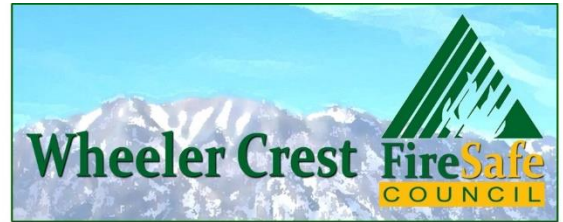


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Fact Sheet #5

Emergency Evacuation Procedures



In light of the wildfires and resulting evacuations in both 2015 and 2016, one of the Fire Safe Council's goals is to better inform the community about the procedures and protocols for evacuation in the event of a future wildfire or other emergency.

Evacuation Orders

In Mono County, the Sheriff is the designated Director of Emergency Services, and has sole authority over any decision to evacuate a community during an emergency.

Unlike other jurisdictions, the County does not issue different types of evacuation orders (e.g., "voluntary" vs. "mandatory"). Although it may be preceded by an *advisory notification*, a simple evacuation order will be issued at the Sheriff's discretion.

As per California law, the Sheriff's office cannot force residents to evacuate if they choose to remain in residence during an emergency. However, any attempt to enter or re-enter an evacuated community is a criminal offense that can result in arrest and prosecution.

Evacuation Notifications

Please note that the "Reverse 911" system is no longer operative in Mono County. Even if your land line is a listed number, you will *not* automatically receive a notification by phone. Instead, residents are advised to register for notification on the **CodeRED** website:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/09531DC35832>

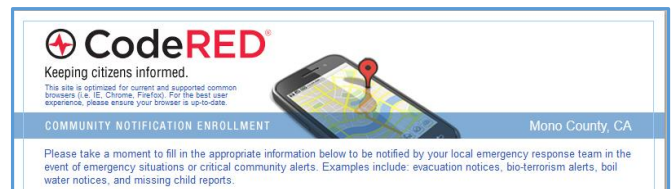
There are several enrollment options. You can sign up for emergency notifications only, but also for community announcements concerning construction activities, road closures, etc. In addition, you can register multiple phone numbers (e.g., land line and mobile), opt to receive text notifications on your mobile phone, and also choose to receive email notifications.

The WCFSC also advises all CodeRED users to enter the appropriate phone numbers into your phone's contacts list, especially if you employ any application or software to block telemarketing "robo-calls". The CodeRED numbers are:

866-419-5000 for emergency notifications

855-969-4636 for community announcements

470-219-3914 for text notifications



In addition to the initial evacuation order, the Sheriff's office will use the CodeRED system to notify residents when the order has been lifted and it is safe to return to your home. In addition to the CodeRED alerts, the Sheriff's office makes every effort to have a first responder knock on the door of every home, ascertain who (if anyone) is in residence, and note whether or not they intend to evacuate. In sparsely populated communities, however, it may be difficult for the available personnel to achieve 100% coverage in this regard, and the FSC strongly urges all residents to register for the CodeRED system.

Other Forms of Communication

The Sheriff's office does not presently update its website (<http://monosheriff.org/sheriff>) in real time. Updates about fires or other emergency situations are usually posted on the Sheriff's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MonoSheriff/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MonoSheriff?lang=en>) accounts. At this time, there is no phone number to call for up-to-the-minute information about wildfires or other emergencies. The Inyo National Forest website will often contain real-time information when there is a fire on their land (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo/>). The INF also utilizes Facebook to post frequent updates and announcements (<https://www.facebook.com/inyonf>).

People with Access and Functional Needs (PAFN)

Mono County maintains a registry for residents who may need special assistance during an evacuation event, and shares this registry with emergency response agencies so they can better serve such residents. Information shared with the registry will remain private and is only shared with the emergency response agencies. To sign up for the registry or request more information, visit <https://monocounty.ca.gov/public-health/page/mono-county-access-functional-needs-afn-registry>, or call the Mono County Health Department at (760) 924-1830.

Planning for Evacuation

Advance planning is critical in the event of an emergency evacuation where only minutes are available to pack and leave. We strongly recommend a prioritized checklist that is posted in a prominent location. Each resident should have a personal "go bag" containing spare clothes, toiletries, eyeglasses, and a week's supply of prescription medications. If you have pets, you should have a plan for rapidly capturing them and placing them in appropriate transportation containers, and also have a pet "go bag" (or box) containing food, bowls, medications, cat litter and a suitable container, etc. Evacuation of large animals requires especially careful planning, including the availability of any needed assistance from neighbors. Mono County does not currently have adequate staffing to assist with such evacuations.

Important digital information, including documents and family photographs, are best safeguarded using cloud storage. Alternatively, have all such files backed up on a thumb drive or external hard drive that can be dropped into your "go bag" when exiting the premises. Critical paper documents (such as vehicle titles) are best stored off-site in a safe-deposit box or similar secure location.

Additional planning information can be found at <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Get-Set/>.

Preparing to Evacuate

As time allows, there are a number of important actions that you should take before evacuating your property. Any flammables such as patio furniture or children's toys should be moved inside the dwelling. Propane supply should be turned off at the tank. All doors and windows should be closed, but left unlocked in case first responders need to enter your home. Leave some lights on so that firefighters can see into the dwelling under smoky conditions.

For additional, detailed information, please visit: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Go-Evacuation-Guide/>.