

Water emergencies, are they
emergencies based on size or
relevance?

Well, lets see!

Lets talk large amounts of water, Hurricane
Harvey in Houston 2017.

60.58 inches of rain in a single cyclone event



Lets talk smaller amounts of water, that can be significant in the moment.

My guest bath in November just as
my in-laws arrived for
Thanksgiving weekend proves that
a much smaller amount of water
can constitute a water emergency
in the moment.



So lets see just how much you know about water emergencies, lets play 20 questions.

- 1. In the 4 corners region, flash floods only occur in which season?

- a. spring
b. summer
c. fall
d. winter
e. a b and c
f. all the above

f. all the above

- Most folks have seen intense rain events in the area during the spring, summer and fall. However winter ice release flows can be as rapid and intense as the other flash floods.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIsKTd6N6HU>



Lets talk a little about emergencies due to what's in the water.

2. When a domestic water system is under a “boil order” how long at a minimum should you boil the water before it is considered “safe” here in Durango or other nearby communities?

- A. 10 minutes
- B. 5 minutes
- C. 3 minutes
- D. 1 minute.

- C. three minutes.
- The CDC recommends bringing water to a rapid boil for one minute to insure that it is safe for consumption, but at elevations higher than one mile, the time should be increased to 3 minutes.



A question on lots of water, local question.

3. When was the record high flow on the Animas River in Durango?

A. Oct. 11, 1905

B. Oct. 5, 1911

C. June 11, 1979

D. July 4, 1776

B. Oct. 5, 1911, 25,000 ft³/s



Now lets ask a few questions about some of the issues related to very little water.

4. How many zones are there in a fire prevention defensible space surrounding a residence?

A. 4

B. 1

C. 3

D. 2

D. 2

There are two zones defining the defensible space surrounding a residence for fire prevention.

The screenshot shows a webpage from www.readyforwildfire.org/Defensible-Space/. The main content is titled "Defensible Space Zones" and includes the text: "Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space." Below this is a 3D isometric diagram of a house. A dashed circle labeled "ZONE 1" surrounds the house, with a "30 FEET" radius line. A larger dashed circle labeled "ZONE 2" surrounds the house, with a "100 FEET" radius line. The diagram also shows a "ROAD" to the left, "NEIGHBORING PROPERTY" to the right, and a "LEARN MORE" button in the top right corner. On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Email, Print) and a "1.7k Shares" count. Below the sidebar, there is a promotional banner for the "READY FOR WILDFIRE APP" with a "\$10,000 GIFT CARD" prize, and buttons to "Download on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google Play".

5. How far from a residence should the defensible space extend?

- A. 25 feet
- B. 50 feet
- C. 100 feet
- D. 500 feet

C. 100 feet

The two zoned make up the total 100 suggested feet of defensible space.

If you have any questions regarding defensible space, please contact Firewise of Southwest Colorado

Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado

www.southwestcoloradofires.org

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NEWS

- Montezuma E-News, April 2018
- 2018 Chipper Rebate Program Opens Next Week!
- 2018 Defensible Space Cost Share: Start With a Free Wildfire Risk Site Visit!
- Cortez Preparing for Wildfire
- Beetles in our Forest Workshop
- The Journal: FireWise plans fundraiser after dry winter, budget cut

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Cortez Preparing for Wildfire

Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado

Firewise Southwest Colorado at the Durango Farmer's Market

SW COLORADO FIREWISE

One of the most common buzz words today is wildland-urban interface or WUI. It is a term that describes the area where homes and other infrastructure meet or abut undeveloped lands. As more and more homes are built in this area, it makes it more difficult for land

FIREWISE: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Lets say the worst is potentially going to happen.

6. Which items are components of a emergency evacuation plan?

- A. Have a designated meeting location outside of the danger area
- B. Have several different escape routes and practice as a family so everyone is comfortable
- C. Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals
- D. Have a family communication plan that designates a single point of contact outside of the danger area.
- E. All of the above

E. All of the above

They all make sense, be prepared!

In the aftermath of a worst case scenario, and you happen to live in a alluvial fan below a burn area.

7. Do most homeowner insurance polices cover debris and or mud flows?

No!



8. So then, what about flood insurance? Does it cover Debris and or mud flows?

Not necessarily. It depends on the amount of water involved. The difference between a chocolate shake and chocolate cake.



- If you happen to live on a alluvial fan, now might be a good time to visit with your insurance agent.

Lets talk a bit about dam safety here in Colorado.

9. Who is not under the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Colorado State Engineers office when they build dams?

You guessed it!



Also mine tailing impoundments that are under the jurisdiction of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.



A few questions regarding current conditions.

