ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT
Firewise News
News from Oracle Fire District to the community . . .

To Residents of Oracle . . .

In May 2016, the Oracle Fire District hosted a Town Hall meeting that focused on emergency evacuations.

When we consider the fires in Arizona, like the Cedar Creek fire near Show Low, we are aware of how important it is to protect our homes by creating a defensible space. But that isn't enough. We also need to develop a safety plan for our family in the event we have to leave our home. That plan should include a number of things that we have listed in this newsletter. Lastly, should we have to evacuate from our homes to survive a wildfire, there are additional points that we need to keep in mind.

In this newsletter, we have tried to introduce you to several key factors to help you survive a wildfire. Because we live in beautiful Oracle with the wonderful trees and vegetation, it's not a matter of *if* we have a wildfire – it's a matter of *when* and whether or not we are prepared.

Not only will you find information about **"Ready, Set, Go"** in this newsletter, there is additional information at the Oracle Fire District office and our website: **OracleFire.org**. And if you haven't already, don't forget to sign up for the Emergency Notification System (ENS). It's free, your information is kept confidential and it's a means of communication when there is a fire in our community or the area surrounding our community.

Sincerely,
Larry Southard, Fire Chief, Oracle Fire District

Firewise Tips . . .

- Be sure your home address can be seen easily from the street.
- Thin, trim and cut trees, shrubs, and grass back from your home creating a defensible space.
- Remove leaves from roof and gutters and lumber from around your house.
- Stay with the barbeque grill while cooking.
- Park your car away from tall grass.
- Watch out when welding or using lawn equipment that might generate a spark.
- Prevent ember penetration by clearing needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Replace or repair faulty roofing and caulk gaps or openings on roof.
- Remove flammable materials including firewood stacks, portable propane tanks, and dry vegetation within 30 feet from your home's foundation and other buildings.
- Talk to your neighbors and create an Action Plan to address your wildfire safety challenges.
- Ask OFD for a free Firewise Property Assessment for your property.
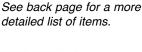
The Five 'Ps' of Immediate Evacuation . . .

PICTURES   PAPERS   PHONE   PILLS   PETS

See back page for a more detailed list of items.

ReadyForWildfire.org and oraclefire.org websites have many tips to assist you in evacuation and what to do if trapped and can't get out and what to do when the evacuation notice is lifted.

Sign up at OFD for the ENS (Early Notification Emergency System!)

Oracle Fire District   •   www.oraclefire.org

Ready . . . To be ready in the event of a wildfire, you have to be responsible for your home and property. It starts by creating the defensible space that has been covered in previous Oracle Fire District (OFD) newsletters, brochures, and the tips in this newsletter. Often, it's not the fire that will burn a structure down, it's the **embers** that the wind blows towards the home and property, that will cause extensive damage. The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety has conducted studies on how quickly a wildfire ember storm can burn down a home and provides the homeowner many tips to protect your property on their website: *https://disastersafety.org.* There are other websites including ours at *oraclefire.org* that have pertinent information to protect our homes.

Set . . . Preparation for an evacuation should occur well before an order to evacuate is ever given. To be prepared, create an **Action Plan** and/or a **"Go Kit"** that includes all members of your household. Remember, important **documents** like drivers license, birth certificates, insurance policy numbers, health insurance cards, medications, etc. Include emergency **contact numbers**, location of electrical and gas shut off valves, and **photos** and memorable items that cannot be replaced. Don't forget to plan how to notify your family should they not be at home and a meeting location. Have someone outside the area that you and your family members can call when an evacuation notice is given. Plan several exits from your home out of the community and then practice the plan with your children. Don't forget the family **pets** – who will pick them up and where will you take them, or if they are too large to transport in a vehicle. Include family members or neighbors that might need assistance. Have your vehicle fueled and cash on hand for expenses. Credit and debit card machines may not be functioning if power is off.

If you are alone and need assistance in evacuating, speak with neighbors or nearby family members, who would be able to assist you (and your pets) in evacuating and have a plan in place. If you have no one, contact OFD about the Pinal County Home Alone Program *(see below).* If you are involved with this program and have no family member or neighbor to assist you, use the Alert button.

Go . . . When you receive an Emergency Notification call from the OFD office or a law enforcement officer arrives at your door to tell you to evacuate, pick up your "Go Kit," your evacuation plans and checklist, any emergency supplies you and your family might need, the family pets and go where directed.

Oracle is divided into sections and should a section need to evacuate, residents in that area would be notified by a call from the Emergency Notification System (ENS) and/or by a sheriff's deputy or DPS Trooper using a megaphone in the neighborhood or going door-to-door. All agencies i.e.: Sheriff's Office, DPS, OFD, FEMA, Red Cross, etc. would unify under an Incident Command officer and jointly work to control the fire or emergency and evacuate the residents in the affected area safely. The mission expressed by Sheriff Babeau is to ensure each person's safety. To do that, however, there is an obligation on the resident's part to follow directions given by the officer. Once an area is evacuated, residents can not return until the evacuation is lifted. This is for the homeowner/resident's safety.

Emergency Evacuation List:

Personal Items:
- Cash in small bills
- Checks/credit cards
- Important documents
- Eyeglasses & cleaner
- Prescription Medications
- Cell phone & charger
- Contact phone numbers
- Camera & supplies
- Photos
- Jewelry
- Computer backup drives
- Books

For Children:
- Toys, books
- Spare clothes
- Sleepwear
- Infant supplies

Pet Needs:
- Water
- Pet food & bowls
- Pet medications
- Pet toys, chews
- Leashes, collars, tags
- Pet blankets
- Vaccinations records
- Pet crates

Other necessities:
- Water, water, water! *(all you can bring!)*
- Portable radio
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Map(s)
- Stove, folding
- Sterno
- First-Aid Kit
- Bags, plastic-lg, sm

- Rope
- Candles
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Paper plates, plastic silverware
- Drinking cups
- Matches
- Flashlights
- Face masks
- Wipes
- Food
- Snacks, fruit, nuts *(hi-calorie)*
- Can opener, manual
- Pocket knife
- Disposable gloves
- Trash bags
- Blanket(s)
- Drop cloths/tarps
- Clothing, shoes
- Raingear
- Hats, caps, gloves
- Ice chest w/plastic bags
- Paper, pens, markers
- Notebook, scissors
- Whistle
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Meds, over-the-counter
- Sunscreen/chapstick
- Insect repellent
- Kleenex
- Soap & towels
- Hand gel, disinfectant
- Glo-sticks
- Water-purifier tablets

You can also find this list on our website: www.oraclefire.org

Pinal County Home Alone . . .

The Pinal County Home Alone Program is available in Oracle. It is a great resource to help our more vulnerable population. The program connects residents with the Pinal County Sheriff's office. A landline phone is required for the unit to work. For more information, please call Oracle Fire District at 896-2980.

The purpose of this system is to provide assistance to people who may suffer with medical issues and/or for elderly persons who may be at higher risk for falls or medical emergencies.

The yellow personal medical information form (available at the OFD office) provides details on conditions or special needs the resident may need to address in case of evacuation or emergency.

Oracle Fire District celebrates its 50th Anniversary – 1966-2016

Oracle Firewise Board / Oracle Fire District
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