



Town of Green Mountain Falls

Regular Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

P.O. Box 524; 10615 Green Mountain Falls Road

Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819

August 30, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Only**

Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83118993626?pwd=YTZuaGx6NmlybU5uV0pGcVBzTTB2QT09>

Meeting ID: 831 1899 3626 Passcode: 108632

To make a **public comment** please **pre-register** by 4pm on the day of the meeting via email: clerk@gmfco.us

REGULAR MEETING:

TIME*		ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOME
6:30	1.	CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
6:30	2.	ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA	FMC Action Desired
6:30	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Information Only
6:30	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Minutes from 7/26/2021	FMC Action Desired
6:35	5.	Old Business a. Revisions to Evacuation Plan b. CUSP Grant – Fuels Mitigation	FMC Action Desired
7:05	6.	New Business a. Blizzard of Embers Campaign b. Recruiting new committee members a. Appoint Vice Chair b. Appoint Secretary c. Citizen notification of matching funds	FMC Action Desired
7:35	7.	Reports a. Notification and Evacuation b. Fuels Mitigation c. Grants d. Education	Information Only
8:00	8.	CORRESPONDENCE	Information Only
8:00	9.	ADJOURN	Information Only

*Please note: Times are approximate.

**The Town shall provide reasonable accommodation for those with disabilities on a case by case basis. Please send accommodation requests to clerk@gmfco.us by 4pm on the date of the meeting.



**Town of Green Mountain Falls
Regular Fire Mitigation Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
10615 Green Mountain Falls Road
July 26, 2021 6:30 PM**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present

David Douglas
Dan Battin
Rich Bowman
Nathan Scott

Board Members Absent

Alternate

Secretary

Matt Gordon

Town Staff Present

Matt Gordon

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda
Chair requested to have a CUSP update as agenda item 6.
3. Persons Present Not on the Agenda, 3 Minutes per Speaker
4. Consent Agenda
Bowman moved to approve. Second by Douglas. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Old Business
Scott provided details and an update on the evacuation plan maps he created for the Town's upcoming Evacuation Plan. Scott asked if secondary refuge areas needed to be included on the evac maps. Members agreed to include those areas in future iterations of the maps. Members agreed to present the Evac Plan to the BOT at the next regular meeting to be held on August 3rd.

Bowman moved to present the notification and evac plan as well as make a recommendation to purchase two notification sirens in 2022 to the BOT. Seconded Battin. Motion passed unanimously.
6. CUSP Update
Michelle Connelly provided an update on the grant that CUSP has applied for and reported that the State has confirmed that 26 projects will be funded, 5 will be partially funded, and 16 projects that are still under consideration. The State has not made a final decision on the grant that CUSP has applied for.

The 40-acre grant was funded/approved and CUSP is waiting on a funding letter to be sent by August or September to officially begin work.

40-acre grant will be dedicated to Town owned property and Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation property surrounding the town and will be funded by this grant and CSU and historic foundation, this is also federal funding. Second grant is a 53-acre grant through state funding and town money, waiting to hear if they received it and will included the same property focus as the 40-acre grant but will also include some private parcels. Both grants will provide up to three years to complete work.

Members discussed future budget needs to continue matching these grants in future years with Town money.

Douglas asked if Iona could be included in 53-acre grant, Connelly shared that it would.

Connelly shared a document with the FMAC describing how CUSP projects happen in a step-by-step process.

Discussion moved onto the fuels mitigation map provided by CUSP and the map created by Scott using CUSP data assessing fire risk on properties in GMF. Douglas asked about conflicting data between the maps. Adrian Knight from CUSP clarified that the assessments have multiple factors in determining risk and even though mitigation had been done on certain properties, those other factors influence the risk assessed on the property.

Battin mentioned that for new builds, if the Town adopted fire safe building codes to require future structures to be built to these standards to further minimize fire risk. Wildland, urban, interface building code for minimizing fire risk.

Discussion continued on the fire risk map. Member discussed the importance of educating the public on the necessity of performing fuels mitigation. Members discussed what would be included in a potential packet for education to be dispersed to residents in Town.

7. New Business

Risk assessment map discussion opened with Douglas asking what we should do to maximize the effectiveness of the map in addressing fire risk. Bowman recommended keeping this as an internal document. Battin shared that the map could use some more specifics to better understand areas that have higher risk that also have hazards that can be mitigated. Bowman shared that four categories are used to determine whether a structure can be saved. Battin and Bowman committed to assessing a number of properties.

