in 2025 = 400, in 2026 = 224
 - Total Committees/Boards representing – in 2025 = 24, in 2026 = 24
 - Total MOU, IGA, MMAs completed – in 2025 = 4, in 2026 = 1
 - Total COOP Plans Completed – in 2025 = 7, in 2026 = 1
 - Total plans/policies written – in 2025 = 17, in 2026 = 4
 - Total grants involved with – in 2025 = 9, in 2026 = 5
 - Total calls assigned to EM in 2025 = 51, in 2026 = 37
 - Total deployments for EM Staff – in 2025 = 0, in 2026 = 1
 - Total EOC activations – in 2025 = 1, in 2026 = 2
 - Total declarations County wide - in 2025 = 1, in 2026 = 2

6. Mass Care and Housing

- Water:
 - Mancos Rual Water experienced 3 water line breaks affecting residents.
 - Water Storage report at of 9/30/26
 - Mc Phee – 13,041 af with 332 CFS inflow, and 191 CSF total outflow
 - Jackson – 4,133 af with 0 CSF inflow, and 0 CSF outflow
 - Groundhog – 6,141 af with 0 CSF outflow
 - Narraguinnep 3,100 af with 0 water used
 - Totten – 1,560 af
- Housing:
 - Red Cross
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.
- Mass Care:
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.
- Access Functional Needs (AFN):
 - Ongoing registration on the county's web site for AFN registration.

7. Logistics Management

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC):
 - The Alternate EOC at the Fairgrounds has received a Congressional Spending grant for re-modeling the upper rooms in the indoor arena. Planning process was submitted for approval. Possibly will begin in November. Project in progress.

- Grants:
 - Region 9 grants (SHSP) for 2025. County submitted and received \$30,800 for a communications generator.
 - SRS funding will be used to purchase an early alert and warning camera system for fires. In the process of purchasing and installing. Using SRS funding and the camera system will cost \$37,500.

8. Public Health and Medical Services

- Public Health
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.
- Medical Services:
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.

9. Search and Rescue

- Total SAR missions - 6 SAR missions, 5 event communications and first aid support
- Montezuma County Search & Rescue - Provided communication and first aid support for the San Juan Softie endurance race, attended SARCon2026- the statewide conference sponsored by Flight for Life and the Colorado Search & Rescue Association, where participants trained in high-angle rescue, UAS operations, best practices for team leadership, and adapting new technology for SAR response.

10. Hazardous Materials

- Local Emergency Planning Committee (From LEPC Chair):

- Regional and Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings were held this month. There were 3 inspections of facilities for 2026 completed. Will be starting the annual facility tours. Still waiting on a few facilities to file their Tier II Reports.
- Total reported chemicals at facilities = 107
- Total facilities (Tier II, including EHS) = 53
- Total facilities with Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) facilities = 8
- Facilities inspected in 2025 = 6, in 2026 = 3
- Total Biomass facilities inspected in 2025 = 4, in 2026 = 3
- LEPC conference was held September 1 – 4 in Glenwood Springs at Hotel Colorado.
- Reports to CDPHE:
 - None reported

11. Agriculture and Natural Resources

- CSU Extension:
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.
- Natural Resources:
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.

12. Energy Services

- Electric
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.
- Gas
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.

13. Public Safety

- Business as usual. No reports for September.

14. Long-Term Community Recovery

- Recovery training by DHSEM will be held in late fall in the SW Region. Date to be determined.

15. External Affairs and Alert and Warning

- Alert and Warning:
 - Total Everbridge Alert and Warnings sent out - in 2025 = 685, in 2026= 1395
 - Working on setting up state training for emergency managers on alerts and warnings. Date to be set soon.
- Public Information:
 - Business as usual. No reports for September.
- Government:
 - On YouTube for all BOCC meetings for review.

END OF REPORT