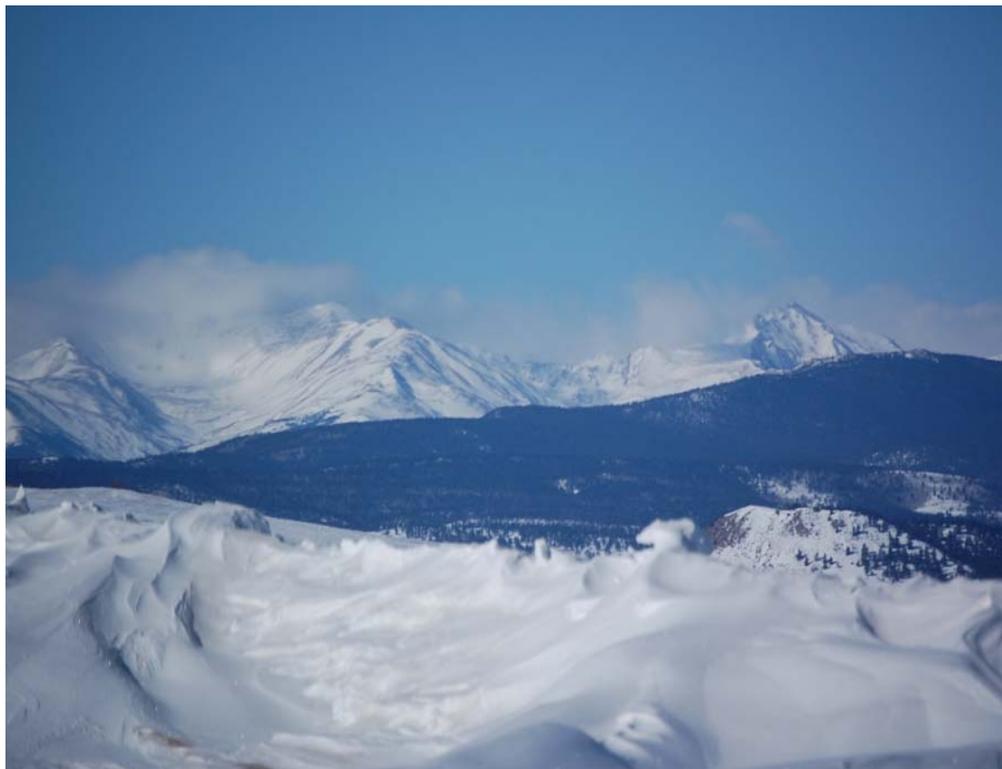


**Park County
Emergency Preparedness
Guide**



**For the citizens and visitors
of Park County, Colorado**



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Message from the Park County Office of Emergency Management

Over the last several years, our nation has experienced the devastating effects of natural and human-caused disasters from mudslides in California to terrorist attacks along the East Coast. Locally, Colorado experienced the worst fire season in its history in 2002, along with extreme drought conditions and several other natural emergencies requiring state and federal assistance.

Due to the size of Park County, and its central location within the state, we must remain vigilant with regard to emergency preparedness and management. Through a cooperative effort between Park County and the South Central All-Hazards Region, we are pleased to provide the citizens and visitors of Park County with this Emergency Preparedness Guide.

The main purpose of this guide is to save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property. It is designed to present information and guidance on action to take to enhance survival in the event of natural and human caused disasters.

Within these pages, detailed information is provided about steps that can be taken locally to prepare families and communities in the event that a large-scale emergency occurs in your neighborhood. Along with tips for protecting your property and avoiding injury or illness in natural disasters, the guide gives detailed information about protecting your family and friends during a terrorist or human-caused event.

You need to be prepared. Knowing the steps to take during a disaster can greatly reduce the danger and distress your family may face. This guide will help you and your family plan for a variety of emergency situations, persevere during them and recover afterwards.

We hope that you enjoy this guide and find the information valuable to your family.



In an Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Park County Sheriff's Office
Dispatch (719) 836-4121 Administration (719) 836-2494
PO Box 604
Fairplay, Colorado 80440

Park County Animal Control
(719) 836-4380



Park County Search and Rescue
(719) 836-4121

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
<http://www.ares.ab0pc.org/index.shtml>

PARK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Fairplay Police Department
(719) 836-2840
PO Box 267
Fairplay, Co 80440

Alma Police Department
(719) 836-2712
PO Box 1050
Alma, CO 80420

PARK COUNTY AMBULANCE & RESCUE SERVICES

Platte Canyon Fire Protection District
(303) 838-5853
PO Box 222
Bailey, CO 80816

Southern Park County Fire Prot. Dist.
(719) 689-9479
PO Box 11
Guffey, CO 80820

South Park Ambulance District
(719) 836-2055
PO Box 417
Fairplay, CO 80440



Ute Pass Regional Ambulance Dist.
(719) 687-2291
PO Box 149
Woodland Park, CO 80866

Please note:

This guide is a compilation of emergency preparedness information from various sources. While we endorse the general concept of being prepared for emergencies, both individually and as a community, we are not directing anyone to implement all of the listed measures. Situations differ, and everyone should make their

own decisions as to the extent of their preparedness.

This publication is a living document. The information contained within it will be updated and revised as necessary in a continued effort to build a safer, stronger community.

In an Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Park County Office of Emergency Management
(719) 836-4372

PO Box 1373, Fairplay, CO 80440
emergencymgr@parkco.us

COUNTY ROAD AND WEATHER LINE (719) 836-4134

PARK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS & SERVICES

Elk Creek Fire Protection District
(303) 816-9385
PO Box 607
Conifer, CO 80433

Lake George Fire Prot. District
(719) 748-3022
PO Box 281
Lake George, CO 80827

Hartsel Fire Protection District
(719) 836-3500
PO Box 10
Hartsel, CO 80449



Northwest Fire Protection District
(719) 836-3150
PO Box 1090
Fairplay, CO 80440

Jefferson-Como Fire Prot. District
(719) 836-3244
PO Box 380
Como, CO 80432

Platte Canyon Fire Prot. District
(303) 838-5853
PO Box 222
Bailey, CO 80421

Southern Park County Fire Prot. Dist.
(719) 689-9479
PO Box 11
Guffey, CO 80820



This guide is not to be sold in part or in whole.

For questions or information, please contact:

Park County Emergency Management
(719) 836-4372
E-Mail: emergencymgr@parkco.us
<http://www.parkco.us/oem.htm>

Thanks to the South Central All-Hazards Region for providing grant funding for this project.

9-1-1 System

9-1-1 – How It Works

When you punch in 9-1-1, the phone call goes directly to the Park County Communications Center where a dispatcher will help you determine the nature of the emergency and what type of response is needed based on your location and the circumstances.

Call Boxes

These are special phones along roadways and in most parks that call 9-1-1 directly to help the operator locate your emergency quickly. These are not free phones for public use and connect directly to a dispatch center. If a party is lost or injured or a fire has started, the call boxes are an excellent method of getting help.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are very helpful. Even if you do not have a current service provider, your phone will call 9-1-1 at no charge. The operator will need to know where you are, since some cell phones do not provide a location when you call. There is limited cellular coverage in Park County, so cell phones will not always be the most reliable option in an emergency.

What Happens If 9-1-1 Fails?

The Park County Communications Center has an experienced team of communications officers who have specific plans in place should 9-1-1 go down. Depending on the equip-

ment or nature of the failure, 9-1-1 calls will be forwarded to the most appropriate dispatch center of one of our surrounding counties until Park County Dispatch is able to take over again. Citizens should not be able to notice if there is a failure. No matter what, someone will be there to answer the call for help.

Available Resources

In this preparedness guide you will find a wide variety of resources for emergency situations. There are many agencies and a great deal of expertise in Park County. Finding out which departments serve your area can be very helpful for several reasons:

- You will know who is coming to your home in case of emergency
- You will know who to call if it is not a life or limb emergency (barking dogs, increased patrols, acquiring burn permits, Insurance Service Office rating of your fire district, etc.)



- You can check that 9-1-1 automatically provides your location correctly to prevent any delays when you really do need assistance (call ahead before testing!!) Please call dispatch on the non-emergent number prior to dialing 9-1-1. The number to call is (719) 836-4121.

Emergency Alert & Warning Systems

What is EPN (Reverse 911)?

The Emergency Preparedness Network is a system that allows Park County to immediately notify citizens within a designated area of a current or potential life threatening event via their hard wired telephones. Should the EPN be activated, a recorded voice message will be “launched” through Reverse 911 procedures by the Park County Communications Center. This message will deliver precise information to the homes and businesses within the designated area. The system is also capable of delivering EPN messages via TTY for the hearing impaired. If the system dials a residence and gets a voice, it gives a spoken message. If it detects a TTY, it delivers a TTY message.

This system can also be used through notification systems such as the Park County School District RE 2, where parents are notified for a number of reasons by the district itself.

