

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## *Emergencies happen . . . What are YOU going to do about it?*

In the last five years BMFPD firefighters and medical responders have responded to an average of 170 emergency incidents each year. Some are small – and some have affected the entire district; but even the small ones can have life or death implications. There have been house fires, floods, motor vehicle accidents, a bunch of wildland fire starts and many, many serious medical emergencies.

## *Be Prepared !*

There are things that **YOU** can do – *now, before any emergency happens* – that can significantly improve the outcome of any emergency situation.

Part of responsible mountain living is being prepared for emergencies we can anticipate. Being part of the community can include cooperating with neighbors to provide mutual assistance when needed. Some of the preparedness measures listed here can benefit you, your family, your neighbors, and the community.

### **Be responsible! Be prepared!**

Do the work necessary to put things in place, *in advance of an emergency*, that will enable and prepare your family members and your home to better survive an emergency. This means different things for different types of emergencies.

There are materials that provide wonderful and useful information, tips, check-lists, etc. to help you get prepared. You can use the detailed information in those materials to help your preparations for each of the emergency situations listed here.

Common to all of these situations are the following:

**Emergency Notification:** Ensure that you get notification of emergency incidents. Sign up with the Boulder County Emergency Notification System (ENS). [[Included in this section.](#)]

**Evacuation:** Have a plan that will enable you and your family and pets to evacuate **FAST**. [[Included in this section.](#)]

**Neighbor Emergency Team (NET):** Coordinate with a specific group of neighbors to implement a plan to provide mutual assistance in emergency situations, specifically including evacuations. [[Refer to NET Guidebook on HOA website – www.xxxxxxx .](#)]

**Shelter in Place:** Sometimes emergency responders are unable to get to you immediately. Have a plan to be self-sufficient for up to three days. [[Included in this section.](#)]

**Prepare your Home and Property to survive an emergency:** Talk to the BMF Mitigation department to learn about getting started on defensible space and property mitigation.



**Medical Information:** Be ready to provide medical responders with information that can help them help you. [See the [Medical Information Form](#) on HOA website – [www.xxxxxxx](#) .]

In the event of wildfire, flood, or other significant emergency, You may receive a mandatory or voluntary evacuation notification via an emergency call back system (commonly referred to as “Reverse 911”) advising you to evacuate. *Given flooding characteristics, fire behavior, and the predominately dry and windy conditions in our area, residents should take these notifications very seriously and evacuate immediately.*



### *In an emergency, time is critical*

- When an evacuation is ordered, the absolute best opportunity people and pets will have for survival is to be evacuated during that initial window of opportunity; the same goes for keepsakes and valuables.
- If you are home when the evacuation is ordered, being organized to properly and *SWIFTLY* evacuate people, pets, and possessions is essential.
- If you are not home when the evacuation is ordered, you will not be able to get back into the evacuated area – the authorities will not allow it (*for good reason*).
- Neither firefighters nor other emergency personnel will likely be deployed for pet rescue.
- Coordinating with neighbors in advance of an emergency is the only way to provide for timely evacuation of people, pets, and possessions if you are not home.

Our fire department (Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District – BMFPD) has composed guidelines and other helpful tools to assist in your advance preparation for an evacuation situation.

There are items available on the BMFPD website and the HOA website that can help you with emergency preparedness to prepare for an evacuation and/or other emergency situations:



1. An **Evacuation Guide** that provides some general tips on what you can do to prepare your family and your home for a wildland fire event. [*Covered in this section*]
2. The **NET Guidebook** contains information and procedures for organizing a neighborhood NET – a small group of neighbors organized to help each other in the event of an evacuation.
3. **NET Organization Information** – an informative presentation that provides additional helpful information in addition to the Guidebook.
4. A **Pet/Owner Information Form** that specifies information about you and your pets that would be helpful to others in the event that someone other than you evacuates your pets to ensure that your pets are well provided for and you and your pets are reunited.
5. A **Pet Evacuation Checklist** (including recommendations for a pet “overnight kit”) to help you organize for the evacuation of your pets and ensure that your pet(s) have the supplies they need.

In this section you will find many helpful tips and other information that will help you prepare for an evacuation situation. There are also a number of helpful references that provide even more helpful emergency information (see list of websites at the end of this section).

