



May 27, 2014

Dear Salt Creek Resident,

Please be aware that after careful and initial assessment of the mudslide that occurred on May 25, 2014, we continue to develop information that a continuation of this slide event may occur. There remains a large mass of earth at the top of the slide, near the origin of the first slide, that is of concern. Behind that mass, a basin was created, which is currently filling with water. That basin filled with water and could then cause another slide.

The Mesa County Board of Commissioners is considering an '*Emergency Declaration*' to allow the proper infrastructure and interface with all the coordinating agencies working on this assessment. At this time, it is unknown if a future slide, over the top of the existing slide, would be more or less of an event. Out of an abundance of caution we want to notify you of these efforts and help you understand why the *Emergency Declaration* may occur. As we continue to develop a threat assessment for the area and attempt to deploy monitoring activities, we encourage you to continue to monitor communication from the county by websites, social media, community postings in Collbran and public locations and calling the 211 InfoLine (1-888-217-1215).

- Mesa County's website: <http://mesacounty.us> and <http://shreiff.mesacounty.us>
- Facebook: Mesa County Sheriff's Office and Mesa County News
- Twitter: @SheriffMesaColo
- Blogs: www.mesacountyjic.com and www.MCSONews.com

In the absence of a more deliberate evacuation plan, which will be developed soon as part of the planning process, we encourage you to be thoughtful about evacuation should it be necessary. If a large body of water is included in a future slide, flooding could occur in the lower parts of the Salt Creek drainage. Based on experience from other recent flooding events in Colorado, we do not encourage fleeing in automobiles, but rather an immediate evacuation to the highest ground near your property as quickly as possible. As part of the effort to plan for worst case scenarios, early warning activities are being explored. We recognize there are unique communication challenges in this area and welcome multiple methods of notification to you and your family.

- <http://www.gjcity.org/PoliceDept.aspx?id=110> Register your cell phone number into this dispatch notification system to get an emergency message direct from dispatch, as appropriate. Dispatch can send emergency messages to landlines, but to receive the same notification via cell phone, you MUST enroll that cell phone number yourself. For cell phones outside of coverage areas, a voice message will be left. **This cannot be the only method to rely on for emergency notification, especially in an area where cell phone service is very sporadic. But, may be one resource for emergency notification.**

Again, we are making this notification out of an abundance of caution and to help explain the possible need for an *Emergency Declaration*. As this unique event continues to develop, so will the response, appropriate threat assessments and planning for the area.

Sheriff Stan Hilkey