



Town of Estes Park
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June 12, 2015

Your 1A sales tax allows Town to step up emergency response capabilities New technology for Emergency Operations Center

By Police Chief Wes Kufeld

It goes without saying that Estes Park is no stranger to natural disasters. As a community, it's critical that we prepare for anything that might happen. We are fortunate to have well-trained emergency services and response personnel in Estes Park. We are also fortunate to have a new, dedicated funding source for emergency response needs through Ballot Issue 1A, approved by voters in April of 2014. (Learn more at www.estes.org/ballotissue1a.) These funds have already been used to greatly enhance our emergency communications through the recent addition of "Estes 1470" – our local AM information radio station. We've taken another step to invest your 1A funds in an enhanced Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Information Center at Town Hall.

Police Commander and Emergency Manager Eric Rose took the lead in the task of outfitting the Town Hall conference rooms with equipment that allows us to transform the rooms into the EOC when an emergency arises. Commander Rose worked closely with the Town's Information Technology team to research and install current technology that allows our team to carefully monitor and respond to emergency events, as well as easily share information with partners and the public. Installation was complete in May.

Thanks to your 1A sales tax funds, the rooms are now outfitted with state-of-the-art technology that can be quickly accessed during disasters like floods and fires, or even for large special events or dignitary visits. This includes dedicated computers, a network internet feed, phone bank, and widescreen monitors to assist with planning, operations and resource allocation. While these rooms served as the EOC and Joint Information Center in the past, the set up process involved gathering older equipment with fewer capabilities and setting up the rooms, which takes critical time that could be better used helping our community.

Already this year, we've used the new EOC to maintain situational awareness of spring runoff and communicate with our partners at the Fire District, National Weather Service, Larimer County, Bureau of Reclamation and more. A fully equipped EOC not only helps the Town and its residents, it provides a resource for our neighbors and partner agencies as well. The Town's EOC could be (and has been) utilized during all types of events and emergencies occurring inside and outside of Estes Park, including unincorporated Estes Valley, the Big Thompson Canyon, Glen Haven, Allenspark, and Rocky Mountain National Park. We take being stewards of taxpayer funds very seriously, and we're proud to put your investment toward such a critical service for our community and our neighbors.

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