### *Your First Responsibility:*

**Prepare** for evacuating people, pets & possessions:

Whether you, or someone else, evacuates your family, pets, and possessions there are certain things you should do **now** (*much in advance of any emergency*) to prepare for that event.

- How would you organize in advance for evacuating if you were at home at the time of an evacuation? What would you want to have ready to make evacuating fast, easy, and complete?
- How would you organize in advance for evacuating if you were not at home when the emergency happens? What would you want in place to enable someone else to successfully evacuate your family, pets, and possessions?

### *Your Second Responsibility:*

**Have a back-up plan.** Work with your neighbors, in advance of any emergency, so that everyone knows what to do *when* it happens. Provide for the evacuation of your family, pets, and possessions if you happen to be away from home when an evacuation order occurs.

- Form a “NET” – *Neighbor Emergency Team*. A specific group of neighbors who agree to provide mutual assistance in emergency situations, specifically including evacuations.
- Ensure that everyone in your NET is familiar with your pets and knows exactly what to do in an emergency situation.

### *Family Plan*

Have a plan for evacuating your home in an emergency that every member of your family knows. If various family members are likely to be in different locations for significant parts of the day (school, work, etc.), make sure that you have a plan about where and how to meet or how to connect if you are apart when an evacuation is ordered.

Every member of the family who is home when an evacuation is ordered can help with the execution of your evacuation plan. Make sure that everyone knows his or her part.

Know your evacuation route(s). There are maps of evacuation routes in the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District available in a variety of places including this Directory (inside back page) and the BMFPD website ([www.bouldermountainfire.org](http://www.bouldermountainfire.org)). Some homes have access to more than one evacuation route – make sure you know about ALL of them. It is possible that a fire or flood will block the use of the most obvious escape route that you know. It is a great idea to actually drive these evacuation routes to get familiar with them.

There are other websites that provide suggestions. See the list of informative websites contained in this section. Practice your plan.

### *Ensure that you will receive the Evacuation Notice*

Boulder County has had its share of difficulties with the automatic call system to provide notice of evacuation to everyone in the area that need to be evacuated. Suffice to say that there are some additional issues if you do not have a “land line” telephone (i.e. phone services provided over an actual hard wire telephone line). If you have VOIP phone service or just rely entirely on mobile phone connection, it is possible that you may not automatically receive notice of evacuation.

Here is the best way to do everything that you can to ensure that you get the evacuation notice when it is issued – go to the following website:

[www.boco911alert.com](http://www.boco911alert.com)

additional information at: <http://www.boulderoem.com/disaster-preparedness/informed/ens/>

You may also want to check out the Office of Emergency Management website at:

<http://www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status>

## ***Boulder Mountain Fire is on Twitter***

The fire department tries to keep tweets to a minimum, but when there is a significant emergency event they try to let people know ASAP. You can receive information about emergencies by following Boulder Mountain Fire on Twitter (@bouldermtnfire) and/or go to our twitter page on the web:



<https://twitter.com/bouldermtnfire>

## ***When you need to evacuate . . .***

***Do Not Delay! – Work your plan; and do it FAST.***

### ***What to take***

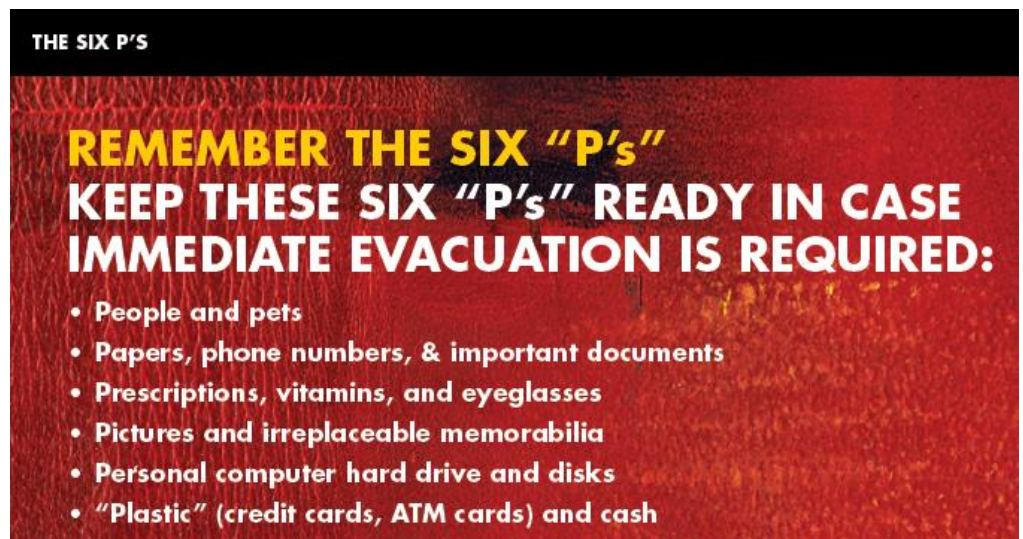
Create a list of what goes with you in an evacuation ahead of time, and keep this in a handy and readily accessible place.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications and prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance policies & Agent information           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription eye ware         | <input type="checkbox"/> Passports and other ID                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes of clothing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Banking & Financial information                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract information of friends, family, etc.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phones (with chargers)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor and medical information                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family photos                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for infants (formula, etc.)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keepsakes & heirlooms         | <input type="checkbox"/> Local maps                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash and change               | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>See separate section about <b>pets</b>...</i> |

