The Lewis-Palmer School District, just north of the Air Force Academy, was affected by the Waldo Fire in June 2012 and the Black Forest Fire the following year.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman shared a few lessons learned from the operational side.

What we learned:

- When you go on pre-evac, get your school property evacuated as you will lose staff's help when they are personally impacted with the evacuation of their home.

- Get your insurance carrier involved early - they covered some of our evacuation costs (cheaper than buying new items for us).

- Communicate with your staff, know who lives where so that you know who is available to help the district and who needs help.

- Consider leaving buses/drivers at schools for quick evac if you must have students in session or child care in a pre-evac area.

- Don’t forget to plan to move your communications systems/technology systems, and plan time to do this.

- You may need to operate out of another facility for a while, figure out what you will need and how you will do this.

Contact:
Cheryl Wangeman
Assistant Superintendent
Phone: (719) 488-4705
Email: cwangeman@lewispalmer.org