

Blue Mountain Subdivision Wildfire Evacuation Guide



Despite our chipping of deadfall over the past decade our subdivision remains at extreme levels of risk of a wildfire

**If you see a wildfire anywhere CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.
DO NOT assume it has already been called in.**

A Quick Summary of the Evacuation Process

- ☛ Official Public Safety Personnel will decide if an evacuation is needed.
- ☛ Any official evacuation will be ordered by zones. (See Pages 3 and 4.) It is unlikely the entire subdivision will need to be evacuated at the same time.
- ☛ Law enforcement agencies typically enforce the evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly and exactly.
- ☛ There is no need to wait for official notices. Evacuate if for any reason you feel the need to do so. The earlier the better for all concerned.
- ☛ **Avoid rumors.** All evacuation orders, Zones and updates will be announced by:
 - FM radio WZRV The River 95.3, and AM radio WFTR 1450,
 - Loudspeakers on emergency vehicles,
 - A “Smart 911” phone call. (Signup at Smart911.com)
 - Internet social media of which you are a member.

Identify and be familiar with, in advance, our two evacuation routes:

- 1. Blue Mountain Rd. down the mountain to Howellville Rd and beyond.**
- 2. Freezeland Rd. south to Linden and beyond.**

**Do not use Fire Trail northward from which there is no outlet.
Do not use old Old Linden Rd southward which is impassable.
Do not enter Deer Lake Recreation Areas, or its roads. Fire trucks and possibly helicopters will be refilling water tanks from the lake.**

Study carefully the map and table on pages 3 and 4 and become familiar beforehand with all internal roads out of your zone as well as out of our subdivision using paved state roads Blue Mountain Rd. and Freezeland Rd.

Public Service Officers may direct you differently based on their better awareness of the situation. Follow their directions quickly and completely for your safety and the safety of others.

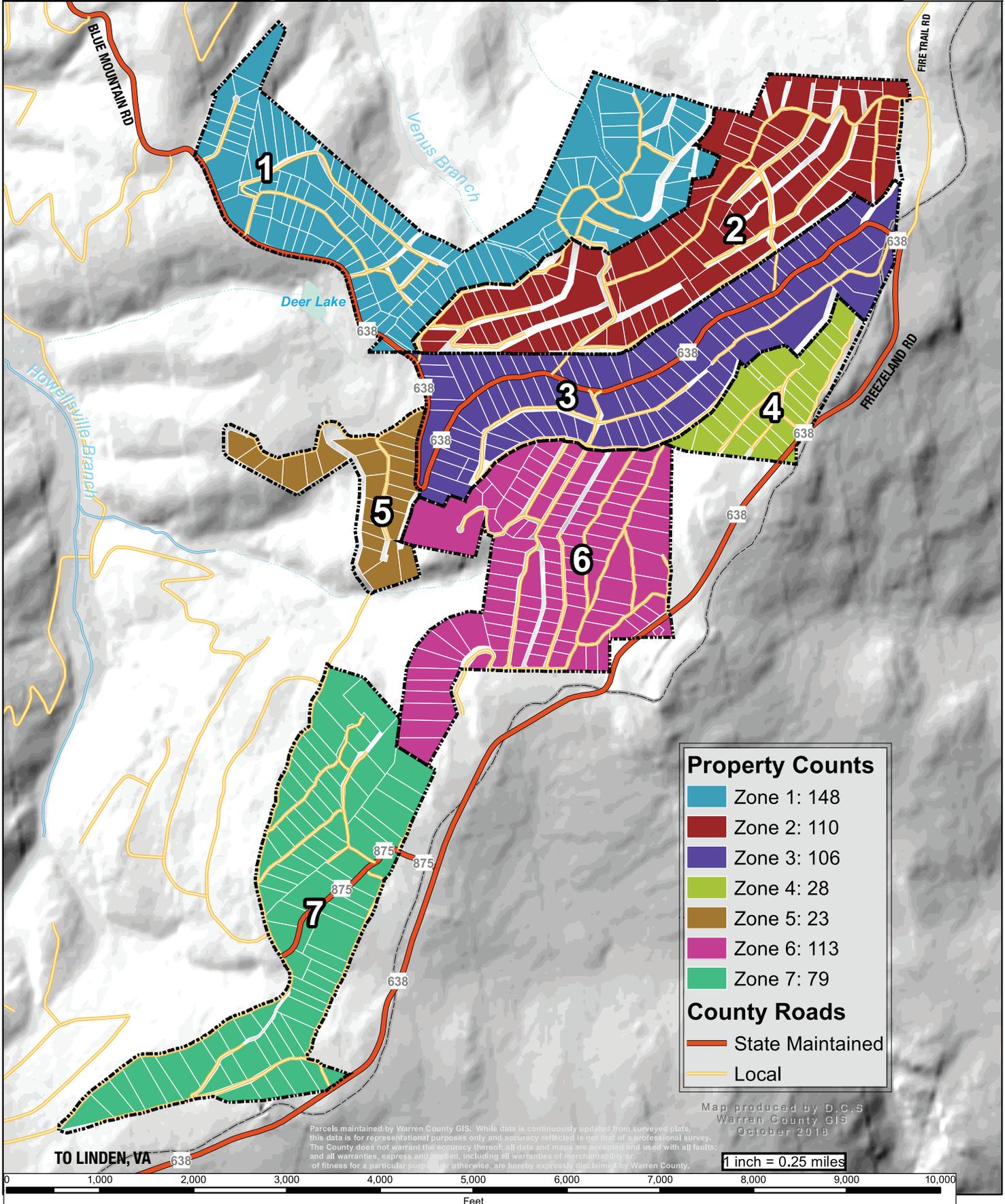
Yield immediately to emergency equipment – especially on any of our 50+ narrow roads. Back into the nearest driveway to let firefighters through. They are on the way to possibly save your property.