Consider capturing as many of your important documents and pictures as possible in electronic document format and storing them on an external hard drive that can be easily taken with you in the event of an evacuation. It is relatively easy to use a scanner and computer to create PDF files of documents, pictures, etc. If you are really organized you can even keep a small portable hard drive with back-

up copy of all your computer files (including important documents) in a safe deposit box. Tips on what to include in your list of important documents are included in the “Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK)” available from FEMA at the “Ready Gov” website:

<https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness>



Temporary shelters may be arranged and announced (radio and the county Office of Emergency Management website). The New Life Church at 28<sup>th</sup> and Jay Road is available as a family rendezvous point. If you go there, look for a sign-in point to provide information about your safety and status.

## *Preparing your Home for Evacuation*

When a wildland fire is threatening, *if time allows*, here are some of the things that you can do before evacuating the area:

- Close (not lock) all windows and doors
- Close drapes or window coverings
- Leave porch or other lights on in the home
- Leave doors unlocked to allow firefighters to check homes for any possible fire
- Leave garage door unlocked (but not open/raised)
- Disconnect propane tanks from propane grills and put the tank in the garage
- Remove patio furniture from the decks
- Leave water hoses attached to outside faucets (do not turn faucets on; do not leave sprinklers on; do not leave hoses running)
- Have a ladder handy for fire fighters for roof access if needed
- Remove all flammables and combustibles from around the home (remember the broom on the deck and the welcome mats in front of exterior doors)
- Make water sources such as pools, and cisterns available for firefighters
- Do not block driveways with vehicles – fire apparatus needs access the driveways
- Use common sense – Try to do everything possible to protect against an oncoming wildfire

## *Things you can, and should do, BEFORE the evacuation comes*

Many homes have been saved because proper mitigation work had been completed and the home had good “defensible space.” You can obtain a **FREE** mitigation plan and advice on defensible space by contacting the BMFPD Mitigation department:

Call: (303-440-0235)

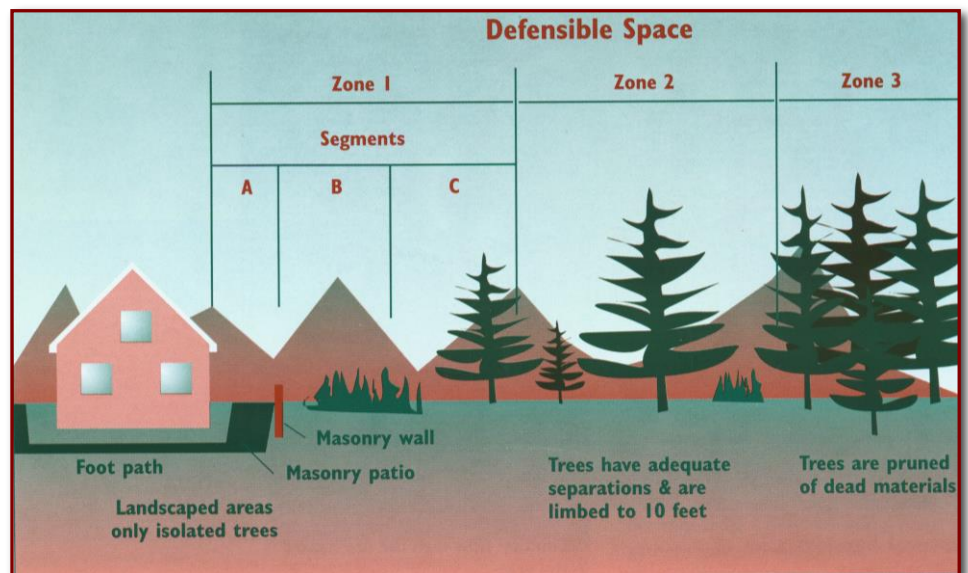
website:

[www.BMFmitcrew.com](http://www.BMFmitcrew.com)

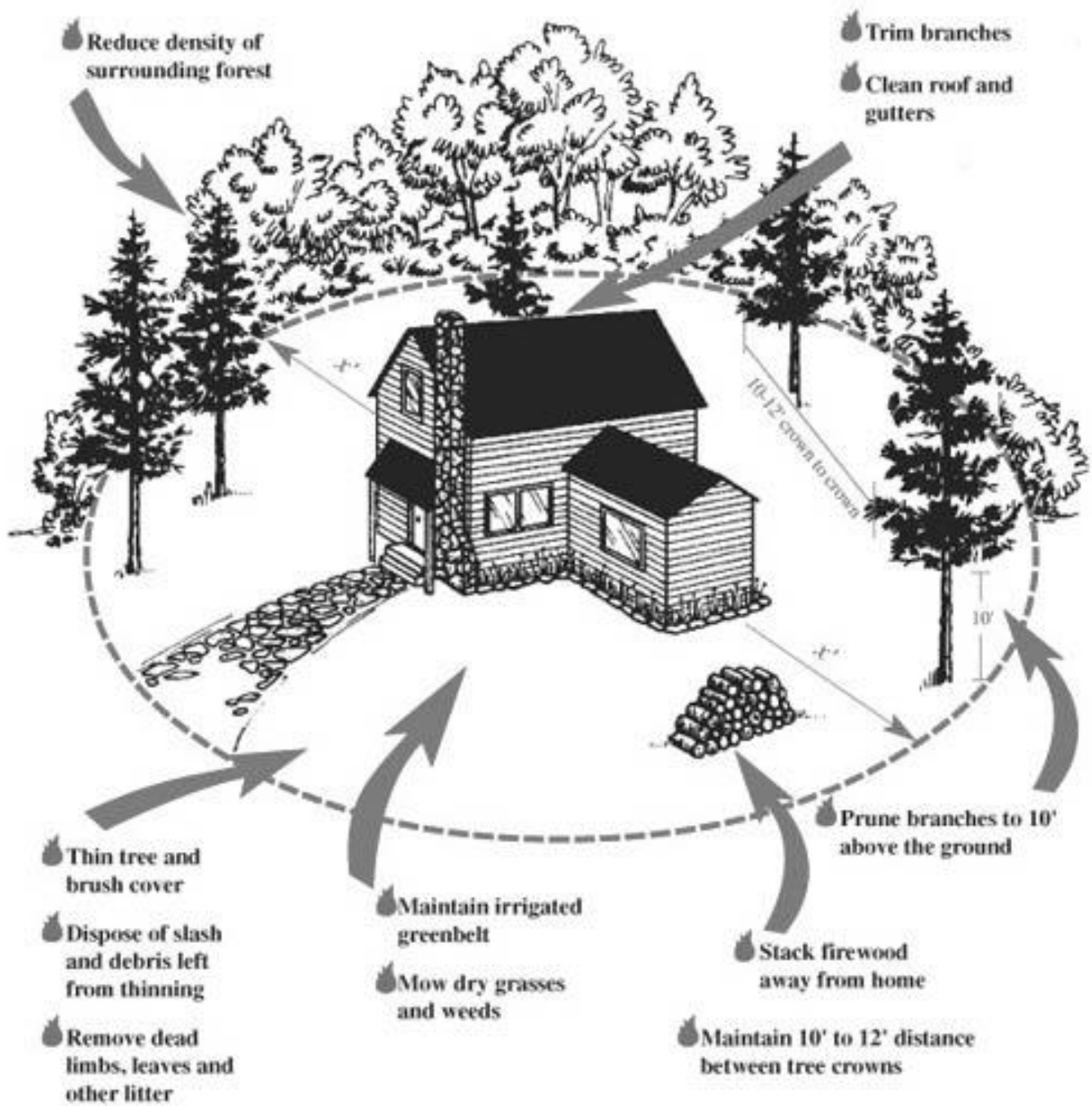
Two things to consider if you are thinking about work on your home are: replacing a wood shake roof with class A fire resistant roofing material; replacing wood decks with fire resistant decking materials.