With any system there are limitations. One limitation of the EPN system is that if the phone line has any type of blocking device or prompt that requires the caller to press a key in order to complete the call, the device will prevent delivery of the message to that location. A second limitation concerns the newness of the area in which the event is occurring. The address or phone number may not have been en-

tered into their system for a newly developed area, which will cause some residences or businesses to be left out of the delivery of the message. Lastly, cell phones are also excluded from the system. If a cell phone is the only phone in the home, that residence will not receive the message. Even with these limitations, this system has proven to be a valuable tool for Park County.

*Please remember that when the system calls your phone, there will be a pause before the message will begin. If you answer your phone and get no answer to your greeting, please wait on the line for a few seconds in case the system is waiting to provide information.



Park County Hazards

Disasters and emergencies can sometimes develop quickly. Dam failures, flash floods, tornados, and fires, for example, can strike with little or no advance warning.

Other types of disasters and emergencies are preceded by a build-up period that provides more time for taking effective protective measures. For example, winter storms can be tracked for days, and people in affected areas can be notified well in advance. Severe thunderstorms may be tracked for hours. On larger rivers, floods can be predicted to provide considerable warning time for people in the danger area.

Here in Park County, the natural disasters we see most common include:

1. Thunderstorms / Lightning
2. Winter storms
3. Extreme cold temperatures
4. Flash Flooding
5. Fire (both structural and wildland)

Other hazards include:

1. Power Outages
2. Hazardous material spills
3. Tornados
4. Terrorism
5. Avalanches
6. Violence in Schools

The number one way to protect yourself in any severe weather incident is personal education and awareness.

There are several ways to be warned of severe weather:

1. If severe weather is being forecast for your area, LISTEN TO OR WATCH THE LOCAL NEWS. During these times, look for updates 2-3 times a day. Please remember that satellite and cable channels do not always include local weather or warnings.
2. Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio. Weather alert radios can provide immediate notification of severe weather or other emergencies by activating a tone when a watch or warning is issued by the National Weather Service.

National Weather Service Information

You can obtain the most comprehensive weather information by listening to a NOAA Weather Radio. NOAA stands for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Weather Radio is operated by the National Weather Service offices across the country and broadcasts frequently updated recordings containing current weather conditions, local forecasts, recreational and climatological data. During threatening weather, live broadcasts are made of warnings for high winds, large hail, tornadoes, flash floods and winter storms. Specially built receivers can be set to audibly warn when one of these weather warnings is broadcast. You can purchase a tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio at many electronic stores.

NOAA Weather Radio Stations in and near Colorado

Alamosa	162.475	Pueblo	162.400
Colorado Springs	162.475	Sterling	162.400
Denver	162.550	Cheyenne, Wyoming	162.475
Fort Collins	162.450	Bethune, Colorado	162.525
Grand Junction	162.550	La Junta	162.500
Greeley	162.400	Glenwood Springs	162.500
Longmont	162.475		

Prepare for severe weather before it strikes: Some severe storms can be seen approaching, while others hit without warning. It is important to learn and recognize danger signs and plan ahead.



Photo: Courtesy of the Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by Kirk Taylor

Thunderstorms and Lightning

All thunderstorms produce lightning, but many people ignore the danger lightning presents.

Know outdoor lightning safety rules:

1. Most people struck by lightning are not in the rain. Lightning can strike 5 to 10 miles in advance of the storm.

2. Flash-to-bang ratio

You can tell how far away the lightning is, by using the flash-to-bang method. When you see lightning, count how many seconds until you hear thunder. If the time is 5 seconds, the lightning was one mile away; if it is 10 seconds, the lightning was two miles away. Seek shelter if the lightning moves to within 4 miles of your direction. Quickly go inside a completely enclosed building, not a carport, open garage or covered patio. If no enclosed building is convenient, get inside a hard topped all metal vehicle.

3. Remember the “30-30 Rule”.

The first “30” means that you need to take cover if you hear thunder within 30 seconds of the lightning flash. The second “30” indicates that you should wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or thunder before resuming normal activity.

4. If boating or swimming, go to land and find shelter.

5. If you feel your skin tingle and your hair stands on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet, put your hands on the top of your head and place your head between your legs.

DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND!

Be aware of severe weather forecasts:

“Thunderstorm Watch” means conditions are favorable for thunderstorms to produce wind gusts to 58 mph or stronger or hail to 3/4 inch or larger in the watch area. These watches are issued for four to six hours at a time and for a number of counties.

“Thunderstorm Warning” means a severe thunderstorm has been detected by radar or by a trained spotter. Take cover if you are near the severe thunderstorm

“Lightning is the most dangerous and frequently encountered weather hazard that most people experience each year. It is the second most frequent (weather related) killer in the United States with more than 100 deaths and 500 injuries each year.”

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Tornadoes

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground capable of producing tremendous damage. It appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, which extends to the ground from the base of a thunderstorm. A tornado spins like a top and sounds like the roaring of an airplane or locomotive. These short-lived storms are the most violent of all atmospheric phenomena, and over a small area, the most destructive. While tornadoes are rare in Park County, they have been reported in the past.

The following are readiness tips for tornadoes:

Conduct tornado drills each tornado season:

- Designate an area in the home as a shelter and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.

Know the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning:

Tornado Watch does not mean tornadoes are imminent, just that you need to be alert and prepared to go to a safe shelter if a Warning is issued.

1. Turn on a local TV or radio station.
2. Set the alarm switch on your weather radio.
3. Know where you can access safe shelter.

Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been spotted or that Doppler radar indicates a thunderstorm circulation which could spawn a tornado.

1. Take immediate safety precautions.
2. Go into a shelter.

During a tornado, if at home, work, or school:

- Go at once to a windowless interior room, storm cellar, basement or the lowest level of the building.
- If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or smaller inner room such as a bathroom or closet.
- Get away from the windows and glass doors.
- Get under a sturdy piece of furniture such as a workbench, heavy table or desk. If not available, use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Use the telephone only in an emergency situation.
- If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.

During a tornado, if in a vehicle:

- DO NOT get under an overpass or bridge!
- Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building, ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle.
- Do not try to outrun the tornado.

Winter Storms & Extreme Cold Temperatures

A blizzard is the most dangerous of all winter storms. It combines cold air, heavy snow, and strong winds. These strong winds will cause considerable blowing snow, which may reduce visibility to only a few yards. The following provides advice that will help you and your family against the hazards of winter storms/blizzards, heavy snows, ice storms, freezing rain and/or sleet.

Indoor preparedness:

- Stay inside.
- If using alternative heat, use fire safeguards and proper ventilation.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- Stuff towels in the cracks under doors.
- Eat to provide energy and drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
- Have at least a 3-day Disaster Kit assembled.
- Obtain a NOAA weather radio, stay tuned to local radio or television.

Outdoor preparedness:

- Find shelter.
- Try to stay dry.
- Cover all exposed parts of the body.
- If you can find no shelter, prepare a lean-to, wind-break or snow cave for protection from the wind.
- Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.
- Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat.

- **DO NOT EAT SNOW!** It will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

- If stuck in your car or truck, run the motor for ten minutes every hour for heat. Ensure that the tail-pipe outlet is clear of obstructing snow while running the engine.
- Make yourself visible to rescuers.
- Turn on the interior dome light at night when running the engine. Tie a red cloth to your antenna.
- Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to increase body warmth.

Learn the warning terms for Winter Storms, so that you clearly understand the risk to your family and your community.

“Winter Storm Watch” indicates that severe winter weather may affect your area. Be alert, a storm is likely.

“Winter Storm Warning” indicates that severe winter weather conditions are definitely on the way. Take action, the storm is in your area.

“Blizzard Warning” means that large amounts of falling snow and wind are expected for several hours.

“Winter Weather Advisory” means winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.

Flash Flooding

In Colorado, river floods occur most often in association with the snow melt in May and June. The flash flood season extends from May to September with July and August as the primary months for flash flooding.

A flash flood refers to a dangerous sudden rise in water along a stream, river, wash or over a normally dry land area. Flash floods result from heavy rainfall, snowmelt and dam or levee failures. They can even be the result of rain over a burnt area. Flash floods can take minutes or hours to develop and can move at surprisingly high speeds, striking with little or no warning. They can erode an entire mountainside, roll boulders the size of trucks, tear out trees, destroy buildings, wash out roads and bridges and cause loss of lives. Rained weakened soils can also result in mud slides capable of closing interstates and blocking escape routes.

Learn the warning terms for possible flooding:

“Flash Flood Watch” or “Flood Watch” means to be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moments notice.

“Flash Flood Warning” means a flash flood is imminent—act quickly to save yourself because you may have only seconds.

“Flood Warning” means flooding has been reported or is imminent—take necessary precautions at once.

Flooding Safety Rules:

- Keep alert for signs of heavy rain, both where you are and upstream. Watch for rising water levels.
- Know where high ground is and get there quickly if you see or hear rapidly rising water.
- Be especially cautious at night. It is harder to recognize the danger then.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing water which may be more than knee deep.
- DO NOT drive through flooded areas! It only takes 2 feet of running water to move a vehicle. If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground if possible.
- Do not allow children to play in ditches, culverts or grates.



