



**NEWS RELEASE
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Forest Implements Public Safety Closure Order

Asbestos Mitigation Effort Begins at Camp Hale

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo., Oct 12, 2012 –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) notified the U.S. Forest Service that it has discovered isolated surface deposits of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) on portions of the valley floor at Camp Hale on the White River National Forest. White River Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams has ordered a closure of the affected area (see map) until the known hazardous materials have been mitigated and/or removed. Supervisor Fitzwilliams has issued an additional order restricting travel within the remaining areas of Camp Hale to open roads and trails only during the snow-free season, until authorities conduct a thorough site survey. This travel restriction will reduce potential exposure to any possible undiscovered asbestos-related hazards until a long-term mitigation strategy has been developed. The U.S. Forest Service based this decision on guidance from the USACE and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

“Our primary concern is the safety of the public and our employees and we ask everyone to comply with these closure orders,” said Dave Neely, Eagle/Holy Cross District Ranger, White River National Forest. “We will work closely with the appropriate agencies to assess the situation and stabilize the site and develop a long-term action plan. We will keep the public informed as we make progress.”

Camp Hale was constructed during WWII and served as the training site for the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division. The military site was deactivated in 1965 and ownership was transferred to U.S. Forest Service in 1966.

Information relating to friable asbestos can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/help.html>

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