

# Buckskin Heights Wildfire Evacuation Plan

2014

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## I. Introduction

An evacuation plan for Buckskin Heights Sub-Division has been developed and approved for use by the [Buckskin Heights Fire Committee](#) in the event that a wildland fire threatens the area and necessitates an evacuation.

Buckskin Heights presents a unique challenge for evacuation due to the relative isolation of the community. Many of the residents work during the day and are removed from their mountain homes by as much as an hour of travel time. Emergency services are also not immediately available and have similar travel time constraints. Therefore, it is vitally important that the community develop a sense of cooperation in executing this plan. Only with a sense of shared responsibility will the residents enjoy the many community values identified in our [Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#).

Colorado's sheriffs, district attorneys, and county and municipal officials have the authority under emergency situations to order the evacuation of citizens and enforce the order should they choose to do so. A person disobeying these orders can be charged with the crime of obstructing government operations or obstructing a police officer or firefighter. The crimes are punishable with jail of up to one year and fines up to \$1,000. The authority to enforce these laws is found in Colorado statutes and the power of the government to protect the safety and welfare of the community in disaster emergency.

If you see a wildfire, call 911. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

The decision to fight a fire should be taken only after careful consideration of the danger to yourself or others who may be required to come to your rescue. Wildfires can be unpredictable and explosive and present a serious threat to the untrained. [\[Back to Top\]](#)

## II. Evacuation Notice

Evacuation notice will be by one or more of the following: telephone calling tree, door to door notification, or reverse 911(see instructions below for accessing LETA). If you have blocking mechanisms on your telephone to prevent telephone solicitations or other unwanted calls, the Larimer County Emergency Phone Notification advisements or evacuation alerts will not reach you. To dispense with this feature, call the Century Link Customer Care Center at 800-244-1111, or your cell phone provider.

**Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority has implemented a new enhanced emergency notification system, LETA.** This system allows them to CALL YOU to alert you to an emergency in your area. The system uses phone numbers in the 911 database. The new system allows you to enter additional information into the emergency notification system to be called if there was an emergency in your area. There is no cost to you for this service and the information you enter is protected.

With the new system you can enter your cell phones, a text device, email address, fax number, or work phone number. In addition, you can sign up to receive an alert at multiple addresses within Larimer County. If you would like to sign up for alerts at your home address but also at your work address, the system will allow you to do that. You pick where, and you pick how to be notified.

**All residents of Buckskin Heights are encouraged to sign up for LETA service by visiting the Larimer County web site at [www.leta911.org/](http://www.leta911.org/)**

**The Big Tent Fire Phone Tree** will have a new format using a cloud computer called Big Tent to create and distribute the phone tree. Big Tent is an internet based tool used to manage group communications. To access this web site: visit [www.bigtent.com](http://www.bigtent.com). Questions regarding the use of this system should be addressed to Kathy Merlo at [grafite100@aol.com](mailto:grafite100@aol.com).

Most wildfires occur in the afternoon when the majority of our residents are at work. Please keep this in mind when submitting telephone numbers in the telephone calling tree and the community data base. [\[Back to Top\]](#)

### III. Evacuation Routes

**The Primary Evacuation Route is South via Otter Road** through the gate at the main entrance to the subdivision and continuing to the bottom of the mountain.

**The Alternate Evacuation Route is North to the end of Otter Road** then north across Lot # 30 to a ranch gate, through the gate onto the Anderson Ranch and then 200 yards northeast following the cleared path to a gate connecting to Puma Gulch Road (at the Wedum property) and then to the Redstone County Road. **This alternate route is to be used only for fire evacuation and is not to be used for any other emergencies or blockages of the roads of Buckskin Heights.**

**The alternate emergency route is not recommended for primary use and should only be used in an extreme emergency if no other safe option is available. In almost all cases emergency response personnel will indicate the evacuation route to be used.** Residents should be advised that significant risks are involved in making the decision to use this route; locked gates, confusion about where to turn arising from using an unfamiliar route, useable only with high clearance four wheel drive vehicles, and other unforeseen obstacles to a safe exit. In the absence of specific instruction from emergency response personnel, members of the community should make their own personal evacuation route decision that provides the maximum safety and the least risk for their family. **Neither the BHRA, Anderson Ranch, Puma Gulch residents, nor the publishers of this evacuation plan assume personal or property liability for resident's usage of this route. Residents are advised to follow all the instructions of fire fighters and law enforcement regarding all aspects of an evacuation.**

The evacuation meeting site will be the Buckhorn Presbyterian Church in Masonville (970-667-2308).