Photo: Courtesy of NOAA Library

Code of the West

Over a hundred years ago, adventurous men and women flocked to this part of the country in search of gold and a better way of life. They were willing to sacrifice much for the mountain lifestyle, a trend that continues to this day. Despite advances in modern technology, Park County has retained many of its pioneer ways.

The **Code of the West** was first chronicled by the famous western writer, Zane Grey when writing about the men and women who came to this part of the country during the westward expansion of the United States. The values of integrity and self-reliance guided their decisions, actions and interactions. In keeping with that spirit, we offer this information to help the citizens of Park County who wish to follow in the footsteps of those rugged individualists by living outside city limits.

Park County's diverse beauty and seemingly endless open spaces are attracting year-round residents at a rate unparalleled since the last gold rush. For over twenty years, Park County has been one of the fastest growing counties in Colorado. However, Park County's high altitude (8,000-14,000 feet), winter climate and lack of fast-food restaurants, shopping malls and other creature comforts cause many flatlanders to move back to civilization within the first few years. Relocating to this rural mountain environment from urban areas entails a period of adjustment, compromise and occasional culture shock. Important considerations for surviving the first year in Park County are discussed on the following pages.

Access

The fact that you can drive to your property today does not necessarily guarantee that you, your guests and emergency service vehicles can achieve that same level of access at all times. Please consider:

1. At some locations, the earliest opportunity for emergency vehicles to reach remote properties may be the end of spring runoff in June. In most areas, however, the response time is much shorter. It is therefore wise to establish the proximity of emergency services to your house, construct a driveway that is accessible and post your physical address in a visible location on the county road. Emergency response times (sheriff, fire suppression, medical care, etc.) cannot be guaranteed. Under some extreme conditions, you may find that emergency response is extremely slow and can be very expensive.

2. While Park County maintains many roads, many rural properties are served by private and public roads which are maintained by individuals or by private road associations. Additionally, there are many miles of county roads that are not maintained by the county, including grading and snow plowing. There are even some public roads that are not maintained by anyone. Make sure you know what type of maintenance to expect and who will provide that maintenance.
3. In extreme weather, even county maintained roads can become impassable. You may need a four-wheel drive vehicle with chains on all four wheels to travel during those episodes, which could last for several days.
4. Natural disasters, especially floods, can destroy roads. A dry creek bed can become a raging torrent and wash out roads, bridges, and culverts. The repairs of these private roads are the responsibility of the landowners who use those roads. Park County by law can only repair and maintain roads in the County Road system.
5. Unpaved roads are not always smooth and are often slippery when they are wet. You will experience an increase in vehicle maintenance costs when you regularly travel on rural county roads.

Utilities:

Water, sewer, electric, telephone, trash pick-up and other services may be unavailable or may not operate at urban standards. Even cellular phones do not work in all areas of the county. Repairs can often take much longer than in towns and cities. Please review your options from the non-exhaustive list below:

1. Telephone communications can be a problem, especially in the mountain areas of Park County. If you have a private line, it may be difficult to obtain another line for fax or computer modem uses. Even cellular phones will not work in all areas.
2. Not all wells can be used for watering of landscaping and/or livestock. Additionally, a loss of electric power can interrupt your supply of water from a well. It is wise to have an alternate means of electricity, such as a generator.
3. Electric service is not available to every area of Park County. It is important to determine the proximity of electrical power. It can be very expensive to extend power lines to remote areas.
4. Power outages can occur in outlying areas with more frequency than in more developed areas. You may also lose food in freezers or refrigerators and power outages can cause problems with com-

puters as well. It is important to be able to survive for up to a week in severe cold with no utilities if you live in the country.

5. The State of Colorado has laws that prohibit and/or restrict the open burning of trash and yard debris. You will need to contact your local fire protection district to determine your ability to burn these types of materials on your property.

The Property:

There are many issues that can affect your property.

1. The development of lots or portions of lots may be affected by geological hazards, frequent flooding, wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes. Additionally, priority fish and/or wildlife habitats and species may limit the type and location of development you may perform on your property.
2. The location of a new residence is a particularly important decision because it is so permanent. Recent arrivals often build their homes on the highest ridge or hilltop on their property. However, what they may not realize is that the farther they can see from their picture window, the farther their home can be seen by others. Weather conditions, like wind and snow, can affect your utility expenses if your residence is out in the open and subject to the elements. Additionally, emergency access to your property may be affected if emergency vehicles cannot reach your residence.
3. Outdoor lighting can be very useful in improving visibility and safety and creating a sense of security, while at the same time minimizing energy use and operating costs. If outdoor lighting is not well designed and properly installed, it can be costly, inefficient, glaring and harmful to the nighttime environment.
4. If you have a ditch running across your property, the owners of the ditch have the right to come onto your property with heavy equipment to maintain the ditch and to access the ditch and the water source. The water flowing in irrigation ditches belongs to someone. You cannot assume that because the water flows across your property, you can use it. Flowing water can be a hazard, especially to young children. Before you decide to locate your home near an active ditch, consider the possible danger to your family. Ditch owners are not legally responsible for accidents. Also, flow levels may be changed abruptly without warning. Irrigation ditches tend to raise the ground water level. Be sure to check if there is a seasonal ground water fluctuation that may effect your basement or well.

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5. Find out what level of road maintenance is provided to your property and by whom. While snow removal on major county roads is one of the most important functions of the Park County Road and Bridge Department, your road is not necessarily the highest priority. The county is required to maintain roads in remote areas only one time each year, and not all roads in Park County fall under this guideline. So remember, if the county maintains your road during the winter, they may be doing you a favor.

Mother Nature:

Residents of the county usually experience more problems when the elements and earth turn unfriendly. Here are some thoughts for you to consider.

1. Trees are a wonderful environmental amenity, but can also involve your home in a forest fire. Building at the top of a forested draw should be considered as dangerous as building in a flash flood area. "Defensible perimeters" are very helpful in protecting buildings from forest fire and, conversely, can protect the forest from igniting if your house catches on fire. If you start a forest fire, you are responsible for paying for the cost of extinguishing that fire. For further information, you can contact your local Fire District.
2. Steep slopes can slide in unusually wet weather. Large rocks can also roll down steep slopes and present a great danger to people and property.
3. Expansive soils can buckle concrete foundations and twist steel I-beams. You can determine the soil conditions on your property if you have a soil test performed, or consult a geologist or geotechnical engineer.
4. North facing slopes or canyons rarely see direct sunlight in the winter. There is a possibility that snow will accumulate and not melt throughout the winter.
5. The topography of the land can tell you where the water will go in the case of heavy precipitation. When property owners fill in ravines, they have found that the water that drained through that ravine now drains through their house. Low areas will collect water when snow melts or large rain events occur.
6. A flash flood can occur, especially during the summer months, and turn a dry gully into a river. It is wise to take this possibility into consideration when developing your property or building.
7. Spring run-off can cause a very small creek to become a major

river. Many residents use sand bags to protect their homes. The county does not provide sand bags, equipment or people to protect private property from flooding.

8. Nature can provide you with some wonderful neighbors. Most, such as deer and eagles are positive additions to the environment. However, even "harmless" animals like deer can cross the road unexpectedly and cause traffic accidents. Rural development encroaches on the traditional habitat of coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, prairie dogs, bears, mosquitoes and other animals that can be dangerous. In general, it is best to enjoy wildlife from a distance and know that if you do not handle your pets and trash properly, it could cause problems for you and the wildlife. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has many free publications to help educate you about rural living.
9. Many areas in Park County are open for hunting. Hunting, while providing recreational opportunities, is a tool for managing wildlife populations. It also involves individuals who may trespass, litter, and fire guns. Don't assume that adjacent property is a "no shooting" area.

Agriculture:

The people who settled this land developed ingenious methods for raising hay and livestock in the harsh mountain climate. As a result, agriculture is now an important part of our culture and environment. The following points should be considered before deciding to build in agricultural areas of Park County.

1. Ranchers often work around the clock, especially during calving and haying seasons. Hay is often swathed or baled at night and ranch equipment may be in constant use during the period. Livestock are sometimes moved along or across highways and county roads. Courtesy dictates that you pull over and patiently allow the livestock to pass. After all, the cows were here first. Colorado has an open range law which means ranchers are not required to keep livestock fenced in. If you do not want cattle, sheep or other livestock on your property, it is your responsibility to fence them out.
2. Land preparation and other operations can cause dust, especially during windy and dry weather. Ranchers occasionally burn their fields and ditches in preparation for the coming season. This normally creates smoke during the spring. Chemicals (mainly fertilizers and herbicides) are used in agriculture, to which many people have severe allergic reactions. Animals and their manure cause "objectionable" odors. What else can we say? If you choose to live



in the rural countryside, enjoy the scenery and remember, this is the real West!

3. Do not expect county government to interfere with the normal operations of our ranching community. Colorado has “Right to Farm” legislation that protects farmers and ranchers from nuisance and liability lawsuits and allows them to continue producing food and fiber, regardless of how new residents feel about their country neighbors.

