

Ready,

Set,

Go!



Flathead County Evacuation Guide

INTRODUCTION

Disasters happen anytime, anywhere. Whether it's a hazardous material spill, wildfire, severe winter or summer storm or a natural hazard -- such as a tornado, flood or earthquake-- you may not have much time to respond. The effects of a disaster or emergency can vary widely. A hazardous material spill could require an instant evacuation. A winter storm could confine you to your home for several days.

The Ready, Set, Go! Program was launched in March 2011 to assist fire departments in teaching individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas how to prepare themselves and their properties against fire threats. The tenets of the RSG! Program help residents be Ready with preparedness understanding, be Set with situational awareness when an emergency threatens, and to GO, acting early when there is a need to evacuate. Flathead County has adopted this model for all hazard incidents.

This guide outlines the steps to be taken should an evacuation be necessary. Our aim is to achieve the common goal we all share: preventing a loss of any kind. We encourage the adage "when in doubt, get out!" If you feel threatened, go! Keep in mind, in some cases, there is no time for formal evacuation notifications due to quickly changing conditions.

For more information:

Office of Emergency Services
Flathead County
625 Timberwolf Parkway
Kalispell MT 59901
406 758-5504



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Take personal responsibility for your own safety!

- ☐ Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans. Rehearse it regularly. Also include the evacuation of pets and large animals such as horses.
- ☐ Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- ☐ Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- ☐ Plan and know several different evacuation routes.
- ☐ Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- ☐ Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- ☐ Keep an extra kit in your car.
- ☐ Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members.
- ☐ Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- ☐ Monitor the radio or Internet to stay updated on the situation.

EVACUATION LEVELS

Level 1: Ready

- There is an incident in the area.
- Residents are advised of the situation and asked to leave if they need additional time to exit an area or have a health condition.
- Residents are encouraged to move livestock and pets out of the area and to prepare for a full evacuation.
- Evacuations are voluntary, but residents are encouraged to leave if concerned.
- There will be no road closures in effect in most cases.
- There is no immediate danger to home, family or business but a fire or other danger may be moving toward this area.
- Residents should gather the things they will need if evacuation is necessary.

Level 2: Set

- The fire or other danger is moving closer to the identified area.
- A mandatory evacuation may be issued at any time.
- Residents should make preparations to leave at a moment's notice.

Level 3: Go

- Residents are notified there is imminent danger, and they should evacuate immediately.
- Evacuations are mandatory and entry to evacuated areas may be denied.
- **DO NOT** delay leaving to gather any belongings or to make efforts to protect homes.

READY

- Make a list of your **5 P's**:
 - **People, Pets, Pills, Photos, important Papers**
 - Keep your list handy and practice gathering these items.
- Prepare a 72 Hour Kit:
 - Flashlight with plenty of extra batteries
 - Battery operated radio with extra batteries
 - First aid kit, prescription medications, eyeglasses, all essential equipment/devices for infants/elderly residents
 - Water (at least one gallon per person per day), and food that does not require refrigeration or cooking
 - Sleeping bag and clothing for each family member
 - Important documents such as proof of residence, insurance policies, birth certificates, prescriptions, wills and deeds
- Educate yourself and your family about evacuation procedures.
- Identify and learn alternate ways out of your neighborhood. Print maps to keep in your vehicle.
- Know the evacuation plans for your family members in school, assisted living and childcare facilities.
- Designate an out-of-area contact through whom family members can relay information. Make sure your whole family has that person's phone number.
- Plan how you will transport your pets.
- Keep the car fuel tank at least half full.
- Make transportation arrangements with friends or family if you do not own a car

SET

- Take a deep breath and remember your plan. Life safety always takes priority over property.
- Face your car toward the street and close all windows. Keep the keys handy.
- Load your **5P's** and 72-Hour Kit into the car.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection from the hazard, such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and a cap.
- As you leave, post a visible form of notification that identifies that you have evacuated. Hang a white cloth at the end of your driveway (pillowcases, t-shirts, or towels work well). If you have time, write "EVACUATED" on it.
- Let others know where you are going.

