



COLORADO STATE PARKS

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September 23, 2008

Hartsel Fire Protection District  
Attn: Chief Jay Hutcheson  
P.O. Box 10  
Hartsel, CO 80449

Dear Chief Hutcheson:

On behalf of the staff at Eleven Mile State Park and the entire Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, I would like to express my gratitude to you and all of the members of the Hartsel Fire Protection District that responded to Eleven Mile State Park on Aug. 23 when the tornado touched down on the south side of the park.

We are very fortunate that the major force of the tornado did not directly hit Rogers Mountain Campground or Howbert Point Campground, and grateful that injuries were not life threatening at Witcher's Cove Campground which took a direct hit. We appreciate the quick and professional response from the Hartsel Fire Protection District.

Although the agencies in Park County train regularly for mass casualty events, one can never be sure how prepared everyone will be and how well different agencies will interface until an actual event takes place. According to Kevin Tobey, the park manager at Eleven Mile, all responding agencies and their respective personnel did an outstanding job under difficult circumstances and are to be commended.

Hopefully we will not face a similar situation in the future, but I know if we do, the responding agencies will be prepared to meet the challenges they face. Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dean Winstanley  
Director, Colorado State Parks

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Harris D. Sherman, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources

Dean Winstanley, Director, Colorado State Parks

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