



# Clear Creek County

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April 2, 2014

To the Residents and Homeowners in the Beaver Brook Canyon Area

We have been forewarned by the Lookout Mountain Water District about the possibility of flooding in the Beaver Brook Canyon area this spring as a result of the snow pack, among other things. We want to share the District's letter with you; a copy of it is attached. We can never predict how the spring run-off will unfold, and it depends on how much more snow we get, whether rain falls on snow, and whether there is rapid warming. In any event, it appears that the risks this spring are higher than our ordinary experiences would lead us to expect.

We went through the unlikely and unexpected flooding last September. Even if you are located in a place that will not be directly affected by the flow of water, you may still be at risk because flooding in the area may mean you are cut off from vehicular exit or access, or from utility services, which could last many days.

In light of the District's warning and our common experience last fall, it seems prudent that – and we encourage – everyone inspect their property and the potential water flow routes with the purpose of identifying things that might float away and cause damage, and things that might obstruct flow where they are or if they should break up or float away. Anyone with culverts should be sure the culverts are clear. Anyone with structures over or nearby drainage should consider whether the structure could withstand flooding or obstruct water flow. Debris from last September or that has accumulated over time should be cleared from your property.

We encourage property owners to contact their property insurance agents to discuss flood insurance coverage. Everyone is eligible for this insurance, regardless where you live, and your homeowners insurance does not cover flood damages.

Finally, we encourage residents and homeowners to consider the guidance for being prepared for spring run-off, guidance which we believe applies not just this year, but in all future years. See the reverse page. We are trying to do our part to prepare for any reasonably possible flooding. At the very least you will be greatly inconvenienced in the event of flooding, and likely you will find our preparation inadequate if you do not also take steps to prepare.

Tom Hayden, Chairman

Phil Buckland, Commissioner

Timothy J. Mauck, Commissioner



## CLEAR CREEK COUNTY - BEAVER BROOK CANYON AREA

### FLOODING POTENTIAL

- There is likelihood for more flooding and road destruction during spring run-off, not limited to the areas that were impacted by the 2013 Flood Disaster, in part because of high water levels in the Beaver Brook Reservoirs, along with heavy snow loads.
- Flash flooding can occur quickly, even when it is not raining or melting at your location.

### PREPARING MAKES SENSE:

Take the time now to plan for taking care of yourself and your family during a flood emergency.

- Flooding events occur so quickly you may not receive a warning. You may need to take action on your own initiative to evacuate either from your neighborhood (if there is time) or just to higher ground. If you are unsure, evacuate first and only then try to call for information.
- Even if you are not directly affected by floodwaters, your access and utility services may be cut off.
- Clean out culverts.
- Clear your property of any potential debris, such as patio furniture, portable sheds, vehicles, bicycles, and unnecessary bridges that may be swept away or clog the flow of water causing damming and further damage.
- Evaluate whether vehicle access bridges are anchored and capable of accommodating Emergency vehicles and necessary deliveries, such as propane.
- Prepare to be self-sufficient for three to five days: potable water, food, MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL DEVICE NEEDS. First responders may not be able to reach you immediately.
- You may be without vehicle access, natural gas, phone, cell phone and electricity service for several days. Consider alternatives for communication, heat and cooking.

### FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN:

Planning before a disaster can help your family evacuate and reunite faster:

- Have an out-of-state contact for everyone to call or text to check in.
- Have at least one, preferably two, safe (higher ground) meeting locations for family members.
- Practice moving to your safe locations; choose different routes to get there.

### VEHICLE SAFETY:                      TURN AROUND \* DON'T DROWN

- Never drive your vehicle through flood waters. DO NOT drive around barricades.
- If your vehicle stalls, LEAVE IT IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground.

### CREATE EMERGENCY KITS FOR EVACUATION AND FOR SHELTERING IN PLACE IF YOU CANNOT EVACUATE.

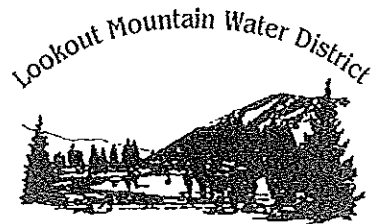
Being prepared also means having access to supplies in case of an emergency. Ideally, you will have (1) supplies for a To-Go Kit, for your use after you have evacuated until you can return to your home and (2) supplies at home in the event you cannot evacuate and are isolated in your home.

What do you need if you cannot go home for several days? A To-Go Kit should include important documents for use while evacuated and for use afterward in the event your property is damaged. Do not forget a supply of necessary medications and medical supplies.

What do you need every day? Every week? What will you need if you have no access, no water and no utilities? For supplies at home, remember you will need a minimum of 1 gallon of water per person per day (and more if you have pets or plan on cooking with water). Well water may not be safe during or after flooding even if you have electricity to pump it. You must have a sufficient supply of necessary medications and other medical needs. Don't forget sanitation needs.

The American Red Cross website [www.redcross.org/services/disaster/](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/) or [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) has guidance on making plans and gathering supplies. For more information regarding preparedness visit the Clear Creek County website at <http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/>.

For questions, to coordinate for picking up sandbags for pre-staging, and for further information you may leave a message on the SPRING RUN-OFF PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION LINE [303-670-7530](tel:303-670-7530). You will receive a follow-up call.



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February 20, 2014

Clear Creek County Commissioners  
Attn: Beth Luther, Executive Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners  
405 Argentine St.  
Georgetown, CO 80444

Re: Flooding Potential in Beaver Brook Watershed beginning March 2014.

Dear Commissioners Mauck, Hayden, and Buckland:

The Lookout Mountain Water District is writing to confirm our concerns to you and Clear Creek County as we approach the run-off season within the Beaver Brook Watershed of Clear Creek County.

We are noting several key concerns:

- February snowpack data from two Clear Creek basin snow courses is now reported at 135% of average.
- The District's Reservoirs (Upper Beaver Brook and Lower Beaver Brook) have remained full and overflowing since the flooding in September 2013; continual overflow from December through March is not the norm, but will be likely this year.
- The ground appears to be more heavily saturated than normal for this time of year due to the unusually wet fall.
- Any significant reduction in the water level in the reservoirs is not possible, for several reasons, including: 1) these dams are not flood control structures, 2) currently the release controls are frozen and 3) Colorado water law would not necessarily allow replacing such a release.

If these factors are combined with extended days of warm or very warm weather, we can expect that run-off will be significant, as the entire watershed's snow-melt will feed directly into Beaver Brook. If we are all fortunate and the warm weather days end up being interspersed with cooler days, or later in the season, the run-off season will be extended, which will reduce the volume on any given day and therefore reduce the risk of flooding.

The District is bringing this to your attention and recommending that special attention be given to keeping the culverts and drainages in the Beaver Brook and Beaver Brook Canyon area at their maximum capacity starting in early March. The County may also consider notifying the potentially effected downstream residents about the possibility of

flooding and for them to be especially alert during and following warmer weather days in the months of March, April, and May.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

*Donald Ranta /cd*

Donald Ranta  
President of the Board of Directors  
Lookout Mountain Water District

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