



NEWS ADVISORY

Contact: Lynn Kimbrough at lmk@denverda.org (720-913-9025)

Operation Mountain Guardian Emergency Response Exercise September 23, 2011

Operation Mountain Guardian is a terrorism-based, full-scale emergency response exercise scheduled to take place in numerous locations in the Denver metro area on Friday, September 23, 2011. The exercise will involve first responders from over 100 different agencies**, will be conducted at ten separate locations and will include loud noises, simulated weapons, smoke, emergency vehicles and other equipment that will be audible and visible throughout the day.

The purpose of this advisory is to provide information that can be disseminated to the public ahead of time to avoid confusion or concern on exercise day, as well as to invite media coverage of the event.

- Operation Mountain Guardian will be held at the following locations throughout the Denver Metropolitan area:

Primary Locations

1. Park Meadows Mall
2. Smedley Elementary School
3. Denver Union Station
4. Community College of Aurora (Lowry Campus)

Secondary Locations

5. Denver International Airport
6. Sky Ridge Medical Center
7. Denver Health Medical Center
8. University of Colorado Hospital
9. Catholic Charities (NW Denver)
10. Sports Authority Field at Mile High

- A Public Information Officer will be available at each primary location to coordinate safe access for media representatives and provide information. A Denver Joint Information Center PIO will also be available at 720-865-7695.
 - MEDIA: Please contact the Joint Information Center or on site PIO for inquiries related to this exercise (not individual agencies). Media inquiries not associated with this event should continue to be directed to the appropriate agency.
- The exercise has been designed as a learning event for regional first responders to test their capabilities in a scenario that will involve a terrorist-driven catastrophic situation. Exercise play will occur at the four primary sites and DIA. Catholic Charities and Sports Authority Field at Mile High will participate in an administrative fashion to test student/teacher processing activities. Sky Ridge Medical Center, Denver Health Medical Center, and University of Colorado Hospital will participate for the purpose of testing medical surge capabilities and communicating within Incident Command.
- The exercise is scheduled to begin at 5AM and end by 4:30PM.

NEWS ADVISORY: Operation Mountain Guardian (continued)

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Operation Mountain Guardian is a terrorism-based full-scale exercise sponsored by the North Central All-Hazards Emergency Management Region, Denver Urban Area Security Initiative, and Front Range Metropolitan Medical Response System. The exercise is a Homeland Security Grant funded event made possible due to grant funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through FEMA Region VIII and the State of Colorado Governor's Office of Homeland Security.
- The North Central All-Hazards Emergency Management Region is one of nine emergency preparedness and response Regions within the State of Colorado. The North Central Region (NCR) is organized around ten counties and their member jurisdictions: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin and Jefferson.
- One purpose of the NCR is to improve Region-wide emergency preparedness, response and homeland security capabilities through coordinated planning, training and exercise efforts. This exercise is evidence of the growing public safety partnership between regional emergency response agencies.
- Operation Mountain Guardian is part of a Regional Training and Exercise Plan established in 2009. Planning for Operation Mountain Guardian began in January 2010 and has included several building-block events designed to prepare responders to effectively participate in the full-scale exercise.
- The overall Operation Mountain Guardian exercise objectives are:
 1. Communications: *Assess the ability to establish and maintain multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications in response to a terrorism incident.*
 2. Hazmat Response and Decontamination: *Evaluate the capability to coordinate multiple hazmat response teams and assess their ability to perform initial response actions.*
 3. Public Safety & Security Response: *Evaluate the ability to establish scene security and crime scene preservation, coordinate a multi-jurisdictional response, and manage intelligence information in order to mitigate the effects of the event.*
 4. Explosive Device Response Operations: *Evaluate the capability to manage and coordinate explosive device response operations using regional bomb squad teams.*
 5. Onsite Incident Management: *Evaluate the ability to implement the Incident Command System (ICS) and establish multi-jurisdictional command and control.*
 6. Triage and Pre-Hospital Treatment: *Examine the ability of EMS to provide effective pre-hospital emergency medical care in response to a terrorism incident.*
 7. Medical Surge: *Evaluate medical surge capability at area hospitals.*
- While Operation Mountain Guardian is primarily a Homeland Security Grant funded exercise, the event will also rely heavily on local government emergency response agencies, military organizations, volunteer organizations as well as local charitable organizations.

