



# YEAR 2000

## Governor's Task Force on Year 2000 Readiness

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**NEW** 07/29/99

### **Governor's Task Force on Y2K Preparedness Public Safety Sector Status Report July 29, 1999**

The Public Safety Sector is charged with assessing the Y2K Readiness of Colorado Law Enforcement, Fire Service and Emergency Medical Service, State Corrections System and Local Detention Facilities and State and Local Emergency Preparedness. The Sector is looking at agency assessment, remediation plan, completion of remediation, testing, validation and contingency planning for the agency. Community Y2K contingency planning and public information are also assessed. The Public Safety Sector has a special emphasis on community preparedness and community contingency plans that address the provision of emergency services to the elderly, the disabled, homebound sick, hospitals, hospice facilities, nursing homes, child care facilities, etc.

The Colorado Chiefs of Police have been working on readiness and contingency planning with some notable examples such as in Summit County and the City and County of Denver. The issue will be an agenda item for their annual conference in June. Y2K is an internal information technology issue that is a concern to Chiefs of Police. Generally, Chiefs of Police are addressing community preparedness or community contingency planning.

County Sheriffs, through their Association, began member training in 1998 to include a Y2K readiness orientation for 16 newly elected Sheriffs on December 9, 1998. The County Sheriffs devoted one-half of one day of their annual conference in January to Y2K readiness planning. The Sheriffs' Association has a Y2K committee working on the issue for its members. Sheriffs in Summit, Eagle, Garfield, Pitkin and Mesa Counties (I-70 Corridor) have formed a special Y2K committee to address the additional countywide contingency planning needed to service the holiday crowds that are four or five-fold more than their base population which is further complicated by winter weather. The Sheriffs have additional Y2K readiness training and planning scheduled for their June meeting in Steamboat Springs.

Colorado State Patrol's plan is to support local emergency services over the holiday weekend and dovetail into local Y2K readiness plans across the state. All Colorado State Patrol supervisors will review the State Emergency Response Plan, and will be meeting with emergency services agencies on a local basis to coordinate plans.

Colorado Department of Revenue - Division of Gaming has three times surveyed 50-plus licensees on their Y2K readiness plans and have had good response from all but two very small casino operations.

Colorado Department of Natural Resources – Division of Parks Law Enforcement Rangers will work with local county Y2K readiness planning and response.

The level of fire and rescue service Y2K preparedness varies considerably statewide. Factors affecting Y2K preparedness include the size of the community, whether the local fire department is career or volunteer and local resources available to address Y2K issues (70% of Colorado fire departments are staffed by volunteers only). The Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association is developing model Y2K response plans that work around both power and communications outages for distribution to its members. One such method recommended is to use the USFS "T" Card System for resource management in the event CAD systems fail. Dispatch consoles, 911 telephone equipment, paging equipment and pagers, emergency medical equipment, such as automatic defibrillators must be checked for Y2K readiness. The Colorado Division of Fire Safety is working with the State Fire Chiefs and other fire organizations to distribute Y2K information to local fire departments, including data on the Y2K compliance of fire alarm, air handling, and smoke control systems in public and private buildings. The need remains to implement a statewide fire resource deployment plan and a means to access Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) assets located within the state without a federal declaration.

The Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC), with 24 prison facilities operated by DOC and four privately operated prisons that are included in the DOC Y2K assessment, remediation, testing and contingency planning spread across the state, has very elaborate Y2K readiness plans and testing going on this month spending in excess of \$800,000.00 to upgrade systems to Y2K compliance. All facilities are expected to be fully Y2K compliant by September 30, 1999. DOC has plans to move inmates in small minimum security facilities that do not have auxiliary power to larger facilities that have auxiliary power for the holiday weekend. DOC has on order six military surplus fuel tanker trailers to fuel auxiliary power generating equipment at its facilities. DOC is stockpiling sufficient consumable goods to get them through any shortages. Most Colorado county jails have auxiliary power for lighting, and security systems and control panels are being modified to ensure Y2K readiness. DOC is working closely with county jails across Colorado.

DOC and County Sheriffs, as well as Probation Departments have over 2,000 inmates in conditional community placements on electronic monitoring devices by a single vendor out of Boulder, Colorado. That vendor's monitoring equipment is not Y2K compliant, and they are in the process of switching these ankle bracelet devices to Y2K compliant devices and Y2K compliant software by the end of November, 1999. The Public Safety Sector feels that November, 1999 is cutting it too close to December 30, 1999, and have urged the company to accelerate its Y2K implementation plans to be completed by September 30, 1999.

E-911 Emergency Telephone Service is provided by U.S. West through its own lines in most of the state and other telephone service provider lines in the balance of the state. U.S. West E-911 controller software in each public safety answering point (PSAP) is not Y2K compliant and will be replaced in all E-911 PSAP controllers by the end of July, 1999. All PSAP's must carefully assess all other electronic interfaces that the E-911 call must pass through from the customer to the emergency service (police, fire-EMS) dispatcher. The Public Safety Sector has a real concern that all private telephone switches in businesses, such as hotels, schools, hospitals, government buildings, are checked for Y2K compliance to insure their ability to pass on a 911 call.

The Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, with members from Colorado Office of Emergency Management (COEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Colorado Emergency Manager's Association (CEMA), and local Emergency Managers, has been meeting since last Fall. The group meets monthly and provides a monthly newsletter to emergency managers around the state to assist them in developing contingency plans. It developed and distributed statewide, Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs, a 72-Hour Family Emergency Preparedness Brochure for the public. The subcommittee has formed a speakers bureau to address Emergency Management issues and public interest in Y2K preparedness at the family level. Preparedness planning guidance has been provided to all local emergency managers and a sample system contingency plan was mailed to Chiefs of Police, Fire Chiefs and Sheriffs to assist them in developing community contingency plans. It should be noted that not all jurisdictions have a functional emergency management position.

The Public Safety Public Information Officers Association is working closely with the CEMA and COEM in developing and distributing the 72-Hour Family Preparedness brochure and Y2K talking points for its members to use for public information programs.

The public safety agencies of the City and County of Denver are very advanced in their assessment, remediation, testing and validation activities. The Mayor and Manager of Safety have had working groups in all city departments moving well ahead of most local government. The Denver Police Department, the Denver Sheriff's Department, the Denver Fire Department and the Denver Office of Emergency Management are well along in information technology issues and community contingency planning and are providing valuable assistance to all components of the Public Safety Sector.

All Public Safety Sector components are developing plans for the families of their employees to assure that their families have been prepared well enough that the public safety sector employee may report to work to meet the agencies' public safety service mission.

Most public safety sector agencies have implemented some limitations on annual leave after Christmas and to some point in January, 2000.

Y2K assessment tool kits, Y2K contingency planning guidelines and Y2K Model Tabletop Exercises have been mailed to all Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, Fire Chiefs and Emergency Managers in all Colorado cities, towns, villages and counties.

The Public Safety Sector tasked the Colorado National Guard to have its 28 National Guard Armories open December 31 and January 1, and second to provide safe havens for any elderly, disabled residents or in the event a hospital, nursing home or hospice facility has a power or heating failure during the holiday winter weather.

The focus of the Public Safety Sector is to complete agency testing and validation of agency information technology hardware and software as well as, where possible, test for imbedded chip performance.

Report Prepared By:

Public Safety Sector Co-Chairs:

Executive Director Ari Zavaras  
Colorado Department of Public Safety

(303) 239-4398

Sheriff Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr.  
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office  
(303) 734-5101

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