



ROSSMOOR
WALNUT CREEK

RESIDENT'S GUIDE
to

WILDFIRE

PREPAREDNESS & EVACUATION



How to Get Ready, Stay
Informed and Remain Safe



KEEP THIS DOCUMENT IN YOUR GO-BAG OR NEAR YOUR FRONT DOOR

Tear the cover off of this booklet and place this page in a window near your front door,
visible from the street, if you cannot evacuate and **NEED HELP**.

NEED

Do not depend on First Responders being able to assist you during the early stages of a
disaster. Meet **NOW** with your neighbors and have plans to help each other evacuate.

HELP



About This Guidebook



The information included here is intended to provide Rossmoor residents with an overview of steps they can take to prepare themselves, their families and neighbors should an evacuation become necessary. Please heed the recommendations here: register your cellphones with one or more of the community warning systems, make a plan and be ready to evacuate when wildfire threatens.



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For More Information Visit

- Rossmoorepo.org
- Ready.gov
- CalOES.ca.gov
- Firewise.gov
- CCHealth.org
- FireCA.gov
- RedCross.org



Message from Rossmoor Emergency Preparedness Organization (EPO)

Wildfires are a hazard all Rossmoor residents should prepare for, and this guidebook will help ready your household for an evacuation caused by a wildfire incident or event in or near Rossmoor — being prepared means being in the “know.”

Go to www.rossmoorepo.org or scan the QR code to find out more about EPO.

Fran Gibson, Past President, Rossmoor EPO



CERT

Go to www.walnutcreekca.gov/government/departments/emergency-preparedness/cert-community-emergency-response-teams or scan the QR code to find out more about the CERT training



Thanks to Walnut Creek Community Emergency Response Team, Walnut Creek Police Department, Rossmoor Emergency Preparedness Organization, Lafayette Police Department and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District for their guidance in producing this document.

Important Information

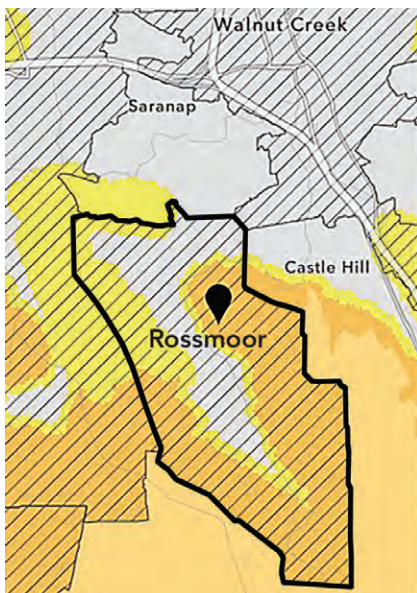
Firewise

The Firewise USA program is administered by NFPA® and is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The national Firewise USA recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Rossmoor is recognized as a Firewise community.



Some insurance companies offer a discount on property insurance for homes located in a Firewise USA recognized community. Find Rossmoor's Firewise USA program certificate online:

<https://rossmoor.com/rossmoor-firewise-usa-site/>



Fire Severity Zone Maps

The State Fire Marshal is mandated to classify lands within State and Local Responsibility Areas into Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). Fire Hazard Severity Zones fall into one of the following classifications:

- Moderate yellow
- High orange
- Very High red



The California laws that require Fire Hazard Severity Zones include California Public Resources Code 4201-4204, California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 1280 and California Government Code 51175-89. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones>

For your health and safety

RWC Rule 117: Open flame grilling outside is prohibited on RWC property during Red Flag Warning days.

RWC Rule 118: Smoking on RWC property is prohibited except at the Lavender Garden at Gateway, golf courses and in your vehicle on a street or parking in a RWC parking lot.



Program your cell with the Walnut Creek Police Department dispatch number **(925) 935-6400** and fire dispatch number **(925) 933-1313**.

Don't rely on 911 from a cell phone. If you enter the Contact Name as "911 – Law" and "911 – Fire," they will be easy to find.

Get Alerted, Stay Informed, Remain Safe

How will you get evacuation information?

