

ALL OCCUPANTS HAVE EVACUATED

REMEMBER TO DETACH THIS DOOR HANGER
AND HANG IT ON THE FRONT DOOR KNOB
AFTER EVACUATING YOUR RESIDENCE. USE
THE WHITE SIDE ON A DARK DOOR OR THE
RED SIDE ON A LIGHT DOOR.

Create a Family Disaster Plan

Disasters of all types – wildfire, flood, tornado, earthquake, hazardous material spill, winter storm – can strike quickly and without warning. You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together. The following steps will help you get started...

1. Meet with your family

- Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
- Explain how to prepare and respond to each type of disaster.
- Discuss where to go and what to bring if advised to evacuate.
- Discuss possible evacuation routes for each type of disaster.
- Plan ahead for the care of pets.
- Practice what you have discussed.

2. Plan how your family will stay in contact if separated by disaster.

- Pick two meeting places:
 - ❶ a location which is a safe distance from your home in case of a home fire
 - ❷ a location outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- Choose an out-of-state friend as a “check-in contact” for everyone to call.

3. Complete these steps:

- Post emergency telephone numbers by every telephone.
- Show responsible family members how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at the main switches or valves.
- Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.
- Learn first aid and CPR. Have a 72-hour survival kit available. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information and training.

PRACTICE AND REVIEW THESE STEPS.

A Citizen's Guide to Basic Evacuation Procedures



Courtesy of the:

LEPC

Local Emergency
Planning Committee
of Yellowstone County

Published with grant funds
from the BLM and the
Montana DNRC.



LONG BEFORE YOU NEED TO EVACUATE...

If you live in the wildlands, make your home defensible and survivable. Flammable vegetation should be kept at least 150 feet from your home, and remember, keep it:

- ❖ **LEAN** - small amounts of flammable vegetation
- ❖ **CLEAN** - no accumulation of dead vegetation or other flammable debris, and,
- ❖ **GREEN** - plants that are healthy and green during the fire season.

WHEN YOU NEED TO EVACUATE...

All residents who need to evacuate will be advised by way of a radio announcement, television broadcast or by an authorized official. The information contained in the evacuation announcement may include the following:

- ❖ The areas to be evacuated (usually by street or subdivision name)
- ❖ The reason for evacuation
- ❖ The location of the evacuation shelter

Evacuation routes may be clearly marked with signs and/or by personnel assigned to direct traffic. It is critical that those persons required to evacuate not deviate from the designated evacuation routes.

It is imperative that you register at the evacuation shelter so information concerning your whereabouts is available for local officials and relatives.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or additional copies of this brochure, contact:

LEPC c/o Billings Fire Department
(406) 657-8423 OR

Yellowstone County Disaster & Emergency Services
Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm (406) 256-2775

Visit these websites:

www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/des
www.ready.gov • www.firewise.org

ESSENTIALS TO TAKE FOR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION

- Important papers (if readily available)
- Medications
- Prescription glasses/dentures
- Personal toilet articles/sanitary needs
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Baby food/diapers
- Checkbook/credit cards/cash
- Driver's license
- 72-hour survival kit
- Flashlight/extra batteries
- Change of clothing for each person
- Food – non-perishable, ready-to-eat
- Recreational items – games, cards, sewing or reading material

ACTIONS TO TAKE FOR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION

- Disconnect all appliances except refrigerator and freezer.
- Set thermostat to lowest setting during winter.
- Turn off the gas before leaving home.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Leave the exterior light on.
- Be sure to leave the **EVACUATION** sign on your front door knob. This advises rescuers of your evacuation.
- Secure your outdoor possessions (lawn furniture, garbage cans, etc.).
- Secure or hide your valuables.

EVACUATION OF PETS/LIVESTOCK

Try to take your pets with you if possible. They should be left with friends or placed in an animal shelter but **NOT** taken to the evacuation shelter. The final alternative is to leave animals at home. Provide them with food, water and shelter.

Note: If you are not involved in the actual evacuation and you wish to care for pets, call the animal shelter or Humane Society to volunteer.

HANDICAPPED/SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS

Individuals who may need special aid in the event of an evacuation are encouraged to plan ahead with neighbors or friends for assistance. If help is not readily available, residents may call 657-8200 for assistance.

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