EFFECTIVE DATE: September 28, 2022

PROCLAMATION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

WHEREAS, preparedness within the field of emergency management can best be defined as a state of readiness to respond to a disaster, crisis or any other type of emergency situation, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, disasters and emergencies often have public health consequences that impact the local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) will prepare, respond to, and recover from all hazardous incidents or events that pose an imminent or potential threat to the health, medical, and environmental needs of El Paso County (EPC) residents; and

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is celebrated across the nation every September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time; and

WHEREAS, the theme of National Preparedness Month 2022 is “A Lasting Legacy: The life you’ve built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family”; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH participates in National Preparedness Month by encouraging the community to take actions to prepare themselves and their families, children and pets for emergencies or disasters, such as by building emergency kits, making a plan to communicate with loved ones, and developing evacuation plans and meet-up points with family; and

WHEREAS, the EPCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Program also encourages agency and county staff to prepare and prioritize personal preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program at EPCPH provides support and serves all people in the communities in the southcentral region of Colorado to include El Paso, Teller, Lake, Chaffee and Park Counties; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH maintains a ready workforce and requires all staff to take Incident Command System (ICS) trainings to prepare to serve in first responder roles they may have in public health or other emergencies; and
WHEREAS, EPCPH has taken a lead role in responding to various public health emergencies in the past several years, such as Ebola traveler monitoring in 2016, the hepatitis A outbreak in 2018-2020, the 2019-2022 COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent 2022 monkeypox outbreak; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH has also provided critical support during other recent disasters and emergencies, such as the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, the 2013 Black Forest Fire, the 2013 Manitou Springs flooding, the 2015 Planned Parenthood shooting, the 2018 Carson Midway Fire, and the 2019 Regency Tower Fire; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH recognizes the need for and importance of encouraging the community to take action and prepare for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

1. The month of September 2022 is proclaimed as “National Preparedness Month” in El Paso County, Colorado.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2022, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: [Signature] President

ATTEST BY: [Signature] Secretary