Register for



Contra Costa County Community Warning System

The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) provides timely information that can save your life. Maintained by the sheriff's office, it is an all-hazards system designed to ALERT the community of an EMERGENCY for major impending or on-going incidents or life-threatening events. To receive CWS alerts, you must register your phone number (cell or home), home address and email address. Your information will be kept confidential and used only for emergency alerts. **To register for CWS, visit cwsalerts.com, scan the QR code, or call (925) 655-0111.**



Important Tip

Alerts from CWS come from caller ID (925) 655-0195 and may be displayed on your cell phone as a spam risk. To avoid this, add (925) 655-0195 as a contact in your phone labeled Contra Costa County Emergency Warning System.

This is a one-way caller ID number only, not a number for seeking information regarding CWS. For information on CWS, call (925) 655-0111 directly.



City of Walnut Creek Emergency Alert System

Sign up for WCAAlert to get emergency and other important community news in Walnut Creek. This system provides critical information about severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations. **Scan the QR code or visit the WCAAlert website to sign up or text WCAAlert to 888777 to automatically opt in.**



Nixle Emergency Alerts



Sign up for Nixle alerts through the City and City Police Department to ensure you are notified about emergencies in Walnut Creek.

Text your Zip code to 888777 to opt in immediately for alerts or visit <https://local.nixle.com/zipcode/94595/> or scan the QR code to sign up.



Residents who are signed up with Rossmoor Nixle will receive alerts and notifications from Rossmoor Public Safety that pertain specifically to Rossmoor residents. Rossmoor Nixle alerts may not be sent city-wide on the Walnut Creek Police Department Nixle. Therefore, it is advantageous to sign up with both WCPD Nixle to receive city-wide alerts and Rossmoor Nixle to receive localized alerts.

Residents can sign up for Rossmoor Nixle by texting "Rossmoor" to 333111, visiting <https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/g/2818> or scanning the QR code.



Warnings and Notifications

Phases of an Evacuation

1 Precautionary Evacuation

Residents should leave the area and go to a safer location anytime they feel threatened by wildfire. You never have to wait for an evacuation warning or order.

Disabled residents who cannot self-evacuate should contact friends or relatives at this time to begin making arrangements to leave due to the logistics involved.

2 Evacuation Warning

The need to evacuate is highly likely. Residents should prepare to evacuate with little or no notice. If you might need extra time to leave when an evacuation order is initiated consider evacuating now.

If you have no way to self-evacuate, this may be the last change to contact someone to help evacuate you for your home.

3 Evacuation Order

This is a **mandatory order** by law enforcement to leave the area and restrict access. The event or incident requiring your evacuation is less than 2 hours from your front door. Police will maintain security of the evacuated area and facilitate re-entry as soon as it's safe. No one except first responders can enter an evacuation zone under a mandatory order.

Situational Awareness

By remaining aware of the weather and potential wildfire conditions, residents are able to make better informed decisions. You should consider self-evacuating well before an evacuation warning is given.

FIRE WEATHER WATCH

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when **critical fire weather conditions are possible.**

"Critical fire conditions" means warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong, gusty winds.

Be Prepared.



weather.gov

RED FLAG WARNING

A Red Flag Warning is issued when **critical fire weather conditions are happening or are about to happen.**

Avoid burning, be careful around open flames, safely dispose of cigarettes. Fires can spark and grow very quickly.

Take Action!

How do I know if a Red Flag Warning has been issued?

- **A Red Flag will be flown at the Rossmoor Gate whenever we are under a Red Flag Warning.**
- Many fire stations fly a red flag in front of the station.
- In other areas, roadside signs with Fire Danger Today conditions will show Extreme Danger and have a Red Flag flying.
- Tune to All News KCBS 740 AM and/or 106.9 FM on your radio.
- Check social media, Nixle, Rossmoor TV and Rossmoor.com



FEMA

To see daily fire weather forecasts and Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings, go to: www.weather.gov/mtr or download the free updated FEMA App on iOS or Android to receive real-time alerts directly from the National Weather Service.



