



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### **Wind Causes Disruptions, Damages Throughout Pueblo County** *Sheriff Taylor Activates Emergency Operations Center to Support Event*

**Pueblo, CO:** The strong winds that blew through Pueblo County on Wednesday left a trail of trouble from toppled trees, flying debris, damaged roofs and fences, downed power lines leading to multiple power outages, a few minor structure fires, four small brush fires and an overturned unattached semi-trailer. The wind gusts exceeded 90 mph in Pueblo County, with sustained wind speeds at 55 mph throughout the day.

Law enforcement, fire teams and utility crews were kept busy throughout the day responding to downed trees blocking roadways, arching or downed power lines, security alarms triggered by the wind gusts, four minor structure fires, four small brush fires and an empty trailer that blew over near the Airport Industrial Park near Atlas Avenue and Skyway Street.

Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor activated the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Center with support from Pueblo City Fire, Black Hills Energy and virtual participation from many other local agencies.

Power outages were reported throughout the city and county, forcing an early release at Pleasant View Middle School and the closure of the monoclonal antibody treatment site. The Pueblo County Jail lost power and was on generator power for about an hour. Jail operations were unaffected. St. Mary-Corwin also lost power and operated on generator power for a few hours before power was fully restored by late afternoon.

As of 4 p.m., there were still approximately 15,000 Black Hills Energy and 100 San Isabel Electric customers still without power in Pueblo County. Utility crews are continuing to work on restoring service to those customers.

Non-essential Pueblo County Government employees were on a two-hour delay start due to the weather and non-essential city employees were released early. Colorado State University Pueblo closed all campus locations at noon due to the high winds and safety concerns over power outages and possible flying debris.

City and County response agencies were quick to clear debris from roadways, as a result all roads in Pueblo County are clear at this time.



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Pueblo City Fire responded to three minor structure fires believed to be weather related and conducted a rescue of a motorist after a powerline fell on the vehicle. Pueblo West Fire responded to one structure fire; the cause is still undetermined but believed to be weather related.

Pueblo County Sheriff fire teams responded with mutual aid from Pueblo Rural Fire and the Pueblo Chemical Depot fire departments and quickly contained a small brush fire this morning in the 36000 block of Bush Road in eastern Pueblo County. Approximately two acres burned.

Another fire burned approximately an acre of heavy grass and downed timber near the Valco Ponds area, just west of the city limits, before fire crews got it under control. A small brush fire was reported near Iris Road and 20<sup>th</sup> Lane but was quickly extinguished by Pueblo Rural Fire. Late in the afternoon, Pueblo Rural Fire responded to a fire involving thousands of hay bales. The cause of the four fires is still undetermined but are believed to be related to the windstorm.

Sheriff Taylor credits advanced planning and staffing, along with the coordination of the Emergency Operations Center and the collaboration between the city, county, and utility companies which led to quick response times and ensured the safety of the citizens and guests of Pueblo County all with local resources and minimal impact to the community.

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