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## Memorandum

**To:** Mayor & Council  
**From:** David Reynolds  
**Re:** Agenda Item: Update from Garfield County Emergency Manager Chris Bornholdt  
**Date:** 06/16/2026

### Purpose:

The purpose of this agenda item is to allow time for Garfield County Emergency Manager Chris Bornholdt to update Town Council on local emergency preparedness, as well as explain his department's role in local disasters along with the role of local staff and elected officials during time of crises.

### Background:

The Garfield County Emergency Manager's Office is responsible for helping Garfield County prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters. The office serves as the countywide coordinator for emergency planning and response efforts among local governments, fire districts, law enforcement agencies, schools, utilities, state agencies, and federal partners.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Emergency Planning** – Developing and maintaining the county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), hazard mitigation plans, continuity of operations plans, and other preparedness documents. The EOP serves as the link between municipal emergency plans and the State of Colorado's emergency plan.
- **Disaster Response Coordination** – Coordinating county resources and partner agencies during wildfires, floods, severe weather, hazardous materials incidents, public health emergencies, and other disasters. The office helps operate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when incidents occur.
- **Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuations** – Managing countywide evacuation planning, public information, and the "Ready, Set, Go" evacuation framework used during wildfire incidents.

- **Emergency Notifications** – Working with the Garfield County Emergency Communications Authority to provide emergency alerts through the Garco911 notification system for fires, floods, severe weather, road closures, and evacuations.
- **Training and Exercises** – Conducting emergency preparedness training, tabletop exercises, and drills with local agencies to improve disaster readiness.
- **Search and Rescue and Specialized Response Support** – Coordinating and supporting search and rescue operations, wildfire response, hazardous materials response, and other specialized emergency functions through the Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Division.
- **Disaster Recovery** – Assisting local governments, businesses, and residents with recovery efforts following disasters, including coordination of state and federal assistance programs when available

The Emergency Manager serves as an important regional partner by helping coordinate multi-jurisdictional incidents, supporting emergency operations planning, facilitating training exercises, and assisting local governments during large-scale emergencies that exceed local resources.