

Wildfire Evacuation and General Preparedness Plan for Mosquito Fire Protection District



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INTRODUCTION

Wildfires are inevitable, and they often occur without warning. Being prepared and having an evacuation plan in place in the event of a wildfire is critical to protecting the safety of yourself, your family, community members and the lives of emergency personnel. Evacuation plans can protect people in fire areas from injury and loss of life. They can reduce the chance that individuals, including emergency personnel will be caught in perilous conditions.

With the protection of life being the first priority of the Mosquito Fire Protection District the following Evacuation Plan has been developed to be utilized by the residents of the District. It is imperative that you and all members of your family be familiar with this plan and the Evacuation Route it details.

“Evacuation” as defined in this document means the movement of residents to a safe “staging area” within the District. The staging area selected is the Swansboro Runway for it has the lowest risk to wildfire, facilities to provide temporary shelter, is easily accessible and is centrally located.

Time spent in this staging area will likely not exceed 4 to 6 hours. Then, if necessary, evacuation will be out of the area to an established shelter facility. The El Dorado County Sheriffs Office will determine the safest route out of the area and the shelter facilities to be utilized.

There are two evacuation scenarios that can occur and impact the residents of the Mosquito Fire Protection District. The first is an Incident (fire) that will occur within the populated areas of the District. This Incident will provide short notice to the residents involved and will require quick action. The second Incident will occur outside of the District providing more time and opportunity for residents to prepare for the possibility of evacuation. In either case all residents of the District should be prepared and the utilization of this Evacuation Plan can be a great asset towards that preparation.

Wildfire Survival Checklist

Preparing to Evacuate

- Park your car in the garage, facing out, with the windows closed and keys in the ignition. Take only one car and do not block the driveway with other cars so the fire department can access.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked; disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- Place valuable documents and family mementos inside the car in the garage for quick departure, if necessary.
- If you do evacuate, use your preplanned route, away from approaching fire front.
- Keep a flashlight and radio with you.
- If you are trapped by a fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.
- If you are trapped by fire when evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation along a road, or lie in the road ditch. Cover any exposed skin with a jacket or blanket. Avoid canyons that can concentrate and channel fire.

Outside Your Home

- Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage; if it catches fire while outside, the added heat could ignite your house.
- Cover windows, attic openings, eave vents and sub-floor vents with fire resistant material such as ½ inch plywood. This will eliminate the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house. Close window shutters if they are fire resistant.
- Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- Fill trashcans and buckets with water and put them where fire fighters can find them.
- If you have an emergency generator or a gasoline operated pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location and make sure it is ready to operate.
- Place a ladder against the house or the side opposite the approaching fire to help firefighters access your roof.

Inside Your Home

- Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks and embers from blowing inside.
- Close all doors to slow the spread of fire from room to room.
- Turn on a light in each room of your house, on the porch and in the yard. This will make the house more visible in heavy smoke or darkness.
- Fill sinks, bathtubs and buckets with water. These can be important extra water reservoirs.
- Shut off liquefied petroleum (LPG).

Staying at Home During a Fire

- Staying in your home would only be recommended for a low intensity fire where you have good Defensible Space around your home and fire agencies felt it is safe to stay.
- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep it from igniting from the heat of fire radiating through the glass.
- Remove your curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block radiant heat.
- Stay inside your house, away from outside walls.
- Close all doors, but leave them unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and remain calm. Remember: if it gets hot in the house, it is many times hotter and more dangerous outside.

After the Fire Passes

- Check the roof immediately, extinguishing all sparks and embers. If you must climb onto the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.
- Check the inside of the attic for hidden burning embers.
- Check the yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.
- Keep the doors and windows closed.
- Continue checking your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours.

PLAN FOR THE EVACUATION NOW

Animal Evacuation Checklist

Horses

- Safe areas for horses may be designated by Animal Control, fire fighting agencies and/or Sheriff as a temporary (less than 24 hours) holding area.
- Assist yourself and emergency personnel by making pre-arrangements with friends who have pastures and/or corrals in other communities that can safely hold horses and other animals.
- If you have a horse trailer, it is recommended that you move the horse(s) to a Fire Safe Area outside of the community. This will reserve sites within the community for those who do not have transportation for their horses.
- Keep tow vehicle full of gas and well maintained.
- If you have a horse trailer, position it facing out to facilitate fast hookup with tow vehicle.
- If possible, anticipate an evacuation and move your horse(s) outside of the Mosquito Fire Protection District prior to notification to evacuate. Make a family Plan and dress properly.
- Preplan feed, water, medicine needs etc. and pack in trailer or truck.
- El Dorado County Animal Control will be dispatched and will do what they can to assist.

