

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

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WHAT: Emergency Management Completes Role Out of its Special Populations Registry

When: Effective February 12, 2007

NARRATIVE: DOUGLAS COUNTY, CO – On January 17, 2007, the Douglas County Office of Emergency Management and Douglas County Sheriff's Office opened registration for its Special Needs Registry. The registry was designed to allow individuals or families with special needs (i.e. paralysis, mental health issues, bed ridden, wheel chair bound) to register into a database that will be utilized by emergency management officials, law enforcement officers, and fire departments in the event of a disaster.

Information from the registry will be used primarily for emergency evacuation planning. However, knowing where special needs individuals are located throughout the community will assist with daily law enforcement and fire department operations. Registration is voluntary.

The complete role out includes the ability for individuals to register online at www.douglas.co.us/emergencymanagement or www.dcsheriff.net. Registration can also occur by calling the Office of Emergency Management at 303-660-7589.

Since the registry opened, 50 individuals or families have registered.

"The ability to identify and plan for individuals needing assistance in an emergency is essential. We have learned the lessons of Hurricane Katrina and believe this registry will help us to provide better service to the community in the event of a crisis or disaster." stated Jamie Moore, Emergency Management Director.

"I am very excited about this program and believe the information that it holds will give our special needs community a better planned response during an emergency. By relaying more information to the responders they will be better prepared to act when they arrive at the crisis or disaster," stated Sheriff Dave Weaver.

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