Discussion continued regarding the presentation he provided to the BOT. Members shared that it was helpful in providing clarity on FMAC projects.

8. Reports

Battin has a meeting scheduled with Steve Rudolph to walk the Iona property to survey the trees in the area for mitigation.

Douglas shared that why he is so data focused is that grants require specific information for awards to be possible.

Douglas then requested that members bring education materials/lists that exist and need to be communicated to residents for fuels mitigation/building hardening purposes.

Gordon shared that Fred Thrash is on the agenda for tomorrow night and that cloud services are not acceptable to use due to OML requirements.

9. Correspondence

10. Adjourn
Adjourn at 8:38pm

Secretary

Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA MEMO

DATE: 08.3.2021	AGENDA NO 7	SUBJECT: Notification and Evacuation Plan
Presented by: Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee		

By reference to the Comprehensive Plan of 2019, Wildfire Hazard is addressed within the main body of the Plan regarding Health of citizens and the Appendix A, A1. Wildfire. Recommendations for action include a Notification and Evacuation Plan and to provide education and instruction for the residents and other stakeholders of the town.

Accordingly, the Green Mountain Falls FMAC has developed a plan of Notification and Evacuation to be implemented in the event of a wildfire which threatens safety and wellbeing of residents and visitors. The FMAC recommendation is summarized below and supported by attachments.

Evacuation Plan

This plan consists of a set of instructions and maps to be referenced in an evacuation. The maps provide evacuation routes depending on the location and direction of an active wildfire. The FMAC recommends immediate approval and adoption of the Evacuation plan inclusive of instructions and maps which, upon approval and adoption, will be posted on the Green Mount Falls website. This Evacuation Plan is considered an initial plan which may be subject to future revisions recommended by the FMAC and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Notification System

The FMAC researched methods of notification system which would assure all people in the town could be reached. The Sentry Siren system model 3V8-H-B along with the Model G3 controller was determined to be the most effective method of notification by the FMAC. Because of the town's topography which may impair the effective auditory transmission of a siren, the notification system should consist of two sirens located assure the sirens could be heard in all directions. A map which overlays the town with the audible sound waves is attached to illustrate this point.

The FMAC recognizes the cost (proposal attached) of the recommended system is significant and is not a budgeted capital item in the current 2021 budget year. We recommend the Board of Trustees consider budgeting the cost of the Sentry Siren system in the 2022 budget. We also recommend the Board of Trustees cause the active investigation of available matching grants and apply for such grants which may help offset or pay the cost of this system.

Town of Green Mountain Falls, CO.

Fire Evacuation Plan

Fire Evacuation Zones.

- Zone A (Hondo Ave. and Ute Pass Ave. to include all areas West of Green Mountain Falls Ave.)
- Zone B (Hondo Ave. and Ute Pass Ave. All locations East of Ute Pass Ave. to include east of Green Mountain Falls Ave.)

Evacuation Routes.

- Review attached maps.
- Major evacuation will be accomplished using Hwy 24 East and west as directed.

During Evacuation.

- Evacuate Immediately when alerted to do so.
- Know your neighbors. Assist those who may need it. (children, elderly, handicap.)
- During evacuation if you are unable to exit the town. Know your safe zones. (safe zones are areas you may reach on foot to be safe from fire encroachment.) The fire Department to the West. Ute Pass Elementary to the East.
- SAFE ZONES SHOULD ONLY BE USED IF ESCAPE IS NOT POSSIBLE.
- **If Trapped in your home dial 911.**
- Listen to local news media and local officials for the latest evacuation updates.
- Wear durable clothes during evacuation. Jeans, long sleeve cotton shirt, boots, gloves, and N.95 respirator if available.
- When driving turn on lights, leave car windows up if smoke and flame are present.
- Avoid pulling a trailer. Changing directions or turning may be difficult.

- Turn Your homes exterior lights on. Turn gas or propane off.
- Prior to departing your home close all windows and doors.
- Leave a note on the door stating you have evacuated include date time, and where evacuated to. Leave door unlocked.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but heavy smoke is presenting health concerns, or you do not feel safe. Self-evacuate to a secure location.
- Consider making plans for an extended stay with friends or hotels out of the immediate area.
- Most of all stay calm it will assist you and your loved ones.

Know that choosing not to evacuate can endanger not only yourself but potentially first responders as well.