Do not drive over fire hoses which is a violation of Virginia Law. Communicate with firefighters if hoses block your only evacuation route.



Blue Mountain Subdivision

Emergency Evacuation Zones - Property Counts



Blue Mt. Subdivision, List of Roads Within Each Evacuation Zone

Roads

Primary Evacuation Routes

ZONE 1

FAR VIEW, SHADY TREE, BLACK WALNUT
 BLUE MOUNTAIN RD, DOGWOOD BLOSSOM
 LITTLE INDIAN, LONESOME PINE, WOODCHUCK
 HAWK HILL, LOST CREEK
 MOONSHINER, OLD SAWMILL

To Blue Mt Rd, then as directed
 To Blue Mt Rd, then as directed
 To Blue Mt Rd, then as directed
 Old Sawmill to Blue Mt Rd, then as directed
 Old Sawmill to Blue Mt Rd, then as directed

ZONE 2

BLOOD ROOT, FERN TRAIL, JASPER
 MOCKINGBIRD, SPRING HILL, MOSSY ROCK
 PEE WEE
 ROCKY BOULDER, ROCK SPRING
 INDIAN PIPES, PARADISE, WOODHAVEN

Old Sawmill to Blue Mt Rd, then as directed
 Spring Hill to Blue Mt Rd to Freezeland
 Uphill to Blue Mt Rd, L to Freezeland
 Uphill to Firetrail, R to Freezeland
 Fire Trail, R to Freezeland

ZONE 3

BLUE MOUNTAIN RD
 CHIPMUNK TRAIL
 CLIFF
 HENRY, OLD DOMINION
 TRILLIUM TRAIL

Uphill on Blue Mt Rd to Freezeland
Cliff to Blue Mt Rd, R to Freezeland
Down to Blue Mt Rd, R to Freezeland
 Down to cliff, R to Blue Mt Rd, R to Freezeland
 Up to Blue Mt Rd, R to Freezeland

ZONE 4

ALLEGHENY, HIDEAWAY, OLD BEACON,
 PEACEFUL, FREEZELAND RD

Freezeland Rd to Linden
 Freezeland Rd to Linden

ZONE 5

BLUE MOUNTAIN RD, OLD LINDEN
 SCARLET TANAGER, WOODPECKER

Uphill or downhill as directed
 To Blue Mt. Rd, then as directed

ZONE 6

BUCK, CHIPMUNK, CLIFF, CRESTHILL, HENRY
 WILD CHERRY, INDIAN LOOKOUT, OLD LOG
 RED ROBIN, ROCK MOUNT, SOURCE, TRANQUIL
 FREEZELAND

