

# Week 2

A Season of Resilience in Emergency Preparations

## Weekly Focus

WHAT	WHY
Expand preparations beyond a house fire to a community wildfire.	- With more households affected, there will be a greater strain on city & county resources during evacuations and fighting the fire(s). - It is unfortunately a high-risk condition for our area.

### Make A Plan

Be prepared for added complexity if your household is not co-located during an emergency evacuation.

- \_\_ Step 1: Identify institutional (work, school, etc.) evacuation sites for each person given their typical day.
- \_\_ Step 2: Identify how you will communicate across the household (text messages are recommended).
- \_\_ Step 3: Identify how and where to reunite at a family evacuation meeting point.
- \_\_ Step 4: Understand that schools have controlled reunification locations & adults must show I.D.
- \_\_ Step 5: Understand your obligations for family members that reside at live-in facilities.
- \_\_ Step 6: Identify at least 3 routes to get to each necessary reunification or meeting location (printed out).

All these details should be recorded in your [Family Emergency Communication Plan](#) (ready.gov)

### Be Informed

**Know how to receive local emergency warnings and alerts! Every minute could count so ensure you receive 1<sup>st</sup> alerts.**

- [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEAs\)](#): Emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal, territorial emergency management & safety officials that are broadcast from cell towers to any WAE-enabled mobile device in a locally targeted area. No registration or download required.
- [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#): National public warning system used by state & local authorities to broadcast alerts over radio, television, cable, & satellite radio.
- [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards \(NWR\)](#): Nationwide radio network to broadcast 24/7 weather, weather alerts, & non-weather emergencies from the nearest National Weather Service Office.

Colorado Springs NWR station: [WXM56](#) frequency 162.475 Mhz; often channel "4" on a NOAA weather radio.

Other official alert services provided by local instructions (county, city, businesses, schools, etc.)

- \_\_ Step 7: Register for [Peak Alerts](#): Emergency alerts for El Paso & Teller Counties; personal account registration required for address specific alerts to your phone numbers & emails. <https://www.elpasoteller911.org/246/Peak-Alerts>
- \_\_ Step 8: Optional [Everbridge Phone App](#): Peak Alert uses Everbridge & it supports other local alert systems like El Paso County Sheriff alerts. <https://www.everbridge.com>
- \_\_ Step 9: Check & register for business, church, medical, & school organization alerts; many in COS & Pueblo use [FlashAlert](#). <https://www.flashalert.net/regions/colorado-springs-pueblo/>
- \_\_ Step 10: Optional FEMA Phone App: Text **ANDROID** or **APPLE** to **43362** (4FEMA) for download link.

**Know what an emergency alert means.**

- \_\_ Step 11: Read through the [FEMA Guide for Alerts and Warnings](#) (fema\_guide-for-alerts-and-warnings\_2021.pdf)

## Make A Kit

We will work on a kit for situations you need to evacuate quickly and one where you need to stay at home.

**Remember the following is for 1 person, multiply as needed for each member.**

### Evacuate

#### Habits

- Try to always have a full tank of gasoline in your car.
- Try to get in a habit of backing your car into your garage or parking space for a faster & safer exit.

#### Navigation

- Map of local area with all routes for reunification & evacuation meeting sites highlighted.

#### Communication (some devices all-in-one for several of these items below)

- NOAA weather radio.
- FM/AM radio.
- Safety whistle to locate members.
- Notepad, pencil, pen, marker.
- Cell phone charger battery pack.
- Cell phone power cables, car charger adapter, and USB wall charger.
- Cell phone (assumed not stored in kit but grabbed on way out).
- Optional: Family long range walkie-talkie to help if cell towers are overloaded.

#### Dealing with smoke

- Spare air filter for your car.
- Particulate Respirator; 3M [N95 mask](#).
- Lubricant eye drops.
- Optional: Dewalt Goggle Concealer Clear Safety Work Goggle DPG82-11D.

#### Overnight bag

- Change of clothes; sturdy pants & long sleeves, comfortable sweats for sleepwear.
- Hygiene & toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soaps, wipes, deodorant, comb, moisturizer, sunscreen, etc).
- Toilet paper, tissues, and/or paper towels.
- Reusable water bottle
- Stocked diaper bag w/ formula if applicable.
- Sturdy shoes (assumed not stored in kit but grabbed or worn on way out).

#### Comfort support

- Spiritual resources (disasters can be incredible stressful)
- Cards, games, books (especially for kids, stuffed animals recommended).

#### Important information

- Pictures of house & household goods; picture of every room & high-value possessions; stored online or thumb drive; update pictures yearly; (insurance claims are hindered/delayed with verifying actual possessions & estimated replacement costs).