



Bachelor Gulch Metropolitan District Community Wildfire Evacuation Plan



THE BACHELOR GULCH COMMUNITY WILDFIRE EVACUATION PLAN is designed to assure the safe and efficient evacuation of the Bachelor Gulch Community in the event of a wildfire. The reason for this plan is to focus on the lives and safety of all residents, guests, employees and firefighters. The basic elements of this plan include the following;

- 1) Reporting Emergencies.
- 2) Chain of Command Process and Resources.
- 3) Wildfire Siren Decision Making Process.
- 4) Communication Process and Options.
- 5) Evacuation Preparations, Procedures and Routes

Each of these topics is summarized below in more detail.

1. REPORTING EMERGENCIES

All true emergencies should be reported by calling 911. Vail Dispatch handles all 911 calls for Eagle County and will dispatch the necessary emergency response team(s), including Fire District, Sheriff's Department and the Ambulance District. For all other incidents, contact Bachelor Gulch Public Safety (970-754-2345).

When reporting an emergency attempt to have the following information.

- Your name and home phone number.
- Nature of emergency — the more details the better.
- Exact location.
- The number and types of people involved.
- Are there any injuries? If so what kind of injuries?
- Are there any ongoing hazards? I.e. electrical wires, gas leaks etc.
- Call back numbers if there are alternatives. I.e. Other cell phones.

PLEASE DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL THE DISPATCHER HAS RECEIVED ALL OF THE INFORMATION!!

Whenever anyone sees or suspects smoke, within or outside of Bachelor Gulch, please contact Bachelor Gulch Public Safety (970-754-2345). Public Safety will attempt to have current information on local fires and controlled burns which may affect the Bachelor Gulch area. Bachelor Gulch Public Safety will investigate smoke reports that have not already been reported and coordinate with local response agencies.

2. CHAIN OF COMMAND PROCESS AND RESOURCES.

All emergency agencies in Eagle County utilize the Incident Command System (**ICS**). This system outlines chain of command and responsibilities during an emergency. If an emergency occurs in Bachelor Gulch, the County system will take over and remain in control until the agencies deactivate the emergency. The nature of the emergency dictates which agency will be in charge. For example, the fire district is normally in charge of fires and the ambulance district is normally in charge of medical emergencies.

The Eagle River Fire Protection District (ERFPD) is the primary responder for fires in and around Bachelor Gulch. If or when a single event exceeds the capabilities or resources of ERFPD a call for “Automatic Aid” will be sent to all of the fire districts located in the County. Additionally ERFPD can call on resources from thirteen Northwest Colorado Counties that have signed a Mutual Aid agreement.

3. Wildfire Siren Decision Making Process

Bachelor Gulch is equipped with an emergency response siren at the top of Daybreak Ridge. The siren will alert the Bachelor Gulch community that important wildfire information and communications will shortly be disseminated by the appropriate agency. The decision to sound the Wildfire Siren will originate from the Incident Command or the Unified Command. The siren will produce a loud pulsating blast generating for ten seconds at a high tone and then four seconds at a lower tone repeatedly for three-minutes. Alarm blasts from the siren will be heard throughout Bachelor Gulch. The alarm will sound every thirty (30) minutes for three-minutes as long as there is an emergency. This will coincide with the Eagle County E911 system notifying the community of any safety precautions or recommended actions. Information will be specific to and pertaining to an emergency in Bachelor Gulch. Once the emergency has passed, three (3)-thirty (30) second blasts will sound signifying all is clear.

There will be a public test of the siren on the 1st day of each month at noon from May through October

4. COMMUNICATION PROCESS AND OPTIONS

The E911 system encompasses Reverse 911 and ECAAlert electronic messaging, both of which are available to anyone who has access to a home phone, computer email, mobile or smart phone. Reverse 911 is automatically executed to all landline home phones; however computer email, mobile and smart phones require prior registration through the ECAAlert website in order to receive emergency alerts automatically. ECAAlert signup can be found at www.ecalert.org. It is highly recommended that each and every person sign up for these services and become familiar with receiving information from one of these sources. If you are not registered to receive automatic transmissions, further information relating to the sounding of the siren can be found on the www.ecalert.org website by choosing “Latest Alerts.”

