

Gilpin County Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness

The best time to prepare yourself and your family in case for an emergency evacuation is before you are called to act. The more prepared you are, the more effectively the Volunteer Fire Department can protect you and your home.

Before a wildfire threatens –readiness in times of heightened danger:

- Plan more than one escape route from your home or subdivision by car and by foot, discuss with family.
- Pick two meeting places for your family:
 - A local place that is a safe distance from your home.
 - A place outside of your neighborhood in case you can't return to the area of your home.
 - Develop a [communication plan](#) in case of separation. Where list is located: _____
- Prepare a family **evacuation kit** that includes:
 - Three changes of clothing and a change of footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person
 - A first aid kit that includes prescription medications/sanitation supplies
 - Emergency tools including a battery-powered AM/FM radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries
 - Extra car keys and a credit card, cash, or traveler's checks, cell phone and charger
 - Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
 - An extra pair of eyeglasses/sunglasses
- Prepare a [grab list](#) of Important items (list is stored: _____)
 - Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks, bonds
 - Passports, social security cards, immunization records
 - Bank account numbers, Credit card account numbers and companies
 - Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
 - Laptops, hard drives, photographs, jewelry and other valuables
- If you have livestock or large animals, make a plan for how to evacuate them and where to keep them and contact the Gilpin Animal Rescue Team
<http://www.co.gilpin.co.us/Auxiliary%20Advisory%20Boards/GCART/GCARTdefault.htm>
- Make sure you are signed up with Gilpin County's emergency notification system. Check that your location is correct on the map: <http://www.co.gilpin.co.us/Emergency%20Notification%20System/ENSindex.htm>
 - Gilpin County Public Library has computers if you don't have internet, or call 303-582-5214 for assistance.
- Update photo inventory of house and upload to secure website
- Make sure you have a CLEARLY marked reflective, non-flammable address sign visible from the street – this will help the firefighters help you!
- Keep your gas tank half full, so you can drive far enough away.

See reverse side for what to do if a fire is immediately threatening

If you are warned that a wildfire is threatening your area:

- Park in an open space facing the direction of escape (you may not be able to get out of a garage if power is lost) Shut car doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition.
- Confine pets to one room as you prepare to leave. Gather leashes, carriers, and food. Arrange for doggie day care if you go to work.
- Arrange temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area, or make 3 nights reservations at a hotel outside the area.
- Gather items from your [grab list](#) or see other side for important documents. If threat is near, start loading vehicles.
- Keep a non-electric phone nearby for evacuation updates. Watch the Gilpin Sheriff blog: <http://gilpinsheriff.blogspot.com/>. Walk outside and check around you for flames or smoke. If you see flames, LEAVE!

If you're sure you have time, take these steps to protect your home inside:

- Close ALL windows, vents, and doors (interior and exterior)
- Remove window coverings
- Move flammable furniture into center of the home away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- Fill bathtub and sinks with water.
- Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke- but be aware that power may be cut off.
- Leave door unlocked.

If you're sure you have time, take these steps to protect your home outside:

- Remove gas grills from decks and patios, place propane tanks away from the house.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Connect garden hoses to outside taps, leave in obvious location for firefighters.
- Place a non-combustible ladder on house for access to roof for firefighters.
- Remove firewood or any other stored combustibles near your home.
- Remove flammable shrubs within 30 feet of house. Cut down dry grass.

Evacuate livestock to shelter IN ADVANCE, bring ID and feed for 3 days

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately and safely:

- Take your evacuation kit, important documents (if gathered) and pets
- Leave contact information on door, do not lock door.
- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.
- Do not wait to evacuate – people who wait sometimes aren't able to get out. **Do not wait for phone call if you don't feel safe.**

Post this side on your refrigerator for emergency reference!