

CORDILLERA WILDFIRE INFORMATION

Cordillera and Western Colorado are in the midst of extreme draught and wildfire hazards. The moisture content of the fuels in the outdoors is lower than wood in the lumber yard. On an almost daily basis, weather forecasts are accompanied by "Red Flag Warnings," which means that high winds and dry conditions could cause fire activity to become a large scale event. Several Colorado wildfires have shown wildfire's ability to overwhelm fire suppression resources under the right weather conditions.

On Friday, 22, June, Eagle County moved into "Stage 2" fire restrictions. Federal lands, including US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are also in Stage 2 restrictions. This level of precaution is very rare for both entities. To make matters worse, these conditions are being experienced in early June, with much of the summer remaining. The dangers of high winds and lightening in the few forecasted thunderstorms far outweigh the benefits of any possible moisture. These unusual draught and fire conditions warrant special attention from everyone in order to prevent fires and serve as early warning to residents to be prepared to evacuate. Please report any suspicious or unsafe activities or signs of fire to Public Safety at 926-5795 or 911.

STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Eagle County and the surrounding Federal Lands (Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) have adopted "Stage 2 Fire Restrictions." Property owners are asked to remind their contractors of these precautions.

Prohibited Activity includes;

- All outside burning, including wood fires in fire rings and outdoor fire places.
- Charcoal grills
- Smoking
- Fireworks
- Welding or cutting of steel
- Parking vehicles in any area that has vegetation

Restricted Activities include;

- Use of portable gas fire tools such as weed cutters, chainsaws and lawnmowers
- Small engines must have approved spark arrestors and use must be accompanied by one five pound extinguisher, five gallons of water and a shovel.
- Any activity that may cause sparks should receive special attention.

** Any activity that causes sparks should receive extreme caution or not take place.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION NOTIFICATIONS

Should a fire occur, decisions to initiate evacuations will come from the emergency services agencies, including the Eagle County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) and Eagle River Fire Protection District (ERFPD). Notices to evacuate mean people should leave. Neither Public Safety nor the Sheriff's Office has sufficient manpower to visit every property and force people to leave. People who do not leave could be endangering the lives of emergency responders. Notifications to evacuate will have two primary sources; Reverse 911 and Eagle County (EC) Alert. CVC Alert is a third option, that is just being started, that falls under the EC Alert system.

REVERSE 911

Reverse 911 utilizes traditional hardwired telephones to deliver a *pre-recorded* message. Reverse 911 is not as fast as EC Alerts. Users do not talk with a person. Property Owners are encouraged to keep on "Old Fashion" hard wired telephone that will work during a power outage.

EAGLE COUNTY (EC) ALERT

EC Alert utilizes text messaging and/or emails to deliver messages. **EC Alert is the primary means of communication for Eagle County emergency services. Any person concerned about emergency notifications should sign up for EC Alert.** People may subscribe to EC Alert by visiting www.ecalert.org. EC Alert is quick and multiple messages or updates can be offered in a short amount of time.

CVC ALERT

CVC Alert is new and will be administered by Public Safety thru the EC Alert System. CVC Alert will send texts and/or emails. It will be used for CVC related events and emergencies. Interested parties should fill out the attached form or contact Josh Wyatt at the East Gate (926-5795/cvcgate@cordillerametro.org). You must provide your cell phone number and your provider along with an email address.

EVACUATION ROUTES

Notices to evacuate will include a description of routes and normally allow enough time so that people may use main roads. Property Owner should expect two-way traffic as fire trucks will be entering CVC.

The Cordillera Valley Club has two means of access and exit, which are the East and West Gates. There are no other routes suitable for motor vehicles in or out of the Cordillera Valley Club.

Safe Zones

Authorities will attempt to evacuate using primary routes and avoid the use of safe zones. Safe Zones can be used in the event normal routes become blocked. At the Cordillera Valley Club the golf courses may serve as a safe zone in an emergency. The grass on the greens is very short and irrigated.

BE PREPARED

- Consider current fire conditions as early notice to be prepared.
- Identify irreplaceable items and have them ready to move. Collapsible cardboard boxes are handy to store and use for packing.
- Inventory your property and possessions. Take pictures or video
- Maintain one hard line telephone that will work during a power outage
- Leave one garden hose hooked up on the exterior of the home for fire fighters.
- Know how to open your garage door manually during a power outage. Most garage doors have a string that hangs down that when pulled disengages the garage door from the track.
- If evacuation appears imminent, back your vehicle into the garage and get it loaded.
- Dress appropriately. Wear cotton long pants and shirts. Wear real shoes.
- Heat travels thru glass. Close heavy curtains that might insulate against heat. Open light window coverings that might catch fire.
- Maintain your defensible space. In simple terms, the lower the fuel load adjacent to the structure the less heat there will be to your home.
- Consider mowing/cutting the native vegetation to lower the fuel loads. Contractors should use caution if in dry grass.
- Post signs in windows if pets are indoors.