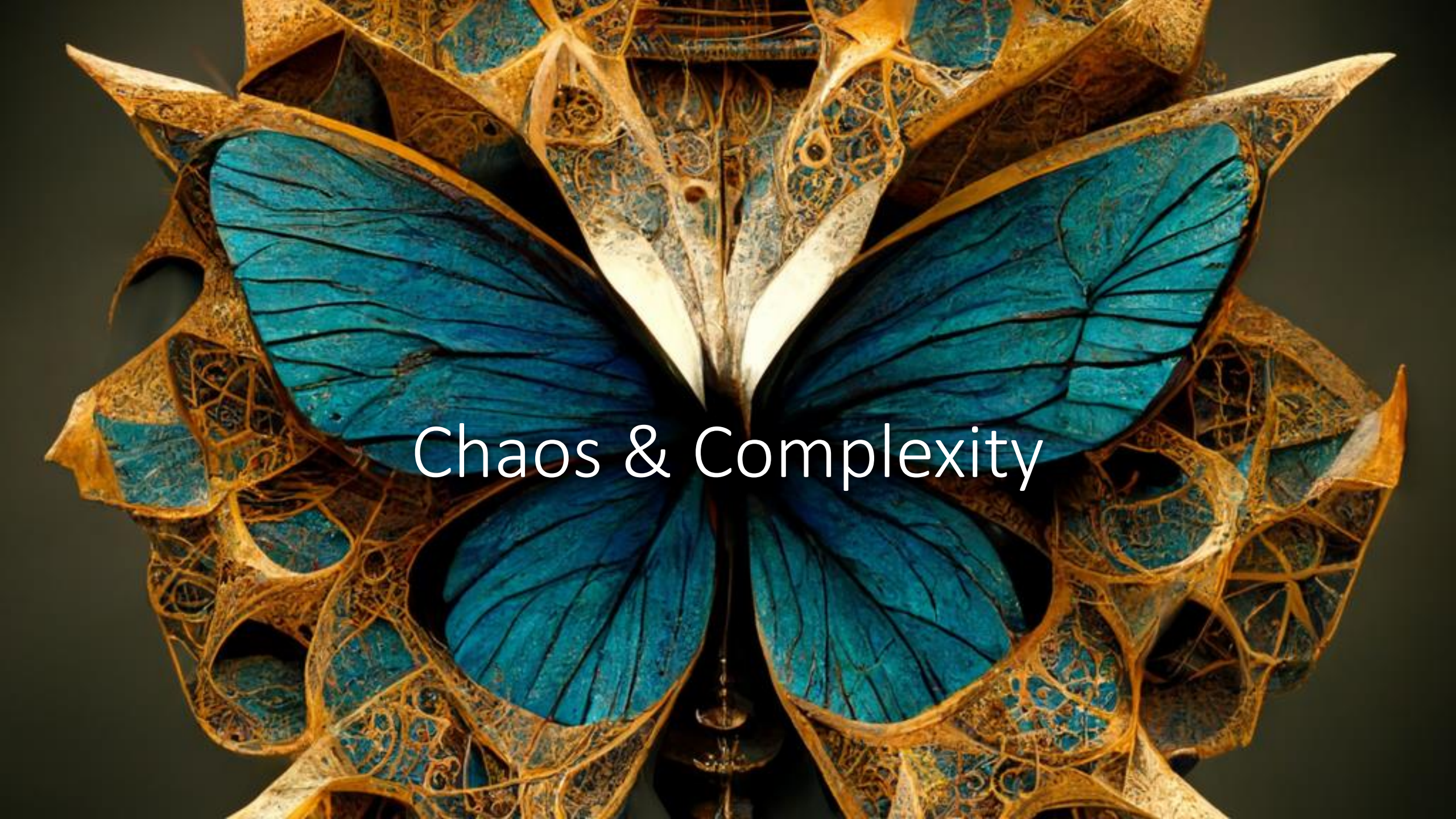
Cascades and Consequences: Preparing for Disaster

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&
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Elbert County OEM



Objectives

- Discuss complexity and the need for robust emergency management programs at the local government levels
- Review best practices and lessons learned from actual events
- Provide tangible, actionable steps to prepare your communities for disruptions and disasters


Chaos & Complexity

Definitions and Terms





Crisis Management

The process by which a jurisdiction or response agency, deals with a disruptive and unexpected event that threatens to harm the jurisdiction and the general public.



