

Handbook for Colorado Floodplain Managers



During and Immediately
After a Flood

This handbook has been prepared
by:



Colorado Water Conservation
Board

&

Colorado Association of
Stormwater and Floodplain
Managers



CASFM

with technical assistance from the Colorado
Office of Emergency Management.

Do Your Homework Ahead of Time

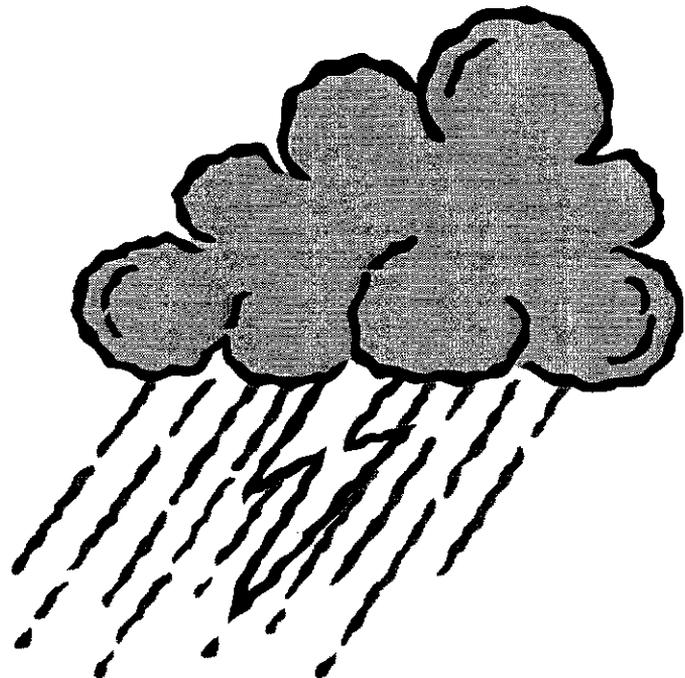


- 1 Meet your local emergency manager
- 2 Understand the Incident Command System (ICS) in your community
- 3 Familiarize yourself with your community's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)
- 4 Check with your local emergency manager about participating in emergency exercises and training.
- 5 Verify with your emergency manager that your emergency communications network is physically safe from potential flooding.

Responsibilities Just Before & During a Flood

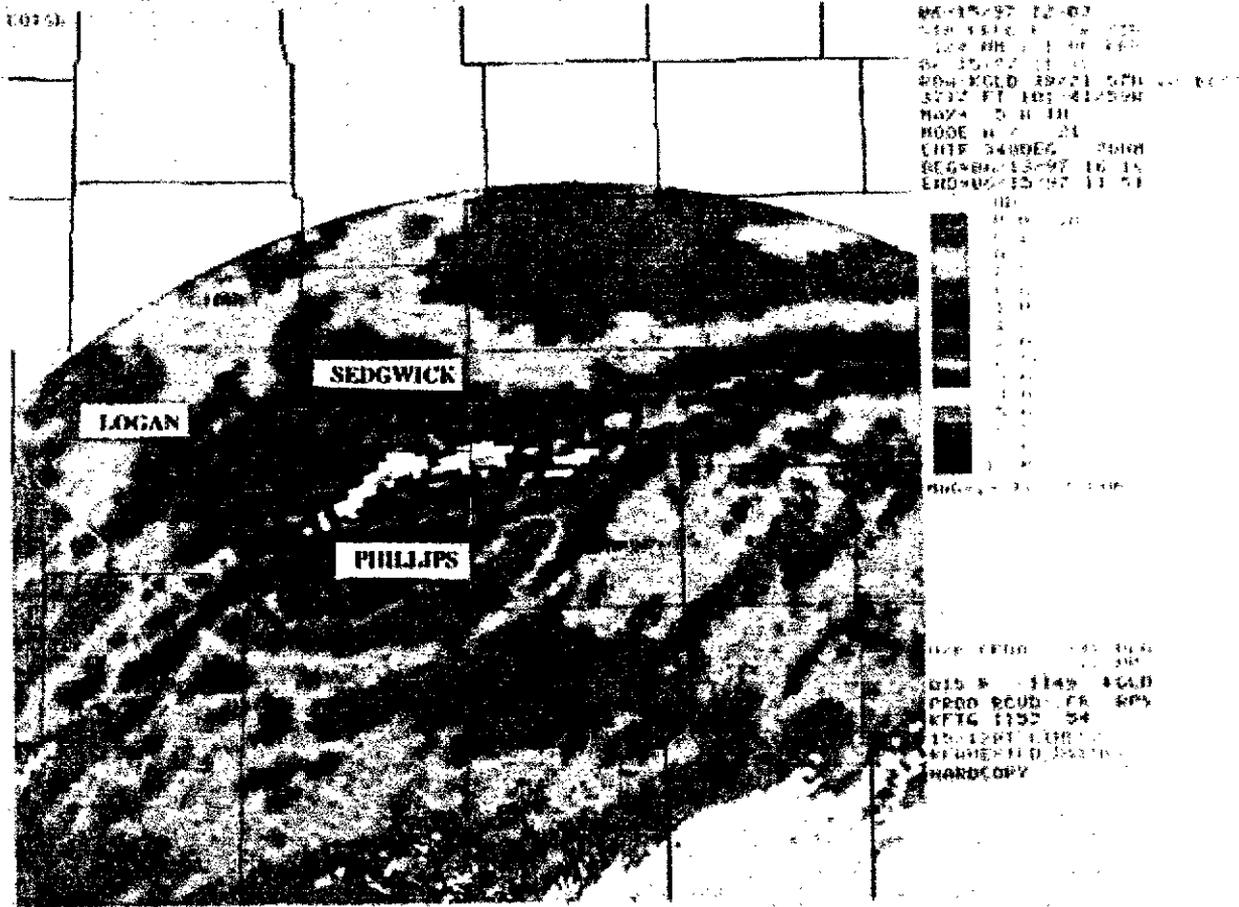
Keep an eye on the sky!

