

2013 Colorado flood: Campus impacts

In response to media requests, the Department of Higher Education surveyed communications officers at public colleges and universities about the impacts of flooding on their campuses. We've compiled their responses as of Sept. 20:

Aims Community College

Campus infrastructure at Aims Community College campuses in Greeley, Fort Lupton and Loveland is unaffected but students and staff have been impacted. The college set up a resource fair to aid these students and staff. "Our student population is seriously impacted and many students remain trapped in outlying areas and subject to no flush zones, extreme commute times and detours due to impassible roads," Aims spokeswoman Jennifer Oliver said. In addition, Aims recently discovered that many of those displaced students are living out of their cars. Therefore, Aims has begun efforts to get food and gas cards to them. In addition, Aims has set up a special Flood Relief Fund through the Aims Foundation.

Community College of Aurora

The Aurora community was affected by the flooding of major intersections and highways, which made travel dangerous for Community College of Aurora students and employees. Both the Lowry and CentreTech campuses were closed Thursday and Friday. Lowry campus suffered street flooding but no damage to the interior buildings. Both campuses were reopened for Saturday and Sunday classes. On Saturday, a severe thunderstorm swept through the CentreTech campus. Heavy wind, rain and flooding caused campus security to lock down the campus until travel was safe. No damage occurred.

Colorado State University

CSU system officials say their campuses saw little impact from the flooding. The school's flagship campus in Fort Collins was closed one day, last Friday, because nearby I-25 was shut down near campus.

Front Range Community College

Longmont

The campus was closed for three days because of hazardous travel and transportation disruptions in Boulder County. The campus and college are working to offer alternative-format classes (online, directed study, etc.) to students who have been impacted by impractical commute times due to damaged roadways, displacement from their homes, and lost books and computers due to flooding and evacuation from their homes and communities. The campus has a licensed mental health practitioner available to help students; faculty and staff can avail themselves to the state employee assistance program.

Northeastern Junior College

Sterling, Colo.

Northeastern Junior College has made the decision to keep the campus closed this week (week of Sept. 16) due to the NO FLUSH and NO FOOD SERVICE orders by the City of Sterling and Northeast Colorado Health Department. It is uncertain when these orders will be lifted. The college plans to open on Monday, Sept. 23 for business as usual. However, refer to the website (<http://www.njc.edu>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/northeastern.junior.college>) page to confirm this. Students remaining on campus are being instructed to go home for the remainder of this week provided that the routes to their homes are open and safe. If they cannot go to their own home, they are encouraged to go to the homes of relatives or friends where food and water services are operational. For any students who cannot leave campus, provisions of food and necessities will be provided.

Pikes Peak Community College

Colorado Springs

Pikes Peak Community College sustained minor water damage to all three of its campuses as a result of roof leaks. The majority of the damage was sustained at its south main campus, Centennial, where approximately 35 to 40 areas had damage to tile, sheetrock, insulation and carpet.

University of Colorado Boulder

University officials have not yet tallied a dollar amount in terms of damage. But 80 of 300 structures on the Boulder campus sustained some damage. The damage is described as “widespread” but not severe. The flood waters did not damage or destroy campus technology or laboratories and was mainly confined to crawl spaces and basements. Only one classroom was affected by the flooding. Twenty-one students living on campus were displaced from three residence halls. Of those students, 11 or 12 will be moved to other facilities through the end of the semester if not the academic year. Meanwhile, 322 students living off-campus have sought help from the university in terms of replacing technology, textbooks and other instructional materials, buying food and securing lodging. The university has put 45 of these students up in hotels. The university has allocated \$120,000 to meet these emergency needs.

University of Denver

The torrential rains that have caused massive flooding to parts of the state did not affect DU. However, DU did advise students, faculty, staff and their family members to remain cautious as the storm system worked its way through the Rocky Mountain region. As far as students being engaged in relief efforts, DU Athletics and Recreation has partnered with KCNC-TV (Channel 4) to support local communities by collecting donations at upcoming home games. The next game is Men’s Soccer this Friday, Sept. 20th at 7 p.m.

University of Northern Colorado

Greeley, Colo.

While the University of Northern Colorado's physical infrastructure was not affected by the flooding, the university has provided short-term housing, meals and shower facilities to area residents in the area. Funds have also been set up for students and employees directly impacted. Details: <http://www.unco.edu/news/?5755>

Western State Colorado University

Gunnison, Colo.

The university reports no flooding impacts, but is in the middle of boxing up supplies from the campus bookstore, including water bottles, and sending them to Front Range communities affected by the flooding.