Consequence Management

Those measures taken to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of a disaster or emergency incident.

Resiliency



The ability of communities to rebound and positively adapt to or thrive amidst changing conditions or challenges.

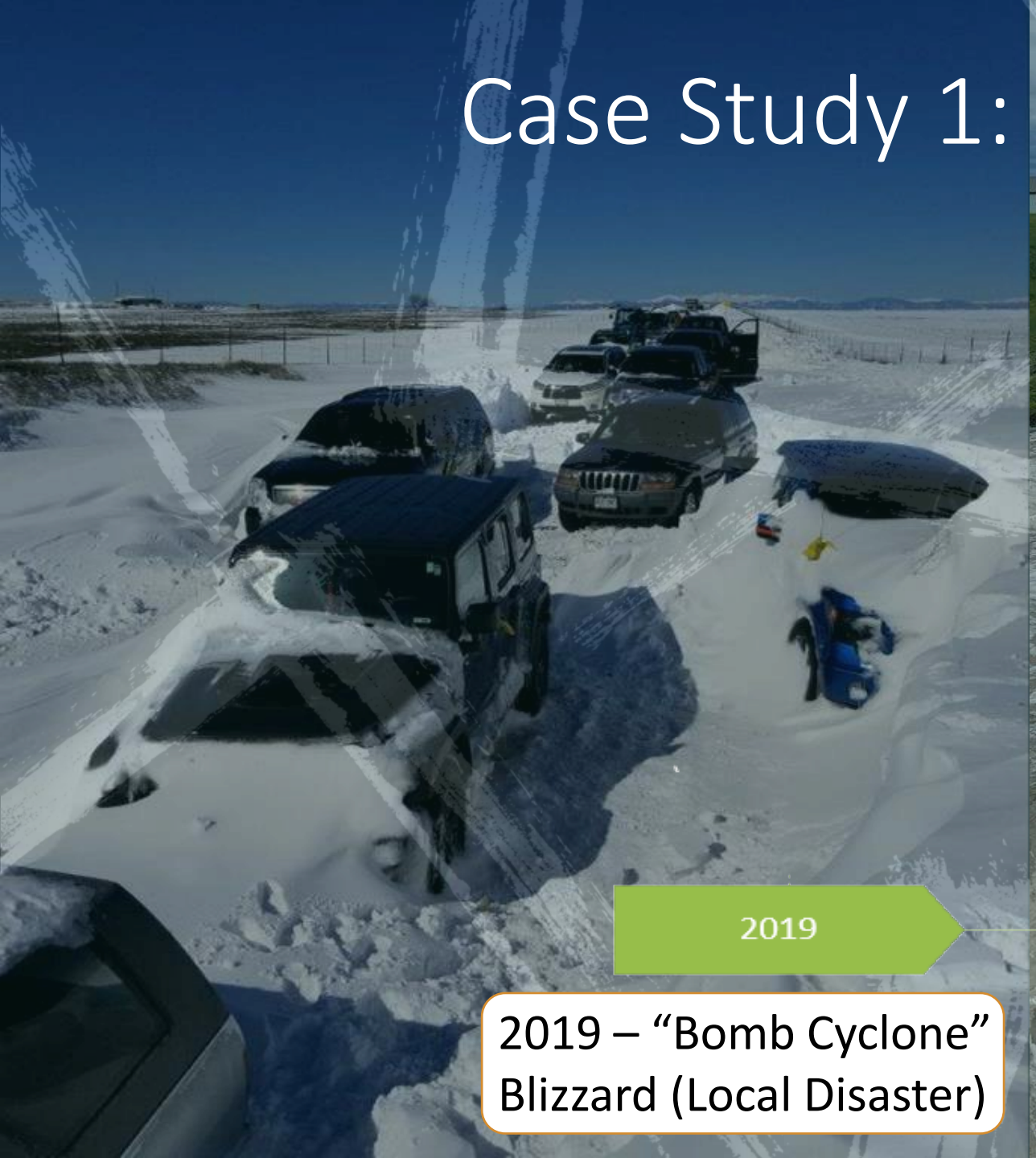
Includes disasters and changes in climate to maintain quality of life, health and sustainable growth, economic vitality, durable systems, and conservation of resources for present and future generations

