



FRY FIRE DISTRICT

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

The following is a summary of what homeowners should do to prepare for an emergency evacuation. It was written for fire emergencies, but most of it would apply to flood threats or a Hazardous Material spill(s). It applies primarily to residents in the wildland-urban interface, i.e. the homes in the Huachuca Mountain areas, mesquite grasslands or the adjacent juniper hillside vegetation.

I. THE THREE LEVELS OF EVACUATION READINESS: Fry Fire District area residents should expect three possible stages of an evacuation:

- 1) **Evacuation Alert** – Will be in effect when fire danger is extreme. A National Forest closure may be in effect for weeks or months.
- 2) **Evacuation Watch** - Will occur when a fire or other threat is imminent, moving toward occupied area, and resources are mobilized to fight it. This may last a few hours to days.
- 3) **Mandatory Evacuation** - Will occur when emergency officials or Law Enforcement orders people to leave ahead of an advancing fire or other threat.

II. HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO EVACUATE?

At Stage 2 (above), Evacuation Watch, you will be contacted by community radio, phone or in person by a Law Enforcement Officer.

You will be contacted again at Stage 3, Mandatory Evacuation.

You should be familiar with the 3 stages of evacuation readiness outlined above. Keep in touch and stay informed. At Stage 1, watch for updates from a Law Enforcement Office, U.S. Forest Service, State or Federal Government and Fry Fire District.

Residents should check for updates with the Sheriff's Office at 432-9500, Sierra Vista Police at 458-3311 or Local Radio stations.

III. WHAT TO DO TO PREPARE FOR AN EVACUATION

DURING AN EVACUATION ALERT: Prepare your home for the possibility that you may have to leave it rather than stay to protect it during a wildfire. In addition, be preparing items to take with you by knowing where these things are and are ready to load them into the car.

Protect your home. Check gutters and lee (downwind) side of structures for leaves. Burning firebrands and embers will be carried to and drop into the same places that dry leaves accumulate against buildings. Rake under open decks, walkways and wheelchair ramps; enclose with metal screening. Leave hoses coiled on bare ground near hose bibs, several feet from walls and disconnected. Leave a ladder on the ground near access point to roof. Rake around the base of wooden power poles. Remember: no power means, no water in many cases. Leave driveways clear.

Bring things indoors. Lawn furniture, trash cans, kiddie pools, toys, garden equipment, hanging plants, flags, wind chimes and any other lightweight objects may fly around in fire-generated wind.

Look for potential hazards. Dead limbs overhead can blow or break off and block driveways, or fly onto power lines, roof or windows in high winds. Remove and drag them away from the house.

Review how to turn off electricity and water. Refresh your memory of how to turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker, and how to turn off water at the main valve. Dig to clear underground valve boxes.

Review how to turn off propane gas at the tank. Rake around propane tank, removing grass and leaves to 15 feet away. Propane tanks often become dislodged in floods. Gasoline tanks on metal stands should be checked for clearance from flammable materials; secure hose well above ground. Move flammable liquids and portable propane tanks away to open areas safe from fire.

Prepare to cover the outside of all windows of your home. Large, single-pane picture windows are especially prone to shatter in the heat of a fire, admitting burning embers to an otherwise fire-safe house.

Prepare to move objects that may get damaged by wind, heat or water to safer areas of your home. If there is time when you are ordered to evacuate, after packing and other preparations are done, move television sets, computers, stereo and electronic equipment, firearms, and easily moveable appliances like a microwave oven to higher levels of your home and away from windows. Wrap them in sheets, wool blankets, rugs, or burlap. Put ammunition into refrigerator or pack it for transport out.

Prepare a crate for each pet. Get animal used to crate and write your and animal's name on crate. Tape leash and a Zip-lock bag to crate with meds and animal health records (needed if you have to kennel your pet). Make sure pet has ID tags on, or tape written ID information to collar. Have food and dishes ready.

DURING AN EVACUATION WATCH:

- 1. Gather essential supplies, legal papers, and family pictures.**
- 2. Turn off automatic irrigation systems to ensure you have a full pressure tank of water should you lose electricity. Water manually, and sparingly.**
- 3. Keep fuel tank topped off on vehicle you will use. If you own a roadworthy RV plan to bring it. Move other vehicles and travel trailers to a safe, open area where they won't burn or block fire vehicles.**
- 4. You will need the following supplies when you leave your home; put them all together in a duffle bag or other large container in advance:**