Town of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

NW Evac Zone
(Zone A)

SE Evac Zone
(Zone B)

Evacuation Plan A:

Zones Split to Escape:

Zone A to 24 West

Zone B to 24 East

Pedestrian Refuge Zones



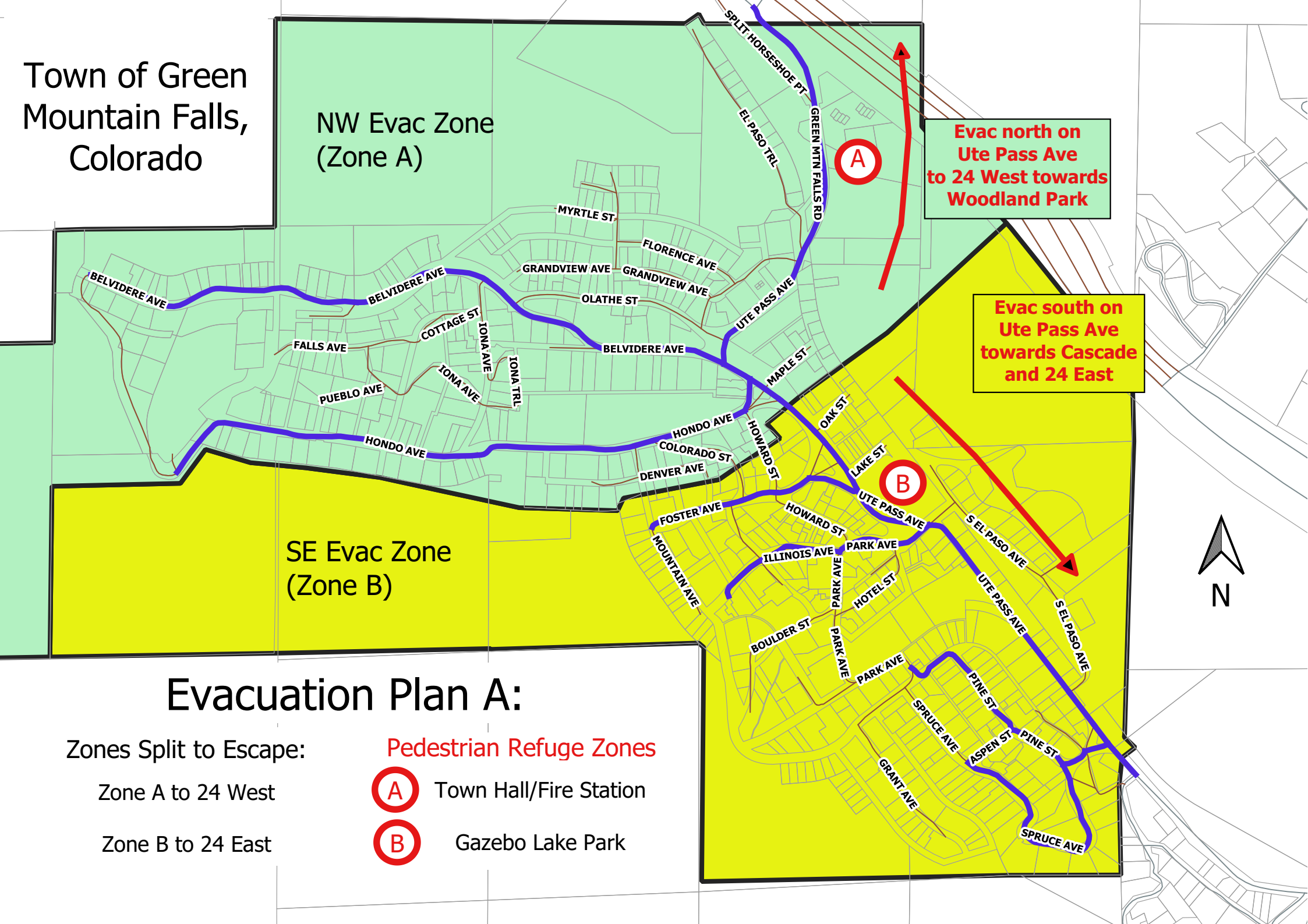
Town Hall/Fire Station



Gazebo Lake Park

Evac north on
Ute Pass Ave
to 24 West towards
Woodland Park

Evac south on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Cascade
and 24 East



Town of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

NW Evac Zone
(Zone A)

SE Evac Zone
(Zone B)

Evac SE on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Cascade
and 24 East