Owning rural land also means knowing how to care for it. There are few things you need to know:

1. In July 1990, the Colorado Legislature passed a bill commonly called the “Colorado Weed Management Act.” This weed bill requires all landowners to manage “undesirable plants which present a threat to the continued economic and environmental value of the lands of the state”.
2. Animals can be dangerous. Bulls, stallions, rams, boars, etc. can attack human beings. Children need to know that it is not safe to enter pens where animals are kept.

The Code of the West has been offered in the sincere hope that it can help you enjoy your decision to reside in Park County. It is not our intent to dissuade you, only to inform you. The body of this document and most of the original wording was taken from a work by John Clarke, a Commissioner for Larimer County, Colorado.



The Hayman Fire 2002
Photo: Courtesy of the Teller County Sheriff's Office
by Under Sheriff Kevin Dougherty

In the year 2002 the State of Colorado and Park County suffered from one of the most active fire seasons in our history. A large percentage of the damage occurred in Park County from the Snaking, Black Mountain, High Meadow and Hayman fires. Over 167,000 Colorado acres were burned, including the loss of 133 homes and 467 other buildings.

Whenever such disasters strike, it is incumbent upon all of us to learn and prepare so that the next time our individual and collective preparations and responses will be more effective, and our losses, hopefully, less.

As more people choose to build homes, operate businesses and recreate in areas where wildlands border more urban areas, the threat to private property from wildland fire increases.

Creating “defensible” or “survivable” space around structures can make the difference between returning to an intact home or a smoldering pile of ashes if a wildfire moves through the area.

Neither wildland firefighting agencies nor local fire districts can adequately protect the growing number of structures in interface areas. **It is critical that private landowners take steps on their own to protect their property.** There are now many resources available to assist property owners, including a number of websites with excellent information on fire-resistant building materials, landscaping techniques and evacuation procedures.



Photos: Courtesy of
Wildlandfire.com

Fire is capricious. It can find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. While you may not be able to accomplish all the recommended measures, each will increase your home's, and possibly your family's, safety. Start with the easiest and least expensive actions. Begin your work closest to your house and move outward. Keep working on the more difficult items until you have completed your entire project.

The actual design and development of your defensible space depends on several factors: size and shape of buildings, materials used in their construction, the slope of the ground on which the structures are built, surrounding topography and sizes and types of vegetation on your property. You may want to request additional guidance from your local Colorado State Forest Service forester or your local fire district.

Defensible Space and FireWise Annual Checklist

- Trees and shrubs are properly thinned and pruned within the defensible space.
- Slash from the thinning is eliminated.
- Roof and gutters are clear of debris.
- Branches overhanging the roof and chimney are removed.
- Chimney screens are in place and in good condition.
- Grass and weeds are mowed to a low height.
- An outdoor water supply is available, complete with a hose and nozzle that can reach all parts of the house.
- Fire extinguishers are checked and in working condition.
- The driveway is wide enough. The clearance of trees and branches is adequate for fire and emergency equipment. (Check with your local fire district)
- Road signs and your name and house number are posted and easily visible.
- There is an easily accessible tool storage area with rakes, hoes, axes and shovels for use in case of fire.

- You have practiced family fire drills and your fire evacuation plan.
- Your escape routes, meeting points and other details are known and understood by all family members.
- Attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents are screened and in good condition. Stilt foundations and decks are enclosed, screened or walled up.
- Trash and debris accumulations are removed from the defensible space.
- A checklist for fire safety needs inside the home also has been completed. This may be available from your local fire district.



Photo: Courtesy of the Colorado State Forest Service

Community Wildfire Protection Planning

Park County has developed a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. For more information about this plan, visit your local library, visit your local fire protection district or contact the Office of Emergency Management at (719) 836-4372. You can also send an email to lhodges@parkco.us.

Defensible Space Management

Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones

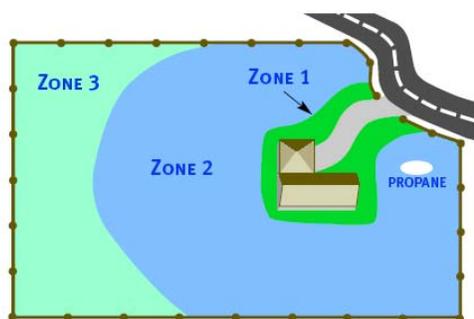
(Excerpts Courtesy of the Colorado State Forest Service)

Two factors have emerged as the primary determinants of a home's ability to survive wildfire. These are the home's roofing material and the quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it.

Roofing Material

Use fire-resistive materials (Class C or better rating), not wood or shake shingles, to roof homes in or near forests and grasslands. When your roof needs significant repairs or replacement, do so with a fire resistant roofing material. Park County currently requires new construction to have Class A roofs only. Check with the county building department for further details at (719) 836-2256.

Defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation



are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards the structure. It also reduces the chance of a structure fire moving from the building to the surrounding forest. Defensible space provides room for firefighters to do their jobs. Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if

grasses, brush, trees and other common forest fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity. Creating an effective defensible space involves developing a series of management zones in which different treatment techniques are used. Develop defensible space around each building on your property.

Zone 1 is the area of maximum modification and treatment. It consists of an area of 15 feet around the structure in which all flammable vegetation is removed. This 15 feet is measured from the outside edge of the home's eaves and any attached structures, such as decks.

Zone 2 is a an area of fuel reduction. It is a transitional area between Zones 1 and 3. The size of Zone 2 depends on the slope of the ground where the structure is built. Within this zone, the continuity and arrangement of vegetation should be modified. Remove stressed, diseased, dead or dying trees and shrubs. Thin and prune the remaining larger trees and shrubs. Be sure to extend thinning along either side of your driveway all the way to your main access road. These actions help eliminate the continuous fuel surrounding a structure while enhancing safety and the aesthetics of the property.

Zone 3 is an area of traditional forest management and is of no particular size. It extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property boundaries.

Prescriptions

Zone 1

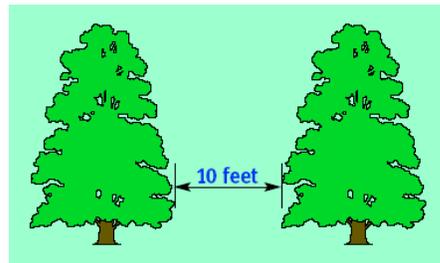
Within this zone, several specific treatments are recommended.

- Plant nothing within 3 to 5 feet of the structure, particularly if the building is sided with wood, logs or other flammable materials.
- Decorative rock creates an attractive, easily maintained, nonflammable ground cover.
- If the house has non-combustible siding, widely spaced foundation plantings of low growing shrubs or other “fire wise” plants are acceptable.
- Do not plant directly beneath windows or next to foundation vents.
- Frequently prune and maintain plants in this zone to ensure vigorous growth and a low growth habit.
- Remove dead branches, stems and leaves.
- Do not store firewood or other combustible materials in this area.
- Do not use areas under decks for storage.
- Ideally, remove all trees from Zone 1 to reduce fire hazards. If you do keep a tree, consider it part of the structure and extend the distance of the entire defensible space accordingly. Isolate the tree from any other surrounding trees. Prune it to at least 10 feet above the ground. Remove any branches that interfere with the roof or are within 10 feet of the chimney. Remove all “ladder fuels” from beneath the tree. (Ladder fuels are small shrubs, trees, tree limbs and other materials that allow fire to climb into the tree crown — the branches and foliage.)

Zone 2

This is an area of fuel reduction designed to reduce the intensity of any fire approaching your home. Because Zone 2 forms an aesthetic buffer and provides a transition between zones, it is necessary to blend the requirements for Zones 1 and 3. Thin the inner portions of Zone 2 more heavily than the outer portions. Gradually increase tree density as you approach Zone 3.

- Thin trees and large shrubs so there is a distance of at least 10 feet between crowns. Crown separation is measured from the furthest branch of one tree to the nearest branch on the next tree. On steep slopes, allow more space between tree crowns.



Crown Spacing — The closest distance between the branches of adjoining trees.

Photo: Courtesy of Timothy Tonge/CRFD

- Remove all ladder fuels from under these remaining trees.
- Carefully prune trees to a height of 10 feet.
- Isolated shrubs may remain, provided they are not under tree crowns. Prune and maintain these plants periodically to maintain vigorous growth.
- Remove dead stems from trees and shrubs annually.
- Limit the number of dead trees (snags) retained in this area.
- Wildlife need only one or two

snags per acre. Be sure any snags left for wildlife cannot fall onto the house or block access roads or driveways.

- Mow grasses (or remove them with a weed trimmer) as needed through the growing season to keep them low, a maximum of 6 to 8 inches. This is extremely critical in the fall, when grasses dry out and cure, or in the spring, after the snow is gone, but before the plants green up.
- Stack firewood and woodpiles uphill or on the same elevation as the structure but at least 30 feet away.
- Clear and keep away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these woodpiles.
- Do not stack wood against your house or on or under your deck, even in winter.
- Locate propane tanks at least 30 feet from any structures, preferably on the same elevation as the house. You don't want the LP container below your house. If it ignites, the fire would tend to burn uphill. On the other hand, if the tank is above your house and it develops a leak, LP gas will flow downhill into your home. Clear and keep away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these tanks.
- Dispose of slash (limbs, branches and other woody debris) removed from your trees and shrubs through chipping or by piling and burning. Contact your local CSFS office or your local fire district for information about burning slash piles. If neither of these alternatives is possible, lop and scatter slash by cutting it into very small pieces and distributing it over the ground. Avoid heavy accumulations of slash. Spread it evenly on the ground to speed decomposition. No more than two or three small, widely spaced brush piles should be left for wild-

life purposes. Locate these towards the outer portions of your defensible space.

