SCCC Minutes of 6.16.26
Meeting was at the Basalt Library
Caucus sponsored a Wildfire Information Presentation

Thanks for Jeffrey Woodruff, BOCC member for organizing this meeting.

In brief summary:

Angie Davlyn, chair of the Wildfire Collaborative of the Roaring Fork Valley (www.RFVWILDLIFE.org) which is a non-profit with 50 partners locally and in Colorado. She said wildfire is a way of life in this valley and the being proactive reduced wildfire's destructive consequences by following:
1. reducing accidental human ignitions
2. early detection and location of wildfires (in the valley are 13 pano cameras which spot smoke and triangulate it for accuracy)
3. rapid effective fire fighting response (there are 5 firefighting helicopters in the area)
4. safe and efficient evaluation systems
5. widespread defensible space around homes, with embers being main cause of fires spreading. Have a home risk assessment made by local fire department. Have a 30' hardening around a home.
6. strategic fuel reduction in the WUI (wild land urban interface) near homes

Recommends 1/8" wire mesh over any opening on a home to block embers.
Roof sprinklers are very expensive and use large amounts of water, and firefighters always turn off power so sprinklers would be useless

Chris Breitbach is the Manager for the Pitkin County Emergency Management program and Pitkin County Sheriff's Dept and NW Colorado Incident Management Team (www.PitkinWildfire.com)

Chris said the two most important things are to have 1. a "Go Kit" with items for 72 hours and be ready to leave with it in 10 minutes from alert. The "Situational Analysis" document advises to THINK AHEAD. Get the WATCH DUTY app which has all fire sources in the app. 2. Have an evacuation plan on how to get out of the valley. Maybe even a hotel reservation down valley. Key words are Ready/Set/Go. And go early!
His key info sites are: pitkinalert.org for all info, including evacuation routes; pitkinemergency.org for all info; Reach Well for multi languages

Also mentioned were areas of refuge - like golf courses, rivers and ponds, polo fields for shelter in place and community plans where "community connect" to aid elderly or handicapped.

Scott Thompson, Chief of Roaring Fork Fire Rescue and Brooke Stott, Fire Marshall also spoke on fire preparedness.