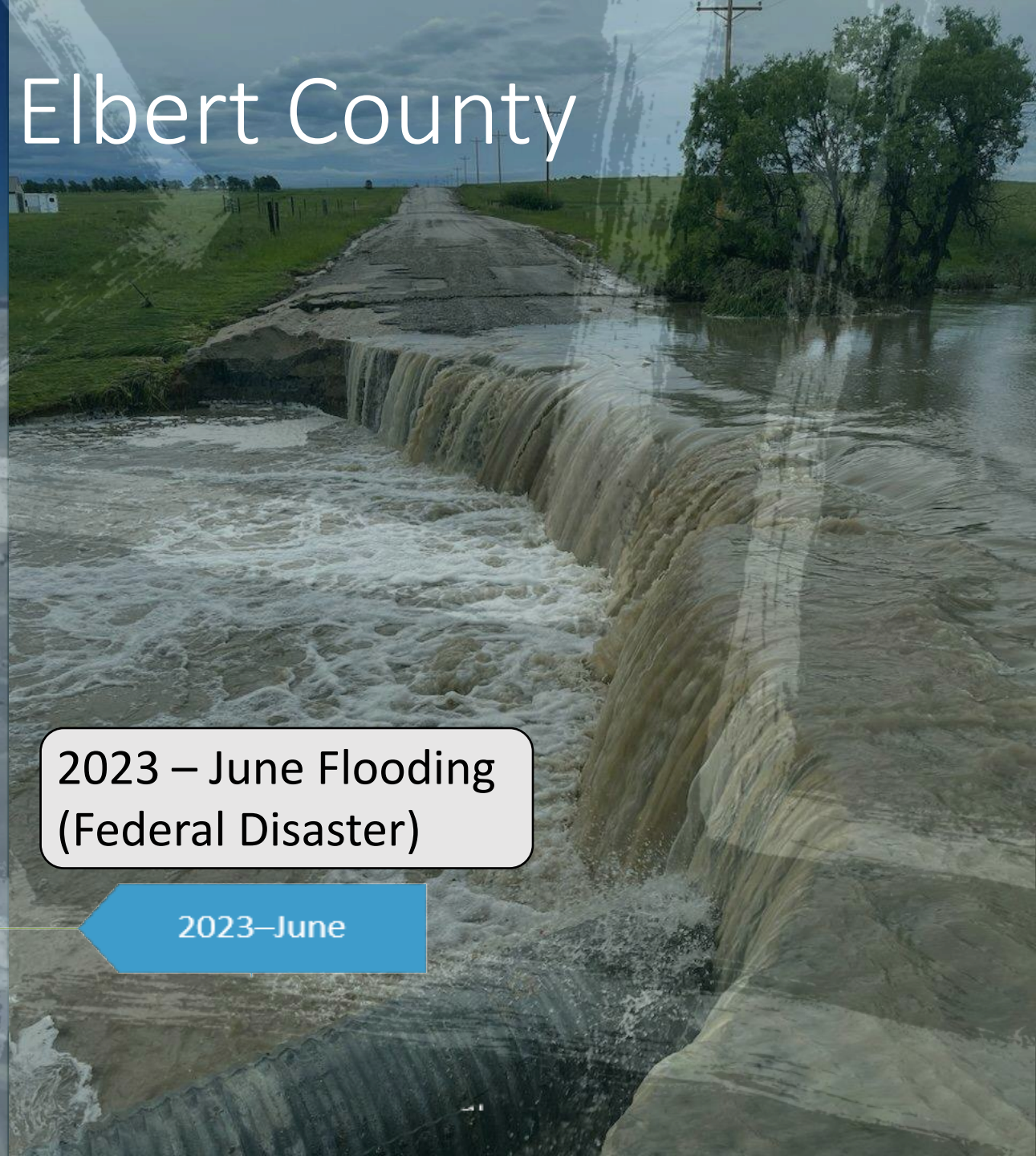
Case Studies:

Elbert & Larimer Counties



Case Study 1: Elbert County





2019

2019 – “Bomb Cyclone” Blizzard (Local Disaster)

2023–June

2023 – June Flooding (Federal Disaster)

