

The Retreat Fire Preparedness Plan

1 Nov 2010

In any emergency, call 911

When wildfire occurs

Call **911** to report smoke or fire immediately. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Speak slowly and clearly. Be prepared to give the 911 dispatcher the following information:

- Your name, location, and phone number
- Location and approximate size of smoke/fire
- Proximity of houses

If evacuation becomes necessary

- You will be notified by fire department, sheriff, or others appointed to give notification of evacuation. The "reverse 911" system may be used.
- Those mentioned above will give instructions on the route to take for evacuation.
- Wear warm and protective clothing. This includes a cotton long-sleeved shirt or jacket, pants and sturdy shoes. Use a handkerchief to provide minimum protection for the lungs from smoke and hot gases.
- Ensure your family's safety. If you are able, locate and evacuate your pets, but do not jeopardize your life. If you have a horse, let it loose by opening gates or cutting fences.
- Know where safe areas are. Typically, meadows, rock outcrops, and roads may provide safe areas.
- If time allows, take a disaster kit containing drinking water, change of clothes for each member of the family, a blanket or sleeping bag for each person, first aid kit with any prescription medications, emergency tools including a radio and flashlight, extra set of car keys, and credit cards or cash.
- Know all emergency escape routes and have a pre-planned travel route. Don't panic.
- Drive slowly and safely. Turn on headlights to increase your visibility to other traffic in smoky conditions. Yield to emergency vehicles.
- Evacuation will usually be toward either entrance (Streamside or Dunraven Glade) depending where the fire is located.
- Shut off propane tank.
- If there is time and it is safe to do so, wet down shake shingle roofs, decks, and grass.
- Leave outside lights on.
- Close windows and doors.
- Don't block driveway.
- Take warm clothing.
- Take valuables (important papers, pictures).
- Go to the community building in Glen Haven so that you can be accounted for.
- In case of flood, move to high ground.

General emergency preparedness

During blizzard, wildfire, flood, or earthquake, the roads may be closed and power may be off indefinitely. Every home should have an emergency kit including, but not limited to:

- One week food supply
- Water bottles (full)
- First aid kit and extra medications
- Flashlight and batteries

Be prepared to supply yourself and help your neighbors.



Fourmile Fire, Boulder, 2010

The following was submitted by Graham Fowler, a Retreat firefighter:

ARE YOU READY?

Almost a year and a half ago, I began a new career as a park ranger for Boulder County. My job included being trained as a wildland firefighter and I recently put that training to use in the Fourmile Canyon Fire near Boulder, a terrible fire that destroyed so many homes. Several fires have burned near the Retreat over the years. With all the trees dying from Mountain pine beetle and our dry climate, the Retreat is a candidate for a wildland fire. Are you ready?

There are many resources available to help you get ready, both to safe guard your home and help you prepare in case of evacuation:

- The Glen Haven Area Volunteer Fire Department (**Glenhavenfire.org**) has much of this information on their website and is a good source for official emergency status updates.
- Get your name on the Larimer County Emergency notification system at **Larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm**. (Granted this is for internet users only.)
- **InciWeb.org** is another internet source for official fire information.
- Our own website (**retreat-glenhaven.org**) has several documents on how to protect your home from wildfire.
- **Firewise.org** offers a wealth of information that I often refer to.

In many cases, the fire department may have to decide whose house to save in case of fire. There are only so many resources to go round. Take advantage of the cooler fall weather and do a few easy things that can give your house a good chance in case of fire:

- Store firewood away from your house.
- Clean pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.
- Many fires are spread by airborne embers. Mow the grass around your house several times a year creating a minimum 30 foot buffer. This includes removing dense vegetation and limbing trees up to 10 feet above the ground.

We choose to live in this beautiful area, but with it come inherent risks. We don't have fire hydrants on the corner and we only have a couple of escape routes. We must all be responsible for reducing our own risks. Check out the websites I listed and do something to lower your risk.

Be prepared. Experts say it's not if, but when!



Fourmile Fire, Boulder, 2010