

Big Mountain Fire District

IN CASE OF WILDFIRE: Evacuation Levels 1, 2, and 3

Instructions for individuals within our District for a significant wildfire event

Wildfires are unpredictable. This guide outlines the steps to be taken should an evacuation be necessary. Our aim is to achieve the common goal we all share: preventing a loss of any kind. We encourage the adage “when in doubt, get out!” If you feel threatened, go! **Keep in mind, in some cases, there is no time for formal evacuation notifications due to quickly changing conditions.** Wind or a fire behavior may change and the fire may progress to Level 3 evacuation and immediate danger without going through Level 1 and 2. **Cell phone, internet services, and power may be impacted. Please plan for a way to monitor the ever changing progression of a wildfire, such as a battery operated radio.**

Evacuation Level 1: Ready

Communication:

Email from Big Mountain Community website, IF you have registered.

Conditions:

1. There is an incident in the area.
2. There will be no road closures in effect in most cases.
3. There is no immediate danger to home, family or business but a fire or other related danger may be moving toward this area.

Actions Required:

1. Residents are advised of the situation and may choose to leave if they need additional time to exit an area or have a health condition. **Evacuations are voluntary, but residents are encouraged to leave if concerned.**
2. Residents are encouraged to move livestock and pets out of the area and to prepare for a full evacuation.
3. Residents should gather the things they will need if evacuation is necessary.

Monitor: Your cell phone for text or email evacuation updates; local radio stations; or inciweb.nwcg.gov

Evacuation Level 2: Set

Communication:

Text message from Big Mountain Community website, IF you have registered:

Conditions:

1. The fire or other danger is moving closer to the identified area.

Actions required:

2. **Evacuations are voluntary, but residents are encouraged to leave if concerned.**
3. A mandatory evacuation may be issued at any time.
4. Residents should make preparations to leave at a moment's notice.

Monitor: Your cell phone for text or email evacuation updates; local radio stations; or inciweb.nwcg.gov

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Evacuation Level 3: Go

Communication:

BMFD outdoor emergency alert siren for multiple minutes; County emergency text message to all cell phones in the area; Text message from Big Mountain Community website, IF you have registered, and IF volunteer is able to text.

Conditions:

1. **IMMINENT DANGER.**
2. Evacuations are mandatory and entry to evacuated areas may be denied.

Actions required:

1. **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!** DO NOT delay to collect belongings or make efforts to protect home, or other property, or pets.
2. **Follow directions from the evacuation text notice, if available.**
 - **If Big Mountain Road is open**, proceed down Big Mountain Road in a safe manner. **Do not panic, do not pass other vehicles, stay in the right lane as emergency vehicles may be coming up in the left lane.** Accidents may cause many to lose their lives.
 - i. If the road becomes impassable, a Road Check Point will direct you to a location to proceed to.
 - **If Big Mountain Road is closed**, proceed to the Birch Parking Lot behind the Edelweiss/Bierstubbe Buildings (see attached map). A representative briefed by BMFD will keep you informed of updates.
 - Please make every effort to get to the designated area. It is significantly more difficult for rescue personnel to deal with persons in multiple areas and they may not have time to search the buildings if they are compromised by wildfire.
 - **If you are unable to get to the Birch Parking Lot, as a last resort proceed to any building with a sprinkler system on the mountain, these include:**

Kintla Lodge	Kristianna	Hibernation House
Ed & Mully's	Morning Eagle	Big Mountain Fire Hall
3. **If you are on the Mountain enjoying outdoor activities and going inside is not an option,**
 - Look for a Mountain employee for instructions, if you do not see an employee;
 - Move away from heavily treed areas to the most wide open space available.
 - If you are able to see the fire, continue moving within the wide-open space towards the Summit House or Village, whichever is easiest, depending on the direction the fire is moving.
 - If you cannot see the direction of the fire and/or the fire is very close, attempt to find an area with very little foliage or short grass, rocky bare earth is best, and remain there.
4. **IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO EVACUATE YOUR HOME OR OTHER AREA DURING THE MANDATORY EVACUATION, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU AS THE FIRE PROGRESSES. PLEASE KEEP EVERYONE SAFE, EVACUATE!!!!**

Monitor: Your cell phone for email or text evacuation updates; local radio stations; or inciweb.nwcg.gov

Ed&Mully's Fire Hall