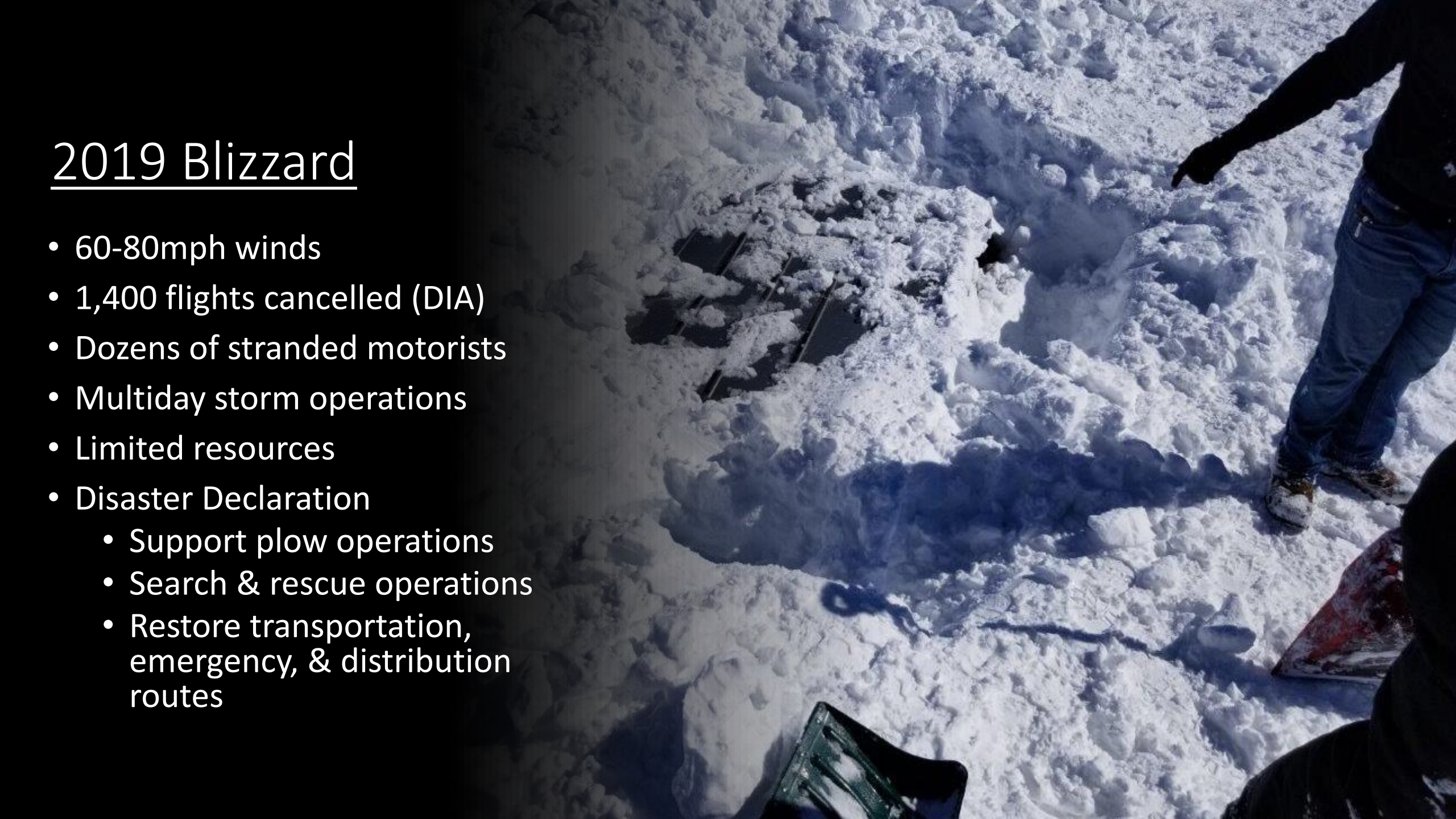
Elbert County Snapshot

- 1,851 square miles
- Over 27,000 residents
- Southeast Denver metro area
- Commuters
- Terrain composed of plains, forest, & canyons
- Agriculture & energy



2019 Blizzard

- 60-80mph winds
- 1,400 flights cancelled (DIA)
- Dozens of stranded motorists
- Multiday storm operations
- Limited resources
- Disaster Declaration
  - Support plow operations
  - Search & rescue operations
  - Restore transportation, emergency, & distribution routes



2023 Flooding Disaster

- Public Damage Approval: $3.3 million
- Over two dozen county roads closed at one time
- Several businesses
- Numerous *private* roads & waterways