Pets and Other Animals

- In the confusion and excitement of an evacuation, pets have a tendency to run away and hide. Place pets in the car with windows partially open and in the shade.
- If possible, send pets away ahead of an evacuation. Evacuation shelters may not welcome pets.
- Preplan pet evacuation and needs.
- Identification of pet(s) is essential. Keep photos, brands, or anything that will help in identifying your pet(s) with you.
- Collars and halters should be leather.

Sheltering Alternatives Outside of the Mosquito Fire Protection District

- Determine if sheltering assistance is available from family or friends.
- Make arrangements with family or friends outside of the area to pick up school age children. You may not be able to leave the area.
- Consider commercial lodging if available.
- Call the American Red Cross, Placerville Office, at (530) 626-5491. There is a 24-hour Hot Line to connect you with a local disaster caseworker.
- Facilities outside of the Mosquito Fire Protection District such as schools, halls etc. may be available for placement as temporary sheltering places as designated by relief agencies.
- Know your primary travel routes to sheltering areas.
- Drive the routes in advance so that you will be prepared for the confusion of an actual emergency.
- Be prepared to take direction from law enforcement. You must follow their directions.
- Other State Areas (Fire Safe Areas) that are designated by the fire fighting agencies may also be available.

When Can I Return Home

- The fire agencies and Sheriff will determine as soon as possible when it is safe to return home. This could be at roadblocks, Staging Areas via TV, radio etc. Be sure to have identification with you so that law enforcement personnel at roadblocks know you are a resident or property owner in the Mosquito Fire Protection District.

PLAN AHEAD, ACT NOW, BE CALM

Preparing for ALL Emergencies

At the Ready

- You should have these basics for a Family Disaster Supply Kit in your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools, and emergency supplies. Keep items you would most likely need during an evacuation in a 32-gallon, heavy-walled trashcan.
- Store kit in convenient place known to all family members.
- Keep items in air tight bags.
- Change stored waters every six months.
- Rotate your stored food every six months.
- Rethink your kit and family needs every year, replace batteries, update clothes etc.
- Ask a pharmacist about storing prescription medicines.
- Suggested Items You Should Store
 - A three day supply of water (store 2 gallons of water per person per day)
 - Ready to eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
 - Staples such as sugar, salt, pepper, etc.
 - High-energy foods, such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
 - Vitamins
 - Food for elderly persons or persons on special diets
 - Comfort/stress foods such as cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, instant coffee and tea bags
 - First-Aid Kit
 - Nonprescription Drugs
 - Important Family Documents

Evacuation Advisories

Definition Levels

- **Precautionary**
Wildland fire outside of the Mosquito Fire Protection District causing concern of residents. Fire service and/or law enforcement will provide information to concerned residents.
No Evacuation at This Time
- **Voluntary**
Wildland fire near or within the Mosquito Fire Protection District **but not likely to require full evacuation of the District**. Law enforcement will be mobilized to provide local traffic control and information to residents. El Dorado High School District and the Placerville Unified School District advises parents that school may be closed during wildfire emergencies.
- **Mandatory**
Wildland fire a significant threat to life and property in and adjacent to the Mosquito Fire Protection District. Sheriff's Office has ordered a **full or limited evacuation**.

Implementation of Evacuation

- The Fire Agencies will assess fire spread and determine if the Mosquito Fire Protection District or portions of could be threatened by wildfire.
- El Dorado County Sheriff will be responsible for carrying out the evacuation. **The area to be evacuated will depend on the location and severity of the incident (fire)**. They will use deputies, volunteers, STARS, and Search and Rescue personnel. They will provide directions for evacuating the area – in the event of imminent threat move away from the approaching fire front. Law enforcement will be responsible for the security of areas evacuated and for traffic control.
- Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department Support Group personnel will be working closely with the agencies to help with non-ambulatory people and other “help thy neighbor” in implementation of a pending evacuation. Sheltering areas will be determined by emergency personnel who will direct you to these areas.

