



Emergency Preparedness

May 2014

Natural Disaster Survival—It Takes A Community

In preparation for the 2014 wildfire and flood season, it is critical that our community be proactive and prepare our homes and neighborhoods in advance of possible wildfires and floods. While flooding is not our highest concern, as we saw from last year's rains and floods, it's something that county residents need to consider preparing for.

Emergency Services can do many things to help, however our biggest asset is YOU. Emergency Services personnel will do their best to protect homes, but ultimately it is the homeowner's responsibility to plan ahead and take actions to do what they can to reduce flood damage and reduce fire hazards around their home and



property structures. Every community member has a part that they can do in preparation for these events.



Every year across our Nation, some homes survive a major wildfire while many others do not. Those that survive almost always do so because their owners had prepared for the eventuality of fire, which is an inescapable force of nature in fire-prone wildland areas. Said in another way –

*if it's predictable,
it's preventable.*

Websites for Emergency Preparedness

- Ready.Gov
- Ready.Gov/kids
- Firewise.org
- Fireadapted.org
- Usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education
- Csfs.colostate.edu/pages/wf-publications.html

Protect Your Home

- ◆ Regularly clean roof and gutters
- ◆ Inspect chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them at least once a year. Keep the dampers in good working order. Equip chimneys and stove-pipes with a spark arrester that meets the requirements of National Fire Protection Association Standard 211. (Contact your local fire department for exact specifications).
- ◆ Use 1/8-inch mesh screen beneath porches, decks, floor areas, and the home itself. Also, screen openings to floors, roof and attic.
- ◆ Install a smoke alarm on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change batteries at least once a year.
- ◆ Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher
- ◆ Keep handy household items that can be used as fire tools: rake, axe, handsaw or chain saw, bucket, and shovel.
- ◆ Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.
- ◆ Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.

Help Us—Help You

Your Emergency Services want to work with you to reduce threats and prepare citizens to respond to and recover from any disaster. We are committed to ensuring that our community is prepared.

We are asking you to - help us - help you - by being prepared. Listed below are some items to consider for flooding and fire readiness.

- Sign up for the Sheriff's Office Facebook and Twitter. During an

emergency, Facebook will be the "official" source of information for Gilpin County.

- **CodeRed sign up for all residents, including Black Hawk & Central City at gilpincountysheriff.com**
- Include children in preparedness planning
- Evacuation Plan—*have one and practice it*
- Evacuation Routes (primary & secondary)
- Family Contact Plan (who to call, where to meet)

- Seniors/Infants/Disabled members of family
- Pets (supplies, meds)
- 72 Hour Kit
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications
- Flood insurance (must have 30 days prior to incident)
- Homeowners insurance (appropriate coverage)

Be Ready To Bug Out...

When wildfire and flood threatens, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit, also known as a 72 hour kit, with items you may need if advised to evacuate. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy to carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags, or trash containers. There are an endless number of these kits for purchase but one of the simplest ways to do this is to create your own and have a separate bag/pack/container for each person. Keep each kit in a place where it will

be easy to locate at a moment's notice. Here is a sample list of items to consider placing in your kit:

- Three day supply of water (1 gallon for each person)
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach—this is a disinfectant. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches w/ added cleaners.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person
- Cell phone w/ chargers, inverters



or solar charger

- First aid kit
- Prescription medicines
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries
- Matches in a water-proof container
- Extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash, or traveler's checks
- Sanitation supplies
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members
- Local maps

Community Safety Fair

Come to the Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 21. Events start at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

We have an awesome day planned with the local Fire, Ambulance, Police Departments, and Sheriff's Office. There will be safety demonstrations, food, games & entertainment



for the whole family. We will have Hands On CPR, Bicycle Rodeo, Fire Extinguisher training, Petting Zoo and much, much more!

You can also bring your unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs to be disposed of.



Evacuation Preparation

Prepare now in the event of an evacuation.

In some circumstances, local officials may decide that the current hazard is serious and require mandatory evacuations. In others, evacuations are advised or households decide to evacuate to avoid situations they believe are potentially dangerous. If community evacuations become nec-



essary, local officials will provide information to the citizens of Gilpin County through a Code

Red Message (Emergency Public Notification), Facebook, Twitter, and media.

The amount of time you have to leave will depend on the hazard. Many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

Listed below are the evacuation levels for Gilpin County. Please familiarize yourself with them and make sure everyone in the household understands them.

LEVEL 1 EVACUATION - Be Ready.

Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in your area. You should make prepara-



tions and be ready to leave, and then monitor local media outlets. Residents with special needs (such as the elderly or those susceptible to breathing problems) are advised to evacuate. People with livestock or pets

should consider moving them out of the area. Evacuations at this time are voluntary, but if you have concerns, evacuate now.

LEVEL 2 EVACUATION - Leave Soon.

There is significant potential of danger in your area, and residents should relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside the affected area. You need to leave as soon as possible.

LEVEL 3 EVACUATION - Leave Immediately.

Danger in your area is current and imminent. There is no time to gather belongings. Leave immediately.

Websites for Emergency Services

- Black Hawk Fire
cityofblackhawk.org/goto/Fire_Department
303-582-0426
- Black Hawk Police
pd.cityofblackhawk.org
303-582-0503
- Central City Fire
centralcityfd.com
303-582-3473
- Central City Police
Centralcitycolorado.us/.../departments/
police-department.html
303-582-5519
- Coal Creek Canyon Fire
Coalcreekcanyonfd.org
303-642-3121
- Gilpin Ambulance Authority
gilpinambulance.com
303-582-5499
- Gilpin County Sheriff
gilpincountysheriff.com
303-582-1060
- Timberline Fire
timberlinefire.com
303-582-5768

For all emergencies in
Gilpin please call 911

Emergency Preparedness

Practice and Review These Steps

Create a Family Disaster Plan

Wildfire, floods and other types of disasters can strike quickly and without warning. You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together. Meet with your family to create a disaster plan. To get started...

Contact Your Local Emergency Management Agency or Your Local American Red Cross Chapter

- Find out about the hazards in your community
- Ask how you would be warned
- Find out how to prepare for each type of disaster

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.
- Practice what you have discussed.

Plan How Your Family Will Stay in Contact if Separated by Disaster

- Pick two meeting places:
 - 1) a place a safe distance from your home
 - 2) a place outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home
- Choose an out-of-state friend/family member as a "check-in contact" for everyone to call

Complete These Steps

- Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone.
- Show responsible family members how to shut off water, gas, and electricity at main switches