- FEMA: County Government (PDA)
- SBA: Private Sector & Non-profit loan support
- USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Highway Administration

6/22/23 CR 162, by Agate, residence and road

FEMA

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration





Case Study 2: Larimer County

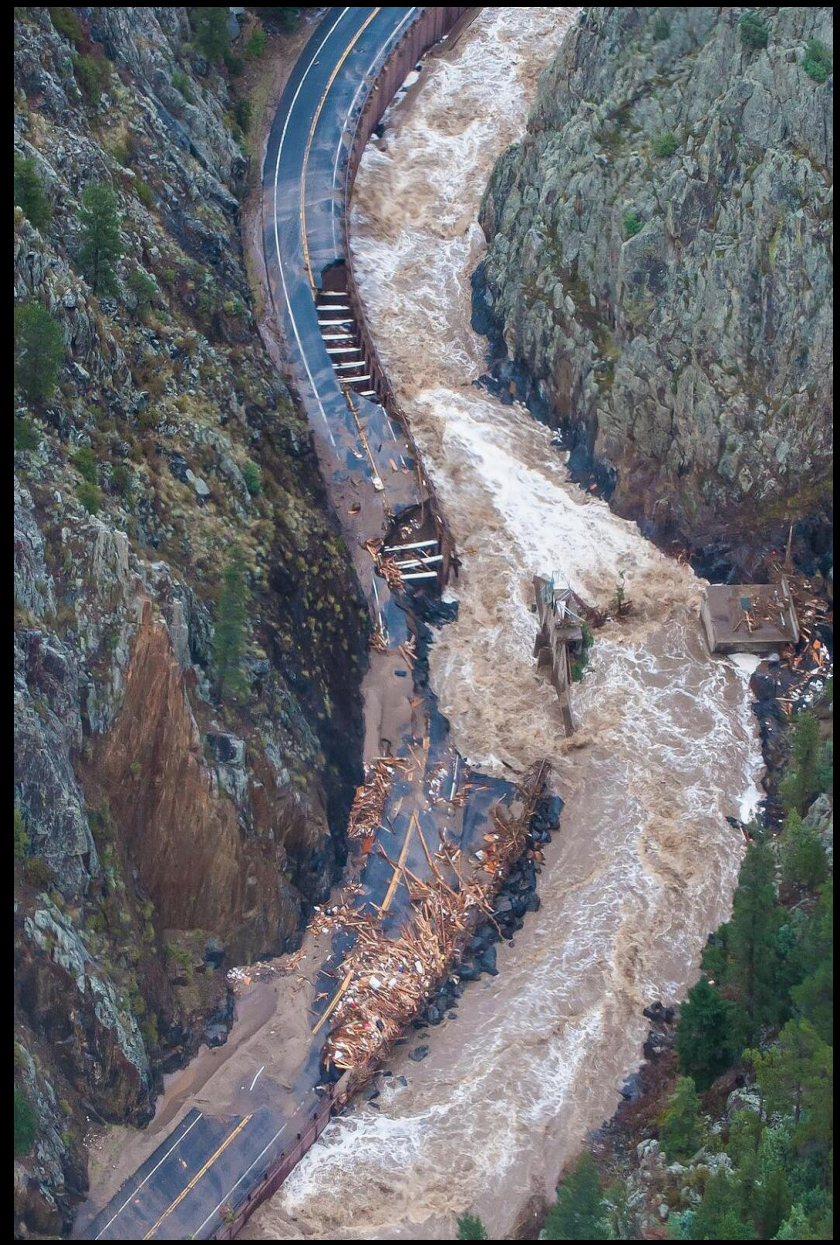


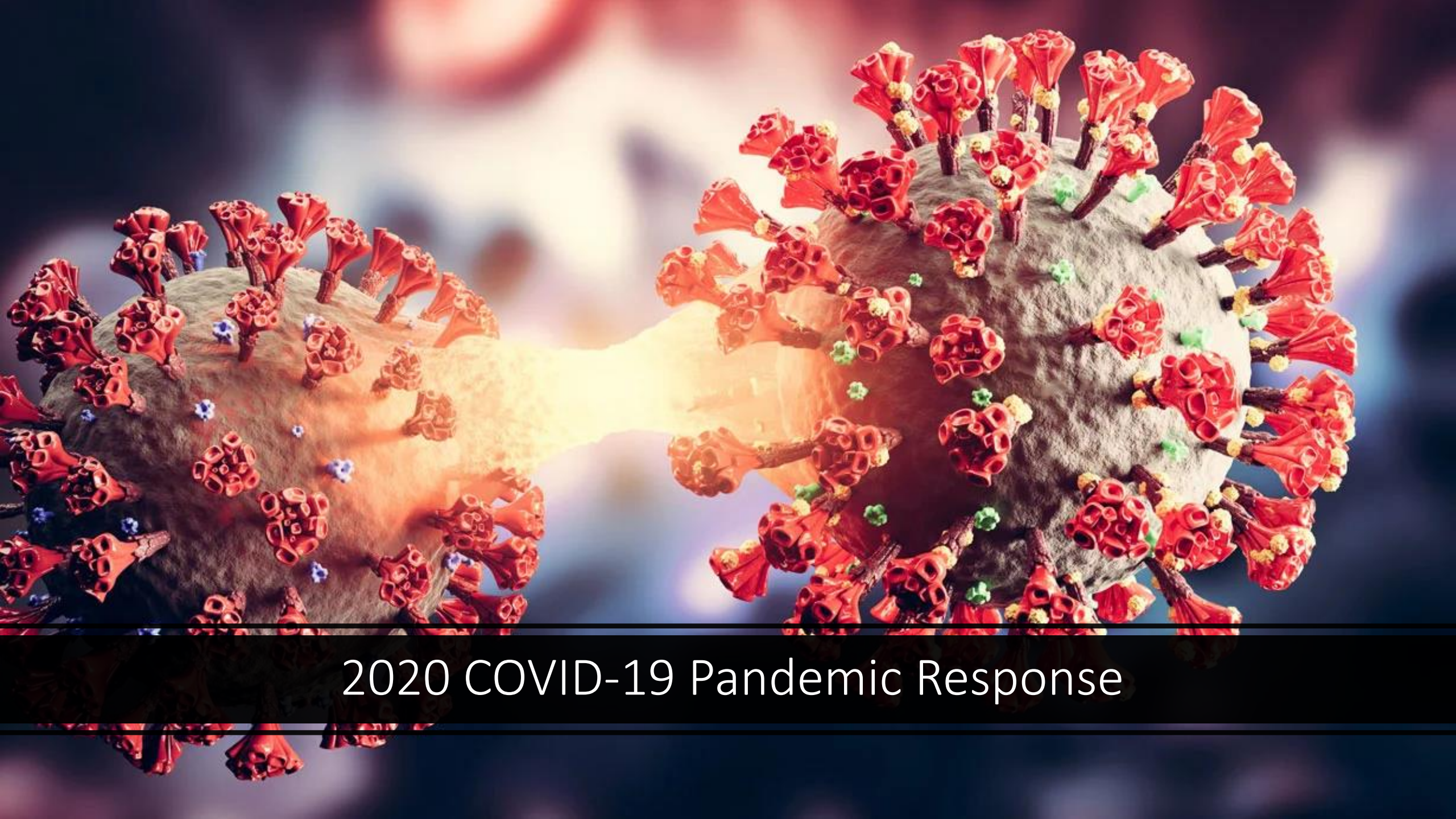
Larimer County Snapshot

- 2,634 square miles
- Population: 359,066
- North Central CO
- Urban and Rural
- Terrain composed of plains, forest, mountains & canyons
- CO State University
- I-25 Corridor