The American Red Cross and Larimer County Emergency Management will establish an Evacuation Shelter which will provide necessities such as food, water, sleeping and other logistical needs. [\[Back to Top\]](#)

### IV. Preparing for Evacuation.

If residents are alerted to a possible evacuation order, the following preparations are advised. How much you can accomplish is dependent upon time constraints with the safety of the residents being the deciding factor.

Delays in evacuation may impede emergency vehicles traveling the roads. Good judgment and following the instructions of emergency personnel should be exercised:

- Back your car into the garage or park in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave a second set of keys in the ignition. Place your valuables in the car ahead of time.
- Confine pets to one room so they will be readily available when the time comes to evacuate. Make plans ahead of time to care for your pets in case you must evacuate. Contact the local kennels, animal shelters, friends, etc.
- Close windows, vents, Venetian blinds or non-combustible window coverings and heavy drapes. Be sure to remove any combustible materials from near the windows to prevent radiant heat from igniting them.
- Close all interior doors to confine drafts and prevent a fire from moving inside the structure.
- Shut off propane. Turn off pilot lights.
- Move flammable furniture into center of the home away from windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke. Be sure to turn on the outside porch light as well. This will help firefighters to find your house in low visibility conditions.
- Seal attic and ground vents with precut plywood or commercial seals.
- Remove gas grills from decks and patios, place propane tanks in garage.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Place a non-combustible ladder on house for access to roof for firefighters.
- Remove firewood or any other stored combustibles near your home.
- Connect garden hoses. Fill pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.
- Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- **Don't lock up.** Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight fire. The entire area will be isolated and patrolled by sheriff's deputies or police. [\[Back to Top\]](#)

### V. What to Take with You?

When the evacuation order comes time may be of the essence and prior planning will make the job much easier if there are severe time constraints. The following items should be considered for inclusion in your evacuation kit:

- Medications in original containers
- Telephone numbers of family and friends and other important numbers.
- An extra pair of eyeglasses/sunglasses.

- Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks, bonds.
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records.
- Bank account numbers.
- Credit card account numbers and companies.
- Inventory of valuable household goods.
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).
- Recent tax returns, bills, checkbook
- Current driver's license, insurance cards
- Mementos, keepsakes, and photos that are important to you.
- Computer CPU

It is important to recognize time constraints when assembling items for evacuation. Please follow instructions from emergency personnel regarding the urgency of evacuation. Now is probably not the time to attempt to load up furniture.

**BEFORE YOU LEAVE TIE A WHITE TOWEL, SHEET, OR RIBBON ON YOUR FRONT DOOR TO ADVISE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS THAT YOUR HOME HAS BEEN EVACUATED.** [\[Back to Top\]](#)

**VI. Evacuation of Pets, Horses and Livestock.**

Arrangements should be determined for the shelter of pets and/or livestock prior to a wildfire. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet’s medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current. Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet’s collar. Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, lease or harness for your pet so if the pet panics, they can’t escape.

It is recommended that arrangements for evacuating pets or livestock be made with neighbors who are usually home during the day as in many cases the pet owner will be working and access to the sub-division may not be possible. Plans for pet and livestock evacuation should be established by the owners of these animals. Owners should know how to contact those that they have asked to evacuate their animals. If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made and shared with the owner’s designate, whether to turn them outside.

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**VII. Special Needs**

People with special needs will be identified on the telephone call list and all residents should be aware that some may need assistance in the evacuation process.

People with medical conditions should know the location and availability of more than one facility if dependent on a dialysis machine, oxygen or other life-sustaining equipment or treatment.

If you have special needs, find out about special assistance that may be available in your community. Register with the Larimer County Emergency Management Office or the local fire department for assistance so needed help can be provided. [\[Back to Top\]](#)

**VIII. What Do I Do during the Evacuation?**

Listen to local TV and radio for updates on the fire and information regarding “all clear.”

<u>Radio Resources</u>	<u>Denver TV</u>
1310 AM KFKA	Channel 9
1410 AM KIIX	Channel 4
88.9 KRFC	Channel 7
91.5 KUNC	Channel 31
90.5 KCSU	

Wildfire updates may occur at Buckhorn Presbyterian Church or The Ranch at the Larimer County Fairgrounds, or other designated sites.

Save all receipts for expenses incurred during a mandatory evacuation as your insurance company may reimburse you for these expenditures. [\[Back to Top\]](#)

**IX. Additional Information**

The following internet web sites will provide updated information on the status of a fire:

- <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>
- <http://www.larimer.org/emergency/>
- <https://twitter.com/larimersheriff>
- <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?action=wp&feedId=7897>
- <http://www.geomac.gov/viewer/viewer.shtml>

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