



## Local Community Resilience Examples

Below are some local examples of community resilience projects. The first example is described in more detail to clearly show the action steps they did to reach their goals.

### **Town of Lyons Stressor:** The 2013 floods divided the town into several isolated islands stranding residents and worsening communication issues.

- **Community Response:** Residents banded together to strengthen their ability to communicate during and be prepared for a disaster.
- **Community Resilience Action Steps:** Lyons Prepared, a volunteer community group, was formed to work with residents within the town of Lyons and surrounding area. Lyons Prepared began by connecting with existing organizations/government entities and meeting monthly. Over the course of one year they:
  - o Defined their neighborhood boundaries, created a basic website, and found points of contacts for 60% of their neighborhoods.
  - o Created and conducted an initial survey to gather information from residents about communications during emergency events.
  - o Held a 'pilot' neighborhood community meeting to introduce points of contact and neighborhood coordinators.Their future plans include formalizing coordinator and point-of-contact roles, purchasing ham radios, running exercises and evaluating results, and filling gaps in neighborhoods not already covered.

### **City of Lafayette Stressor:** Inability to afford fresh produce

- **Community Response:** Community members recognized the need for affordable, healthy food and partnered with the Alicia Sanchez International School, Boulder Valley School District, the City of Lafayette, and Growing Gardens to build a community garden.
- **Community Resilience Action Steps:** The garden is managed by parents of students at the school with help from Sister Carmen Community Center. Families commit to weeding and watering one plot throughout the growing season, working a minimum of 1 hour per week. The garden is currently supported by donations, sponsors and grants and is irrigated with water provided by the city. The garden consists of 10 plots with one or two vegetables per plot and feeds 20 families.

### **Mountain Communities' Stressor:** Lack of viable communications during the 2010 Fourmile Canyon Fire.

- **Community Response:** Residents collaborated with Boulder County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (BCARES) to fill the communication gap by training to be HAM radio operators.
- **Community Resilience Action Steps:** The Mountain Emergency Radio Network (MERN) was created in conjunction with BCARES, the Inter-Mountain Alliance (IMA), and Boulder County's Office of Emergency Management. A review was conducted after the fire to assess overall response, identify weaknesses and determine next steps. The initial objectives are to:
  - o Increase radio coverage by installing radio repeater infrastructure.
  - o Train and organize residents to operate and communicate with HAM radios.

Resident created and led radio clubs now exist in Nederland, Gold Hill and Allenspark. Currently there are more than 60 FCC licensed HAM operators in the mountains west of Boulder. More trainings will be held to continue expanding the network.

### **City of Longmont Stressor: Growing gang activity**

- **Community Response:** Community members engaged with a grassroots non-profit and local community advocate, El Comité de Longmont, to assist in providing “preventative proactive safety for the entire community”<sup>1</sup>.
- **Community Resilience Action Steps:** A community collaborative, the Gang Response and Intervention Program (GRIP), was created as “an inter-agency and community collaboration committed to creating and maintaining resources with a structure of support and acceptance”<sup>2</sup>. The collaborative is made up of non-profits, the City of Longmont, the school district, police department and courts/probation. GRIP works with families, youth, and the school system to create positive youth opportunities that deter gang involvement.

<sup>1 2</sup> <http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-a-d/children-youth-and-families/community-problem-solving>

The role of BoCo Strong is to assist community leaders to build a program that best serves their community. Laura will be available outside of these meetings/workshops to provide ongoing assistance to the Resilience Leadership Teams in each community. BoCo Strong is excited to assist in building upon the existing leadership and capacity that is already present in your community