

Timber Ridge Neighborhood Firewise Evacuation Plan

Important: This is a *preliminary* evacuation plan. It must be reviewed, approved, and regularly practiced with the Archuleta County Office of Emergency Management, the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District, and the Timber Ridge community. This plan is a supplement to, and does not replace, official evacuation orders from authorities.

I. Purpose

This plan outlines the procedures for the safe and efficient evacuation of the Timber Ridge neighborhood in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, in the event of a wildfire or other emergency. The goal is to ensure all residents can evacuate quickly and safely, minimizing risk to life and property.

II. Activation

- **Evacuation Levels:** Evacuation orders will be issued by the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office or the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District, using the following levels:
 - **Pre-Evacuation Notice (Alert):** Residents should prepare for a potential evacuation. This includes gathering essential items, making arrangements for pets, and staying informed.
 - **Evacuation Order (Warning):** Residents should begin evacuating immediately.
 - **Mandatory Evacuation Order (Order):** Residents must evacuate immediately. Failure to comply may result in increased danger.
- **Notification Methods:** Evacuation orders will be communicated through:
 - Emergency Alert System (EAS) via radio and television
 - Reverse 911 (CodeRed or similar) phone calls, text messages, and emails
 - Door-to-door notification by law enforcement and fire personnel
 - Social media (Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District)
 - Community meetings (if time allows)
 - Designated neighborhood contacts

III. Responsibilities

- **Archuleta County Sheriff's Office:** Responsible for issuing evacuation orders and coordinating law enforcement activities.
- **Upper Pine River Fire Protection District:** Responsible for fire suppression, rescue operations, and assisting with evacuation.
- **Archuleta County Office of Emergency Management:** Coordinates overall emergency response, including evacuation planning and shelter management.

- **Timber Ridge Homeowners Association (HOA) / Community Leaders:**
 - Disseminate information to residents.
 - Assist in identifying residents with special needs.
 - Coordinate neighborhood-level evacuation efforts, as needed and as directed by authorities.
 - Maintain a current resident contact list (in coordination with resident privacy.)
- **Residents:**
 - Be aware of evacuation routes.
 - Prepare an emergency kit.
 - Follow evacuation orders promptly.
 - Assist neighbors, if able.
 - Stay informed through official channels.

IV. Evacuation Routes

- **Bristlecone Dr. West Route:** Bristlecone Dr. heading West to exit onto South Pagosa Blvd
- **Bristlecone Dr. East Route:** Bristlecone Dr. heading East to exit onto Trujillo Rd
- **Heath Dr. South Route:** Heath Dr. heading South to exit onto South Pagosa Blvd
- **Emergency Access Route North Cool Pines:** Bristlecone Dr. heading North, exit through gate to exit onto Blair Ct.
- **Route Maps:**
 - Maps of the evacuation routes will be made available to all residents (e.g., via the HOA website, community meetings, and mailings).
- **Traffic Control:** Law enforcement will manage traffic flow during the evacuation. Residents should follow their instructions.

V. Evacuation Procedures

1. **When an evacuation order is issued:**
 - Remain calm and follow instructions from authorities.
 - Immediately begin gathering your pre-assembled emergency kit.
 - Evacuate promptly. Do not delay gathering non-essential items.
2. **Essential Items to Include in Emergency Kit:**
 - Water (1 gallon per person per day for at least 3 days)
 - Non-perishable food (at least a 3-day supply)
 - Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - First aid kit
 - Medications (prescription and over-the-counter)
 - Copies of important documents (identification, insurance policies, etc.)
 - Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

- Cash (ATMs may be unavailable)
 - Extra clothing and blankets
 - Hygiene items
 - Pet supplies (food, water, leash, carrier)
3. **During Evacuation:**
- Follow designated evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts.
 - Drive carefully and obey traffic laws.
 - Keep vehicle headlights on.
 - Roll up windows and close vents to prevent smoke from entering the vehicle.
 - If you encounter heavy smoke, drive slowly with hazard lights on.
 - Monitor official communication channels for updates.
4. **Pets:**
- Evacuate with your pets. Do not leave them behind.
 - Keep pets on leashes or in carriers.
 - Bring pet food, water, and any necessary medications.
5. **Residents with Special Needs:**
- Identify residents with mobility issues, medical conditions, or other needs that may require assistance during evacuation.
 - Develop a plan to assist these residents, in coordination with emergency services.
 - Consider a buddy system.
6. **Assembly Areas:**
- Designate primary and secondary assembly areas outside of the Timber Ridge neighborhood where residents can gather to be accounted for and receive further information.
 - Primary assembly area: Pagosa Springs High School Parking Lot
 - Secondary assembly area: City Market Parking Lot
7. **Communication:**
- Designate a method for residents to communicate their evacuation status (e.g., a phone tree, a neighborhood check-in system, or a designated social media group - *to be used only after residents are safely at an assembly area or out of immediate danger*).

VI. Re-entry

- Re-entry into the Timber Ridge neighborhood will be authorized by the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office in coordination with the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District.
- Residents will be notified when it is safe to return.
- Be prepared to show proof of residency upon re-entry.
- Exercise caution upon returning, as hazards may still exist.

VII. Training and Drills

- Conduct annual Firewise evacuation drills to familiarize residents with the procedures and routes.
- Provide training to residents on emergency preparedness, including assembling emergency kits and staying informed.
- Review and update this plan annually, or as needed.

VIII. Community Preparedness

- **Firewise Principles:** The Timber Ridge neighborhood is encouraged to actively participate in the Firewise USA® program. This includes:
 - Creating defensible space around homes.
 - Using fire-resistant building materials.
 - Maintaining landscaping to reduce fire risk.
 - Supporting community wildfire education efforts
- **Neighborhood Liaisons:** Establish a network of neighborhood liaisons to facilitate communication and coordination before, during, and after an emergency.
- **Resident Information:** Maintain a database of resident contact information, including phone numbers, email addresses, and any special needs. (Ensure compliance with privacy regulations.)

IX. Resources

- Archuleta County Office of Emergency Management: [Contact Information]
- Upper Pine River Fire Protection District: [Contact Information]
- Archuleta County Sheriff's Office: [Contact Information]
- Firewise USA®: [Website]
- Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management: [Website]

X. Plan Review and Updates

This plan will be reviewed and updated annually, or as needed, by the Timber Ridge HOA/Community Leaders, in coordination with the Archuleta County Office of Emergency Management and the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District.

Disclaimer: This evacuation plan is intended as a guideline and is subject to change based on the specific circumstances of an emergency situation. Always follow the instructions of local authorities.