

# RICH LOPEZ

**Boulder City Council member and deputy mayor.**

**He has worked with nonprofits throughout his career. He is the past board chair of The Denver Foundation and chair of Boulder Community Health (Hospital). He is also a community columnist for the Daily Camera**

**Rich has had a firsthand view and experience of community disaster response, recovery and relationship building during the 2010 Fourmile Canyon Wildfires and the 2013 Colorado Floods.**

# TIMELINES OF RISK

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AS  
RESOURCES FOR RESPONSE, RECOVERY,  
AND MITIGATION



**Response to natural disasters works through phases of emergency, intermediate, and long term relief within communities**



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



# INTERMEDIATE AND LONGTERM

**Intermediate work follows emergency operations.  
Intermediate relief is often difficult to provide, as needs and  
resources can change drastically.**

**Finally come the long-term efforts, or “trying to put Humpty  
Dumpty back together again”**

# FOURMILE FIRE

**In Fourmile Canyon, the residents banded together to address those intermediate needs.**

**With local knowledge of neighbors and commitment to their community, they were best equipped to determine what resources they required.**

# FOURMILE FIRE



# LOSS AND ACTION

**Residents recognized that the impact to their community was huge**

**They raised money via:**

**Concert**

**Local music benefits**

**Volunteer efforts**



# AFTERMATH

## **Money Distribution:**

**The Community Foundation was approached and asked to set up a donor advised fund to receive donations and made distributions.**

## **Advisory committee:**

**People who know the community and can allocate funds  
Timing the distribution of funds correctly is important.**

# CONNECTIONS

**This experience gave the community knowledge and connections to help with the next event.**



# SEPTEMBER FLOODS



# A FAMILIAR ROLE

**Met with a variety of groups who wanted to help:**

**Farmers, MMJ, etc.**

**Using lessons learned and feedback from the community, we followed the template we developed during the Fourmile Fire**

# CONTINUING PRACTICE

**Community efforts continue, building on the lessons we learned from disaster and sharing resources between the connections that we made.**

**Wildfire Mitigation has made immense strides in the mountains, and is now a federally recognized program in the county:**

**[Wildfirepartners.org](http://Wildfirepartners.org)**

# LESSONS LEARNED

## **Floods**

**Local volunteerism, we had almost too many volunteers**

**Needed to train and certify helpers**

**Missed opportunities (online funds raised money but charged a premium and offered no tax deductions)**