- Recognition of flood conditions as they develop
- Good contact with weather watchers



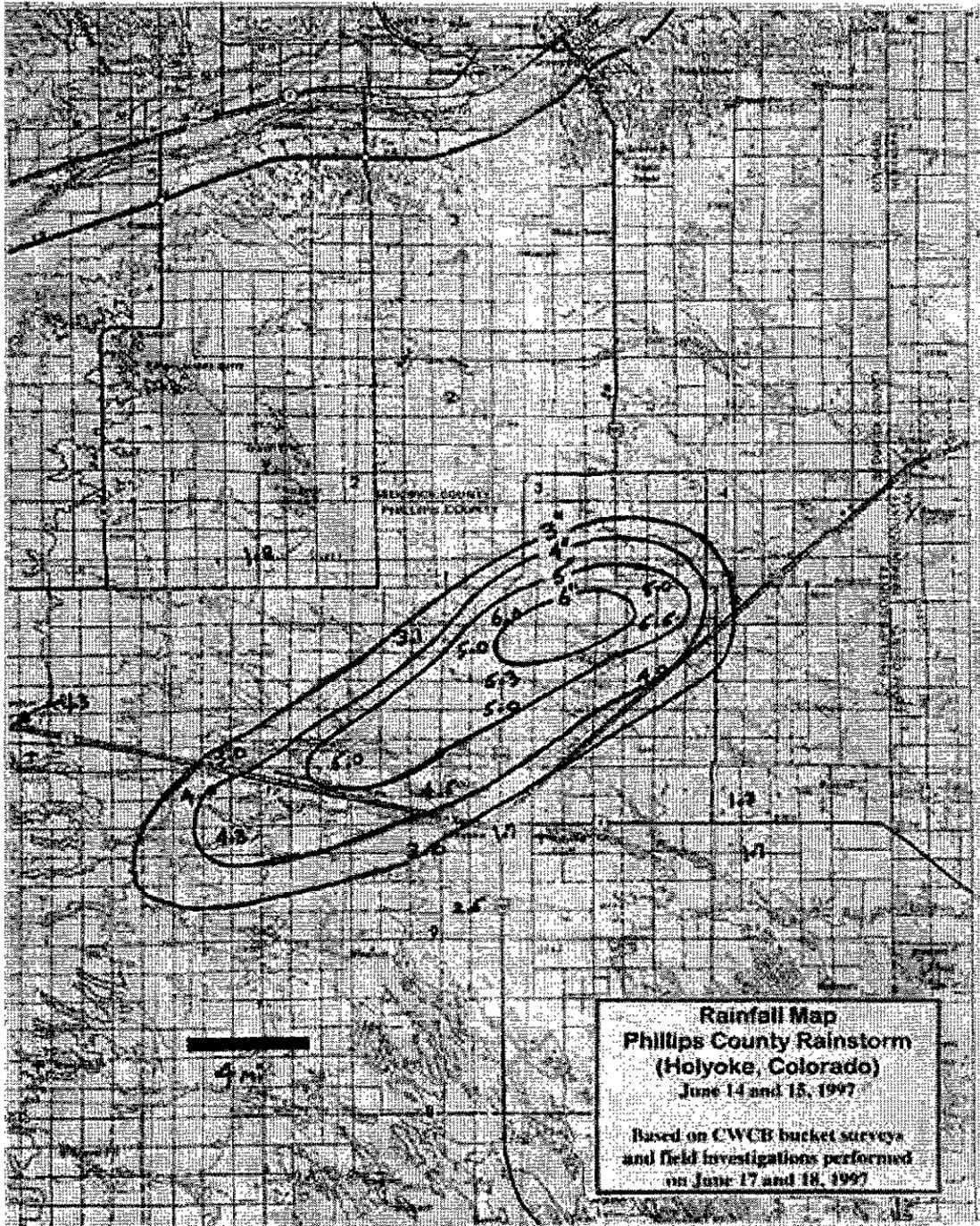
An Example of Weather Watching

(Radar says there's a storm.)



Rainfall Measurements

(Yes, there really was a storm!)



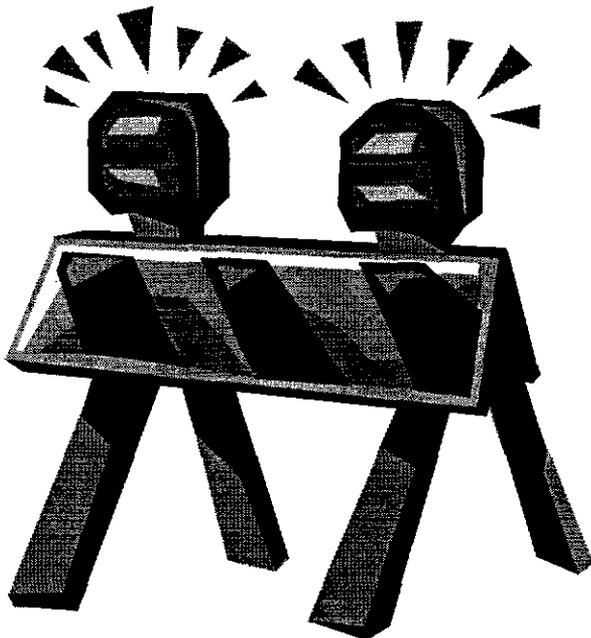
The Flood on Frenchman Creek

June 19, 1997

(Yes, the storm really did cause a flood!)

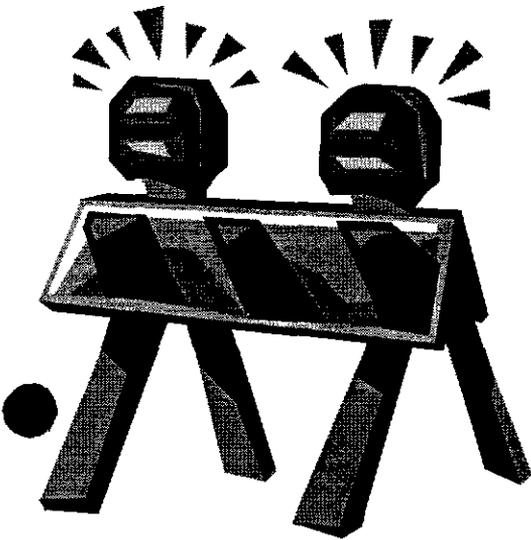


Responsibilities Just Before and During a Flood



- Responsibilities Just Before and During a Flood

Help keep them out of harm's way!