Zone 3

This zone extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property lines. In this area, you are encouraged to manage your forests in a more traditional manner. Typical management objectives for areas surrounding home sites or subdivisions are: provide optimum recreational opportunities; enhance aesthetics; maintain tree health and vigor; provide barriers for wind, noise, dust and visual intrusions; support limited production of firewood, fence posts and other forest commodities; grow Christmas trees or trees for transplanting.

Specific thinning requirements will be dictated by your objectives for your land. However, most thinning should be done from below (leaving the biggest and best trees) and on an individual tree basis. Thinning sanitizes and improves the forest stand by removing trees that are damaged, infested with insects, infected by disease or are of poor form or low vigor.

While pruning generally is not necessary in Zone 3, it may be a good idea from the standpoint of personal safety to prune trees along trails and fire access roads. Or, if you prefer the aesthetics of a well-manicured forest, you might prune the entire area. In any case, pruning helps reduce ladder fuels within the tree stand, thus enhancing wildfire safety. Mowing is not necessary in this zone.

Any approved method of slash treatment is acceptable for this zone, including piling and burning, chipping or lop-and-scatter. Always check with your local fire district for burn permits or information on current fire bans.

Power Outages

- Practice energy conservation to help your power company avoid rolling black-outs.
- Always keep your car's fuel tank at least half full—gas stations use electricity to operate pumps.
- Know how to manually release your electric garage door.
- Protect your computer with a surge protector.
- If the power goes out, check your fuse box or circuit breaker, or contact neighbors to see if the outage is limited to your own home.
- Turn off computers, stereos, televisions and appliances you were using when the power went off. Leave one light turned on so you know when power is restored.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer doors. Food will remain fresh for up to four hours after the power goes off. If you know power outages may happen, freeze water in plastic bottles to keep food cool longer.
- If the outage is expected to last for several days or more, consider relocating to a shelter or a friend's home.
- **Most telephones are now connected to an electrical outlet. It is important to have at least one phone in the home that does not require electricity (only plugged into the phone jack). This is important for emergency notifications and emergency workers who may be trying to contact your home to give valuable information or instructions.**

Using a generator

If you plan to use a generator, operate it outside only—not in the basement or garage. Do not hook it up directly to your home's wiring. Instead, connect the equipment and appliances you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Alternatively, you can use a converter panel which protects the electrical system, allowing the generated power to feed the electrical outlets. Consult a licensed electrician whenever hooking a generator up to a home to ensure that power is not sent back through the grid, exposing electrical workers to additional hazards.

Fire Safety

Shutting Off Home Utilities

The American Red Cross and FEMA recommend you locate the central circuit breaker box and main water and natural gas valves. Responsible family members should learn how and when to turn off these utilities. Keep necessary tools nearby so they will be available when needed. Remember, turn off utilities only if you suspect the lines are damaged or if you are instructed to do so. If you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on.

Fire Evacuation Plan

USFA estimates that more than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 25,000 are injured. Deaths resulting from failed escapes are easily avoidable. Park County encourages residents to develop an escape plan that helps them get out quickly. Advance evacuation planning can reduce fire deaths and help protect your family.

Escape Plan Tips

Sit down with your entire family and plan your escape. Draw a floor plan of your home and identify two ways out of every room then designate a meeting place. Practice escape plans at least twice a year, during the day and night. Never open doors that are hot to the touch. Use the back of your hand to check a closed door, feeling the top of the door, the doorknob and the crack between the door and

door frame to make sure that fire is not on the other side. If it feels hot, use your secondary escape route.

- Security bars require special precautions. Windows and doors with security bars must have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately in an emergency.
- Home escape ladders: Consider purchasing home escape ladders if your residence is a multi-level unit. Make sure everyone in the family practices how to use the ladders properly and knows where they are stored.

When a fire occurs, do not waste time saving property. Leave the house immediately! Take the safest exit route, but if you must escape through smoke, remember to crawl low, under the smoke and keep your mouth covered. The smoke contains toxic gases which can disorient you or, at worst, overcome you. Once out, stay out!

Remember: Your job is to escape.

Smoke detectors can warn you that there is a fire. However, it is important to keep fire detectors in proper working order. Check and replace batteries every nine (9) to twelve (12) months. A good way to remember this might be by changing the batteries every daylight savings time change. Some units will generate a beeping sound to indicate when the batteries need to be replaced.

Make sure to clean your smoke detector at least once a year because dust can damage the unit. Also, test the detector periodically by pushing the test button. This

should be done at least once every month. The National Bureau of Standards test shows untested detectors lose about half of their dependability after 10-year period.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas. In the home, it is formed from incomplete combustion from any flame-fueled (i.e., not electric) device, including ranges, ovens, clothes dryers, furnaces, fireplaces, grills, space heaters, vehicles, and water heaters. Furnaces and water heaters may be sources of carbon monoxide, but if they are vented properly the carbon monoxide will escape to the outside. Open flames, such as from ovens and ranges, are the most common source of carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide can harm you if you are exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide in a short period of time, or to lower levels of carbon monoxide over a long period of time.

Carbon monoxide detectors trigger an alarm based on an accumulation of carbon monoxide over time.

Check Electrical Wiring and Appliances. Replace worn or frayed cords. Don't operate too many appliances on one circuit. Don't string extension wires all over the house, and never under rugs.

Store Explosive or Flammable Materials Carefully Outside. Never use gasoline, benzine, naph-

tha, and similar fluids indoors or near flame: they will ignite readily from any kind of a spark. Rags soaked with oil or turpentine sometimes catch fire by themselves (this is called spontaneous ignition), and therefore should never be left lying around.

Check Heating Devices. Many home fires are started by faulty furnaces and stoves, cracked or rusted furnace pipes, and sooty chimneys. Have your furnace, chimneys and flues inspected, cleaned and, if necessary, repaired. Always place a screen in front of a fireplace.

Don't Place Papers or Magazines on Radiators or near stoves or fireplaces. Don't allow lampshades to touch electric bulbs.

For additional information about fires safety and fire hazards, please contact your local fire protection district.

FIRE FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire-related deaths: about 40%-50%.
- Adults over the age of 65 and preschool children have the highest risk of dying in a house fire.
- Cooking is the leading cause of house fires and civilian injuries.

Is Your Home Safe?

Accessibility For Emergency Personnel

- Emergency vehicles should be able to easily identify your address from the road, day or night
- There should be no overhanging branches or other obstructions that would prevent a fire truck from getting to your home
- There should be no parked cars or other equipment in the way
- Emergency services should have access if you live in a gated community

Identifying And Eliminating Hazards In Your Home

When it comes to eliminating hazards in your home, knowing what to look for is key. There are proactive steps you can take to reduce or eliminate the chance for an electrical, chemical or fire hazard in your home. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), residential electrical fires claim the lives of 700 Americans each year and injure 3,000 more. Some fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are due to the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits. Park County emergency services would like residents to know that there are simple steps they can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical hazards.

Examples of these include:

- Replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, prongs and plugs.
- Repair or replace appliances that overheat, short out, smoke or spark.
- Cover exposed outlets and wiring.
- Make sure there is only one plug per outlet. If extension cords are used, make sure they are Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) approved.

Chemically hazardous materials in your home can pose a great danger. Many household cleaning supplies and other hazardous materials do not emit odors or have particular tastes, while others are more easily identifiable because they may cause physical reactions. In any case, take an inventory of potential chemical and hazardous substances. Learn how to contain and store them properly in order to prevent them from causing physical or environmental damage.

For example:

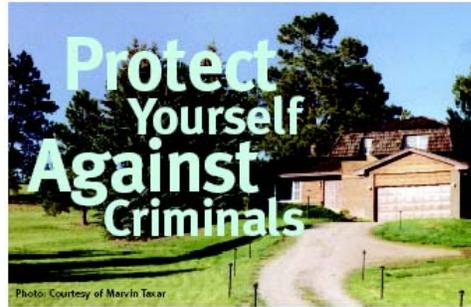
- Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, acetone, benzene and lacquer thinner in approved safety cans away from sources of ignition.
- Keep combustible liquids such as paint thinner, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid and turpentine away from heat sources.
- Store oily waste and polishing rags in small covered metal cans to prevent vapor buildup.

Intruder Proofing Your Home

Maintaining an appearance of occupancy, even when your residence is vacant is essential to thwarting burglary attempts. You cannot make a residence absolutely burglar proof, but you can make entry so difficult that the burglar will go elsewhere in search of an easier target.