ONLY IF THERE'S TIME - SECURE YOUR HOME:

- Close and lock all windows and doors.
- Unplug electrical equipment, such as radios and televisions, and small appliances, such as toasters and microwaves. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding.
- If evacuating due to a wildfire, shut off natural gas and propane and remove combustibles (patio furniture, firewood, etc.) within 30 feet of your home

GO!

- Tune into a local radio station and listen for instructions.
- Obey orders of law enforcement and fire department officials.
- Follow the emergency instructions regarding evacuation routes. Your normal route may not be the safest.
- Drive with your headlights on for visibility and safety.
- Do not block access to roadways for emergency vehicles or other evacuees. Do not abandon vehicles on the roadway.
- Do not stop to let pets have a break.
- Drive calmly, obey the rules of the road and pay special attention to fire trucks and other response vehicles.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Be alert for washed-out roads and bridges. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

DON'T WAIT If you feel threatened, **GO!** In some cases, there is no time for formal evacuation notification due to quickly changing conditions. You may need to make this decision yourself.

AFTER EVACUATION

- Check in at an emergency shelter. Whether you stay there or not, your checking in will help others know that you are safe.
- Take pets to a Pet Evacuation Center. If you were unable to evacuate your pets or livestock, contact your local animal control. They will send teams out to retrieve them if safety permits.
- Do not attempt to re-enter the evacuated area until it is declared safe by Law Enforcement.

• 9-1-1 IS FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY

- For road information: Dial 5-1-1 or ask Law Enforcement Officers or Firefighters in the area.
- For general information: Stay tuned to local news radio, television broadcasts and websites.
- If you're unsure of whether or not to evacuate: Be safe, not sorry: EVACUATE.

The fire departments and law enforcement agencies of Flathead County assume no liability for the use or misuse of this information, which is intended to provide safety and emergency guidelines for residents.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION CHECKLIST

(Items should be stored in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack, duffle bag or plastic storage bin.)



Medicines



First Aid Kit

Important Documents

- Mortgage
- Insurance
- Birth Certificates
- Social Security Cards
- Wills
- Tax Information
- Bank Information
- List of family physicians
- List of important family information, such as style and serial number of medical devices like pacemakers
- Video or picture inventory of household items



Cash / Checkbook

Clothing and Bedding



- At least one complete change of clothing and sturdy shoes per person
- Blanket or sleeping bag per person



Water

- 1 gallon/ day/ person (Keep at least a 3-day supply in your house.)
- Water purification kit or bleach



Food

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables; canned juices; soup; food for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets
- Non-electric can opener or utility knife



Irreplaceable Items

Supplies and Special Items

- Extra pair of eyeglasses or contacts
- Extra house and car keys
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel
- Personal hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.
- Toilet paper, towelettes



Pets

- Pet food, water and feeding bowls
- Carrier, leash, bedding
- Vaccination records

MY EVACUATION PLAN

Evacuation Routes out of my Neighborhood

Primary _____

Alternate _____

If fire approaches from the North _____

If fire approaches from the South _____

If fire approaches from the East _____

If fire approaches from the West _____

Designated Family Meeting Place (outside evacuation area)

1. _____ 2. _____

Evacuation Tasks (Identify family member assigned)

Ready house exterior for evacuation (combustibles, propane, hose, water ladders) _____

Ready house interior for evacuation (windows, window furnishings, Air conditioning) _____

Ready vehicle for evacuation _____

Ready evacuation kit and important papers _____

Ready pets and livestock for evacuation _____

Ready children and elderly members for evacuation _____

Leave note for neighbors / public safety officials _____

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Out of Area Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Neighborhood Contact for Emergency Assistance

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Schools/Day Care

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Physician

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Veterinarian / Animal Boarding Services

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Other

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____