



NORTHEAST COLORADO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Building Healthy Communities Since 1948

June 22, 2009

I. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

1. **Agency Name:** Northeast All Hazards
2. **Project Title:** Northeast All Hazards Debris Management Plan
3. **Name of Project Manager:** Julie McCaleb
4. **Project Manager E-mail address and phone number:** juliem@nchd.org / 970-345-6562 Ext. 23
5. **Name of person(s) completing this report:** Julie McCaleb
6. **E-mail address and phone number of person(s) completing this report:** juliem@nchd.org / 970-345-6562 Ext. 23

District Headquarters - 700 Columbine, Sterling, Colorado 80751 - Phone (970) 522-3741 - 877-795-0646 - www.nchd.org

LOGAN COUNTY
700 Columbine
Sterling, 80751
Ph: 970-522-3741
FAX: 970-522-1412

MORGAN COUNTY
228 West Railroad Ave.
Ft. Morgan, 80701
Ph: 970-867-4918
FAX: 970-867-0878

PHILLIPS COUNTY
127 E. Denver Suite C
Holyoke, 80734
Ph: 970-854-2717
FAX: 970-854-4347

SEDGWICK COUNTY
118 West 3rd
Julesburg, 80737
Ph: 970-474-2619
FAX: 970-474-0954

WASHINGTON COUNTY
150 Ash
Akron, 80720
Ph: 970-345-6562
FAX: 970-345-6561

YUMA COUNTY
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Yuma, 80759
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II. WORK PLAN

Deliverable	Completion Date	Comments
Complete the animal mortality plan	January 31, 2009	Completed. Currently going through county review.
Collaboration with partners	January 31, 2009	
Inventory Local Infrastructure	February 1, 2009	Completed. Forwarded to Emergency Managers.
Educate agricultural producers on livestock mortality disposal procedures	May 15, 2009	Meat Quality Assurance educational classes held in April –May of 2009.
Public education and volunteer recruitment of debris management following a natural disaster	May 13, 2009	
Increase regional capacity for recycling and composting	ongoing	Announced through the inventory of local infrastructure and first one scheduled is an electronics event held through several counties.

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III. GRANT PROJECT INFORMATION

- 1. Executive Summary** The project has been completed. We have done some great education and it has been a learning experience for the Emergency Managers, Board of Health, and County Commissioners. We started this project by providing education to the emergency managers and Northeast Colorado Board of Health on what types of waste streams that exist after certain types of disasters. We continued to meet with the Emergency Managers and people they felt would be part of the Local Debris Management Team during an event. These people included representatives from local municipalities, landfill operators, county commissioners, and town council members.

We also provided a list of all infrastructure and recycling assets available in the seven counties so that the emergency managers had a resource available to them to use to contact for assistance.

We completed six of the seven counties training with their local debris management teams, which included town employees, county employees, volunteers, and emergency managers. We have posted on Ready Northeast Website the training tools, such as the power point developed explaining the guidelines provided by FEMA. The brochure that we designed that will go to each household in the seven counties so the general public understand types of debris so they are able to separate the types of debris during a disaster or on a normally daily basis to encourage recycling and re-use.

- 2. Project Description & Overview** Recycling is sometimes overlooked in the rural areas because people either hauls everything to certified landfills or find some place to illegally dump items. Through the educational programs we have enlisted; local municipalities, county officials, and collaborating agencies to identify types of waste streams and realize that there are local recycling going on. For instance one of the local mortality composters assisted us in developing an educational film that discusses the benefits of mortality composting and how this compost works as a great soil amendment. Also, many people were enlighten to the fact that white goods can be salvaged and

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that there are local businesses that already do this and are glad to come out and remove refrigerants legally and recycle this type of waste debris. When samples of the brochure were given to people that have not been educated about debris waste streams there comment has been I didn't have any idea how to get rid of this item, I've learned a lot with this simple brochure which I can keep handy at my home.