In Your Home

- Lock your doors during the day, even if you are home or only leave for a few minutes.
- Never open the door automatically after a knock. Use a peephole or ask for identification.
- If a stranger asks to use the phone, do not permit entry. Offer to call for emergency assistance.
- If a window or door has been forced or broken while you were gone, **DO NOT ENTER OR CALL OUT!** Use a neighbor's phone to immediately call 9-1-1 and wait outside until help arrives.
- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed deadbolt lock with a minimum of 1 1/2" bolt.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to jam the door in case someone tries to pry it open.
- Make sure your windows are of good quality and have equally strong locks. Don't forget about the basement windows.
- Keys shouldn't be hidden in mailboxes, planters or under doormats. Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- Door chains are NOT security devices. They break easily and won't keep out an intruder.



- Turn on outside lights after dark to illuminate porches, entrances and yards, front and back. Consider timers that turn on outside lights or install motion detectors.
- If you hear a noise that sounds like someone breaking in or moving around, quietly call the police and wait calmly until they arrive. If you and your family can leave safely, do so. Otherwise, lock everyone in a room. Do not be a hero.

Away From Home

- Always be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Walk confidently and at a steady pace.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- If you carry a purse, your personal safety might depend on not clinging to it. Carry a shoulder bag securely between your arm and your body. Carry a clutch bag unsnapped and upside down between your arm and your body, with the wallet in a zippered compartment. If someone attempts to steal your purse, loosen your grip – thus allowing the contents to fall to the ground.

Protect Yourself Against Criminals *Continued*

In Your Car

- Always lock car doors after entering or leaving your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Have your car keys in hand so you don't have to linger before entering your car.
- Check the back seat before entering your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a well-lit public place.
- If your car breaks down, open the hood and attach a white cloth to the car antenna. If someone stops to help, stay in your locked car and ask him to call the local law enforcement agency or a garage.
- Don't stop to aid broken down motorists. Go to a phone and request help for them.
- When being driven home, request the driver to wait until you are inside.

In The Office

- Never leave your purse or billfold in plain view or in the pocket of a jacket hanging on a door.
- Personal property should be marked with some type of identification.
- Don't leave cash or other valuables at the office.
- Be alert to pickpockets on crowded streets or elevators.
- If you work alone or outside of normal business hours, keep the office door locked.
- Report all suspicious persons and activities to the proper authorities (office manager, building security, law enforcement).
- Be aware of escape routes for emergencies and post emergency numbers near telephones.

Neighborhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program that is part of the Park County Sheriff's Office. Neighborhood Watch Block Captains are individuals who take an active role in making their neighborhood safer. The Block Captains receive specific crime and Neighborhood Watch information on a continuing basis from the Sheriff's Office. Likewise, the Sheriff's Office receives information and inquiries from the Block Captains.

The Block Captains also stay in contact with their neighbors to stay abreast of any incidents and/or suspicious activity that may occur in their neighborhood. Although this may not guarantee that

you will be protected from victimization, the coordinated effort with the Park County Sheriff's Office will help reduce crime in our communities.

If you are interested in more information regarding the Neighborhood Watch Program or wish to set up a watch in your area, please contact the Park County Sheriff's Office at (719) 836-2494



Terrorism

National security emergencies can include terrorist acts from bombings to chemical or biological attacks. Although terrorists intend their acts to spread fear, the actual damage they cause can often be minimized through preparedness and quick action.



Photo: Courtesy of the US Coastguard by PA2 Tom Sperduto

What Is Terrorism?

Terrorism is the unlawful use of violence—or the threat of it—to scare or intimidate people or governments.

Most terrorist incidents in the United States have been bombing attacks involving explosive devices, tear gas and pipe and fire bombs.

In general, there are four types of terrorism:

1. Conventional—such as bombings and hijackings.
2. Chemical—use of a poison, such as nerve gas.
3. Biological—use of bacteria (such as anthrax), viruses or other harmful organisms.
4. Radiological—use of nuclear weapons or other radioactive materials.

Preparedness Tips

- Be alert and aware of the surrounding area. The very nature of terrorism suggests that there may be little or no warning.
- Take precautions when traveling.

- Leave the area if you feel something is wrong.
- Be aware of suspicious or unusual behavior.
- Don't leave luggage unattended.
- Learn where emergency exits are located.
- Think ahead about how to evacuate a building or congested public area in a hurry.

Park County and many of the emergency response authorities within its boundaries participate in the proactive approach to addressing the preparation for, response to, mitigation of, and recovery from terrorist attacks. This is done through partnerships forged with other members of the emergency response community in surrounding jurisdictions and the State of Colorado.

Pandemic Flu Planning

It is important that all individuals and families prepare for a pandemic influenza. Pandemic influenza is cyclical and occurs about every 30 to 40 years. Pandemic flu spreads quickly from person to person, affects many people in a short period of time, and may cause serious illness and death. It is estimated that the next pandemic flu may cause from 200,000 deaths (if mild) to 2 million deaths (if severe) worldwide.

You can prepare for an influenza pandemic now. You may have to prepare to be self-sufficient at home for many weeks to decrease or stop the spread of this disease. This type of preparedness will enable you to stay at home in other types of emergency situations as well. You should know both the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of an influenza pandemic on you and your family. The following checklist will help you gather the information and resources you may need in case of flu pandemic.

To plan for a pandemic:

- Store a two week supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. This can be useful in other

types of emergencies, such as power outages and disasters.

- Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.
- Have any nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.
- Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.
- Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response.
- Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

To limit the spread of germs and prevent infection:

- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water, and model the correct behavior.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model that behavior.
- Teach your children to stay away from others as much as possible if they are sick. Stay home from work and school if sick.

Pandemic Readiness

Examples of food and non-perishables

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fish, fruits, vegetables, beans and soups
- Protein or fruit bars
- Dry cereal or granola
- Peanut butter or nuts
- Dried fruit
- Crackers
- Canned juices
- Bottled water
- Canned or jarred baby food and formula
- Pet food
- Other non-perishable items

See pages 39-43 for more information about emergency planning.

Examples of medical, health and emergency supplies

- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood-pressure monitoring equipment
- Soap and water, or alcohol-based (60-95%) hand wash
- Medicines for fever, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen
- Thermometer
- Anti-diarrheal medication
- Vitamins
- Fluids and electrolytes
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Portable radio
- Manual can opener
- Garbage bags
- Tissues, toilet paper, disposable diapers

Family Emergency Health Information

It is important to think about health issues that could arise if an influenza pandemic occurs, and how they could affect you and your loved ones. For example, if a mass vaccination clinic is set up in your community, you may need to provide as much information as you can about your medical history when you go, especially if you have a serious health condition or allergy.

Create a family emergency health plan using this information. Like much of the planning for a pandemic, this can also help prepare for other emergencies.

Health information that should be written down and ready in an emergency includes:

Family Member Name

Blood Type

Allergies

Past / Current Medical Conditions

Current Medications / Dosages

What Is The West Nile Virus?

The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne viral disease that can cause encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, or meningitis, an inflammation of the membrane surface of the brain and spinal cord. It can affect humans, horses, cats, dogs and domestic and wild birds.

How Is The Virus Spread?

West Nile Virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito will become infected by feeding on a bird that is carrying the virus. This virus is not spread from person-to-person contact. There is no evidence to show that handling infected animals spreads the disease. Besides mosquitoes, there is no evidence that other insects or ticks carry the West Nile Virus.

Signs Of West Nile Virus Infection In Human Beings

People with mild infections either have no signs or display signs of a mild illness such as headache, body ache, a mild rash and fever before fully recovering. Those with more severe infections may experience high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, convulsions and paralysis. The symptoms will begin to appear 3 to 15 days after being bitten. Those most at risk are people over 50 years of age and those with weaker immune systems.

Signs Of West Nile Virus Infection In Horses

Not all infected horses will become critically ill. In the ones that do, following transmission by an infected mosquito, the virus multiplies in the horse's blood system, crosses the blood brain barrier and infects the brain. Clinical signs include loss of appetite, fever, weakness or paralysis

West Nile Virus Information

of hind limbs, muzzle twitching, impaired vision, lack of coordination, head pressing, convulsions, difficulty in swallowing or coma.

Treatment

There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus infection. Mild symptoms will go away in a few days without treatment. In more severe cases, intensive supportive therapy is indicated, often involving hospitalization.

Vaccination

There is a vaccination that may be given to a horse only by a licensed veterinarian. Check with your vet for more information. There is no vaccine for humans. It is very rare for this virus to be deadly to human beings.

Prevention

- Drain **ALL** standing water on your property — ponds, ditches, hubcaps, boats, clogged rain gutters, etc.
- Change water in birdbaths and wading pools weekly.
- Stock ornamental ponds and fountains with fish that eat mosquito larvae.
- Ensure that window and door screens are in proper repair.
- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants while outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent that contains DEET. Follow directions carefully.

Disasters & Your Business

*(Excerpts provided by the Colorado Office
of Emergency Management)*

Resources For Disaster Proofing Your Business

Why Prepare?

Disasters can be devastating to businesses. Short term losses may include physical damage to premises and contents, revenue loss due to interrupted service and a loss of wages for temporarily displaced employees. Long term economic impacts could include the complete closure of the business resulting in a loss of jobs and a weakened economy in the local community. This can be especially problematic where a community may only have one major business providing employment for much of the population.

