RICH LOPEZ

Boulder City Council member and deputy mayor.

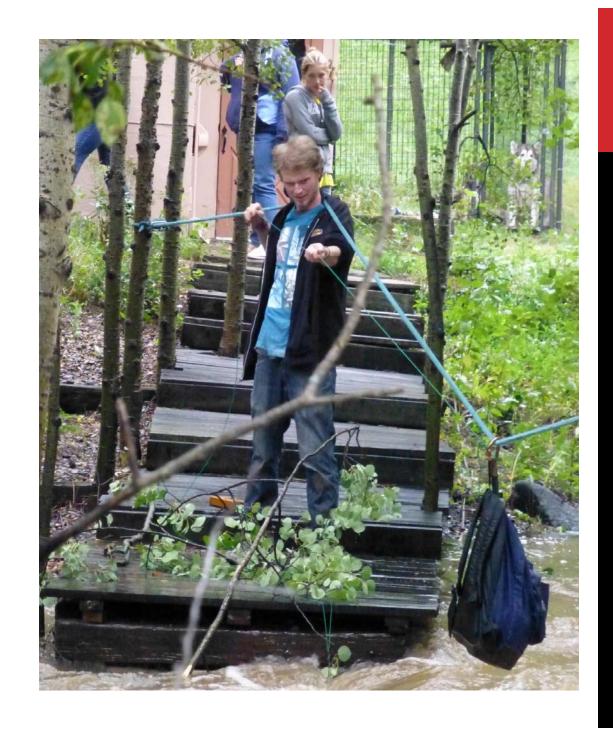
He has worked with nonprofits throughout his career. He is the past board chair of The Denver Foundation and chair of Boulder Community Health (Hospital). He is also a community columnist for the Daily Camera

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:

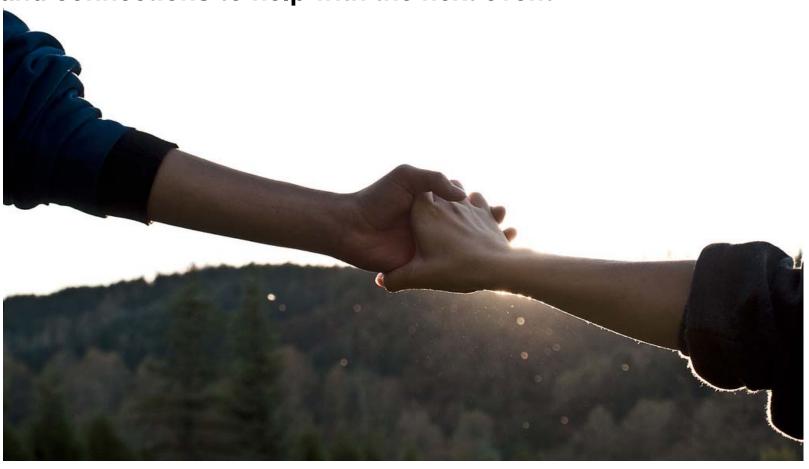
The Community Foundation was approached and asked to set up a donor advised fund to receive donations and made distributions.

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

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)