- Flashlight for each family member, with plenty of extra batteries – tape switch to OFF till needed
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- First aid kit & prescription medications in their original bottles, plus copies of the prescriptions
- Eyeglasses (with a copy of the prescription) and hearing aids, batteries.
- Water (at least 1 ½ gallons per person is recommended per-day; more is better)
- Foods that do not require refrigeration or cooking – 3 days' worth, plus a can opener and utensils
- Items that infants and elderly household members may require
- Medical equipment and devices, such as oxygen tanks, dentures, crutches, prostheses, etc.
- Changes of clothes for each household member
- Washing kit, soap, towel, roll of toilet paper
- Sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member
- Checkbook, cash, and credit cards
- State and city maps of the area – Arizona & New Mexico
- Cell phone, batteries, charger and outlet strip.
- Cochise County phone book
- Pet supplies, **medicines**, food, water, dishes, leashes and medical records

Important papers to take with you:

- Driver's license and/or passport, Social Security card, birth and marriage certificates
- Proof of residence (deed or lease) plus recent utility bills
- Insurance policies and vehicle titles
- Stocks, bonds, and other negotiable certificates
- Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns
- Computer backup disks or consider bringing the CPU itself (the box, minus monitor and keyboard) if you have important records on the computer.
- Family photographs are often the only thing that most disaster survivors wish they'd brought along; consider packing these too.

IV. WHEN ORDERED TO EVACUATE, close all windows turn off water and power except to pump & water tank if possible, turn off propane, load vehicle and go. Time may be very short, so prepare ahead of time.

If you have only moments before leaving, grab these things and go

1. Medical supplies: prescription medications and dentures.
2. Flashlight, batteries, radio, first aid kit, bottled water (1-gallon/person & per pet).
3. Clothing and bedding: a change of clothes and a sleeping bag or bedroll, sleeping pad and pillow for each household member.
4. Car keys and keys to the place you may be going (friend's or relative's home)
5. Pets, crates and pet supplies (food, dishes, leashes, medicine and pet's medical records)

V. WHERE DO WE GO WHEN WE ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE?

You will receive instructions when you are ordered to evacuate, but you can help by taking an active role and planning ahead for your own needs. Residents should contact a friend or relative who lives in the non-threaten areas and arrange accommodations. Leave a note on fridge with the names of people evacuating your household, your cell phone number and your intended destination if not using a local shelter.

Evacuees without pre-arranged accommodations will be directed where to go, which will be mostly likely to a school or community center.

The Fire stations will most likely NOT be used to house evacuees as it may be in use as a command center. Parking is very limited.

Register your names and destination with emergency personnel as you leave.

VI. PLAN AHEAD WELL BEFORE AN EVACUATION!

Make a video or written record of all of your household possessions.
Record model number and serial numbers.

This list could help you prove the value of what you owned if those possessions are damaged or destroyed, and can assist you to claim deductions on taxes and with insurance companies. Photograph or video all items in your home, including expensive items such as sofas, chairs, tables, beds, chests, rugs, wall units, art, firearms, and satellite dish. Photograph or scan documents listed above. Store a copy of the records somewhere away from home, such as in a fire proof safe deposit box that as a fire rating of at least 2-hours.

VII. PREPARE MENTALLY - VISUALIZE THE PROCESS AND CONDITIONS OF AN EVACUATION

Doing the 'mental homework' will help you stay calm in an emergency situation. Expect it to be chaotic and for you to feel frustrated at the lack of information coming from emergency responders. This is to be expected; you can help by assisting and reassuring others who are in this with you.

Quick Start Guide to Recovery

The following checklist serves as a quick reference guide to follow during the first 24-hours after a disaster.

1. Contact your family to let them know of your loss and your condition. Your family (and friends) is a critical part of your internal support group. If multiple residences are involved in the disaster, register with the American Red Cross "Safe and Well" website.
2. Contact your insurance company about the loss and request that the house be secured, if necessary. Do not throw any items away until an inventory has been made.
3. Contact your doctor's office to request replacement prescriptions, if necessary.
4. Ensure that your immediate disaster caused needs are met; including food for you, your family and your pets, and clothing. This may include contacting your local chapter of the American Red Cross for assistance.
5. Arrange for temporary shelter. This may also include contacting the American Red Cross.
6. If structure is still standing: Do not re-enter the damaged home or building unless fire authorities say it is safe to do so.
 - b. Check for structural damage from a safe distance. Upon entering the building, look for any structural damage that may be subject to collapse. If safe, remove valuables and/or other salvageable items from the home.
 - c. Allow the proper authorities to reconnect utilities. DO NOT attempt to reconnect them yourself.
 - d. Do not eat or drink medicines, food products or beverages that have been exposed to heat, smoke, soot or chemicals.
7. Start creating a list of lost inventory, room by room for your insurance company.
8. Begin plans to rebuild your home. a. Do not rush into signing contracts for rebuilding or public insurance adjusting services. Give yourself time to get professional counsel and think things through.