- Awareness of the official flood warning process and provision of technical support
- Prevention or reduction of damage and injury
- Protection of critical facilities

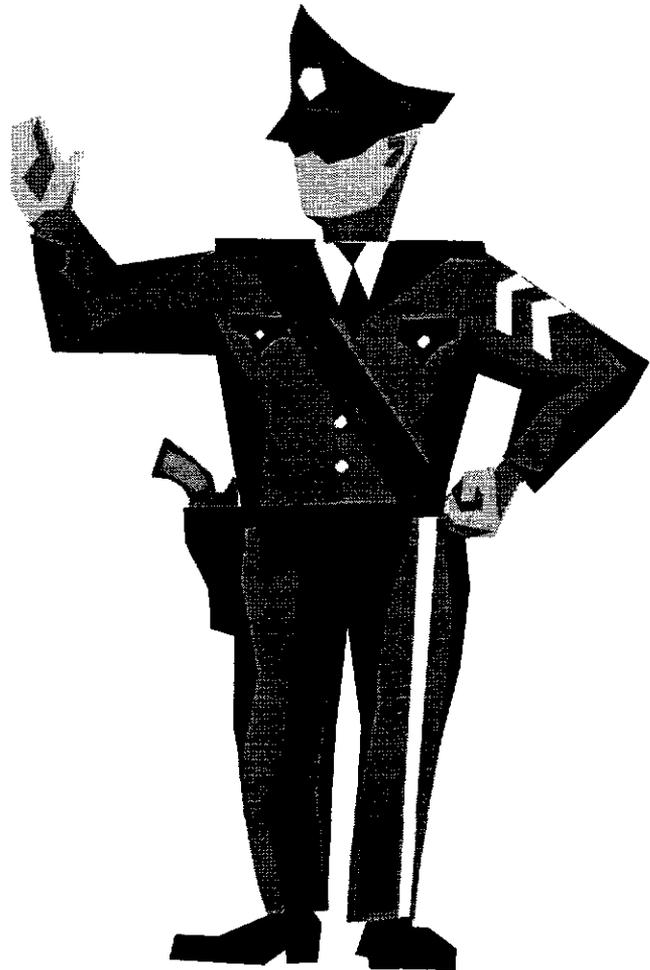
Responsibilities Just Before and During a Flood

Be there when they need you!

- Contact your local emergency manager
- Remember the Incident Command System may be implemented during a flood for directing:
 - 1) Rescue operations and flood fighting activities
 - 2) Maintenance of good communications
- Assure a visible presence for local staff

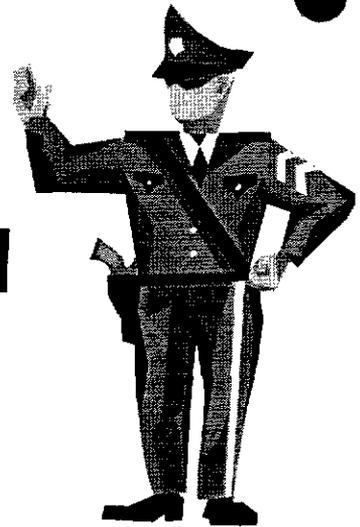


“Rules of the Road” During a Flood



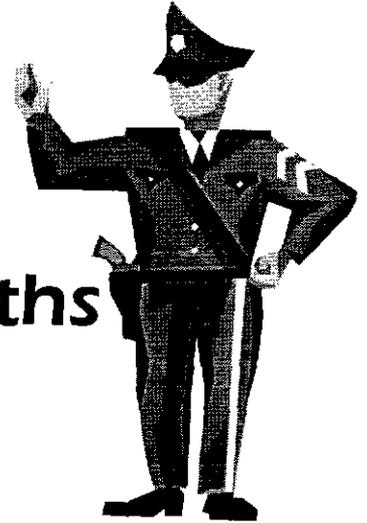
“Rules of the Road” During a Flood

The Incident Command System should:



- **Make sure emergency responders are in communication with technical staff.**
- **Coordinate with the media to assure that appropriate emergency messages are conveyed.**

“Rules of the Road” During a Flood



- **Know your potential flood depths and flood flows and keep the emergency management system/Incident Command System posted about hydraulic information.**

- **Use your maps, other technical information, and your technical staff.**

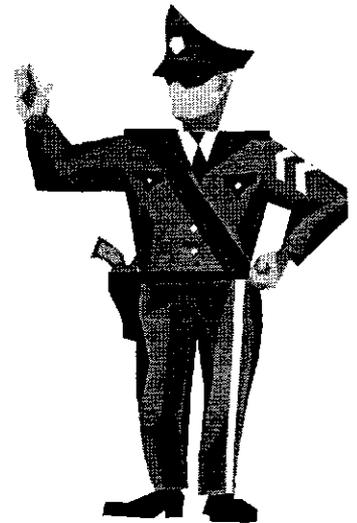
- **Know which roads and bridges are the most vulnerable to failure and which ones are the most essential to try to protect.**

