

# Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

## Evacuation and Preparedness

### Evacuation routes

Evacuation routes may depend on the situation. Unless given other directions by emergency personnel, you should evacuate via whatever route is most convenient/familiar to you. If you're not certain which way to go, you will see **blue signs with white arrows** attached to the Crystal Lakes street signs -- these indicate the primary evacuation routes. You can follow this route if not told by emergency personnel to use another. If you see emergency personnel directing traffic or traffic cones with bright yellow or orange signs with arrows on them, follow those arrows, as this evacuation route is necessary for the current incident. Please respond promptly and follow directions if you are asked to evacuate. Keep in mind that responding emergency personnel and vehicles may be approaching the incident as you are evacuating. Drive lawfully and carefully.

In the case of imminent danger, you may be instructed to take refuge in a Safety Zone. Fire Department and emergency response personnel will assist if it is necessary to access a designated Safety Zone.

All members are encouraged to check your primary evacuation route and familiarize yourselves with that route as well as secondary routes. Be prepared and advise your guests. It is suggested that you post your Evacuation Plan in a conspicuous location (on a door or refrigerator), so that you review it frequently and refresh your plan in your mind.

### What you can do to be prepared to evacuate

- ❖ Develop an evacuation list and put it in a prominent place
- ❖ Review the list of evacuation routes for your area
- ❖ Make an up-to-date home inventory by walking through your home with a video camera. Store a copy of this inventory in a safe location off the mountain.

### What to do when an evacuation order comes

**If the sirens are going off or the notice says "mandatory evacuation," pack up your family and leave immediately! No possession is worth endangering you or your family.**

However, if you do have a few minutes, here is a suggested Evacuation List:

*The SEVEN "Ps" & a Pillow*

- ❖ People
- ❖ Pets
- ❖ Photos
- ❖ Prescriptions (in original containers & eyeglasses)
- ❖ Precious mementos (baby books, artwork, paintings, heirlooms)
- ❖ Purse/wallet
- ❖ Papers (checkbook, insurance, address book, deeds, title to vehicles)
- ❖ Pillow (blankets, change of clothes)

### Additional Steps to Take if Time Allows

- ❖ Leave a white towel or rag on your door to inform fire crews that you have evacuated.
- ❖ Close your garage door, but leave it unlocked (disconnect the garage door-opener, if applicable, so door can be opened if power is out).
- ❖ Remove combustible patio furniture from the deck/near the house.
- ❖ Shut off your propane at the tank.
- ❖ Turn off all pilot lights.
- ❖ Close exterior vents.
- ❖ Close all exterior doors and windows.
- ❖ Close all interior doors.
- ❖ Remove lightweight drapes or other combustible materials from around windows.
- ❖ If available, close fire-resistant drapes, shutters or blinds.
- ❖ Move overstuffed (or easily flammable) furniture into the middle of the room.
- ❖ Leave lights on in the house.
- ❖ Place a metal ladder near the house so firefighters have easy access to the roof.
- ❖ Connect garden hoses to outside faucets and charge the hose (turn on until water runs out the end, then turn off). Do not leave the water running. This could drain your well before the fire reaches your property and would eliminate that resource when the firefighters need it most.
- ❖ Tell your neighbors where you will be going and exchange contact information.
- ❖ Once you have evacuated, register with the Red Cross or other coordinating agency.

Questions regarding this information may be addressed to the Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department at (970) 881-3751 or by using the Contact Us link on the website at <https://www.clvfd.org/contact-us>.