

**VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY
WILDLAND FIRE
EVACUATION PLAN**

Dear Taos Ski Valley Resident,

This document has been prepared for you by the Public Safety Committee, because in the event of a major wildland fire, evacuation of your home may be necessary. Keep this document visible and near the telephone or on the refrigerator, especially if you rent out your residential home in the summer time. Your guests may need to use this information.

Make certain your guests have a convenient means of emptying live coals from the fireplace. Leave a note telling your guests NOT to empty the fire place, or a note with directions for cleaning the fireplace. There have been actual cases where homes have burned due to live ashes from a fire place.

Should you spot a fire, no matter how small, call 911 immediately.

Notification of Evacuation

In the event of a wildland fire, an "**evacuation**" will be ordered. The Village Fire Department will sound a **siren** to notify you of an evacuation. Please be vigilant and aware of what's happening in the Village of Taos Ski Valley especially if there is a Red Flag Warning or closure by the Forest Service.

When you hear the siren, drive to the Rio Hondo Learning Center where Law Enforcement and the Fire Department will be to assist you.

You will be moved to one of the following locations, whichever is deemed the SAFEST.

- a) **Out of the Village, down Highway 150 if possible. (Best scenario).**
- b) **Rio Hondo Learning Center on Firehouse Road. It is the cement building to the left before the Firehouse.**

Planning before an Evacuation

(This is a two-sided list.)

___ **Make a Notification Plan**

Discuss where family members/friends might be if an evacuation were ordered and agree on methods to stay in touch.

___ **Pick a Meeting Place**

Agree on a location where your family/friends can meet to be sure that everyone is accounted for.

___ **Keep your Car Full of Fuel**

Always "top off" your vehicle before coming to the Village. We have no gas station. It is often impossible to obtain fuel during an evacuation.

___ **Transportation**

If you do not have reliable personal transportation, notify the Evacuation Manager at the TSV Children's Center immediately. Transportation will be arranged for you.

___ **Put Together an Emergency Supply Kit**

- 1) Rugged clothing, footwear, work gloves and one change of clothing per person.
- 2) An extra set of car keys, cash, credit card(s), and checks.
- 3) Maps of the area, or a road atlas.
- 4) A liter of drinking water per person.
- 5) Non-perishable food.
- 6) A blanket or sleeping bag for each person.
- 7) A flashlight and extra batteries.
- 8) A first aid kit.
- 9) Prescription and over-the-counter medications, and vitamins.
- 10) Sanitation supplies.
- 11) A simple tool kit.
- 12) Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- 13) A list of phone numbers and addresses.
- 14) Mess kits or paper plates, cups, and plastic utensils, for each family member.
- 15) Paper and pencil.
- 16) An easy to carry container that will hold all the above.

___ **Gather Important Family Papers**

- 1) Deeds, contracts, and insurance policies, bank account numbers, CDs.
- 2) Birth certificates, social security cards, marriage license, driver's license.
- 3) Credit card account numbers, inventory of household belongings.

Be sure that irreplaceable documents are either secure from destruction or packed to be taken with you during an evacuation.

___ **Keep above items where they are quickly accessible and known to all family members.**

___ **Plan for your pets**

All pets are welcome at the Children's Center; just make certain dogs are on a leash, and cats are in a crate.

Preparing Your Home to be defended

Here is a list of things that you can do to help firefighters defend your home if it should be necessary:

Outside Checklist:

- ___ Turn off the gas at the meter.
- ___ Close all non-combustible blinds but open or remove combustible drapes and curtains.
- ___ Leave exterior lights on.
- ___ Leave a note on the front door letting firefighters know that you have evacuated the building.
- ___ Leave the doors **unlocked** so that firefighters do not have to force entry into your home to fight a fire on the inside.
- ___ Leave garden hoses connected and available on the outside of your home.
- ___ If you own a ladder that will enable firefighters to climb to your roof, leave it in a visible location.
- ___ Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.).

Inside Checklist:

- Close all windows and doors
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Turn off the air conditioning.

As the Fire Approaches:

1) Grab your Emergency Supply Kit

Locate other items of value that you may want to bring (that are not in your kit, such as important documents, family photos, irreplaceable items, and easily carried valuables). Put your kit and all other items in a place where you can grab them in a hurry.

2) Keep the six “P’s” ready, in case an immediate evacuation is required (those not included in your kit):

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computers (hard drive and disks)
- “Plastic” (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

3) Alert Family and Neighbors

4) Get Prepared to Leave

- Dress in appropriate clothing (clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and know where your family and pets are at all times.

5) EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY IF ASKED TO DO SO OR IF THE THREAT IS CLOSE TO YOU.

FOLLOW THIS WILDFIRE EVACUATION PLAN SO EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY KNOWS WHERE TO GO TO FIND EACH OTHER AND BE SAFE. USE COMMON SENSE.