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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRE-EVACUATION ORDER LIFTED FOR SOME Livestock and business can return to parts of eastern Mesa County**

Mesa County, Colorado— Tomorrow at 6 a.m. all residents in and around the Town of DeBeque will have the pre-evacuation orders lifted. In addition, the lifting of the order allows large animals and livestock to return, and oil and gas operators to resume operations. Sheriff Stan Hilkey in coordination with the Type I Incident Commander will continue to not allow public access inside the fire line, but outside of the fire line there is no longer a need for the pre-evacuation orders to remain in place.

**Previously Released on June 30, 2012** – This evening Sheriff Stan Hilkey along with the Pine Ridge Fire Incident Commander have lifted the evacuation order for all residents in the DeBeque area. Oil and gas industry operators are still required to stay out of the area and those who evacuated livestock should not return home with any large animals, at this time. Due to the pre-evacuation order remaining in effect in many parts of eastern Mesa County, even those residents who return home should remain vigilant and ready to leave again.

For any Mesa County residents who have not registered for the Emergency Notification, they should do so through the City of Grand Junction website at: [www.gjcity.org](http://www.gjcity.org). This will allow 911 operators to notify residents by land line and cell phone of emergencies or evacuation orders being reinstated. Those notices will be directed to the residents directly affected by such emergencies.

**Previously Released at 9:30 p.m., on June 29, 2012** – Tonight at 9:30 p.m., Sheriff Stan Hilkey in tangent with the Pine Ridge Fire Incident Commander and the DeBeque Fire Chief lifted the evacuation order for some of the residents displaced yesterday in the area south of the Town of DeBeque. The evacuation order remains in place, **EXCEPT FOR:**

- Areas along Interstate 70 and the Frontage Road from the DeBeque Interchange south to S 1/2 Road
- Between the Colorado River and 45.5 Road
- This include people with addresses on I-70 Frontage Road, S 1/2 Road, U Road, T Road and those address along 45.5 Road from I-70 to T Road

A fire warning is still in effect for this area and these residents, should they choose to return home, should remain on pre-evacuation alert. Mandatory evacuation orders are still in place for areas east of 45.5 Road from T Road south to Hwy 65. This includes those residents on or near Horse Canyon Road or "Turkey Tracks." The danger in these areas remains very high.

**Previously Released at 10:45 a.m. on June 29, 2012** -Yesterday the Pine Ridge Fire made it to the Colorado River in the DeBeque Canyon and shut down Interstate 70 in both directions until about 7 a.m. today. Currently, the Interstate is open in both directions, but delays should be expected and any unnecessary travel through DeBeque Canyon should be avoided. Fire updates can be found at [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org), posted by BLM officials.

Just after 5 p.m. yesterday, Sheriff Stan Hilkey issued a mandatory evacuation order for homes east of I-70, south of S ½ Road and north of 45.5 Road. As of 10 a.m. today, that evacuation order remains in place. A map of this area is attached. For those displaced by the evacuation order and anyone in the DeBeque area, it is highly recommended they enroll a cell phone number with the Emergency Notification System to receive emergency calls about the evacuation. To enroll a cell phone number, visit the City of Grand Junction website at: [www.gjcity.org](http://www.gjcity.org) and choose the Emergency Notification section in the bottom right corner.

Please remain calm and prepared to evacuate if you are in the immediate area of DeBeque. People in western Garfield County are not part of the pre-evacuation order because of their distance from the current fire boundaries. If you do not have an emergency please do not call 911. For general information, call 211 from a landline or 970-244-8400 from a cell phone.

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