

Be Fire Inspired. Be Fire Ready!

What to do now to be prepared

- Practice emergency drills with your family
- Know how to treat wounds
- Have a cell phone
- Register for reverse 911 calls at www.elpasoteller911.org
- Develop outdoor water supply with hoses, nozzle, and pump to reach entire house and out buildings
- Create a list of all your belongings; take pictures; make a video of all belongings, talking about each and store in a safe place
- Prepare a list of valuables to take with you
- Create Master Disaster kit
- Install smoke detectors with carbon monoxide detectors and test quarterly
- Make sure address signs are clearly visible from the street
- Make your driveway accessible (10 feet wide with a height clearance of 10 feet and no sharp turns)
- Have fire tools, ladder, and fire extinguishers available
- Remove trash and debris accumulations from around your property
- Stack firewood uphill at least 30 feet away from house
- Thin brush and prune trees to 6 feet up from the ground
- Remove branches that overhang within 15 feet of roof and chimney
- Remove trees growing through porch, deck, or near your roof
- Install screen or spark arrestor on your chimney
- Enclose sides of stilt foundations and decks
- Install only non-combustible roof material
- Install screens on foundation and eave vents
- Install shutters, fire curtains, or heavy drapes on windows

What to do before evacuating

- Determine where separated family members will meet
- Fill evacuation vehicle gas tank and park evacuation vehicle heading toward street and travel route
- Close evacuation car windows but DO NOT LOCK CAR and leave keys in ignition while loading the car
- Prepare an "information note" to leave on the door detailing who you are and where you have gone
- In your "information note" tell where flammables are (such as lawnmower gas, ammo, chemicals – and move them all into one place)
- Close garage door but leave it unlocked (disconnect automatic garage door opener)
- Turn off appliances, thermostats, fireplaces, stoves
- Move overstuffed furniture away from windows
- Close fire resistant window coverings, heavy drapes, and Venetian blinds
- Fill bathtubs, sinks, and containers with water
- Remove lace, nylon, or light material drapes and curtains
- Soak burlap sacks, small rugs, and large rags in containers
- Disconnect propane tank or turn off natural gas at meter
- If you know about the fire in advance try to take your pet to a shelter
- Release any livestock in the area
- Make safety equipment obvious for firefighters (spigots, ladders, chain saws, hoses, etc.)
- Place a ladder against the roof of the house on the side opposite the approaching fire
- Plug air vents and openings that are close to the ground
- Leave one light on in each general area so firefighters can see your house in the dark and smoke
- Don't lock your doors so firefighters have access to defend and save your home
- Follow any official agency's evacuation instructions

Be sure to take with you

- Car keys
- Medications and prescriptions (for people *and* pets)
- Computer and electronics including cell phones (take chargers too)
- Purse and/or wallet
- Irreplaceable keepsakes, original paintings, photos and albums, slides, movies, home videos, etc.

Additional items to take

- Cameras, chargers and/or extra batteries
- Covered container to use as an emergency toilet
- Reading material/recreational items

For more help

Red Cross of the Pikes Peak Region
1040 S 8th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
(719) 632-3563

Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region
610 Abbot Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
719-473-1741

Let your family know you are safe by using Safe and Well: 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)