Summit County Community Evacuation Planning Template

Community Evacuation Plan For:

1. PLANNING:

1.1 Purpose: To establish procedures for orderly and coordinated evacuation operations in_____, outline warning procedures to be used for evacuations, identify primary evacuation routes and shelter resources, identify procedures for the security of the perimeter during and after the evacuation, identify procedures for allowing evacuees to return to their homes.

1.2 Scope: _____has developed this plan to evacuate residents and visitors in the _____area in the event of a wildfire incident. The evacuation can be precautionary or ordered due to credible information that a serious emergency may threaten the safety and lives of residents and visitors. The number of affected persons for this evacuation is approximately _____ citizens. Approximately how many are year-round residents_____?

1.3 Background: Wildfires are one of the most common hazards in the Western United States. Wildfire can affect local community, counties, states or multiple states. Some wildfires develop slowly, over a period of days. Others develop quickly in just a few minutes and without any warning.

1.4 Hazard Area Map: A map of the area with evacuation routes, safety zones (gathering points) and evacuation centers. See Appendix A for a map showing routes.

2. TRIGGER POINTS:

2.1 Wildfire: Fire threatening communities from open-space, federal or private lands.

2.2 Fire from structure: Fire is likely to spread around and from structure to structure presenting threat to life and property.

3. NOTIFICATION AND ALERTING:

3.1 Evacuation orders: Evacuation orders may be either voluntary or mandatory.

A voluntary evacuation is one suggested for precautionary measures, whereas a **mandatory evacuation is for an immediate threat to life or property.**

3.2 Alerting the public:

- Emergency Alert System (EAS) Broadcast: The County Sheriff or the County EM Director can activate the EAS System to alert residents of imminent dangers **(If you have signed up).**

- Mobile public address systems and sirens: First responders using vehicle loudspeakers and sirens may slowly drive roads in the affected area announcing the need to evacuate and indicating the best available routes for evacuation.

3.3 Sources for Information/updates:

- The National Weather Service will issue warnings:

> Red Flag Warning

> Red Flag Watch

- Social Media (Summit County Facebook page, Twitter, etc.)

- County web site: www.summitcounty.org

- Local information boards in gathering places.

- News stations: local radio or TV stations.

4. EVACUATION PROCEDURES:

4.1 Direction and control: The amount of time it takes to evacuate an area depends upon a variety of factors that include the size of the vulnerable population, high hazard areas and transportation routes. Do not assume that the evacuation routes shown on the maps will be the best way out. Localized fire and smoke, traffic accidents, and different scenarios will affect whether roads will be open. Emergency officials will monitor roads and let the public know through check points, signs, social media and the County web site if alternate routes should be taken.

4.2 Evacuation routes: Evacuation routes will typically follow main roadways and routes utilized for daily transportation. See Appendix A for a map showing routes.

4.3 Gathering points/Evacuation centers with GPS location/Addresses:

4.4 Evacuation guidelines: The following serves as an aid in reminding the public and responders of some basic guidelines for an evacuation process:

- Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed or unable to pump gas during power outages and disasters or emergencies.

- Secure your home.

- Close and lock doors and windows.

- Close blinds, open cloth window covers

- If time allows shut off propane or gas to structure.

- Make transportation arrangements with friends or your local government if you do not own a car.

- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides protection, such as long pants and long-sleeved shirt.

- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.

- Gather your disaster supplies kit (Medication in marked bottle).

- Immediately gather your family and go if you are instructed to evacuate.

- Let others know where you are going.

- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.

- Be alert for fire, heavy smoke and heat conditions. Stay away from downed power lines.

5. SAFETY AND HAZARDS:

5.1 Emergency responders: Emergency responders must keep safety as a priority. An injured responder adds a victim to the disaster and decreases the responder pool for the rest of the emergency. In this type of situation, the number of responders will likely not meet the identified need. Basic safety issues include the usual safety hazards from transportation and weather, as well as additional hazards including fire, smoke, intense heat, electrical issues from power lines, and other utilities.

5.2 Exit route maintenance: Officials who are assisting with route maintenance must wear traffic visibility vests if they are available.

All appropriate signage should be used as it becomes available.

Any vehicle collisions on the route will be cleared as quickly as possible and traffic should not be stopped unless critical. Traffic backup and issues can cause evacuees to use alternate routes that may not be safe and/or may hinder evacuation procedures.

5.3 Perimeter control: Post-evacuation security and maintenance will be the responsibility of local and regional law enforcement agencies. During mandatory evacuations, residents will not be allowed to re-enter evacuated area.

5.4 Re-entry: Re-entry into the area will be allowed only after the proper authorities have deemed the area safe for re-entry. The post-evacuation area will be secured by law enforcement and re-entry without proper approval may be considered a criminal offense. Once re-entry seems likely the Incident Commander, Emergency Manager, law enforcement

will meet with representatives of the proper agencies and develop a re-entry plan that will allow for the safest and most organized re-entry possible.

6. MISCELLANEOUS:

6.1 Assignments: Will be made in conjunction with the County EM, local disaster services such as the Red Cross, and other public and private entities such as school systems and churches. The use of evacuation centers to identify the need for services and shelter assignment is meant to improve accountability and make the transition as smooth as possible for evacuees.

6.2 Coordination: All disaster responses need to be coordinated with the County, City Disaster Plans as appropriate and with all responding agencies. Communication among parties will provide the safest and most effective response to the disaster.

7. ATTACHMENTS:

7.1 Attachments: Appendix A Evacuation map, including travel routes and evacuation centers.

This will be reviewed by fire and law enforcement agencies which may result in adjustments.

This plan for _____ has been accepted by:

Summit County Sheriff's Department_____
Date_____

Local Law Enforcement Department_____
Date_____

Local Fire District_____
Date_____

County Fire Warden_____
Date_____

This Plan Should be reviewed every three years with the Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan for any updates.