



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### **Automated Weather Stations Installed in Two Pueblo County Communities**

**Pueblo, CO:** Fire agencies in two Pueblo County communities have a new tool to help them with observing potential wildland fire conditions, predicting fire behavior and monitoring fuels in their respective areas thanks to a federal grant program.

The Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Nationwide Mitigation grant program awarded Pueblo County \$30,000 to purchase a Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) for the Rye and Beulah fire protection districts. Pueblo County also contributed \$10,000 toward the purchase and installation of the new monitoring systems.

The systems, which were purchased to support the post Junkins, Spring and Beulah Hill fires, were identified as a project for consideration by the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Bureau and the Rye and Beulah fire protection districts. The stations will monitor the fire danger through collection, storing and forwarding of data to the National Interagency Fire Center in Idaho. The data is sent through a satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The data is then automatically forwarded to other systems to include the Weather Information Management System and the Western Regional Climate Center.

Fire managers use the data to predict fire behavior and to monitor fuels and resource managers use the information to monitor environmental conditions.

The units recently were installed in Colorado City and Beulah where they will monitor weather for the fire danger in those areas. The Colorado City station, located west of Lake Beckwith, replaces a similar system installed in 2001. The Beulah station is new to that community and is located next to the Beulah Fire Station.

“We are grateful to receive this grant to bring this technology to two of our rural communities,” said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. “As conditions can change rapidly, this weather station will be critical in helping us monitor and detect potential fire conditions in the area.”

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