MOSQUITO
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Standard Operating Procedures
Community Evacuation Procedures
Revision July 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Community Evacuation Procedures- Support Group

1. PURPOSE

1.1. Fire District Support personnel, when available, shall assist residents to leave, in an organized fashion, when a partial or full community evacuation becomes necessary.

1.2   An evacuation may be necessary for a fire or other incident which endangers life and property. Evacuation orders will be given by the fire and/or law enforcement incident commander. Evacuations orders are carried out by and under the authority of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office.
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2. POLICY

2.1. It is the intent of this policy to establish guidelines for community evacuation within the Fire District.

2.2. Any procedures and guidelines set forth are ultimately subject to change by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, which has the ultimate responsibility to issue and carry out evacuation orders.

2.3. The Swansboro Airport may be used as a Temporary Refuge Area (TRA). The decision and timing to move people out Rock Creek Rd will be made by the Sheriff's Office considering incoming fire resources and safe egress out.

2.4. This procedure is in place when the Mosquito Bridge is closed or for any vehicles that exceed weight /size restrictions for the Mosquito Bridge. (i.e. over 10,000 pounds, or over 8 feet by 25 feet, or towing)

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. **Evacuation Order:** The Incident Commander determines there is an immediate threat to life and property and residents must leave the area. The threat may be actual or predicted based on fire direction and rate of spread. Evacuations may be determined based on a smaller geographical area or widespread community basis.

3.2. **Evacuation Warning**: The Incident Commander determines there is a predicted threat to a particular area or the entire community and advises residents they should leave the area. This often gives residents a chance to prepare to leave the area in plenty of time. In some instances, the voluntary evacuation threat may change to an evacuation order based on a change of fire conditions.

4. <u>PROCEDURE</u>

The Sheriff's Office will be notified of the evacuation in progress and the resident staging area at the airport. They will decide best options for residents to leave the area

4.1. The procedure of directing residents to the airport will be for mandatory and partial evacuations of all types. The idea is to leave the area under controlled conditions out Rock Creek Rd. under the supervision of the Sheriff's Office. The priority is the access of Rock Creek Rd by incoming fire apparatus into the community.

4.2. Evacuation procedures will be activated upon request of the Incident Commander or if conditions exist where there is an obvious active progressing fire in which residents are leaving the area. The key objectives are to stage residents accessing Rock Creek Rd to allow incoming Fire Apparatus IN and allow evacuating residents to get OUT in an orderly and safe fashion. If there is any doubt of evacuation activation contact the Incident Commander on the designated fire tactical channel or send a support representative to the Incident Command Post.

4.3. Support Group personnel will set up road checkpoints at the following locations: Rock Creek Rd. at Mosquito Cutoff Rd.; Mosquito Rd. at Mosquito Cutoff Rd.; Rock Creek Rd. at the Airport gate; Mosquito Rd. at the RV/Large animal alternate gate (Dyer Lake basketball court), at Rock Creek and Gravel Rd, and at La Paz and Mosquito Rd.

4.4. At the checkpoints Support personnel will advise motorists that Rock Creek is the only way fire engines can get in and opposing traffic may present an unsafe situation, delaying fire engines from getting in. Vehicles will be directed back to the airport. If a driver insists on driving out Rock Creek Rd. and cannot be verbally persuaded otherwise, <u>make no attempt to physically stop them</u>. Vehicles turned back from Rock Creek Rd. can use the Mosquito Cutoff Rd. to return to the Airport.

4.5. The Mosquito Cutoff Rd. at Mosquito Rd. and at La Paz checkpoints will prevent vehicles from going down Mosquito Rd. towards the bridge if the gate is locked or the bridge is impassable. <u>Make no attempt to physically stop them</u> but advise that there is no way to get through and they will be forced to turn around and come back because of conditions.

4.6. The Rock Creek Rd. at the Airport gate checkpoint will direct the majority of the traffic through the gate and into the designated parking area.

4.7. The Mosquito Rd. RV/Large Animal gate checkpoint will direct large vehicles and vehicles with trailers into the designated parking area.

4.8. If there is an available Support person, respond to the Fire Station to answer the telephones and direct residents who happen to stop there for information.

4.9. The pilot's group and available Support personnel will open Airport gates, (at night place blue lights from helispot bag), signs, and directions, establish the parking area and resident staging location. Personnel may need to utilize able and willing residents to manage the parking area and other duties which need assistance. As residents come in, create a check-in log from which residents' names and addresses are collected and shared with the Sheriff's Office for coordination in checking for residents still in the fire impact area.

4.10. Medical support personnel will staff the Temporary Refuge Area to monitor medical issues. Available Support personnel shall transport Squad 75 to the Airport. Contact the Incident Commander or District Liaison via radio to request a paramedic ambulance, if needed. If unable to make contact by radio call Camino Dispatch via 911.

4.11. If an unsafe situation exists contact the Incident Commander or District Liaison. Move to a safe location if necessary.

4.12. If any road checkpoint becomes unsafe for any reason, evacuate to the Airport or Fire Station and assist as needed.

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