“Rules of the Road” During a Flood



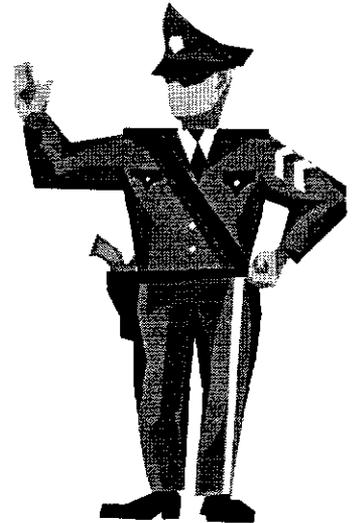
- **Notify the emergency management system/Incident Command System of other critical and vulnerable locations (i.e. low spots, fragile levees, erosive banks).**
- **Assist in developing and implement road and bridge closure plans to protect unaware (and misguided) drivers.**
- **Assist in monitoring geographic patterns and trends (rain, streamflows, 911 calls, deployment of personnel, etc.).**

● **“Rules of the Road” During a Flood**



- **Watch any dams, levees or embankments that may have water accumulating behind them; prepare for any necessary evacuations downstream of these facilities and notify the emergency management system/Incident Command System.**
- **Assist in monitoring your critical facilities (you should already have a list of these facilities).**

“Rules of the Road” During a Flood



- The emergency management system/Incident Command System will prioritize your problems and will focus on the most important problems.**
- Keep in mind that there are some problems that cannot be solved at the time; use your resources where they can actually solve problems.**

"Response" After a Flood



"Response" After a Flood



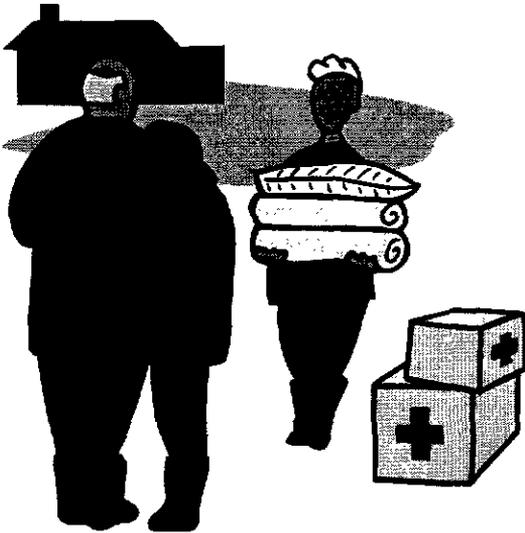
Help them stay "healthy,
wealthy and wise."

Help the appropriate agencies:

- Assure health and safety.
- Provide immediate information to building owners to avoid cleanup mistakes that might harm buildings.

● "Response" After a Flood

Organize important responses and information



Appropriate agencies will:

- Coordinate emergency responses of various providers.
- Coordinate with state, federal, and private agencies, and with other local agencies regarding other assistance.

"Response" After a Flood

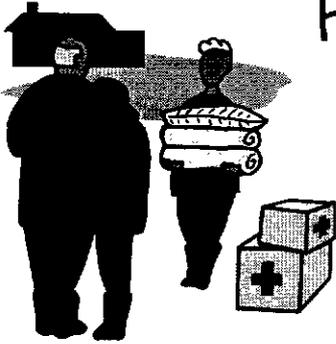
Organize important responses and information



- Document what just happened (i.e. high water marks).
- Provide technical assistance to the damage assessment process.
- Help track expenses and hours of labor and equipment.

"Response" After a Flood

Plan, plan again, then act!



- Identify the most critical flood problem locations and consider the imposition of a moratorium to allow planning there.
- If appropriate, assure reconstruction is only occurring outside moratorium areas, that it is properly regulated, and that it is consistent with any mitigation plans.
- Begin evaluating causes of problems.

Plan for the short term and for the long term

- In concert with the local emergency manager and other appropriate agencies, evaluate any existing emergency response plans and any long-term mitigation plans.
- As appropriate, initiate the process of preparing or updating your long-term flood hazard mitigation plan.

