

CU-Boulder's Family Housing To Participate In April 23 City/County Flood Exercise

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【关键词】 Family Housing

April 18, 2007.
Family housing employees at the University of Colorado at Boulder will take part in a city and county flood exercise on "Flood Awareness Day." April 23, to practice evacuation procedures in low-lying campus areas.

About 40 to 50 Family Housing office, maintenance and student staff members will participate in a simulated evacuation after flood sirens sound at about 10:30 a.m. as part of the exercise, said Ricki Martinez, assistant director for apartment life and children's services. The annual training exercise includes all safety procedures that would occur during an actual flood a Two Family Housing buildings and the Children's Center will be evacuated and residents in other Family Housing buildings will move to higher floors, Martinez said. Staff members will turn off utilities and check "flood boxes" located on higher floors that contain water, first aid kits, flashlights, batteries, portable radios and food. In addition to the Family Housing exercise, about five CU-

Boulder employees will observe the city and county flood exercise, said Sylvia Dancs, emergency management coordinator for the Boulder campus.
Boulder Creek, in addition to other local waterways, is subject to flooding, and people who live and work near such areas need to know how to respond to floods, Dancs said.

"Portions of the campus border Boulder Creek and could be subject to flooding if thunderstorms produce a lot of rain," said Paul Tashak, vice chancellor for administration. "We want to make sure that people on campus located in Family Housing, the Children's Center and various research and office buildings on the East Campus take note of the things they need to do." One of the most important rules to remember if flooding occurs is not to enter a flooded area, either on foot or in a motorized vehicle, Dancs said.
"People should never try to drive through a flooded area, even if it looks like the water isn't very deep," she said. "It doesn't take much water at all to cause a car to start floating, and if that happens, the driver loses all control and may get trapped in the vehicle."

Another important rule is to "climb to safety" along creeks where water is rising. Trying to outrun a flood can result in fatalities. People who are driving when flooding occurs should abandon their cars and climb to safety, experts advise.
Following Colorado's Big Thompson flood in 1976, signs bearing the "Climb to Safety" message were posted in canyons throughout Colorado to warn motorists to leave their cars if flooding occurs. The Big Thompson flood resulted in 144 deaths, including several people trapped in vehicles.
"If you are in a building located along Boulder Creek and hear the warning sirens sound, move to higher ground or an upper floor immediately," said Dancs. "People in Boulder may have only a few minutes warning that a flash flood is approaching, so they should not attempt to drive in a flood area or to outrun the flood."
"If you are in a campus location that is located on higher ground, do not attempt to cross Boulder Creek," Dancs said. "People really need to be aware that other streams and drainage systems in the area may also experience flooding."