During a fire there can be a loss of power. **Cordless phones and phone recorders do not work if there is no electricity.** Fire Fighters do their best to prevent the disruption of service; however it is recommended that all homes keep one hardwired telephone that will work in the event there is no electricity or if no mobile phone is signed up to receive Reverse 911 calls.

5. EVACUATION PREPARATIONS, PROCEDURES AND ROUTES

What Do I do if I need to evacuate?

1. Close all windows and doors, including the garage door.
2. Park vehicles inside of the garage facing the outside, with the keys in the ignition. Keep the garage door closed.
3. Thin or fine textured window coverings should be pulled back or removed from windows. The radiant heat through windows will ignite curtains.
4. Very heavy window coverings may be left in place and drawn closed as they may provide insulation.
5. If you have a garden hose leave it attached to an outside faucet.
6. Turn off the gas and electric at the main disconnects.
7. If you have a ladder, lean it against the house to provide access to the roof.
8. Remove combustible material away from the house, especially firewood and propane tanks.

Successfully preparing for a wildfire enables you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property. The Ready, Set, Go! Program is a nationwide educational message to better achieve a common goal of wildfire preparedness.

- **Ready** – Preparing for the Fire Threat: Be Ready, Be Fire Wise. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Make sure all residents residing within the home are on the same page and, plan escape routes. For more information about how to be Ready for wildfires, go to Firewise.org
- **Set** – Situational Awareness When a Fire Starts: Pack your vehicle with your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news from local media and your local fire department for information on the fire.
- **Go** – Act early! Following your action plan not only makes you prepared, but helps firefighter's best respond to a wild land fire, This strengthens both yours and their safety.

Learn more about Ready, Set, Go! Program by visiting <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org>

Authorities will normally issue Evacuation Notices with sufficient time to allow all involved parties to exit via the developed roads like Bachelor Gulch Trail or Strawberry Park access road. Part of the Bachelor Gulch wildfire mitigation plan is to protect these important arteries. In the event one of the developed roads becomes impassable there are numerous alternative routes that can provide **emergency exits**, as dictated by Incident Command and/or the Sheriffs Office. Most of these routes are mountain dirt roads or skiways that are not developed, hardened or maintained. Usage of these roads will be closely monitored and may be limited to 4 wheel drive vehicles. These routes could include but may not be limited to the following;

Primary Route

Bachelor Gulch Trail to Prater Lane

Secondary Routes

Daybreak Ridge to the *Strawberry Park* access road into Strawberry Park, exiting through Beaver Creek.

Bachelor Ridge to *Horizon*, then accessing the mountain road down through Arrowhead. There is an additional mountain road that connects *Horizon* to *Daybreak Ridge*.

Possible Alternative Routes

Peak View, onto the Homeowner's skiway which leads to Ridge Rider that then exits onto *Tall Timber* and *Bachelor Ridge*.

Elkhorn, onto the Homeowner's skiway called Anderson Alley, which leads to "Leave the Beav" skiway, which ends at Prater Lane.

Tall Timber, exit the cul-de-sac onto Homefire skiway which then leads to Ridge Rider skiway.

It is possible that some conditions may not allow needed evacuation routes. When this happens a "Safe Zone" is the best alternative. Bachelor Gulch has two designated safety zones. The first is the large open area located south of the Ritz Carlton hotel that is accessed from either Bachelor Ridge or Daybreak Ridge. The other area is next to an existing large clearing which is next to the snowmaking pond located off of the spur road at the top of Daybreak Ridge. Follow the McCoy Park road approximately 1000 feet up to the clearing. These areas have very little combustible material to burn. Safe Zones should only be used at the direction of Incident Command and as a last resort in the event all other routes become impassible.

Once the order to evacuate is issued, entry and re-entry will be either extremely limited or prohibited. Entry gates will be staffed by Public Safety and Law Enforcement. Any entry that is authorized will be limited to essential personnel. Decisions to allow re-entry must go through the Incident Command.

We suggest these guidelines be posted in your home for easy access by you and your guest!