Obvious things you can do in advance, *and on a regular basis*, to help your home survive a wildland fire include:

- Ensure your gutters and eaves are clear of all debris (e.g. pine needles)
- Remove all flammable and combustible materials from around your home (weed-whack tall grass; fire-wood should be stacked distant from the structure)



It is important to note that safety of firefighters is of primary importance to BMFPD and firefighters will not be deployed to defend a structure if conditions are too dangerous. In making a determination about the defensibility of any given structure important factors that are considered include: defensible space; mitigation; fire resistant construction materials; safe ingress and egress to the structure for personnel and equipment



(e.g. can a big fire engine navigate your driveway?).

There is other helpful information about properly maintaining your property available on the BMFPD website, the Mitigation Crew website, or by calling the BMFPD Mitigation department.





## *What if there is not even time to evacuate ?*

### *Shelter in Place*

There are situations in which there is not even time to get out. This happened in some parts of our area during the disastrous flooding that occurred in September 2013. Because some roads that would be used to evacuate were severely compromised and/or subject to immediate flooding, it was better for people to either shelter in place or climb to higher ground.

There are additional reasons for sheltering in place. If hazardous materials (e.g. – natural gas, propane, etc.) have been released in your area, severe weather alert, and more . . .

The rule of thumb is that you should be prepared to shelter in place for at least three days – sometimes it might take that long for emergency service personnel to get to you. The American Red Cross has a fairly comprehensive set of materials about dealing with all kinds of Emergencies at:

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

Take a look – these days, it is best to be alert and be prepared.

At the very least you should consider having the following:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies,
- identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels

- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## *People and Pets . . .*

### *Special Needs*

If there are individuals with special needs in your household, please notify the BMFPD Chief to ensure that BMFPD emergency responders know about your needs and what assistance you might need in an evacuation or other emergency situations. Remember “special needs” can be temporary (like knee surgery); you can take yourself off the list when you are mobile again.

### *Pet Identification*

It is strongly recommended that your pet have proper identification, such as collars with tags and/or a microchip. As an alternative to wearing ID, identification collars and tags should be placed inside the pet’s crate, “Over-night Bag,” and/or “Pet Go Kit.” There are additional forms and other pet-related information available on the BMFPD website.

### *Pet Information*

Each pet owner/guardian should have a ***Pet Information*** form filled out with the following information:

- Pet Name
- Pet Breed
- Pet Gender
- Dietary needs
- Written consent, or denial, for medical treatment (e.g. if pet is injured as a result of the emergency situation)
- Alternate caretaker contact information
- Pet owner/guardian’s address and contact information
- Medical conditions and/or Rx needs
- Vet Name and Phone Number
- Need-to-know personality traits

### *Pet Go Kit Contents*

Each pet owner/guardian should consider having the following tools, equipment, items in order to enable helpful neighbors (or others) to evacuate your pets in your absence. It is suggested that these supplies be assembled in advance and placed in, or near, your pet crate(s).

- Heavy work gloves
- Masking tape
- Sharpie pen
- Old pillowcase, towel, small blanket (to capture and transport small animals)
- Pet Evacuation Notice (blank copy, ready to be completed and placed on the front door upon evacuation) – *notice to firefighters and emergency personnel*
- Evacuation confirmation ribbon
- Leash and/or harness
- Muzzle

You may want a duplicate “gather and go” kit to use in collecting and transporting the pets of others.

### *Pet “Over-night Bag” Contents*

Each pet owner/guardian should have the following equipment/items in order to: (1) quickly evacuate your own pets, or, (2) enable helpful neighbors to evacuate your pets in your absence. It is suggested that these supplies be assembled in advance, placed into a bag, and kept in or near your pet crate(s).

