

“**NET**” = *Neighbor Emergency Team*. A specific group of neighbors who agree to provide mutual assistance in emergency situations, specifically including evacuations.

Mountain Living – Neighbors helping Neighbors

If you are new to mountain living, you need to know that there are certain types of emergency situations in which the fire department, or other authorities, may issue an evacuation order. In the event of a wildfire 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 fire behavior, and the predominately dry and windy conditions in our area, residents should **take these notifications very seriously and evacuate immediately**.* [More information about how to prepare and what to do in case of evacuation, see the “**Evacuation Guide**.”]

The Importance NETs – Neighbors helping Neighbors

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 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 your neighborhood – the authorities will not allow it.
- Neither firefighters nor other emergency personnel will likely be deployed for pet rescue.
- Coordinating with neighbors *in advance of an emergency* is the best way to provide for timely evacuation of people, pets, and possessions.

Neighborhood NETs

WHY FORM A NET

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, IT IS CRUCIAL TO GET YOURSELVES AND YOUR PETS OUT OF THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The more prepared and organized you are the better. But what if you’re not home? Who will save your pets? Will it be possible to save some of your most precious keepsakes?

In reality, firefighters and emergency service personnel may simply not have time or staff available to retrieve and/or rescue your pets. And, once a mandatory evacuation order is in place, only emergency services personnel will be able to cross the traffic control lines, so, even residents will not be able to enter the evacuation area.

Research indicates that pet owner/guardians will sometimes cross evacuation lines, even illegally, and risk their own lives to rescue stranded pets – this actually causes more problems, increases the danger situation, and can put the effectiveness and safety of our firefighters at risk. Government agencies studying emergency situations recommend that “neighborhood watch” organizations can aid in evacuation efforts.

In other words, if you are not home, your neighbors may be able to evacuate your pets, etc. – if you have organized in advance for this type of emergency.

WHAT DOES A NET LOOK LIKE

A “NET” is made up of a group of neighborhood households, preferably in close proximity to each other. The suggested size of a NET would be approximately six to eight households. These households are part of a small group that is organized to help each other in the event of an evacuation (and maybe other emergencies as well).

HOW TO FORM A NET

Any individual interested in joining an existing NET, or forming a new NET, should contact the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District for information and assistance. If desired an organizational meeting to explain the process for forming and organizing a NET can be arranged. Individual BMFPD residents interested in forming NETs should attend one of these meetings. Information will be provided at these meetings that will enable neighbors to work together to form and organize a NET.

NET LEADERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is recommended that each neighborhood NET choose a NET leader. A NET leader’s responsibilities include:

1. Coordinate gathering and sharing contact and other information among NET members.
2. Distribute: the Pet and Owner Information and Go Kit contents Forms; front door evacuation notices; evacuation confirmation tapes, and other information to NET members.
3. Establish communication methods for all members of the NET.
4. Learn the NET evacuation procedures (especially evacuation routes) and be able to instruct the other NET members in these procedures.
5. Designate alternate NET leader(s), as needed.

This Guidebook provides additional information to help you work with your neighbors to organize mutual support and cooperation in an evacuation and/or other emergency situation.

IN AN EMERGENCY – ACTIVATE YOUR NET

First: Activate Your Personal Evacuation Plan

Use the *procedures and tools described in the Evacuation Guide* to safely gather your family, pets, and possessions and get to a safe location as quickly as you can.

Second: Activate NET Member Evacuation Plan (ONLY IF SAFE AND TIME ALLOWS)

IF – AND ONLY IF – you have enough time, safely gather and evacuate other NET member pets, etc. In order to do this effectively and expeditiously, NET members will need to be familiar with each other’s Evacuation Logistics such as:

- How many pets
- What kind of pets
- Where pets are likely to be located
- Where the pet crates are kept
- What other possessions should be included in the evacuation
- List of NET member’s phone numbers
- How to gain entrance to NET Member’s residence
- Where to take pets after evacuation
- Where the “Pet Go Bag” is located

NET Organization

SUMMARY: Things to consider in organizing
NET Checklist

Things to consider in organizing your NET

Work with neighbors with whom you have a good relationship and who live relatively close-by. Having six to eight families in the NET seems to be the correct size for a NET. Four families just do not seem to be enough – with travel and today’s busy life-style a number of families could be away at the same time. Here are a few things you should consider with your neighbors as you organize your NET:

- How will other NET members get access to your home if you are not home and there is an evacuation?
 - Exchange keys?
 - Location of hidden key?
 - Other?
- Items to include in evacuation plans – in addition to pets,
- Identification of items to include in evacuation
- Protocol for marking homes to indicate that pets have been evacuated
 - Pet evacuation notice affix to front door
 - Other?
- Arrangements for conveying information about the emergency situation and the evacuation actions to NET members away from the district at the time of the emergency
- Arrangements for re-uniting owners with pets and more . . .
- Plans for getting familiar with each other’s pets . . .

Checklist for NETs

If you have formed a NET with other neighbors, here are a few things your NET should do:

- Exchange complete contact information:
 - Home phone
 - Mobile phone
 - Work phone
- Visit homes of other NET members to become very familiar with pets and their home environments
- Make other arrangements for evacuation in accord with the wishes and best interests of NET members
- Work out logistical arrangements to enable mutual support in evacuation events (e.g. where to meet after leaving evacuation area, etc.)
- Make a trial run (mock evacuation)

Pet Evacuation Preparedness

SUMMARY: Pet Identification
Pet Information
Pet Go Kit
Pet “Over-night Bag”

Forms:
1. Pet/owner Information Form
2. Pet “Overnight Bag” & “Pet Go Kit.” Contents

Pet Identification

It is strongly recommended that your pet have proper identification, such as collars with tags and/or a micro-chip. 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.”