Evacuation Zones

Rossmoor is divided into eight Evacuation Zones to aid first responders. Residents can find their zone numbers on their entry signs or on their streets. The zones are a communications tool for fire, police, and the County's Community Warning System (CWS). In an emergency, CWS will attempt to contact all landlines and devices in the impacted area.

Go to <https://community.zonehaven.com> or click on the QR code to find out your Evacuation Zone number. Enter your address and the program will show your zone and any current information. This is how you can monitor your evacuation status and know when you can return to your home after an evacuation. Your evacuation zone number will be something like: WCR-E003.



You can also go to <https://rossmoor.com/wp-content/uploads/Rossmoor-Fire-Flyer-2023-V5-Nov-20.pdf> or click on the QR code to download and print the Be Prepared Safety Card for a detailed map of the 8 evacuation zones in Rossmoor with a listing of the entries within each zone



Write your Evacuation Zone here: _____

When a disaster is imminent or has happened, police and fire officials will determine which zones, or parts of zones, need to be evacuated

Evacuation Message

When delivering an evacuation order to residents, the following information may be included in the evacuation message:

Location of the hazard

Location of Temporary Evacuation Point (an established safe staging or collection point for residents if they have been displaced by an emergency or disaster)

Time that is available to evacuate

What to do with pets

Procedures to check on the safety of neighbors

The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) can, if necessary due to the scope of the disaster, utilize the Federal Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) to broadcast through every cell tower in the county. It is important to have your cell phone near you and turned on at all times to get these notifications.



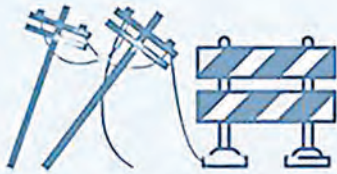
Evacuation routes

Because the specific circumstances of an incident are unknown in advance and are difficult to determine soon after an earthquake, residents should know and practice several evacuation routes that bring them to major roadways. During any incident, road closures and route suggestions may be given via CWS or Nixle. Residents will be alerted as to emergency evacuation exits they can use if their zone has been evacuated and the main gate is not the best route out of Rossmoor. There are other emergency access roads that can be used as an evacuation road.

Prepare for a Power Outage

What should you do before the "Big One" strikes?

Power outages ...



may disrupt communications, water utilities and transportation for a long time.



may cause injuries, disease or death, or prevent use of medical devices.



may cause food spoilage and water contamination

BEFORE

- Register for alerts from cococws.us
- Update your contact information for informing family and friends of your post-earthquake status if any contact information has changed
- Take an inventory of the items you use that rely on electricity
- Plan for your family and pet medical needs
- Keep mobile phones charged
- Identify backup charging methods for phones and electronics
- Store water, non-perishable food and medications
- Install home carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups
- Know how to use the manual release on your garage door or plan for assistance
- Keep gas tanks full and/or battery fully charged
- Talk to your family and neighbors and share your plan

AFTER

- Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed
- Monitor freezer and refrigerator temperatures with a thermometer in each
- Use perishable food supplies first – eat first from your refrigerator, next from your freezer and last from your pantry
- Use stoves and grills outdoors away from windows
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage
- Check on neighbors, animals and family
- When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away food exposed to temperatures above 41 degrees for more than four hours
- Check with your pharmacist about refrigerated medications

How to Use a Home Fire Extinguisher

Never depend on outside fire extinguishers provided by your Mutual for home fires. These are for exterior fires only. If you leave a manor with a fire burning inside, never re-enter the home. Call 911 and stay outside.

