

## Saddlewood Homeowners : HOUSE FIRE OCCURRENCE 22 January 2025

On 21 January 2025 there was a house fire in our neighborhood. The property has been severely damaged and is not habitable. Thankfully the Elizabeth Fire Department responded in aggressive manner – dealing with the house fire and preparing for the possibility of a forest fire as a result.

***This event is a reminder to all of us to prepare for the possibility of a house fire or a full on forest fire. This is also motivation to consider the any fire mitigation work that needs to be performed on your property.***

Making an **evacuation plan** is something to consider : Specifically documenting what you need to take with you under two scenarios. First, consider a forest fire in which you may have up to **30** minutes to evacuate, secondly one in which you have up to **two** hours to leave.

For a 30 minute evacuation window some items to consider are :

- Wallet / Purse
- Car Keys / mail box keys
- Mobile Phone
- Check book
- Charge cards
- Weapons
- Laptop Computers
- Any Cash in the house

Consider that with a very short evacuation window : *you may need to leave on foot.*

For a two hour evacuation window consider :

- Wallet / Purse
- Car Keys / mail box keys
- Mobile Phone
- Check book
- Charge cards
- Weapons
- Tax records
- Laptop Computers
- Photos
- House Cash
- Ammunition

(Based on an event in the Black Forest fire several years ago).

If you have ammunition it would really be important to notify the fire department if they are attempting to save your property.

One might also consider obtaining some form of box in which things like extra keys and information related to financial records could be kept. Then many of the things needed post evacuation are already

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collected. If you own a digital camera, taking photos of your property / house contents and store these off premises.