
Community Evacuation Procedures - Support Group

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

An Evacuation Warning (Voluntary) or an Evacuation Order (Mandatory) may be necessary when a fire (or other incident) presents a possible or immediate danger to life and property. Once issued, District Support Group personnel shall assist residents by communicating reliable information and assisting them in their preparation and organized exit from the District. It is the intent of this procedure to define the roles and responsibilities required to meet these goals.

410.2 AUTHORITY

Any procedures set forth are ultimately subject to change by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, which has the ultimate responsibility to issue and carry out an Evacuation. The Sheriff's Office will be apprised of the evacuation in progress, airport usage and will determine the best options for residents to leave the area.

410.3 DEFINITIONS

District Support Group

By definition, this is the team of trained, resident volunteers that respond to calls for community assistance, medical aid, road control and firefighter assistance whenever needed. This team may be augmented by other resident volunteers to provide animal control, logistics management and community evacuation support.

Evacuation Warning

Law Enforcement or the designated Incident Commander, determines when there is a **predicted** threat to life and property for any portion of the District and then **advises** residents to leave. This typically gives residents an opportunity to prepare for and then leave the District in plenty of time. However, the developing threat may escalate and cause an Evacuation Warning to change to an Evacuation Order at any moment.

Evacuation Order

Law Enforcement or the designated Incident Commander, determines when there is an **immediate** threat to life and property for any portion of the District and then **orders** residents to leave immediately. The threat may be actual or predicted based on fire direction and rate of spread.

410.4 STRATEGY

Depending on the direction and speed of the fire threat, the Sheriff's Office will determine the best routes for evacuation, road closures and escorted evacuation services to ensure that incoming fire service vehicles are not deterred.

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During an Evacuation Warning, residents who are elderly, disabled, physically vulnerable or who own large animals are highly encouraged to evacuate early.

During an Evacuation Order, all residents are expected to evacuate immediately and follow road controls established by the Support Group and Sheriff's Office.

410.5 SUPPORT GROUP GENERAL DUTIES

Evacuation Warning

Upon issuance of an Evacuation Warning, the District Support Group will call up the necessary team members to provide the ancillary needs of the community and fire station in preparation of a possible Evacuation Order.

Based on resource availability and resident access, those duties may include the following:

1. Manning telephones to provide reliable and consistent information to residents.
2. Contact and inform residents using the most efficient and pragmatic means available.
3. Assist residents with their large animal evacuations.
4. Assist elderly, disabled or physically vulnerable residents with their evacuation.

Evacuation Order

Upon issuance of an Evacuation Order, The District Support Group will provide the same services described under Evacuation Warning, PLUS the following:

1. Provide road control
2. Manage the evacuation of residents and/or the staging of evacuees at the airport for temporary refuge.

410.6 SWANSBORO AIRPORT

When directed by the Sheriff's Office, the Swansboro Airport may be used as a Temporary Refuge Area (TRA) or evacuation staging area so that escorted evacuation out Rock Creek Road can be controlled and coordinated with incoming emergency fire vehicles.

When the Swansboro Airport is used as a TRA, Support Group personnel shall utilize all areas of the airport to protect citizens. Care shall be taken to park vehicles away from combustible material, including buildings and vegetation. If fire impacts the airport, the east end of the airport (aircraft tie down and helicopter landing area) is the safest, large area location without combustible material nearby. No vehicle parking should be allowed in this area and it must be maintained clear in the event that moving people to this location is necessary.

When the airport is utilized by civilian traffic during an emergency, it is expected that the airspace will be restricted by Cal Fire and there will be no aircraft traffic which would interfere with the protection of citizens. Exceptions can be authorized by the Incident Commander and Air Attack Coordinator, which may include medical evacuation.

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410.7 PROCEDURES

Evacuation procedures will be activated upon request of the Sheriff, Incident Commander or if conditions exist, where there is an obvious active progressing fire in which residents are leaving the area.

410.7.1 CITIZEN INTERACTION

When directed by the Sheriff's Office, Support Group personnel will advise motorists that Rock Creek Road is the only way fire engines can get in and opposing traffic may present an unsafe situation by delaying fire engine access. All opposing traffic will be directed back to the airport via Mosquito Cutoff Road. If a driver insists on driving out Rock Creek Road and cannot be verbally persuaded otherwise, Support Group personnel shall make no attempt to physically stop them.

410.7.2 ROAD CONTROL

Check-Points

Support Group personnel will set up road checkpoints at the following locations:

1. Rock Creek Road at Mosquito Cutoff Road
2. Mosquito Road at Mosquito Cutoff Road
3. Sluice Street at the Airport gate (primary access)
4. Mosquito Road at the RV/Large animal gate (Dyer Lake basketball court)
5. Rock Creek and Gravel Road

Check-Point Directives

Mosquito Cutoff Road at Mosquito Road

Support Group personnel will prevent oversize vehicles or vehicles towing

Trailers, from going down Mosquito Road to the bridge, or all vehicles if a fire is impacting the road to the bridge. They shall make no attempt to physically stop them, but will strongly advise them that there is no way to get through and they will be forced to turn around and come back because oversized vehicles and trailers may prevent the bridge from being used for escape.

Mosquito Road at RV/Large Animal Gate

When manned, Support Group personnel will direct large vehicles and vehicles with trailers into the designated parking area.

Sluice Street at Airport Gate

When manned, Support Group personnel will direct most of the traffic through the gate and into a designated parking area. As residents come in, Support Group personnel shall create a check-in log from which residents' names and addresses are collected and shared with the Sheriff's Office for their management of residents that have not yet evacuated.

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410.8 SAFETY

When the airport is used as a Temporary Refuge Area, Support Group personnel shall transport Squad 75 to the Airport and medical support personnel will staff the TRA to monitor medical issues. Support Group personnel shall contact the Sheriff or Incident Commander via radio to request a paramedic ambulance, if needed. If unable to make contact by radio Camino Dispatch via 911 shall be called.

If an unsafe situation exists the Incident Commander or District Liaison will be contacted and individuals will be moved to a safe location if necessary.

If any road checkpoint becomes unsafe for any reason, Support Group personnel shall evacuate to the Airport or Fire Station immediately.