Extinguish small fires if safely possible

(if in doubt move to a safe location)

Remember to:

Pull the pin

Aim at the base of the fire

Squeeze the handle

Sweep from side to side



Home Shelter-in-Place Kit

Consider keeping these items at your home in case of a power outage



- Neighborhood paper map with local resources
- Battery-powered or hand crank NOAA Weather Radio
- Carbon monoxide detector, smoke detector and fire extinguishers (at least 2 per household)
- Method for cooking food without electricity
- Hone fire extinguishers: one in the kitchen away from all sources of heat and one near the primary bedroom
- Surge protectors for appliances and devices
- Consider keeping \$300 to \$500 in small bills available should we go to a cash-only economy
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, hand sanitizer
- Cell phone with backup powerpack
- Medicines and medical equipment
- Important documents
- Water: one gallon per person and pet per day
- Non-perishable food for two weeks
- Pet supplies
- Blankets
- Whatever you think you will need for yourself, your household, and your animals

Emergency Evacuation Kit: Grab-and-Go Bag

What do I really need?

- **WATER:** 1 gallon per person per day (1 gallon = 8.3 pounds)
- **FIRST-AID KIT:** with up-to-date equipment (1.5 pounds)
- **RADIO:** battery-powered (1.5 pounds)
- **MEDICATION:** prescription and OTC (1 pound)
- **FOOD:** pre-prepared and ready to eat (2 pounds)
- **FLASHLIGHT:** battery-powered (1 pound)
- **SPARE BATTERIES:** for various electronics (1 pound)
- **CASH:** small bills
- **DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:** Wheelchairs, walker, crutches, cans, oxygen takes, O2 generators, hearing devices and blood sugar meters
- **DOCUMENTS:** legal, insurance, financial and medical



Keep in mind the weight of your Grab-and-Go Bag

Do not pack more than you are actually able to lift and carry

Evacuation Tips

You live in an area where an evacuation may be necessary due to wildfire or other dangerous threats. Here are some tips to make your evacuation go more smoothly:

DO NOW: Documents

Store in the cloud and/or have a memory stick or CD in your Grab and Go Bag with .jpg or .pdf files of the following:



1. House documents including title, mortgage papers, insurance policies
2. Personal ID including driver's license, passport, social security, military service records
3. Health documents including insurance policy, medical record, Medicare card, name and phone number of primary care physician, name and phone number of pharmacy, list of current medications with dosages, list of allergies and existing conditions
4. Keepsake photos
5. Photo or video record of each room in the house showing all valuable items
6. List of all valuable items including purchase date, cost, model, and serial numbers



DO NOW: Neighborhood

1. Get to Know your neighbors.
2. Learn who in your neighborhood will need help to evacuate.
3. Meet your EOP Coordinator or Block Captain.
4. Learn more about Rossmoor EPO Coordinators and Block Captains by scanning the QR code or visiting their website rossmoorepo.org



DO NOW: Preparedness Actions

1. Register your cell or VoIP phone(s) with the Contra Costa County's Community Warning System (CWS) and the City of Walnut Creek Emergency Alert System.
2. Register your cell with Walnut Creek Nixle and Rossmoor Nixle.
3. Set Nixle, CWS, and City of Walnut Creek Emergency Alert System as Do Not Disturb available contacts on your cell phone. See <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/cell-phone-do-not-disturb/>
4. Have a battery-operated radio, flashlight, pocketknife, shoes, socks, underwear, long pants, and long sleeve shirt in a bag tied to the head of your bed. (In an earthquake, you'll be able to find it.) This is in addition to your Grab and Go Bag.
5. Wear only cotton, denim, or wool cloths. Synthetic fabrics can melt into your skin in a wildfire causing serious burns.
6. Learn how to open your garage door when the power is out. If you are unable to pull the cord and open it now, you will not be able to do it in an emergency.



7. Install an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for your cable modem and your portable phone base station to keep your home network and phones available when the power is out. See https://lamorindacert.org/evacuate/documents/UPS_info.pdf for more information.



Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People and pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures and irreplaceable mementos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Papers and important documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal computers and cell phones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription meds and eyeglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit cards, wallet and cash |

Evacuation Tips

DO NOW: Disabled - Access and Functional Needs (D/AFN) Individuals

1. D/AFN persons include anyone with mobility, developmental, cognitive, hearing, sight or language challenges. Frequently older but may be any age.
2. Take special precautions so that D/AFN persons will know about evacuation orders at any time of day or night even when power fails.
3. Pre-determine who will help any D/AFN person evacuate and have a backup. Family, friends and neighbors who live very close by!
4. Prepare to take durable medical goods, oxygen and any other special needs with you.
5. If you are the D/AFN individual, be proactive and find redundant, responsible people to help evacuate you. Do not rely on first responders to evacuate you. In an emergency, they may be dealing with other parts of the incident.