2013 Flood







2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Response



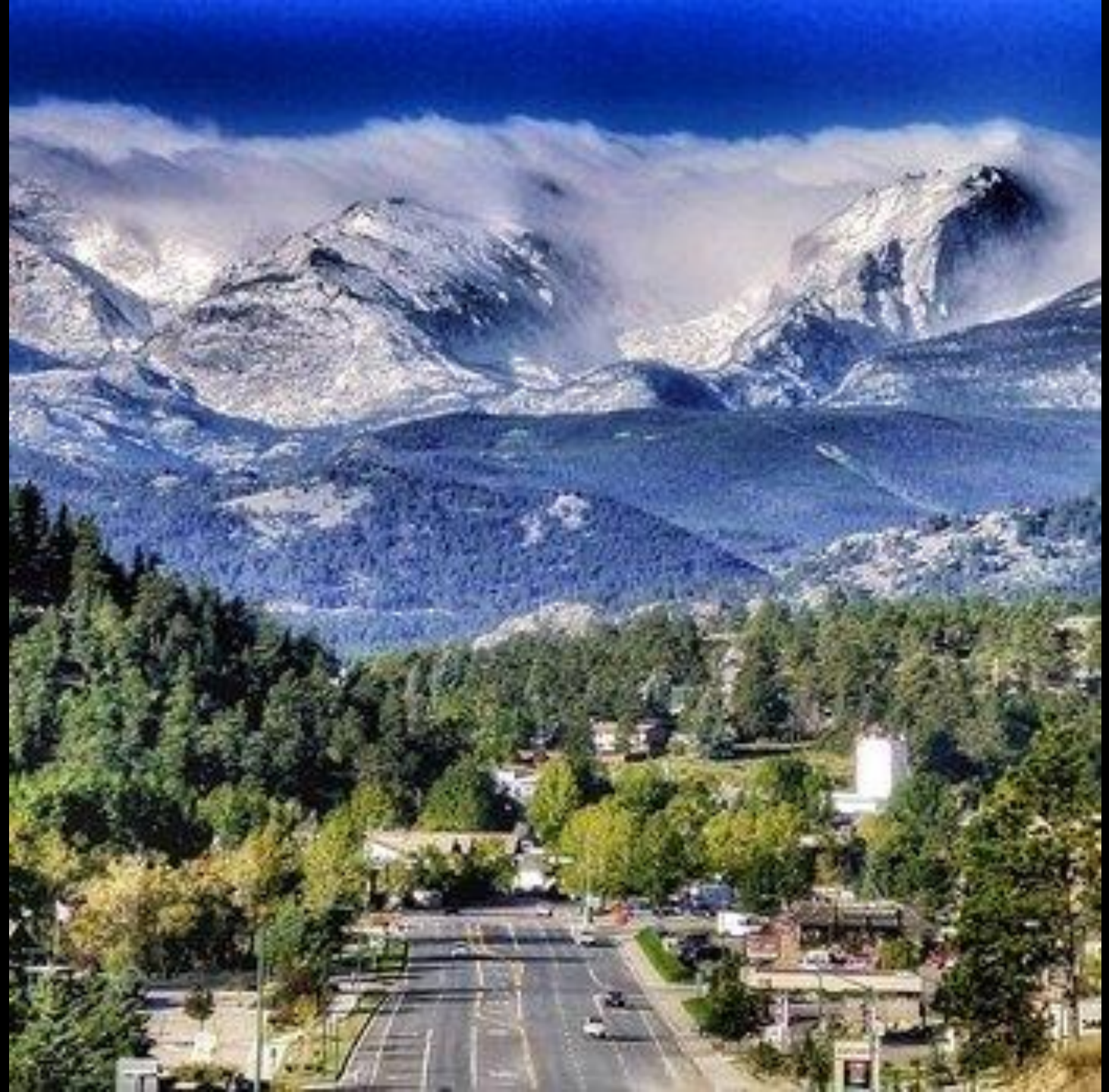
2020 Cameron Peak Fire

Fire and Flood…Rinse and Repeat





Lessons Learned & Best Practices



Elbert County Lessons





Elbert County Lessons

- Plan for response & recovery deficiencies
- Navigating disaster reimbursement
- Invest in Public Information Program
- Facilitate department/stakeholder collaboration
- Strong policy understanding

Larimer County Lessons





Larimer County Lessons

- Pre-Disaster planning is critical
- Understanding all phases of emergency management and the policy role will lead to better outcomes
- Including policymakers in disaster exercises provides insight into policy challenges
- Response is the easiest and shortest phase of disaster

Key Takeaways



Key Takeaways



Every community will face disruptions, emergencies and disasters



The value in emergency management comes PRIOR to disaster



Preparedness and Mitigation are essential to success



Some things cannot be done once the disaster occurs



Design for Disruption


Adaptability &
Flexibility


Consequence
Management

Disaster After the Disaster





Building Relationships



Emergency Management Programs Must...

…be designed to handle any complex event

…go beyond mere hazards

…work across all phases of emergency management simultaneously

…work with all departments and offices within the jurisdiction and beyond

…consider consequences, cascades and alternatives

…be flexible, adaptable, and willing to change as needed for future conditions



Questions?

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