

Woodside Ranch FIRE NEWSLETTER

Woodside Ranch Fire Education Committee

February 26, 2020

EVACUATION: **READY, SET, GO!**

Evacuation is a major concern to all Woodside Ranch residents as **we are all at risk** when a wildfire occurs. The Fire Newsletter will focus on helping residents be informed and prepared when evacuation is necessary. This issue will concentrate on getting **READY**, covering preparation you do now before a fire is threatening. Subsequent issues will concentrate on **SET** and **GO!**

Chances are you won't know where the fire is coming from, where it is heading, plus you may not be able to see anything due to smoke and embers. You may have just a few minutes to evacuate, giving you little time or the presence of mind to decide what's important to take. It's up to you to act fast. If you have planned ahead and practiced, you are more likely to make practical decisions that help you have a safe evacuation and ease your recovery after the fire.

Remember only you can list your essential items, identify your important papers, and put together your go-bags. It'll be too late when you see the plume of smoke or you get an emergency alert call in the middle of the night. Get ready now!

Information is taken from local fire departments and law enforcement materials. In addition we conducted an interview with Nathan Garibay, Emergency Services Manager, Deschutes County Sheriff.

GET READY

1. **Defensible Space.** Start with clearing away everything flammable within 5 feet of your structures. Create 30 to 100 feet of defensible space around your home.
2. **Sign up for emergency alerts.** Go to www.deschutesalerts.org and follow the steps outlined for cell and/or landlines.
3. **Create and practice a family disaster plan.** Discuss your plan with all household members and practice it together once or twice a year.

- ❑ Educate your entire household about fire & evacuation procedures.
- ❑ Make a list of your 5Ps (People, Pets, Pills, Photos, Important Papers) and practice gathering them for quick evacuation.
- ❑ Plan and practice your main and alternate evacuation routes.
- ❑ Designate a meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- ❑ Plan where you will shelter while evacuated.
- ❑ Know the evacuation plans for family members in school, childcare and assisted living.
- ❑ Talk with your neighbors to determine if they need special help.
- ❑ Plan how you will transport your pets and other animals.
- ❑ Appoint an out-of-area contact that can relay information. Make sure everyone has that phone number.
- ❑ Know how to open the garage door if the power is off.
- ❑ Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- ❑ Make a list of TV and radio news channels, reliable social media and websites. Keep a copy of your list on or near your phones, and in your go-bags. Bookmark and monitor media sites for emergency information. Be prepared to rely on your battery/crank radio if cell/wifi communication goes down.

Official Sites (provided by Nathan Garibay, Sheriff's Office):

- a. Deschutes.org/emergency - Map with fire location, road closures, evacuation levels/routes & shelters.
- b. Centraloregonfire.org - Wildfire and prescribed burn updates.
- c. [Twitter.com/DeschutesSO](https://twitter.com/DeschutesSO) - official Twitter feed of Deschutes County Sheriff's office.
- d. [Facebook: @DeschutesCountySheriff](https://www.facebook.com/DeschutesCountySheriff) - Official Facebook page of Deschutes County Sheriff's office.
- e. [Twitter.com/CentralORFire](https://twitter.com/CentralORFire) - Official information on Central Oregon wildfires.

Local Radio and TV:

- a. KBND 1110 AM and 100.1 FM
- b. KTVZ (Z21) Tune to the channel you regularly use. KTVZ.com website will have the station's timeliest updates.
- c. KOHD or KBNZ Tune to the channels you regularly use. CentralOregonDaily.com will have updates.

4. Make a Go-Bag. Each member of the family should have a go-bag to survive away from home for at least 72-hours (3 days). The following is a basic list. Go to the Deschutes County Family Emergency Preparedness Handbook or the American Red Cross

Prepare! A Resource Guide for more complete information:
http://www.sheriff.deschutes.org/Preparedness_Handbook.pdf
or
<http://www.redcross.org/cascades>

- Flashlight with plenty of extra batteries.
- First aid kit, prescription medications, eyeglasses, all essential equipment and devices for infants/elderly.
- Water (at least one gallon per person/pet per day) and food that doesn't require refrigeration or cooking. Include a manual can opener.
- Cell phones and mobile devices, plug in and solar chargers.
- Sleeping bag and clothing for each family member.
- Important documents such as proof of residence, insurance policies, birth certificates, prescriptions, wills, deeds, passports, etc.
- Hard drives, password list.
- Battery powered or hand-crank radio.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- Extra cash in small bills, credit cards and checkbook.
- Toilet paper for whole family.
- Treats and entertainment

5. Prepare for your pets.

- Prepare a go-bag for your pets including food, water, medications, collar, leash, crate/carrying case, vaccination records, food/water bowls, litter box and litter, bags to clean up after your dog. Keep the pet go-bag with your go-bag.
- Make sure all pets are identified with tag and microchip. Have a current photo.
- Talk with your neighbors about your pets. They may be the best resource for evacuating your pets if you are not home when a wildfire starts.
- Have an alternative shelter plan for your pets.

Work at planning and putting together your emergency plan and supplies over a period of time. Feel free to print this list and use it as a checklist. Got your preparations done? Congratulations now you're

READY TO EVACUATE!

Of course work is never done. Remember to review and update your evacuation preparations at least once a year before fire season.

Additional Information Sources:

www.projectwildfire.org/evacuation - has special sections on building a go kit and preparing children, other family members and pets.

LEVEL 1: READY TO EVACUATE
LEVEL 2: BE SET TO EVACUATE
LEVEL 3: EVACUATE NOW!

Watch for the next Woodside Ranch Fire Newsletter
Focus on Set to Evacuate

WRHA Fire Newsletters online at: <http://www.woodsideranch.net/firenews.html>

If you have comments or suggestions for future newsletters please email them to board@woodsideranch.net or to Helen Webre at hwebre@bendcable.com