DO NOW: Communications

1. Predesignate an **Out-of-State Contact** (OoSC) at least 200 miles away as your one central contact and program the contact's cell number into each family member's cell phone.
2. The Out-of-State-Contact (OoSC) will be the clearinghouse for your family's text messages. This prevents too many texts or calls into and out of the local area.
3. Text this one person – do not call. Leave communication networks free for first responders.



My Out of State Contact is:

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____



DO NOW: Animals

1. Have pet food in a Pet Grab and Go Bag with leashes, poop-bags, water dish, medications, etc.
2. Crate-train your pets with treats regularly so they are more easily crate-contained for quick evacuations
3. Keep your dogs and other animals confined indoors if there is smoke outside.
4. Have Crates for your pets in case they have to go to a shelter.
5. Keep a collar on cats and keep them confined to a single room so you can get them easily. Keep a crate carrier for cats in the same room.
6. Make sure all of your animals are microchipped.
7. Have photos on your cellphone with you and your animals together to prove ownership.
8. Try to take your pets with you but don't become a fatality while trying to find missing animals.



Lost pet?

Contact Contra Costa Animal Services

4800 Imhoff Place, Martinez
(925) 608-8400

Evacuation Tips

DO ON RED FLAG WARNING DAYS: Vehicle

1. Take only a single vehicle to help reduce traffic jams!
2. Make sure that you have at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full tank of fuel or $\frac{3}{4}$ electric charge.
3. Park your vehicle:
 - a. In a driveway facing the street for quick exit, not in a garage. If you have a driveway gate, leave it open. OR
 - b. On the street with the headlights pointed in the direction of departure.
4. Keep vehicle keys in your pocket.
5. Keep plenty of drinking water in your vehicle.
6. Load time-sensitive medications into vehicle. Unopened insulin can be stored at room temperature for up to 28 days.
7. Keep a Grab and Go Bag and a first aid kit in your vehicle at all times.
8. Pre-load your vehicle with keepsake items such as photos and sentimental items.
9. Plan to evacuate at the first sign of danger, before a mandatory evacuation order is issued.



If there is any possibility that the fire might reach you, consider sleeping in shifts so that one responsible person is awake at all times to monitor the fire's status.

5. items away from your manor, including flammable furniture, etc.
5. Fully open or remove thin, flammable drapes.
6. Close heavy drapes.
7. Cover up your body by putting on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and a baseball cap or bandana to cover your face. Do not wear polyester or nylon as they will melt in high temperatures. Try to wear 100% cotton, denim or wool.
8. Do not pre-wet any clothing to avoid steam burns.

DO AT TIME OF EVACUATION: Communicate

Text. Don't Call.

1. Use TEXT messages with no photos and no voice phone calls.
2. Send a text message to your Out-of-State-Central Contact (OoSC) when evacuating, with your destination.
3. Send another text message to your OoSC when arriving at destination.
4. Report any missing family members to the Walnut Creek Police Department office. (925) 935-6400.
5. Report to the Walnut Creek Police Department any found persons who were previously reported as missing.
6. Keep your plan up to date on the status and contact information of all family members.
7. Place an 'EVACUATED' sign from the inside back cover of this booklet in a front window, visible from the street. This saves first responders valuable time.