- Pet food
- Water for your pet
- Toys
- Food & water bowls
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pet treats
- Medications (or at least note re: location of meds)
- Litter box and litter
- Bed & blanket

## *Resource Information*

**LOCAL:** BMFPD – [www.bouldermountainfire.org](http://www.bouldermountainfire.org) , (303) 440-0235  
Boulder County – [www.bouldercounty.org/safety/emergency/pages/default.aspx](http://www.bouldercounty.org/safety/emergency/pages/default.aspx)  
On-line Radio – [www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?ctid=247](http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?ctid=247)  
BCSO - Animal Control Dispatch, (303) 441-4444  
City of Boulder Animal Control, (303) 441-3374

**STATE:** Ready Colorado – [www.readycolorado.com](http://www.readycolorado.com)  
Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management –  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dhsem/resources-11>  
Red Cross – [www.preparecolorado.org](http://www.preparecolorado.org)  
Animal Preparedness – <https://www.ready.gov/animals>  
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension –  
<http://coloradodisasterhelp.colostate.edu/>

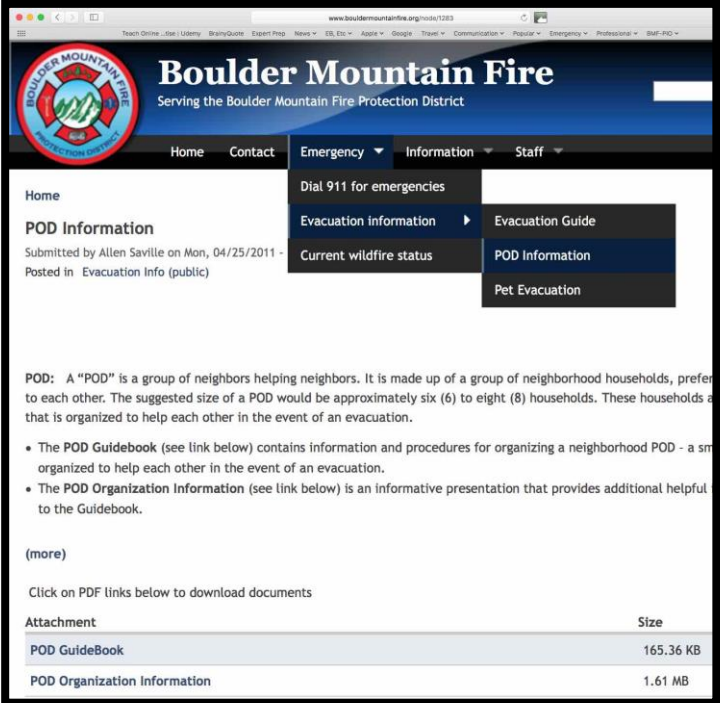
**NATIONAL:** Department of Homeland Security – [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov),  
Federal Emergency Management Agency – [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
American Red Cross – [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
Citizen Corps and CERT – [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)  
American Veterinary Medical Association –  
<https://www.avma.org/kb/resources/reference/disaster/pages/default.aspx>

### **Status of Specific Emergency Events in our area:**

Boulder Office of Emergency Management – [www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status](http://www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status)  
Twitter: @BldrCOSheriff  
Boulder County Sheriff – <http://www.bouldercountysheriff.org/>

**Emergency Information Hot Line  
(303) 413-7730**

**emergency information during  
an incident**



The screenshot shows the Boulder Mountain Fire website. The header includes the logo and navigation menu with 'Emergency' selected. A dropdown menu is open, showing 'Evacuation information' selected, which further opens a sub-menu with 'Evacuation Guide', 'POD Information', and 'Pet Evacuation'. The main content area features a 'POD Information' section with a submission date and a list of links. Below this is a table of attachments.

**POD Information**  
Submitted by Allen Saville on Mon, 04/25/2011 -  
Posted in Evacuation Info (public)

POD: A "POD" is a group of neighbors helping neighbors. It is made up of a group of neighborhood households, preferred to each other. The suggested size of a POD would be approximately six (6) to eight (8) households. These households are organized to help each other in the event of an evacuation.

- The **POD Guidebook** (see link below) contains information and procedures for organizing a neighborhood POD - a small group of households organized to help each other in the event of an evacuation.
- The **POD Organization Information** (see link below) is an informative presentation that provides additional helpful information to the Guidebook.

(more)

Click on PDF links below to download documents

Attachment	Size
<a href="#">POD GuideBook</a>	165.36 KB
<a href="#">POD Organization Information</a>	1.61 MB