



## Evacuation Planning Grand Lake Fire Protection District

About three years ago, GLFPD pursued and was awarded grant monies from Rocky Mountain National Park and the Bureau of Land Management to help us write our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Two add-on components to the CWPP were enhanced mapping to generate a more accurate map of the district than was currently available elsewhere and the creation of an evacuation plan.

In collaboration with the US Forest Service, American Red Cross, Town of Grand Lake and Grand County Office of Emergency Management, a plan was initiated to create an "all risk" response to the need for a large scale evacuation of our community. Grand Lake Fire elected to utilize American Red Cross's "3 Actions for Disaster Preparedness" program to help prepare the property owner while utilizing FEMA guidance in developing our response plan.

Please take the time to talk to our firefighters, gather up handouts available at our information table and check out our evacuation map to see where your home is relative to our identified primary and secondary evacuation routes and "Safety Zones".

### What the Fire Department will do.

GLFPD, with the assistance of several other county and federal agencies, has developed a template for the Evacuation Branch of an Incident Action Plan, or IAP. It's an IAP that is generated on all large emergency incidents to help guide responders in an organized, efficient and safe manner. IAP's are used as part of the larger National Incident Management System on events from wildfires to hurricanes.

While IAP's are designed to be all risk in their application, we feel the most likely trigger for an evacuation will be a forest fire. We may have several days advance notice for the need to evacuate, or as we found in the "Y Fire" at Snow Mountain Ranch this past summer, advance notice may be in minutes.

Recognizing the Fire Department may be committed to management and suppression efforts, we understand that the Evacuation Branch responsibilities may be staffed by our mutual aid partners, possibly the Sheriff's Department, Search and Rescue, OEM, or others. An Evacuation Branch Director will be assigned to oversee the evacuation effort and report directly to the Incident Commander. The Evacuation Branch is made up of four primary groups: Notifications, Traffic Management, Transportation and Security, each with their own assigned

responsibilities and task objectives. While most incidents of any size are highly dynamic, some responsibilities may be considered a "sure thing". Some of these known tasks include:

**Notification Group:** Activates Grand County emergency information website, initiates reverse 911, contacts local radio, activates American Red Cross 800 Hotline and to open shelters as needed.

**Traffic Management Group:** Obtains Evacuation Route signage and disperses throughout District, assigns and staffs key intersections, sets up road blocks on Hwy 34 to control incoming traffic

**Transportation Group:** Arranges for mass transportation to assist with "special needs" populations, standby at staging areas

**Security Group:** Establishes patrols in evacuated areas

**What you, the property owner, should do:**

We are asking community members to follow the American Red Cross 3 Step Program in Disaster Preparedness. ARC's program suggests first Make a Kit, second Make a Plan and third, Stay Informed.

**Make a kit:** ARC wants everyone to be self sufficient for 72 hours with food and water. You should already know what important documents, records, memorabilia and pictures you wish to take with you.

**Make a Plan:** How will you gather up those important belongings? What "feeder" route will you take to get on one of our pre-designated primary evacuation route? What's "Plan B"? Do you know where your "Safety Zone" is located in the rare event that all routes are unavailable? What about pets or large animals that ARC is unable to accommodate at their shelters?

**Stay informed:** Grand County recently incepted [gcemergency.com](http://gcemergency.com) for up to the minute information. If you have a phone line, you may get a "Reverse 911" call with information or instructions. If you only have a cell phone, register through the website above for the "CodeRed" cell phone version of reverse 911. Do you have radio reception to pick up our local radio station broadcasting on FM 106.3 or AM 930? Do you know which of your neighbors may need assistance in staying informed?

**Three brochures that should accompany this letter include:**

Emergency Information Resources

Wildfire: Are you prepared?

3 Actions - Emergency Preparedness