10. When is the La Plata rivers first call from New Mexico going to occur in 2018?

Feb 20



11. What is the current storage in Vallecito Reservoir?

74,209 Acre Feet or 57% of capacity

4/1/2018



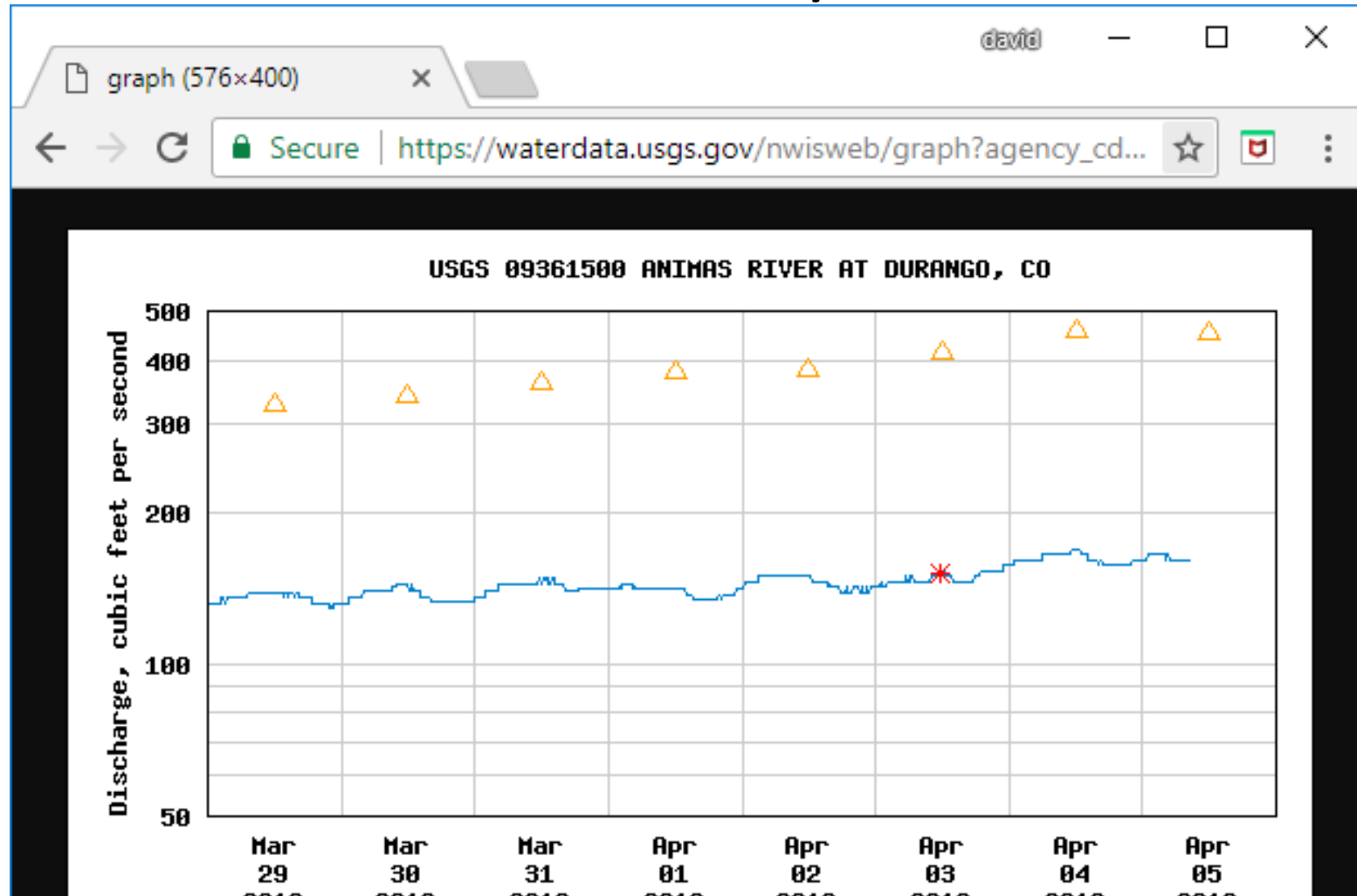
12. What is the Animas River
here in Durango's current flow?
(I'm using yesterday's flow for statistics)

161 ft³/s



13. And where does that value fit historically?

35% of the median for the day for the past 106 years. Just 18 ft³/s greater than the minimum daily from 1977.



Now a few questions regarding other emergencies if your business relies on water.

14. At what point are the flows on the Animas in Durango no longer commercially raftable?

Over the years it has been roughly
200 ft³/s. Lower than that the guests spend more time dragging the
boats over gravel bars than they want to pay for.



15. What flow does the upper Animas become too high for commercial rafting?

Once again historically when the Animas below Silverton gage reaches 1500 ft³/s the rafting companies stop or limit the trips to experienced boaters.



16. What river does Durango get most of its municipal water from?

The Florida River.



17. Who is responsible for monitoring and enforcing water quality issues in the surface waters of Colorado?

Water Quality Control Division, Colorado Department of Health and Environment. (WQCC)



17. Does the WQCC have a
emergency warning system?

Yes! CoWarn Statewide Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CoWARN) of utilities helping utilities to prepare for the next natural or human-caused emergency.



18. When and what was the lowest annual mean daily discharge for the Dolores River at Dolores?

87 ft³/s in 1977



Now, lets go the other way with the Dolores at Dolores

19. What was the highest annual daily mean and what year was it?

790 ft³/s in 1942 (nearly a 10 fold difference)



20. What are the current drought conditions in southwest Colorado.

D-3 to D-4 (extreme to exceptional drought conditions) for nearly the entire SWWCD region.

