

2015
MID-COAST FIRE BRIGADE
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In case of emergencies: **fire, flood, earthquake.** Be prepared to evacuate.

If you smell smoke call 9-1-1 immediately. Be prepared to describe the location of the fire. Do not email the neighbors list to see if anyone else smells smoke!

Know who your neighborhood coordinator is, make sure there is a phone tree for your area, and that you are on the list for your neighborhood. It is your responsibility! Jerri Masten Hansen is the Neighborhood Coordinators' coordinator. Contact Jerri for more information at (831) 624-6217 or jerrihansen@att.net

During a fire there are two types of evacuation notices that could be issued: Advisory and Mandatory

Advisory – an evacuation advisory is not a mandatory evacuation, but it is strongly recommended that you leave the area. Residents are advised to gather their medications, pets and important papers. This is the time to load your belongings into your vehicle or trailer. You can still come and go during an advisory evacuation. Residents should be prepared to leave the area with little notice or no notice.

Mandatory – a mandatory evacuation means that an area is directly threatened by fire. Leave the area immediately. Gather your medications and pets and get out now: don't wait!! Once out of the area you will not be allowed back until the mandatory evacuation order has been rescinded by the Sheriffs.

FIRE

1. If you can safely leave the canyon: GO! Remember emergency personnel will be coming up the canyon. Please drive carefully and slowly.
2. If you cannot leave the canyon: Shelter in place in your home. This is the safest place until your home is on fire. Remember you need to have 100 feet of defensible space around your home.
3. If you cannot safely remain in your home or safely leave the canyon then go to the fire station for further instructions. Do not drive into the station, rather park on Palo Colorado Road well out of the way.
4. Have a plan for your pets. If you are not home, make arrangements with a neighbor(s) to get your pet(s). Have your pet carrier(s) in plain sight along with their food.
5. If you leave a pet, put food and water out for your pet(s) for firefighters to see.
6. Take only what is on your list. This must be developed by you and should hang on your refrigerator.
7. Have your most important papers together for easy access.
8. Have your prescription or any medications (for a minimum of 7 days) that you take on a daily basis set aside, and then keep in your car or by your front door for easy access.
9. Develop a Family Reunion Plan: The biggest cause of anxiety after a disaster is not knowing if your loved ones are all right. Mobile phone relays can break down or get overloaded, so don't rely on them. Text messages will often go through when cell towers are overwhelmed. Talk with your family now about where you would meet and how you would communicate after a disaster by making a **plan**!
10. There are alternate routes out of the canyon to be used only in an extreme emergency (as declared by the Fire Chief). Simply stated if you opt to take an alternate route you could be headed straight into the fire.

EVACUATION PROTOCOL SUGGESTIONS

- Leave a porch light on and the front door unlocked.
- Close windows, blinds, heavy drapery, shutters and attic vents.
- Park your car nose out with your keys in the ignition so you can leave immediately. Keep the auto door lock with you so you do not lock yourself out of the car.
- Drive slowly and carefully with your windows rolled up to avoid embers from getting into your vehicle and setting your vehicle on fire.

If there is time then:

- Leave garden hoses visible and stretched around your home.
- Turn off the propane tank (do not turn back on if you do not know how to re-light your propane appliances)
- Post a sign on your door if leaving “EVACUATED”
- If you gel your home with a personal gel kit, leave empty cans beneath the sign.
- Write on your sign how much water is available in your tank and pool/hot tub, etc.

The American Red Cross offers various sites to prepare you for an emergency:

To learn how to prepare an emergency kit: www.redcross.org/prepare/locatin/home-family/get-kit

To learn how family members, friends, and loved one can log their status updates about each other during a large-scale emergency event visit: safeandwell.communityos.org

Learn Skills from the American Red Cross:

Take a first-aid class

Learn how to turn off your utilities.

Learn how to use a fire extinguisher

Learn more about organizing your neighborhood to take care of each other.

For additional information on how to prepare for a wildland fire visit: wildlandfirersg.org to learn about the “Ready, Set, Go” program.