Toward Freezeland via Cresthill, Old Log,
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 “
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ZONE 7

CRICKETS, HICKORY NUT, MAY APPLE
 FREEZELAND
 MT ORIOLE, SQUAW PATH, WARBLER
 WOODLARK, WOODTHRUSH, TOMAHAWK

Use Tomahawk or Woodthrush to
Freezeland Rd
Towards Linden
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**Each year about
1,500 Virginia wildfires
consume over
100 homes and structures.
During extreme drought these
numbers can double.**

A wildfire can ignite a dwelling through radiation, convection, or firebrands. These three ignition sources need to be understood in order for you to make your dwelling less vulnerable.

Radiation: A structure can ignite when exposed to very high temperatures for a sustained period – even if the flames do not come in direct contact with the structure. This is called radiation heat transfer. Clearing combustibles at least 30’ away from your dwelling and choosing building materials such as nonflammable siding, roofing and decking will make your home much less likely to ignite by radiant heat transfer.

Convection: Ignition by convective heat transfer requires the fire, even a very small flame, to come in direct contact with the structure. Clearing away even small amounts of dead vegetation, dry leaves, deadfall, woodpiles, plastics and other combustibles from around your home will make it much less likely to ignite by convective heat transfer.

Firebrands: Firebrands are pieces of burning materials that are detached from a fire by updrafts and are carried by the wind. Severe wildland fires can produce a shower of firebrands that can travel a mile or more before falling around or onto your home. The chance of a firebrand igniting your home will depend on the size of the firebrand, where it lands, and the materials, design and construction of your home. You can reduce the risk of your house igniting from firebrands by choosing fire-rated roof and deck material.

It is far easier to stop a wildfire from igniting your dwelling than to put out a house fire. Firefighters may have to make such hard choices, and quickly. If time permits, when you first become aware of an approaching wildfire:

- ✓ Remove all combustible material such as doormats, grills, firewood, charcoal and lighter, gasoline, outdoor furniture, etc. at least 30 and preferably 50 feet away from the exterior of your dwelling. Never store gasoline in or near living spaces. If time permits shoot water into gutters and around the foundation to wet leaves or other combustibles.
- ✓ Leave a connected garden hose and buckets full of water around the outside of the house for use by firefighters, neighbors – and for your use when you return as the power might be off then.

- ✓ Place aluminum ladders outside for roof access for firefighters. Assemble firefighting tools outside and visible including shovels, metal rakes, hoes, etc.
- ✓ Leave electricity on to power your well pump and lights. Leave lights on, in and outside the house. Turn central heating/air conditioning systems completely off.
- ✓ Don't Lock Up! Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked for firefighters and public safety officers checking to be sure everyone is out. Police will be patrolling until the all clear is given by public safety officials. Each family member should carry some reasonable proof of residence here to regain entry.

Take personal responsibility for your family's safety by taking the following steps

1. Develop your evacuation plan which should be:

- ✓ Simple enough to be followed when under stress,
- ✓ Detailed enough to cover key elements,
- ✓ Understood by everyone residing in your home or cabin.

2. Decide on your Family Meeting Place.

If there is an evacuation, all families should have an agreed upon temporary meeting place that is outside of our subdivision and recreation areas and will not be in the way of any emergency response activities. Some options include:

- ✓ The regularly used school bus stops on Freezeland and Blue Mt. Roads probably will remain to be a safe place for children returning from school to connect with family before moving on to a safe location.
- ✓ The Monastery on Freezeland Rd has agreed that part of their access road near Freezeland Rd. can be a backup location where family members could meet before moving on to a safe location.
- ✓ Shenandoah Farms Fire Department located at 6363 Howellsville Road (down Blue Mt. Road to Howellsville then right toward Route-50),
- ✓ Warren County has Emergency Evacuation Centers in or near Front Royal. Public safety officials will decide which ones will be opened based upon the situation. Again, monitor WZRV The River 95.3 FM or WFTR 1450 AM for announcements.