Business owners have a duty to their employees to insure a safe workplace. This includes making appropriate preparations to deal with any potential emergencies or disasters that might impact the workplace. Developing a good plan first entails assessing the risks to your business. What hazards either natural, man-made or technological could impact your business? What is the probability of certain hazards occurring? What impacts could they have? Answering these questions will aid you in developing a comprehensive contingency plan. Assessing the potential impacts will also help justify the cost of devel-

oping a contingency plan.

Starting Places

Business owners are encouraged to use the links below to learn more about being prepared to deal with disasters. Many sample plans are available on the Internet (try searching on “disaster recovery plan”). Perhaps your business already did some disaster planning related to Y2K. Consider saving some money and effort by converting your Y2K plan to a business continuity plan.

Disaster Resistant Communities In Colorado

There are several communities in Colorado that are participating in a federal (FEMA) program that provides seed money for making communities more resistant to disasters. The program fosters public/private partnerships that are mutually beneficial. Consider contacting your local emergency management office for more information:

Park County Office of Emergency
Management
(719) 836-4372

Special Considerations For Seniors and People With Disabilities

People with disabilities, or those who have mobility problems (such as elderly persons), should also prepare for emergencies and disasters. They may want to consider some of the following steps:

Create a network of relatives, friends or co-workers to assist in an emergency.

If you think you may need assistance in a disaster, discuss your disability with relatives, friends or co-workers and ask for their help. For example, if you need help moving or require special arrangements to receive emergency messages, make a plan with friends. Make sure they know



where you keep your disaster supplies. Give a key to a neighbor or friend who may be able to assist you in a disaster.

Individual Preparedness

- ✓ Compile and maintain a list of medications, allergies, special equipment, names and numbers of doctors, pharmacists and family members and emergency phone numbers (police, fire and ambulance). Keep one copy of this list with you at all times and one copy on the fridge or at the phone. Also, consider giving a copy to another family member and a friend or neighbor.
- ✓ Include a spare pair of eyeglasses and extra medication in your emergency supplies, which should be kept at your bedside.
- ✓ Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to identify your disability or medical condition in case of an emergency. These may save your life if you are in need of medical attention and cannot communicate.
- ✓ Store extra batteries for hearing aids, wheelchairs and other battery-powered assistive devices with your emergency supplies.
- ✓ Store pet food, pet carrier, pet medications and a leash with emergency supplies.
- ✓ Keep walking aids nearby at all times.
- ✓ Post your home address, phone number, and directions to your house near the phone to aid in your instruction to the emergency personnel.
- ✓ Have a battery operated portable radio available for news and alerts.
- ✓ Know the location of the nearest fire station, police station and hospital.

Home Preparedness

- ✓ Prepare to be self-sufficient for at least three days with an emergency supply kit that includes water, any special dietary items, sanitary aids, cooking and eating utensils, flashlight, batteries, radio, blankets, prescription drugs, a change of clothing and a well-stocked first aid kit.
- ✓ Develop a plan with neighbors and/or family on



how and where to reunite if you become separated. Conduct practice drills to prepare for an emergency.

In the Event of a Disaster

- ✓ Listen to your portable radio for instructions and news reports.
- ✓ If you evacuate, leave an easily visible message at your home about where you can be found.

Simple prevention measures can help seniors have significant control over the outcome of a disaster or emergency.

Advanced preparation can reduce fear and anxiety during any emergency, and will certainly help in the hours and days following an event. In Park County, the Park County Senior Coalition maintains a database of seniors using their services. This list may be accessed in an emergency to help identify seniors who live alone and/or may require special assistance or neighbors who could check on a senior's well being.

If you would like to add your name or that of a neighbor please contact:

Park County Senior Coalition
P.O. Box 309
Fairplay, Co 80440
719-836-4295 phone 719-836-0197 fax
scopfpc@parkco.us

Children's Safety

(Courtesy of the National Crime Prevention Council, National Sheriffs' Association and Radio Shack)



Many students must travel through drug-dealer or gang turf. Violence becomes an acceptable way to settle conflicts. When this happens, children cannot learn and teachers cannot teach. Creating a safe place where children can learn and grow depends on a partnership among students, parents and teachers, as well as other community institutions.

To Help Prevent School Violence:

- Find out how crime threatens schools in your community.
- Take action to protect children.
- Promote nonviolent ways to manage conflict.

How Do These Ideas Translate Into Action?

Here are some practical suggestions for young people and parents.

Students:

- Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons.
- Report crimes or suspicious activities to the police, school authorities or parents.
- Take safe routes to and from school and know places to seek help.
- Don't use alcohol or other drugs and stay away from places and people associated with them.
- Get involved in your school's anti-violence activities, have poster contests against violence, hold anti-drug rallies

and volunteer to counsel peers. If there are no programs, help start one.

Parents:

- Sharpen your parenting skills. Work with your child to emphasize and build their positive strengths.
- Teach your children how to reduce their risk of being victims of crime.
- Know where your kids are, what they are doing and with whom they are doing it with — at all times!
- Help your children learn nonviolent ways to handle frustration, anger and conflict.
- Become involved in your child's school activities — PTA, field trips and helping out in class or lunchroom.

- Work with other parents in your neighborhood to start a McGruff House or other block program. (A McGruff House is a reliable source of help for children in emergency or frightening situations. Volunteers must meet specific standards, including a law-enforcement record check. Programs are established locally as a partnership among law enforcement, schools and community organizations. For information, call 801-486-8768.)



Creating a Basic Emergency Plan

Having a plan is one of the most important steps you can take in disaster preparedness. Knowing what to do and how to do it can help your family manage disasters with less worry, fear and uncertainty.

- Decide what you and your family would do in each potential emergency situation.
- Draw a floor plan of your home showing escape routes.
- Choose a place away from your neighborhood where family members can meet in case you are separated and cannot return home due to a disaster.
- Identify a friend or relative who lives out of the area for family members to contact if you are separated.
- Post emergency numbers by every phone and teach children how and when to dial 911.
- Know how to shut off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches in your home.
- Plan how to help elderly or disabled neighbors in a disaster.
- Check that your insurance policies are up-to-date and provide good coverage.

Preparing a Disaster Supply Kit

What is a 3-day (72 hour) Disaster Supply Kit?

A 3-day disaster supply kit should contain items to provide for the basic needs of each member of the family in the event of an emergency.

Having a disaster supply kit ready to take with you at a moment's notice ensures that you will have necessary supplies no matter how fast you may need to evacuate. Pack supplies in duffel bags or backpacks and keep them in a designated place. Your kit will also come in handy if you must take shelter in your home. The lists on the following pages will help ensure that your disaster supply kit includes all the essentials.

Each individual should customize the kit to meet his or her personal needs, but keep in mind that this reserve should be an all-hazards kit. You must ask yourself, "What are the potential hazards in my community?"

Family Emergency Information & Emergency Kits

72 Hour Family Emergency Kit

*(Courtesy of The Colorado Division
of Emergency Management)*

The 72 Hour Emergency Kit should be individually tailored to meet the basic survival needs of your family for three days to a week. Most families prefer to store their emergency supplies in one location that is relatively safe, yet easily accessible if evacuation is required. Items may be stored in a 32-gallon trash can, suitcase, duffle bag, backpack, footlocker or individual pack.

The items under Emergency Needs are recommended for your kit.

Emergency Needs

- Battery Powered Radio
- First Aid Kit & Manual
- Sleeping Bags & Blankets (wool & thermal)
- Manual Can Opener
- Waterproof/Windproof Matches
- Non-Perishable Foods (3 days worth)
- Flashlights
- Water Storage (1 gal./person/day)
- Water purification tablets
- Utility Knife

- Emergency Candles
- Extra Eyeglasses/Contact Lenses
- Essential Medications
- Extra Clothing and raingear
- Extra Batteries
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled members of your household

Suggested non-perishable food items:

Ready-to-eat goods in unbreakable containers, canned meats, juice, fruits & vegetables, powdered milk, infant care foods, crackers, peanut butter, freeze-dried & dehydrated goods.