Primary Evacuation Routes

- Evacuation of the entire Mosquito Fire Protection District is unlikely. The **Incident (fire)** will determine what areas need to be evacuated and what routes are to be used.

THE MAIN EVACUATION ROUTES ARE:

East Mosquito Fire Protection District to the West utilizing Log Cabin Lane, Maidu Drive, Stope Drive, Lupin Lane and Mosquito Road to Rock Creek Road And the Swansboro Airport

North Mosquito Fire Protection District to the South utilizing Lupin Lane, Mosquito Road, Swansboro Road and One Eye Creek Road to Rock Creek Road and the Swansboro Airport

South Mosquito Fire Protection District to the North utilizing Buckboard Road, La Paz Road and Mosquito Road to Rock Creek Road and the Swansboro Airport

West Mosquito Fire Protection District to the East utilizing Rock Creek Road, Trail Gulch Road and Gravel Road to Rock Creek Road and the Swansboro Airport

FOLLOW THE POSTED EVACUATION SIGNS

- Law enforcement and fire agencies may designate roads for incoming emergency fire vehicles only and roads for residents leaving, i.e. Rock Creek Road incoming emergency vehicles only, Mosquito Road out going residents only.
- Law enforcement may lead cars out of the community via the safest routes.

BE PREPARED

ACT DEFENSIVELY

DO WHAT YOU CAN NOW!

What You Must Do

Know the secondary roads to get to the main evacuation roads. See map on interior pages.

- Drive these routes in advance so that you will be familiar with them to be prepared for any confusion during an actual emergency.
- Be prepared to take directions from law enforcement. You must follow their directions.
- Expand your **Neighborhood Watch** to include assistance in evacuation of neighbors and friends.
- Have this Plan, checklist items and map ready to take with you.
- If in your car and fire is blocking you:
 - Park in an area that is clear of vegetation.
 - Close all windows and vents
 - Cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.

How You will Be Notified to Evacuate

- **You will be notified to evacuate?**
 - By fire fighters
 - By law enforcement
 - By radio, TV and Telephone
- **Fire Fighters and Law Enforcement will go door to door** notifying you of the developing emergency.
- **Telephone Notification System (TNS)**
Automatically calls all residents, business in an identified area with a recorded message informing all of an emergency situation.
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**
Will broadcast the emergency situation over KFBK radio at 1530 AM for the western slopes of El Dorado County.
- **Emergency Digital Information System (EDIS)**
Emergency messages will be sent via e-mail to a network of media organizations and public safety agencies such as local television, cable providers etc. Television stations will display banner information on the progress of the emergency.

The El Dorado County Sheriffs Office, Office of Emergency Services, will initiate the above notifications(s)

Be Informed

911

IS FOR EMERGENCIES, NOT FOR INFORMATION

FIRE BUSINESS NUMBERS

El Dorado County, Central Dispatch: (530) 621-6600
Mosquito Fire Protection District: (530) 626-9017

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUSINESS NUMBERS

El Dorado County Sheriffs Department: (530) 621-6600
California Highway Patrol, Placerville: (530) 622-1110
El Dorado Sheriffs Office, Non Emergency Watch Commander: (530) 621-5692

MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulance, El Dorado County: 911 or (530) 626-4911
Marshall Hospital, Placerville (530) 622-1441

ANIMAL CONTROL

El Dorado County: (530) 621-5795, After Hours (530) 621-6600

SCHOOLS

El Dorado Union High School District Office: (530) 622-5081
El Dorado High School District Transportation: (530) 622-6306
Placerville Union Elementary School District: (530) 622-7216
Placerville Union Elementary School District Transportation: (530) 626-7636

OTHERS

CALTRANS: 1-800-427-7623 (24-hour highway conditions)
El Dorado County Department of Transportation: (530) 621-5900
American Red Cross, El Dorado County: (530) 626-5491
PG&E: 1-800-743-5000
Swansboro Country Property Owners Association: (530) 621-0309
Radio Emergency Alert System – KFBK 1530 AM

FAMILY, RELATIVES, WORK AND FRIENDS PHONE NUMBERS

This plan was prepared under contract with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council with funding from the U.S. Department of Agricultural, Forest Service Economic Assistance Program. Reference: El Dorado County Sheriffs Office- OES, El Dorado County Animal Control, Paradise Fire Safe Council, State Farm Insurance, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Mosquito Fire Protection District, American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.