**The following agencies are expected to participate:

1	84th Civil Support Team	55	Greeley Police Department
2	Action Care	56	Greenwood Village Police Department
3	Adams County Office of Emergency Management	57	Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management
4	Adams County Sheriff's Office	58	Jefferson County Public Health
5	Adcom 911	59	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
6	American Medical Response	60	Lafayette Fire Dept
7	Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office	61	Lakewood Police Department
8	Arvada Fire Department	62	Larimer County Sheriff's Office
9	Arvada Police Department	63	Larkspur Fire Department
10	Aurora Fire Department	64	Littleton Fire Department
11	Aurora MMRS	65	Littleton Police Department
12	Aurora Office of Emergency Management	66	Lone Tree Police Department
13	Aurora Police Department	67	Longmont Fire
14	Aurora Public Safety Communications	68	Longmont Police Department
15	Boulder County Sheriff's Office	69	Louisville Fire Department
16	Boulder Fire Department	70	Louisville Police Department
17	Boulder Police Department	71	Metropolitan Area Communications Center
18	Brighton Fire Protection District	72	Mountain View Fire Dept
19	Brighton Police Department	73	National Disaster Medical System
20	Broomfield Police Department	74	North Central Region
21	Buckley AFB Fire Department	75	North Metro Fire Rescue District
22	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	76	North Washington Fire
23	Castle Rock Fire Department	77	Northglenn Ambulance
24	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	78	Northglenn Police Department
25	Colorado Division of Emergency Management	79	Office of Bombing Prevention
26	Colorado Information Analysis Center	80	Park Meadows Mall
27	Colorado Office of Information Technology	81	Parker Police Department
28	Colorado Springs Police Department	82	Platte Valley Medical Center
29	Community College of Aurora	83	Porter Adventist Hospital
30	Cunningham Fire Protection District	84	Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital
31	Denver 911	85	Regional Transportation District
32	Denver Electronic Engineering Bureau	86	Rural Metro Ambulance
33	Denver Fire Department	87	Sable Altura Fire Department
34	Denver Health & Hospital Authority	88	Salvation Army
35	Denver Health Paramedic Division	89	Sheridan Police Department
36	Denver International Airport	90	Sky Ridge Medical Center
37	Denver MMRS	91	South Adams County Fire
38	Denver Office of Emergency Management	92	South Metro Fire Rescue Authority
39	Denver Parks & Recreation	93	St. Anthony's Hospital
40	Denver Police Department	94	St. Anthony Summit Medical Center
41	Denver Public Schools	95	St. Joseph Hospital
42	Denver Sheriff's Department	96	Swedish Medical Center
43	Denver UASI	97	Thornton Fire Department
44	Douglas County Office of Emergency Management	98	Thornton Police Department
45	Douglas County Sheriff's Office	99	Tri-County Health Department
46	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	100	University of Colorado Hospital
47	Englewood Fire	101	VA Hospital
48	Englewood Police Department	102	Weld County Sheriff's Office
49	Environmental Protection Agency	103	West Metro Fire Department
50	Fairmount Fire	104	Western Ambulance
51	Federal Bureau of Investigation	105	Westminster Police Department
52	Federal Protective Service	106	Wheat Ridge Fire Department
53	Franktown Fire Department	107	Wheat Ridge Police Department
54	Golden Police Department		

OMG EXERCISE OBSERVER OPPORTUNITIES

Park Meadows Mall (8401 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree)

Directions:

- From I-25 take the County Line Road exit to the west and make the FIRST LEFT turn (south) into the mall. Follow signs to the exercise area near JC Penney.

Exercise Start: 5AM

Exercise End: 12PM

Point of Contact: Fran Santagata

fsantaga@dcsheriff.net

(303-660-7589)

Smedley Elementary School (4250 Shoshone St., Denver)

Directions:

- From I-25 northbound, take the 20th Street exit to the west. Turn right on Central, left on Osage, left on 33rd Ave., right on Pecos and left on 44th Ave. Travel 3 blocks to the parking area.
- From I-25 southbound, take the Park Avenue West exit and turn westbound on 38th Ave. Turn right on Pecos and left on 44th Ave. Travel 3 blocks to the parking area.
- From I-70 take the Pecos St. exit southbound to 44th Ave. Turn right and travel 3 blocks to the parking area.

Exercise Start: 8AM

Exercise End: 3:30PM

Point of Contact: Michael Vaughn

michael_vaughn@dpsk12.org

(720-423-3707)

Denver Union Station (Coors Field Parking at 33rd & Blake St, Denver)

Directions:

- From I-25 take the Park Avenue West exit towards downtown. Turn left on Market/Walnut, and left on 33rd. Travel two blocks into the Coors Field parking area.

Exercise Start: 8:30AM

Exercise End: 4PM

Point of Contact: Daria Serna

daria.serna@rtd-denver.com

(303-299-2674)

Community College of Aurora/Lowry (11th & Yosemite St., Aurora)

Directions:

- From I-225 take the Colfax Ave. exit westbound. Turn South on Yosemite St. and continue through E. 11th Ave. Take an immediate left on Alton Way and follow signs to the parking areas.
- From I-70 take Quebec St. southbound, turn left on Colfax, right on Yosemite and continue through E. 11th Ave. Take an immediate left on Alton Way and follow signs to the parking areas.

Exercise Start: 9AM

Exercise End: 4:30PM

Point of Contact: Liz Vanlandingham

liz.vanlandingham@ccaaurora.edu

(303-854-7873)

Note: Media viewing is limited to outside areas. Please contact on-site PIO.