3. **Description of Work Completed** The first goal was to find collaborating agencies; we did this by explaining to local emergency managers, extension personnel the need to provide this type of plan. We showed them pictures and after action plans from the recent tornados in Windsor and Holly to get buy in. The second step of this project was to take an inventory of local infrastructure that is available in all seven counties and give the Emergency Managers names and contacts of these types of recycling efforts. The third step was to educate, emergency managers, board of health members, county commissioners, municipality officials as to the FEMA rules and educate them as to what type of debris streams can occur in different types of disasters. The final steps was developing a plan, brochure, and film that educates the general public about debris waste and how to get rid of it through recycling, re-use, reduction of different debris.
4. **Summary of Findings & Results** We have a film that provides great information on the positives of mortality composting that should encourage livestock producers of all ages to do what they can to keep animal mortalities from getting into the landfill. We also have developed a very simple brochure explaining all types of waste streams and how to reduce, re-use or, recycle each type of debris. We also provided educational tools that are being made available on three different websites so that emergency managers can use for additional education in the future.
5. **Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks** FEMA rules and asbestos seem to be our largest roadblocks. Many of the elected officials in our area did not like all the rules FEMA have to assure that debris is actually disposed of in a legal manner in order to receive public assistance monies. Also, asbestos seems to be a large issue due to the cost to abate this type of debris. Also, we do not have any certified people in Eastern Colorado to conduct testing of this type of debris, or to be onsite to assure that it is properly disposed of which adds to the cost. Most contractors must be

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obtained from the Front Range and the mileage, motel, are killing proper abatement due to the additional costs. Through much discussion we were able to finish the grant.

It has however impacted how my staff and I do business in Eastern Colorado. Many of the environmental programs where we assisted the state before are now being told to come do all the investigation and enforcement on the state's nickel not ours. This in turn is causing me to determine if I need to keep staff on as we are now saving time in not responding to any environmental issues other than water and food. I believe this will make a great impact to environmental health issues in Eastern Colorado since the State doesn't have the money to come out for each complaint and I'm not allowed to send staff or myself out on these complaints. This grant unknowingly to me had the opposite effect that I wanted. I wanted this to be a stepping process to educate people about the types of debris and how if disposed of improperly can impact their environment. I wanted to have this be the pro-active, least costly, efficient way to assure that environmental issues are not made unknowingly. What has happened is that many people are going to have to live with environment health issues because our EH staff is not allowed and the state's budget is hampered to respond to complaints. We have found that many people don't like the rules that exist that protect the environment and don't plan on abiding by them until forced to.

- 6. Communication to Colorado Businesses and Communities** The results are being communicated through a brochure that will be given to each household in seven counties approximately 80,000 people. The mortality composting is going to be given to approximately 250 adults and children in the seven county areas during a meat quality assurance a mandated program for 4-H and FFA member's livestock project members and their families. Also, approximately 100 people throughout the seven counties that are elected officials, volunteers for the counties and local municipalities will receive education as to what is proper disposal so that these areas can be held accountable for proper debris disposal.
- 7. Recycling Impact** Recycling will be impacted the greatest amount with green waste as many of the municipalities and counties were excited by this type of

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debris and how through composting, chipping, grinding they can create mulch or soil amendment that can be re-used by their citizens.

8. Financial Summary The funds have been spent in the following ways: *Salaries and Related was \$4,890, Mileage \$622, and Supplies \$1,988.* This includes an additional request that the underage that we have we can apply to Lydia Kiser for additional time to work on the plan due to the issues we had involved with the Boards of County Commissioners and the plan took many hours to pull together. Funds were also spent on materials and travel for our training sessions.

9. Continuing Development of Disaster Debris Planning The regional debris plan and livestock mortality plans will be looked at annually from now on when Emergency Managers review their emergency plans on a yearly evaluation.

10. Final Conclusion I think this is a great grant. Even though in the short term I am very hampered in my environmental health duties. I believe the education and the wheels of progress have been started to assure that people become aware of some great ways to recycle and to utilize local recycling programs that in the past may have been overlooked. We also have provided needed education to elected officials who now can't use the excuse that they didn't know about proper debris disposal.

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