



## 2013 Evans, Colorado Flood Story

### The Queen City of the South Platte, City of Evans, September 12, 2013:

- Approximately 20,000 residents located on the northeastern plains of Colorado
- 300 acres of parks and open space
- Elevation 4,650
- 10.5 square miles
- 4 elementary schools
- New school and Library to open in 2014
- Major location of oil and energy industry in Colorado
- 165 storefront businesses

### Flood Event September 13, 2013:

- Up to 15" of rain fell on the Front Range, primarily in Boulder and Larimer Counties, between Wednesday, September 11 and Friday, September 13, resulting in the South Platte River peaking in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 14 at 18.79 feet ( well exceeding the previous record of 11.7 feet in 1973). The flooding lasted longer than expected and the river stayed above 12 feet (major flood stage) until Thursday, September 19.
- The South Platte grew to almost 1 mile wide at its peak. Significant levee breaches occurred in the morning Friday, September 13, increasing the depth and intensity of the flood in an extremely period of time.
- The September 2013 flood was considered to have reached 500 to 1,000 year flood levels.
- While local Emergency Operations Center had been established beginning at 7:30 am on Friday, September 13, the storm event was classified as an *official* disaster, requiring state assistance, late that day. During Friday and Friday night, emergency responders conducted rescue operations in east Evans and a mandatory evacuation order of all east Evans was issued. An estimated 600 – 1,000 residents were displaced as a result of the evacuation.
- On Sunday morning, September 15, local command was transferred to the Colorado Southwest Type III Incident Management Team. This team managed the incident on behalf of the City through Sunday morning, September 22. At this time, City leadership assumed control of managing the recovery.
- There was no loss of life or serious injuries.
- A Red Cross shelter was established at the Greeley Recreation Center in downtown Greeley beginning the evening of Friday, September 13. This shelter continued to operate through Friday, September 27.
- Friday afternoon Waste Water Treatment Plant Number One was deemed inoperable and a "no flush" order was imposed on approximately 12,000 residents. Most businesses in Evans were within the "no flush" area and forced to cease operations.
- 202 port o lets were donated by Noble Energy and placed strategically throughout the affected area almost immediately.
- An alternate above ground sewer treatment system was operational on Saturday, September 21 and the "no flush" order was lifted. When the original "no flush" order was imposed, City officials believed the repair would take 10 days. The system was operational with the temporary repair in eight days – a major success!
- The above ground reroute for the Waste Water Treatment plant ended the week of October 14.

- Temporary repairs to the levee included building a 530 foot access road to the breach in order to begin repairs. Workers from both the City of Greeley and the City of Evans, along with outside contractors collaborated to complete a temporary fix. From the time the breach was identified to completion of the temporary repair was only four days.
- Multiple Community Information Meetings and meetings for impacted residents were held the week following the flood to provide residents, businesses and the media with updates.
- Two community meetings were held for those residents whose homes had been “red-tagged” as uninhabitable within a week of the flood. Information was shared with residents regarding what the red tag meant and what their next steps were. Numerous disaster response organizations were on hand to provide additional information and assistance.
- An additional road 340 feet in length had to be constructed from Riverside Parkway to Eastwood Village to allow residents access in order to retrieve personal effects once the flood waters receded.
- In addition to damage caused to Riverside Park by the flooding itself, flood waters washing over the park uncovered a landfill that was unknown to current City leadership. The resulting debris left after the flood waters receded has posed additional challenges to recovery efforts.

## Overall damage

- Waste Water Treatment Plant Number One damaged
- **Severe damage** to 56 stick built homes
- 208 mobile homes **destroyed** rendering Eastwood Village and Bella Vista mobile home parks non operational
- **Total destruction** of Riverside Park
- Severe damage to 8 miles of roadway
- Berm breached in several locations
- New/historic landfill discovered
- An estimated cost of \$28 million

