DISASTER MANAGEMENT
CITY OF BOULDER • BOULDER COUNTY

Glossary

Advisory: a type of notification message issued to raise awareness of a possible situation; used to share information about a situation that is likely to impact communities.

All clear: a type of alert directive used to follow up and inform people that officials have determined the hazard no longer presents a threat to the community.

Climb to higher ground: a type of alert directive used to inform people to move to a location nearby that is higher than your current position. This could include moving up a hillside or to the second floor of a building.

Disaster: an occurrence of a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human-caused event that has resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries. Typically, disasters exceed the response capability of the local jurisdiction and requires state, and potentially federal, involvement.

Emergency: an occasion or instance that warrants action to save lives, protect property, public health, and safety.

Evacuation: a type of alert directive used to inform people to leave the area immediately.

Missing/endangered person: a type of alert directive used to share information about a missing or endangered person that is shared to increase community awareness.

Mitigation: is the process of preventing or reducing the cause, impact, and consequences of a disaster.

Order: a type of notification message issued to give a directive to take action immediately due to an imminent life threat.

Preparedness: the planning, training, and educational activities engaged in to ready oneself or community for disasters that cannot be mitigated.

Recovery: a period that involves restoration efforts occurring concurrently with regular operations to provide stability after a disaster.

Response: actions taken in the immediate aftermath of a disaster or emergency.

Shelter-in-place: a type of alert directive used to inform people to remain indoors until the situation is resolved and an “all clear” message is sent through the alert system.

Warning: a type of notification message used to prepare people to take action; for those who may need additional time to mobilize they should consider evacuating/sheltering-in-place/climbing to higher ground when a warning is sent.