DO WHEN FIRE IS NEAR: Actions

1. If you feel you are in danger, evacuate early. Don't wait until an Evacuation Order is given. Traffic will be lighter and you can get out safely.
2. Evacuating early also helps first responders keep roads clear and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire they will not have time to knock on every door.
3. If smoke is heavy, wear an N95 vented respirator mask and use the air conditioner and set it to recirculate fan only. Do not open windows.
4. Turn off any propane tanks and move any stored fuel (lawnmower gas, etc.), propane tanks and other flammable



Evacuation Tips

DO AT TIME OF EVACUATION: Actions

1. Leave outside lights on for first responders.
2. Close and lock all doors, windows and vents. This prevents drafts and could help save your manor.
3. Drive safely and cautiously out of the area.
4. Drive with headlights on even during daytime.
5. Be alert for downed power lines, downed trees and emergency personnel.
6. Never approach or touch a downed wire. Consider all down lines as live high-voltage lines.
7. If you can go directly out of the area to a safe shelter area, do so.
8. Take this booklet with you.



COMMUNITY HEALTH TIP

Bring an N95 vented respirator mask if you are evacuating to help prevent the spread of illness and lessen the smoke particles from entering your body.



IF YOU GET TRAPPED AND ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE:

1. Shelter-In-Place. See <https://emergency.cdc.gov/shelterinplace.asp> for more information.
2. Keep your family together.
3. Stay inside your manor and keep all doors and windows closed and unlocked.
4. Leave inside and outside lights on.
5. Fill sinks and tubs with water.
6. Keep calm. Remember that if it gets hot inside, it is four to five times hotter outside.
7. Put a large "NEED HELP" sign in a front window visible from the street or sidewalk.
8. See inside front cover of this booklet.

NEED HELP

Do not depend on First Responders being able to assist you during the early stages of a disaster.

Meet **NOW** with your neighbors and have plans to help each other evacuate early.

PLEASE

Please - Leave - Early - And - Safely - Evacuate

If you become trapped or unable to escape through the Main Gate or designated alternate evacuation route, use the golf course as a refuge area by driving and/or walking onto a clear area as far away from structures and vegetation as possible and wait for the danger to pass.

Returning Home

Pay close attention to any directions given by your local authorities. When they say it's safe to return to your home, keep these tips in mind to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Wildfires leave behind a lot of ash that can irritate your eyes, nose, or skin and cause coughing and other health effects. People with asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or heart disease need to be especially careful about breathing in dust from ash.

Expect and prepare for disruptions to daily activities and remember that returning home before debris is cleared can be dangerous.



Drive safely

- Be alert for broken traffic lights and missing street signs
- Watch out for trash and debris on the road
- Avoid downed power or utility lines; they may be live with deadly voltage



Be careful around damaged buildings or structures



- Gather some basic supplies to make your return a safe one. Most of these items can be picked up at your nearest hardware or grocery store if you don't have them on hand:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| » Gloves | » Cell phone | » Garbage bags |
| » Goggles | » Flashlight | » First aid kit |
| » Closed-toe shoes | » Bottled water | |

- Wait to return to buildings during daylight hours, when it is easier to avoid hazards, especially if the electricity is off and you have no lights
- Walk the perimeter before you go inside. Take note of any out-of-place electrical wiring, gas smells or loose debris that may fall



Clean up safely

- Don't try to take more than you can carry
- Wear proper safety equipment, avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and avoid electrical hazards

When in doubt, throw it out

- Food and drinks inside your fridge or freezer may need to be tossed when you return home — especially if your house lost power or was exposed to dust, ash, smoke or any of the chemicals used to put out fires

Protect your emotional well-being

After a disaster, you may feel sad, mad, guilty, or numb. These are all normal reactions to stress

- Talk to a psychologist, social worker, or professional counselor if you need help coping
- Share your feelings with your neighbors – “talking it out” is healing





ROSSMOOR
WALNUT CREEK

www.rossmoorepo.org



VACANT OR ALREADY EVACUATED

WE HAVE GONE TO: _____

PHONE: () _____

WE (PEOPLE & PETS) INCLUDE: _____



Check out Rossmoor Emergency Preparedness Organization's website for information on readying your household for a Rossmoor wildfire evacuation. www.rossmoorepo.org. Email: rossmoorepo@gmail.com.

Post this on your door if you evacuate



FIRE EVACUATION: KNOW YOUR ZONE

- ✓ Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
- ✓ Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
- ✓ You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible.
- ✓ You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware.
- ✓ Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.

