

Communication Services  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001  
Phone: 303-795-4284  
Fax: 303-738-7894  
[www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us)

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Contact:  
**Nancy Doty**  
Clerk and Recorder  
Direct: 303-795-4248  
Email: [ndoty@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:ndoty@co.arapahoe.co.us)

## **Arapahoe County Elections Division conducts disaster drill**

**Littleton, Colo.**--The Arapahoe County Elections Division held a drill last week to test their ability to respond to disasters that could potentially affect the operations of an election.

The mock exercise included an explosion at the main election office and power outages at a combined polling site in Aurora and at the Voting Systems Facility. Elections staff worked with other departments during the drill to locate power back-up, reroute telephones, recruit additional support staff, implement manual replacement ballot procedures, address traffic and security issues and communicate updates to the media.

The drill, overseen by Lt. Greg Palmer and Sgt. Sean Dennis of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, was used to test the Elections staff response skills during a critical event or incident that disrupts operations. Supervisors were required to demonstrate their leadership skills, knowledge of the Incident Command System and decision-making skills. Employees were encouraged to work together and resolve the problems given to them. At the conclusion of the drill, the group identified what worked and didn't work and discussed alternative policy changes.

"My staff responded well during the drill and came up with excellent plans to handle these types of emergencies," said Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty. "We will use the lessons we learned in this drill to better prepare ourselves for any potential disaster that may occur and incorporate them into this year's election contingency plan."

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To download photo click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Elections%20Drill/>

*Photo caption:* Sgt. Sean Dennis briefs Elections staff during a disaster drill held last week.