



MEMORANDUM

TO: Residents of Zephyr Cove

FROM: Ron Pierini, Douglas County Sheriff
Ben Sharit, Fire Chief, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

DATE: May 18, 2012

RE: Wildland Fire Emergency Procedures

Dear Resident,

In conjunction with Wildfire Awareness Week, the Tahoe Douglas Fire District along with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office will be holding an evacuation drill on May 31, 2012. The drill will involve a scenario in which the neighborhoods of Zephyr Heights and Zephyr Knolls are threatened by a wildfire.

The drill will occur from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. All residents are encouraged to participate. The evacuation center for the drill will be the Zephyr Cove Park picnic area. Lunch will be served to those residents who evacuate to the Park. During the drill, vehicles and personnel from the Fire District, Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue may be seen in your neighborhood. Details on the evacuation drill may be found on our website at www.tahoefire.com

While this drill is based upon the threat of a wildfire, there are a number of risks which could require evacuation. All residents are urged to take this opportunity to review their family's evacuation kit or to put together an evacuation kit if they do not already have one. Having a pre-prepared evacuation kit will help ensure that you are able to evacuate your home rapidly in a real emergency without overlooking important evacuation items. Detailed information on preparing for an evacuation during a wildfire may be found at www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe click on the "during the fire button on the top banner of the site.

Evacuation Route

During an evacuation, you should follow the direction of law enforcement officers. Generally speaking, both Zephyr Knolls and Zephyr Heights can be evacuated most efficiently if those leaving the neighborhood turn right and travel north.

Evacuation Centers

If it is necessary for you to evacuate your home, you are requested to immediately check-in at the nearest evacuation center which is George Whittell High School (240 Warrior Way, Zephyr Cove). Evacuation centers will be staffed as quickly as possible. **During the May 31st evacuation drill, evacuate to the Zephyr Cove Park picnic area.**

It is important that you check-in with the evacuation centers, as the Officials at the centers will record all of your pertinent information, and will additionally be setting up communication centers so that concerned relatives and friends will have a center to check with to determine your safety and status. It is not necessary that you stay at the evacuation center, but it is extremely important that you check-in to correctly document your status for those who need to know.

Information Updates and Communications

You are requested to turn to a local radio or television station for periodic updated information. South Lake Tahoe's KRLT, which is located at 93.9 on the FM radio dial, 6am to 6pm weekdays and is located in South Lake Tahoe.

Do not to contact the Sheriff's office or Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District unless you have a specific additional emergency. Remember, the Emergency Agencies will have their hands full dealing with the Wildland Fire and controlling traffic. The more you can allow the Emergency Services personnel to deal with the emergency situation, the more rapidly the Wildland Fire will be controlled and life returned to normal.

Access to the community.

During an emergency situation, the roadways accessing the community will most likely be closed to all parties. Please understand that it is imperative to keep the travel lanes open and free on surrounding roadways so that parties evacuating the area may exit the neighborhood while incoming fire and emergency response personnel can access the incident area.

Evacuation

You should evacuate immediately when directed to do so by the authorities. Many fatalities during Wildland fires occur when people wait until the last moment and attempt to evacuate when the fire front is upon them. Evacuating promptly when directed to do so will result in a more orderly evacuation, which will allow emergency personnel better access to the community. If you have not evacuated, and the approach of the fire front is imminent, you should take refuge within your home until the fire front passes. Once the fire front passes you should exit your home and attempt to extinguish any small fires.

Five (5) Minute Exit

In the event of a Wildland Fire, you should be prepared to evacuate your home with as little as a five minute notice. You should consider only taking those items which are irreplaceable

and those items which you need to survive several days away from your home. Your list should include important legal documents, insurance policies, personal medication and irreplaceable family photos. To assist you in preparing for a Five Minute Evacuation, we have attached a brochure which will further explain items which you should consider taking during the Five Minute Evacuation.

Reverse 911

Reverse 911 is a system in which emergency instructions are delivered simultaneously to a number of homes. If you do not have a landline telephone in your home or you use a VoIP phone (internet phone), it is important that you register your cell phone and your VoIP phone for reverse 911. You can register a cell or VoIP phone for reverse 911 by clicking on the reverse 911 link on the Douglas County website at www.douglascountynv.gov

Water Usage

During a Wildland Fire, do not waste water hosing down your roof or running your sprinklers. Such an activity will utilize limited water resources and water pressure, which will be needed to fight the fire.

Pets

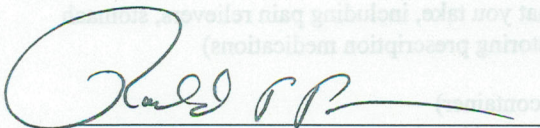
During a Wildland Fire evacuation, you should attempt to take your domestic pets with you when you evacuate the area. You are strongly cautioned, however, that it is not appropriate to risk human life to save a pet.

In the event that you are away from your residence and a Wildland Fire occurs, emergency personnel will attempt to retrieve your pets or accompany you to your house to allow recovery of your pets.

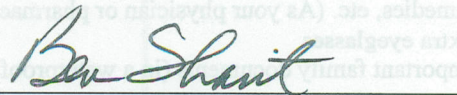
Conclusion

Your emergency services personnel are here to protect your lives first, your property second and the natural resources third. You can be assured that in the event of a Wildland Fire, we will be doing everything within our power to accomplish these goals. By following the recommendations set forth in this memo, you will be doing your part to assist in controlling and minimizing the emergency situation.

Sincerely,



Ron Pierini
Douglas County Sheriff



Ben Sharit, Fire Chief
Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

Emergency preparedness kits are designed to be the basis for some of the supplies that may be needed to have available when an emergency or disaster happens. While the materials included in the kits are a good start, there is no kit that can provide all the supplies that individuals may need in an emergency. Your kit should be customized based on your own personal needs.

Additional contents could include:

Clothing and Bedding

- At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear

Water

- Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation) Note: Hot environments and intense physical activity can dramatically increase the amount of water that a person needs to drink.

Food

- Ready to eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- High energy foods- peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- Vitamins
- Comfort/stress foods- Cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, instant coffee, tea bags

Tools and Supplies

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Mess kit, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash, traveler's checks, change
- Non-electric can open, utility knife
- Tent
- Pliers
- Tape
- Matches in waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Paper, pencil
- Needles, thread
- Medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench, (to turn off household gas & water)
- Plastic sheeting
- Map of area
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- Whistle
- Plastic storage containers

Special Items

- Medications (both prescription and non-prescription) that you take, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, etc. (As your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications)
- Extra eyeglasses
- Important family documents (in a waterproof, portable container)
 - Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
 - Passports, social security cards, immunization records
 - Bank account numbers

- Credit card account numbers and companies
 - Inventory of valuable household goods
 - Important telephone numbers
 - Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Entertainment- games and books
 - Supplies for persons with special needs, such as infant, elderly or disabled persons
 - Family or workplace disaster plan

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Soap, Liquid detergent
- Feminine supplies
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach
- Hand Sanitizer

Rethink your kit and individual needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.

For more information about disaster Preparedness please visit the American Red Cross website at:

<http://www.redcross.org>

MAKE A PLAN / BUILD A KIT / GET TRAINED / VOLUNTEER / GIVE BLOOD