3. Develop a Neighborhood Network

You may not be at home when a wildfire is approaching. Work with neighbors to establish a plan to mutually protect your family, pets and property in your absence:

- ✓ Identify people with special needs, those who may be alone and without a vehicle, and those who would need transportation to a county evacuation center. **Do not expect**

public safety agencies to evacuate you, your family or your pets, especially during an emergency. Work with family and neighbors to develop the assistance that will be needed to evacuate in an emergency.

- ✓ Develop a neighborhood communications plan such as a telephone tree, etc.
- ✓ Identify protective actions such as shutting off propane tanks or moving combustibles such as grills, lawn furniture, etc. 30' away from the home,
- ✓ Coordinate mutual evacuation of pets.

4. Develop an Evacuation Kit

Keep your kit available near an entrance or in your car, especially during bad weather. Some items a personal evacuation kit might include:

- ✓ A change of clothes and underwear, warm coat and footwear, etc.
- ✓ Several days of prescription medications you take regularly, ideally with copies of your prescriptions,
- ✓ If you have special medical needs include a list for first responders including key medications you need as well as phone numbers for your doctors, caregivers, etc.,
- ✓ Small toiletries bag with a comb or brush and travel-size containers of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, contact lens solution, etc.
- ✓ Small first aid kit,
- ✓ An extra pair of glasses or contacts and an extra charger for your cell phone,
- ✓ Small LED flashlights and a small battery-powered radio w/extra batteries,
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Create an emergency kit for your pet including food, water, medications, first aid supplies, feeding dishes, leashes, carrier, blanket, etc.

5. Practice your Evacuation Plan

- ✓ Drive your evacuation route, and alternatives, to be sure you can do so day or night,
- ✓ Conduct family fire and emergency drills at least annually,
- ✓ Quiz your children so they remember what to do in case of wildfire / emergency,
- ✓ Check your evacuation kit often for fresh batteries, food, water and important meds,
- ✓ Identify an out-of-area emergency contact to receive and pass on messages between family members. Make sure all family members know to call in as soon as possible,
- ✓ Cell phones, if fully charged and used sparingly, should continue to work for days. A landline phone system is unlikely to work in a power outage unless you have an older "corded" telephone to plug in to a telephone jack in your home.

6. **Collect important papers in a single file for a quick evacuation**

- ✓ Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, passports, Drivers Licenses,
 - ✓ Social Security and Medicare cards and medical and immunization records,
 - ✓ Account numbers and passwords to key financial institutions and accounts,
 - ✓ Credit card account numbers and company addresses and phone numbers,
 - ✓ Inventory of valuable household goods and important telephone numbers,
 - ✓ Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates, etc.)
 - ✓ Proof of your pet's vaccinations, especially if you may be going to an emergency relocation facility that allows pets.
 - ✓ Make sure all family members are aware of all of these preparations.
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Returning Home

Public safety officials will determine when it is safe to return.

Power lines will be checked by Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC).

You may not have power for days or experience interruptions during repairs.

For updates on remaining outages call REC at: 1-800-552-3904 or go to:

<https://www.myrec.coop/outagecenter/outage-summary.cfm>

- ✓ Be alert for downed power lines and stay far away from them. Warn all others! Monitor children carefully until the all clear is given.
- ✓ Check your dwelling carefully, especially gutters, for possible smoldering fires. Wet down your gutters just to be sure.
- ✓ For at least 24-48 hours after the fire has passed periodically check for smoke and embers about your entire property.
- ✓ Do not plug a generator into any house wiring: this could electrocute REC linemen miles away working to restore your power. If you do use a portable generator use heavy duty extension cords to power refrigeration and lighting.
- ✓ Bring with you one gallon of drinking water per person per day.
- ✓ When power is back on check to see if you have running water for sanitation. Make sure all drains, toilets and your septic system are working properly.
- ✓ Photograph and otherwise document any fire damages and contact your insurance company promptly.