

EMERGENCY EVACUATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP GUIDELINES

UPDATED 4/12/2021

HISTORY/COORDINATOR CONTACTS

We began this program in 2007 with the idea that Timberlake needed a system in place to help evacuate the neighborhood in case of a fire emergency. Several years ago, it was expanded to include alerts for suspicious vehicles/people. Because of our efforts we have only had a few reported cases of vandalism in the last three years. Presently, we are expanding the program to include an emphasis on education and the institution of specific Wildfire Mitigation projects to help prevent forest fires in our community.

Emergency Evacuation Information and forms (Zone Coordinators, Zone map, etc.) can be found on the TRLA website (www.trnews.info). Click on Emergency, then Emergency Evacuation, then Emergency Evacuation & Neighborhood. You can also click on Forms, then Emergency Evacuation Form, then Emergency Evacuation & Neighborhood Watch. Helicopter information is also in this section. Coordinator and map information is also on the bulletin boards by the Timberlake Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Bath House. The development is divided into 11 zones and there are Zone Coordinators in place to help us keep your phone numbers, e-mails, etc. up to date. You can email questions to: timberlakewatch@gmail.com or call:

Co-Coordinator – Mary Jo Wallen, 505-269-5022 (May be moving out of state in summer, 2021).

Co-Coordinator – Nancy Wills, 783-2457 or 520-975-0528

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

- 1. In any emergency, please call 911 first. Remember to tell Dispatch that you are in District 55 in Timberlake.**
- 2. The Non-Emergency 911 Dispatch number is 1-505-722-2002. If you want to register your 911 phone number, you can call this number to make sure your correct address is associated with the 911 number (especially important if you travel a lot).**
- 3. Sign up for Code Red system for the county you live in (see front page of TRLA website).**
- 4. Timberlake Volunteer Fire Dept. – Andy Wilson at 783-4704, Julie Farrell at 602-920-1384, Bill Sanders at 783-2463 or Wade Aubuchon at 505-250-1408.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. An evacuation may require immediately leaving your residence with just the clothes on your back, to having a 24-hour notice before you would need to evacuate.
2. Evacuations can either be voluntary or mandatory. Only the NM Governor can initiate a mandatory evacuation.
3. If the evacuation is an immediate evacuation, only emergency vehicles will be allowed to enter the Timberlake area. Access will be restricted no matter what in an evacuation.
4. If you choose to stay after an evacuation has been initiated, we may not have the personnel or resources to dedicate to help protecting you and your home. Is your driveway wide enough for emergency vehicles to get in, turn around and leave?
5. If emergency vehicles do not have easy access and egress to and from your home, your home will not be defended. The Volunteer Fire Dept. uses a triage system in selecting which houses they will defend. Please contact either Andy Wilson at 783-4704, Julie Farrell at 602-920-1384, Bill Sanders at 783-2463 or Wade Aubuchon at 505-250-1408. if you need more specific information, such as having a 30' clear area around your

home and/or campfire area and at least a 16' wide driveway (which is the bare minimum with 20'+ being the optimum). Driveway width should be at least 12' with 14' of overhead clearance from branches.

6. Communications

- a. The Volunteer Fire Dept. will notify either Mary Jo Wallen, Nancy Wills or a Board Member that an evacuation is necessary. Coordinators will then notify landowners via our Phone Tree system (by phone and email) and/or the Volunteer Fire Dept. will be driving around the neighborhood with their pa system on two trucks (if there is time). If you have concerns and cannot reach anyone by telephone, you should go to the Volunteer Fire Dept. and/or the Ranch House where someone should have the most up-to-date information.
- b. If you are registered with the Code Red system and a large-scale evacuation is being called, you should also receive a similar alert from them around the same time or before that we get notices out to landowners.
- c. As people evacuate, we will try to have someone available to check off names so that we have an accurate accounting of everyone. If we leave via Highway 53, the check off point would be close to Highway 53. If we would have to evacuate via Forest Road 157, the access point would be at that intersection.
- d. If a fire would only require a small evacuation area, it is possible that we could evacuate to the Ranch House since it is an open area with water "sometimes" close by. Tents or campers could be accommodated in this area. If there is no time to accomplish this check, it is very important that you call Mary Jo Wallen or Nancy Wills within a day of your departure on their cell phone numbers.
- e. If horses cannot be evacuated, the Ranch House area could also be considered a safe area. You should have at least 4 day's worth of food and water for them. If you cannot evacuate animals, notify Cibola County Animal Services at 505-285-4012. For McKinley County, call McKinley County Emergency Management Office at 505-722-4246 and they will contact Animal Control for both counties if necessary. Or you can call Gallup McKinley County Animal Control directly at 505-863-2616. The Emergency Management Offices for McKinley and Cibola Counties encourages us to have a "buddy system" to help each other – especially those with horses. If you do not have a trailer or a friend lined up to help you if assistance is needed, please contact Mary Jo Wallen.
- f. Law enforcement usually prevents people from returning to the area until the fire is under control. Please make sure you have your driver's license or other proof of residency in Timberlake. It is also suggested that you keep Timberlake green stickers on all your vehicles. If you need one, please contact Mary Jo Wallen or Nancy Wills.

MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. If you evacuate, we will want you to close all windows and doors including garage doors, leave your doors unlocked and leave the front porch light on to indicate that you have evacuated and/or so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions. If there is time, remove all shades and curtains from windows and move furniture to the center of the room. Also, if there is time bring combustible items from the outside (e.g., patio furniture, toys, door mats, etc.) to the inside.
2. Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning.
3. Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
4. Leave exterior lights on.
5. Have a ladder(s) available.
6. Extinguish all small fires until you leave
7. Cover attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.
8. Move equipment or vehicles into areas clear of flammable vegetation.

10 EVACUATION PRINCIPLES (PROVIDED BY NMSU – NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY)

LEAVE EARLY – FORGET THE GARDEN HOSE (you do not have time now) – TURN ON HEADLIGHTS – DRIVE CAUTIOUSLY & TRY TO REMAIN CALM TO MAKE RATIONAL DECISIONS

1. **People**
2. **Prescriptions**
3. **Phone**
4. **Pets**

If you have more time to evacuate:

5. **Photos**
6. **Purse/Wallet/Credit Cards**
7. **Personal Computer**
8. **Personal Items (ie: phone/computer chargers, clothes, toiletries, water for at least 3 days)**
9. **“Priceless” Items (ie: jewelry, coins, artwork, furniture, sentimental items,)**
10. **Papers (ie: Driver license, vehicle titles, insurance papers, will, inventory of household goods)**

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

1. An emergency kit should be kept in your vehicle/or assigned place where everyone in the household knows where it is located.
2. First aid kit and sanitation supplies.
3. 3-day supply of water (1 gallon per person, per day) and non-perishable food (3-day supply).
4. Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
5. Extra set of car keys, credit cards and cash.
6. Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions, and medications.
7. Important family documents and contact numbers insurance, proof of residence, driver’s license)
8. Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
9. Computers, cell phones.

MORE RESOURCES

1. The Ready, Set, Go brochure will be available on the TRLA website. Go to: www.wildlandfireRSG.org
2. New Mexico Fire Information Update - <https://nmfireinfo.com/>
3. New Mexico Living with Fire Guide to Prepare your Home & Survive a Wildfire- <https://nmfireinfo.com/information/>
4. After Wildfire: www.afterwildfirenm.org
5. Home Hazard Assessment – <http://forestguild.org/publications/research/2017/HomeAssessmentGuideSW.pdf>
6. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in New Mexico – <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/FireMgt/cwpps.html>
7. New Mexico Association of Counties – Wildfire Risk Reduction Program for Rural Communities – www.nmcounties.org/homepage/local-state-and-federal-collaboration/fire/
8. New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management: www.nmdhsem.org/wildfire-preparedness.aspx
9. Fire Adapted Communities: <http://www.fireadaptednm.org/>

Please remember that it is “our personal responsibility” to take precautions during the entire year – not just during a drought. Statistics show that more fires are man-made, although we do have a lot of lightning strikes in our area.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Please notify Mary Jo Wallen or Nancy Wills if you notice a suspicious vehicle or person. Call 911 first if you feel you are in danger. Never approach anyone by yourself. Law Enforcement, Mary Jo and Nancy needs as much information as possible. There is an Incident Reporting Form on the TRLA website under the Emergency section. The form asks for information such as: date & time of incident, location, description of suspect, vehicle info, was a weapon visible, etc.

CAMPFIRES

Please pay special attention to our local fire restrictions within Timberlake. Signs are located at the entrance to Timberlake and by the mailboxes/Vol Fire Dept. and on the front page of the TRLA website. If you have any questions, please call Andy Wilson at 783-4704, Julie Farrell at 602-920-1384, Bill Sanders at 783-2463 or Wade Aubuchon at 505-250-1408. If you abandon a campfire, this is considered negligence and you may be held responsible for any damages.

COMMUNICATIONS

We would encourage landowners to check the TRLA website and Facebook page at least every other week or so for important announcements. The Rosie Alert email system is also used for lost animals, planned power outages and suspicious persons and vehicles. If you want to be included in the Alert system, please contact Linda Pederson at Pete137@juno.com.