Sanitation Kit

- Plastic Bucket with Tight Lid
- Plastic Bags & Ties
- Disinfectant
- Improvised Toilet Seat
- Paper Cups & Plates
- Personal Toiletries
- Baby Supplies
- Aluminum Foil
- Paper Towels
- Personal Hygienic Needs
- Plastic Utensils
- Soap

Other Emergency Needs

- Pen & Paper
- Money
- Personal Identification
- Address & Phone Numbers
- Work Gloves
- Basic Tools
- Insurance company information
- Medical insurance and other information

Standard First Aid Kit

- First Aid Manual
- Aspirin or Pain Relievers
- Laxatives
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Diarrhea Medicine
- Petroleum Jelly
- Soap
- Salt
- Gauze
- Band-Aid
- Triangular Bandage (36"x36"x52")
- Elastic Bandage
- Cotton Balls
- Cotton Swabs
- Safety Pins
- Scissors
- Thermometer
- Sanitary Napkins (Pressure Dressing)
- Disposable Diapers (Dressing/Splint/Padding)
- Micropore Adhesive, Paper Tape
- Matches
- Needles
- Tweezers
- Small Splints, Popsicle Sticks
- Heavy String
- Syrup of Ipecac
- Individual Medical Needs
- Baking Soda (1/2 tsp. soda + 1 tsp. salt + 1 qt. water for shock)

Car Survival Kit

- Always Maintain at Least 1/2 Tank of Gas
- First Aid Kit & Manual
- Class ABC Fire Extinguisher
- Radio & Batteries
- Non-Perishable Food Stored in Coffee Can

- Bottled Water
- Bag of Sand, Shovel & Tools
- Blankets or Sleeping Bags
- Sundry Kit, Paper & Pencil, Map, Tissues, Premoistened Towels, Plastic Bags, Essential Medications
- Flashlights & Batteries
- Reflectors & Flares
- Waterproof Matches & Candles
- Jumper Cables
- Short Rubber Hose to Siphon



PLAN FOR YOUR PET:

Food (Large Capacity Self-Feeder and Water Dispenser)
Water
Cat litter and pan
Can opener
Medications / Medical Records
Pet bed and toys
Sturdy leashes, harnesses and carrier to transport pets safely
Current photo of pet in case they get lost
Designate someone to care for pets in case of an emergency.
Name and number of veterinarian

Family Emergency Information and Emergency Kits *Continued*

Make Copies of All Legal Papers

- Marriage License
- House Mortgage
- Vacation Home/Property Ownership
- Automotive Ownership
- Motor Home Ownership
- Wills
- Jewelry Appraisals
- Drivers Licenses
- Trailers, Snowmobiles, Boat Ownerships
- Insurance Policies
- Bank Accounts

How to Store Water

Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances.

Emergency Outdoor Water Sources

If you need to find water outside your home, you can use these sources. Be sure to purify the water by:

- Boiling
- Disinfection (household liquid bleach: 16 drops/gal. of water, stir & let stand 30 min.)

Sources:

- Rainwater
- Streams, Rivers & Other Moving Bodies of Water
- Ponds & Lakes
- Natural Springs

Establish an Out-Of-State 24-Hour Telephone Contact

Out-going calls will not overload phone lines as will calls coming into a disaster area.

- All relatives should be informed now on procedures to call the out-of-state phone contact for information, not after a disaster has occurred.
- Take color pictures of every room plus pictures of valuables. Send one copy of legal papers and one copy of pictures to an out-of-state contact.

Plan How Your Family Will Stay in Contact if Separated by Disaster

Pick two meeting places:

- A location a safe distance from your home in case of fire
- A place outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home

Other Considerations

- Stock supplies to last several days to a week for each family member.
- Be prepared to relocate to a shelter during a prolonged power outage.
- Have extra cash on hand in case electronic transactions (ATM card, credit cards, etc.) cannot be processed.
- Work with your family in talking about the steps each needs to take to be ready if disaster happens.

Preparedness is everyone's job. Every individual, family and organization should have a plan of action in case of an emergency or disaster. During the first few hours or days following an occurrence, essential services may not be available. People must be ready to act on their own.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Meet with your neighbors to plan how you can work together after a disaster until help arrives. If you're a member of a neighborhood association or crime watch group, introduce disaster preparedness as a new activity. Know your neighbors' special skills (i.e. medical, technical), and consider how you could help those who have special needs, such as disabled or elderly neighbors. Make plans for childcare in case parents cannot get home. Being a good neighbor not only helps others, it also has mutual benefits for your family in case of an emergency situation.

Evacuation

If you are warned to evacuate your home and move to another location temporarily, there are certain things to remember to do. Here are the most important ones: **Follow the Instructions and Advice of Your Local Government.** If you are told to evacuate, do so promptly. If you are instructed to go to a certain location, go there—**DON'T** go any-

where else. If certain travel routes are specified or recommended, use those routes rather than trying to find short cuts of your own. If you are advised to shut off your water, gas, or electric service before leaving home, do so. Also, find out on the radio where emergency housing and mass feeding stations are located, in case you need to use them.

Shelter in Place.

In a chemical emergency, or a public health emergency, you may be told to shelter in place. This means staying where you are and making yourself as safe as possible until the emergency passes or you are told to evacuate. In this situation it is safer to remain indoors than to go outside where the air is unsafe to breathe.

If you are told to shelter in place:

- Close all windows in your home.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper
- Go to an above ground room (not the basement) with the fewest windows and doors.
- Take your disaster supplies with you.
- Stay in the room and listen to your radio until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

First Aid

During any major disaster, emergency personnel may not be able to reach injured or sick persons for a considerable period of time. People will have to help each other during the emergency, and will have to depend on their knowledge of first aid and emergency care.

Both adults and teenagers can acquire these valuable skills by taking a First Aid Course offered by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association. These courses are given at various locations throughout the state.

In medical emergency situations:

- . Assess the situation.
- . Immediately notify the appropriate agency.

Call 911 (or the appropriate number in your community). Give the following information:

1. Nature of the emergency
2. Exact location and cross street
3. Your name
4. Telephone number from which you are calling. Most 911 operators can and will give instructions on emergency first aid until help arrives.

Remain on the line. Do not hang up before the operator tells you to, as additional information may be needed, and/or first aid instructions may be given.

CPR Training

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) consists of mouth-to-mouth respiration and chest compression. CPR allows oxygenated blood to circulate to vital organs such as the brain and heart. CPR can keep a person alive until more advanced procedures (such as defibrillation — an electric shock to the chest) can treat the cardiac arrest. CPR started by a bystander doubles the likelihood of survival for victims of cardiac arrest.

Training is available from:

1. Some fire districts and EMS agencies. Call your local emergency services provider for more details.
2. The American Heart Association
3. The American Red Cross



Photo: Courtesy of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office

Use the following symptom/situation guidelines and common sense to determine what is a true medical emergency and when to call 911:

- Persistent or sudden chest pain;
- Breathing emergencies;
- Uncontrollable bleeding;
- Changes in level of consciousness due to injury;
- Life threatening injuries, such as injuries from falling, severe head injuries, severe burns, etc.).

The above are only some potential life-threatening emergencies. Immediately call for medical assistance in emergency situations since time is of the utmost importance.

*If you are unsure about the seriousness of the situation **DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 911***

The following are general guidelines for any medical emergency. They do not and should not replace the need for first aid training.

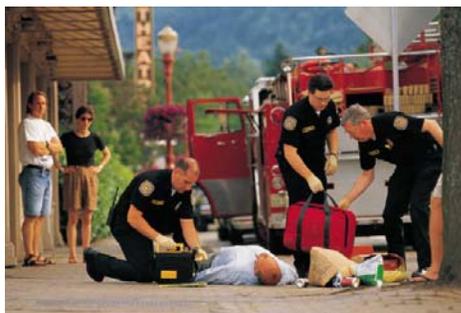
1. DO NO HARM. Often well-meaning but untrained persons aggravate the injury or illness in their attempt to help. Get competent medical assistance, if possible. If there is no one available who is better qualified, then take charge. Access 911 or your community's emergency medical system.

2. Treat for shock. Try to keep the victim warm at normal body temperature. Keep legs slightly elevated. If there is a suspected neck or back injury, keep victim lying flat.

3. Initially don't move the injured patient, unless a danger exists. They should not be moved until breathing is restored, bleeding controlled, suspected broken bones splinted, and/or rescue personnel arrive.

4. Never risk injury to yourself in an effort to assist an injured person. Death or injury to a rescuer does nothing to help the injured person and only complicates a bad situation.

5. Take a Red Cross or American Heart Association first aid or CPR class so you are prepared in the event of an emergency.



Emergency Preparedness Information:

Rocky Mountain Poison Center (for toxic exposure and advice):
(303) 739-1123 or (800) 332-3073; <http://www.rmpdc.org>

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/>

Colorado Division of Emergency Management:
<http://www.dola.colorado.gov/dem/index.html>

Colorado Department of Public Safety
<http://cdpsweb.state.co.us/>

Colorado Department of Transportation
<http://www.dot.state.co.us/>

Colorado State Patrol
<http://csp.state.co.us/>

University of Colorado Natural Hazards Center
<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/>

Colorado State Forest Service
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/>

USDA—United States Forest Service
<http://www.fs.fed.us/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov

Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov 1-800-311-3435

National Weather Service - NOAA
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Salvation Army
http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn.nsf

Citizen Corps
<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

Ready.gov
<http://www.ready.gov/>

United Way
<http://national.unitedway.org/>

Emergency Contact Information:

Emergency contact person: _____

Emergency contact phone and address: _____

Meeting place #1 (near home): _____

Meeting place #2 (away from home): _____

Cell/home phone and address: _____

Hospital (name, address and phone): _____

Neighborhood Association: _____

Veterinarian: _____

Emergency shelter for pets: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____



Sponsored by:

**Park County Office of Emergency Management
PO Box 1373, Fairplay, CO 80440
Phone: (719) 836-4372
www.parkco.us/oem.htm**

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