We have created a couple of forms for providing the information below. [See forms attached.] We recommend these **forms be kept together** in a large **zip-lock bag** and taped onto or in the pet’s crate, “Overnight Bag,” and/or “Pet Go Kit.”

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 have the following tools, equipment, items in order to enable neighboring NET members 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
- Sharp 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 – *notice to NET members*
- Leash and/or harness
- Muzzle

You may want a duplicate “Pet 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 neighboring NET members 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
- Medications (or at least note re: location of meds)
- Other: _____
- Pet treats
- Litter box and litter
- Food & water bowls
- Bed & blanket
- Toys

Temporary Animal Shelter Options

In the event of an evacuation, a temporary evacuation shelter for domestic pets **MAY** be established in a nearby location.

Local temporary animal shelter locations and/or resources include:

- Humane Society of Boulder Valley, (303) 442-4030
- Longmont Humane Society, (303) 772-1232
- Boulder County Sheriff's Office - Animal Control Dispatch, (303) 441-4444
- City of Boulder Animal Control, (303) 441-3374
- Pet Friendly Hotels in Boulder include:
 - Best Western Boulder Inn, 770 28th Street, (303) 449-3800
 - Boulder Broker Inn, 555 30th Street, (303) 444-3330
 - Boulder Creek Quality Inn & Suites, 2020 Arapahoe Ave, (303) 449-7550
 - Boulder Mountain Lodge, 91 Four Mile Canyon Drive, (303) 444-0882
 - Boulder Outlook Hotel & Suites, 800 28th Street, (303) 443-3322
 - Camp Bow Wow, 3631 Pearl Street, (303) 364-2267
 - Foot of the Mountain Motel, 200 Arapahoe Ave, (303) 442-5688
 - Homewood Suites by Hilton, 4950 Baseline Road, (303) 499-9922
 - New West Inns, 970 28th Street, (303) 443-7800
 - Residence Inn by Marriott, 3030 Center Green Drive, (303) 449-5545
- In fire and other emergencies, other lodging facilities occasionally modify their policies to allow pets; announcements are sometimes carried by the news media during such emergencies.

Pet Evacuation in an Emergency

Your Fire District, NETs and Pets –

Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD) is a volunteer fire/rescue organization that responds in all types of emergency incidents (fire, rescue, flood, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, etc.). BMFPD believes in neighbors helping neighbors and tries to support public information about emergency preparedness. In addition to volunteers qualified as firefighters and medical responders, there are other volunteers who help out in various types of support activities, including:

- Scene Support
 - > Traffic Management
 - > Evacuation Assistance
 - > Incident Support Center
- Mobilization (phone tree, etc.)
- Emergency Preparedness (incl. NET organization, data management, special needs)
- Other Services (typically non-emergency)

Information regarding the BMFPD can be found by visiting:

www.BMFPD.org.

In addition to the normal emergency response functions, BMFPD:

- Provides this Guidebook for Neighbor Emergency Teams
- Provides other guides and informational materials, e.g.:
 - > Emergency Preparedness Information
 - > Evacuation Guide
 - > Informative materials about your fire district
- Conducts a variety of public information presentations about emergency preparedness and other relevant topics during the year
- Maintains a BMFPD website and presence on Twitter that also provide helpful information

BMFPD even has a Pet Evacuation Team –

It is not always possible, but, **if conditions allow and approved by the Incident Commander**, BMFPD **may** be able to provide evacuation assistance for companion animals through its Pet Evacuation Team. During an evacuation if you need assistance in evacuating home-alone pets, call the BMFPD main number (303-440-0235).

Purpose of the Pet Evacuation Team (P.E.T.)

PURPOSE:

To provide preparedness guidelines, assistance, and information regarding the evacuation of pets (companion animals, see Note below) in the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD) area in the event of an emergency.

Note: If you have large animals such as horses, llamas, alpacas, etc., we suggest that you coordinate, ahead of time, with agencies such as BCSO-AC (see Resource Information). It is our hope that the Temporary Evacuation Help Center will be equipped to communicate with these types of emergency services agencies at the time of an evacuation, however, pre-planning on the part of large animal owners is essential.

Resident safety should always come first. Pet evacuation efforts will be undertaken only if it is safe, time allows, and sufficient trained personnel are available.

Additional Resources

LOCAL: BMFPD – www.bmfpd.org , (303) 440-0235
Boulder County – www.bouldercounty.org/safety/emergency
On-line Radio – 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
Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management –
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dhsem/resources-11>
Red Cross – www.redcross.org/local.colorado
Animal Preparedness – www.ready.gov/pets
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension –
<http://coloradodisasterhelp.colostate.edu/>

NATIONAL: Department of Homeland Security – www.ready.gov,
Federal Emergency Management Agency – www.fema.gov
American Red Cross – www.redcross.org
Citizen Corps and CERT – www.ready.gov/citizen-corps

Status of Specific Emergency Events in our area:

Boulder Office of Emergency Management – www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status
Twitter: @BldrCOSheriff
Boulder County Sheriff – www.bouldercountysheriff.org

**LOCAL: Emergency Information Hot Line (303) 413-7730
(emergency information *during* an incident)**