



## Regional Hazardous Materials Board of Arapahoe/Douglas Counties

February 18, 2020

Dear Board Member,

This is a follow up to my letter from earlier in the year where I indicated the members of the Regional Hazardous Materials Board of Arapahoe/Douglas Counties began a discussion on the future of the Board and would report to you all with a decision by November 2019. We missed the deadline based on a lack of quorum in our November session. The Board reconvened in December under a special meeting.

The Board considered two ideas. The first was the sun setting of the group and dissolution of the IGA. The second idea involved renegotiating the IGA to create an authority board that included a Full-Time Employee and governance by a board elected member jurisdictions and agencies. Each option was evaluated, along with a third developed by the operations group (trying to coordinate multiagency training and response). The study around creating an authority board came back excessively cost prohibitive for several agencies, with yearly contributions ranging from over \$45,000 to \$300. This option was voted down at the December meeting. The multiagency coordination group was not able to present a plan, and thus was not considered a viable option.

Based on the above presentations, the remaining option was the sun setting of the Board via a dissolution IGA. Based on that, the Board's attorney Bob Cole of Collins, Cockrel, and Cole, drafted the attached IGA for your review and adoption through your Commissions, Councils, and Boards.

You can see from the attached ledger, the Board maintains an account balance. Those funds will be returned, after legal expenses, to each contributing member proportionally by assessed value, the same way in which dues were collected.

During the course of deliberations, the member agencies concluded they have sufficient agreements, apparatus, and training in place to absorb these changes without a decrease in service levels, response capability, or public safety. The initial establishment of the Board pre-dates the terror attacks of 9/11. Since those horrendous attacks, the response, funding, and training environment around hazardous materials response changed and created a system that scaled across the metropolitan area and does many similar functions as the Board.

We are proud to have reached the conclusion that this entity met the needs of its members by providing funding, planning, training, and equipment to dozens of agencies across Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. We are further encouraged that our model was largely copied and is in place at the regional level. That is a credit to those who founded the Board and Team.



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Special thanks go to the Sheriffs of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties along with the Fire Chiefs of each agency who participated. Additionally, each of the member municipalities contributed funding and expertise. Without their efforts and vision all those years ago, we could not have accomplished all we did in the last two decades.

It is been an honor to serve as member of Board and then Chairman over the last six years. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at [nfogg@araphogov.com](mailto:nfogg@araphogov.com)

Sincerely,

Nathan Fogg, Chair