Evac SE on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Cascade
and 24 East

Evacuation Plan B:

Both Zones SE to US 24 East

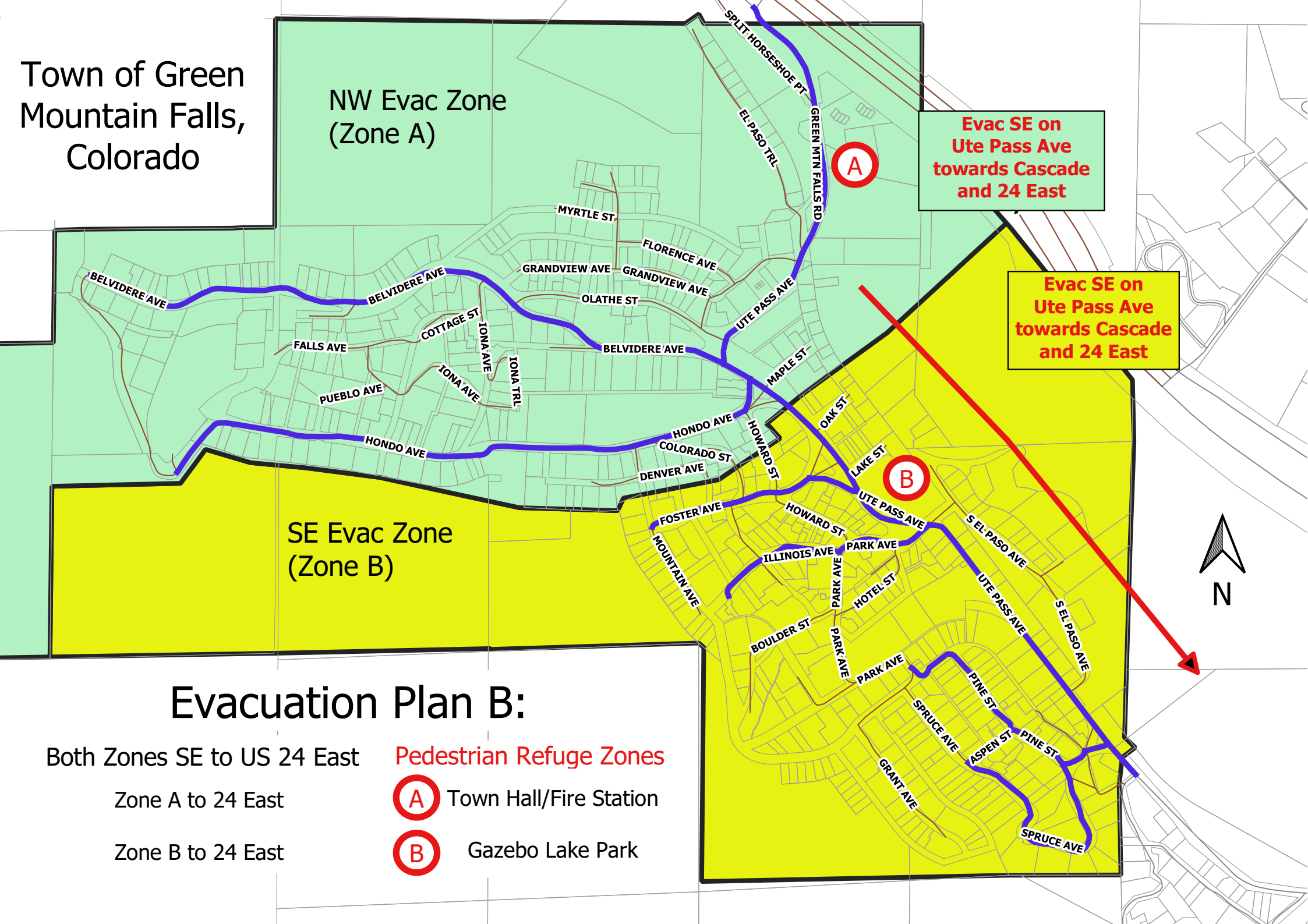
Zone A to 24 East

Zone B to 24 East

Pedestrian Refuge Zones

A Town Hall/Fire Station

B Gazebo Lake Park



Town of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

NW Evac Zone
(Zone A)

SE Evac Zone
(Zone B)

Evacuation Plan C:

Both Zones NW to US 24 West

Zone A to 24 West

Zone B to 24 East

Pedestrian Refuge Zones



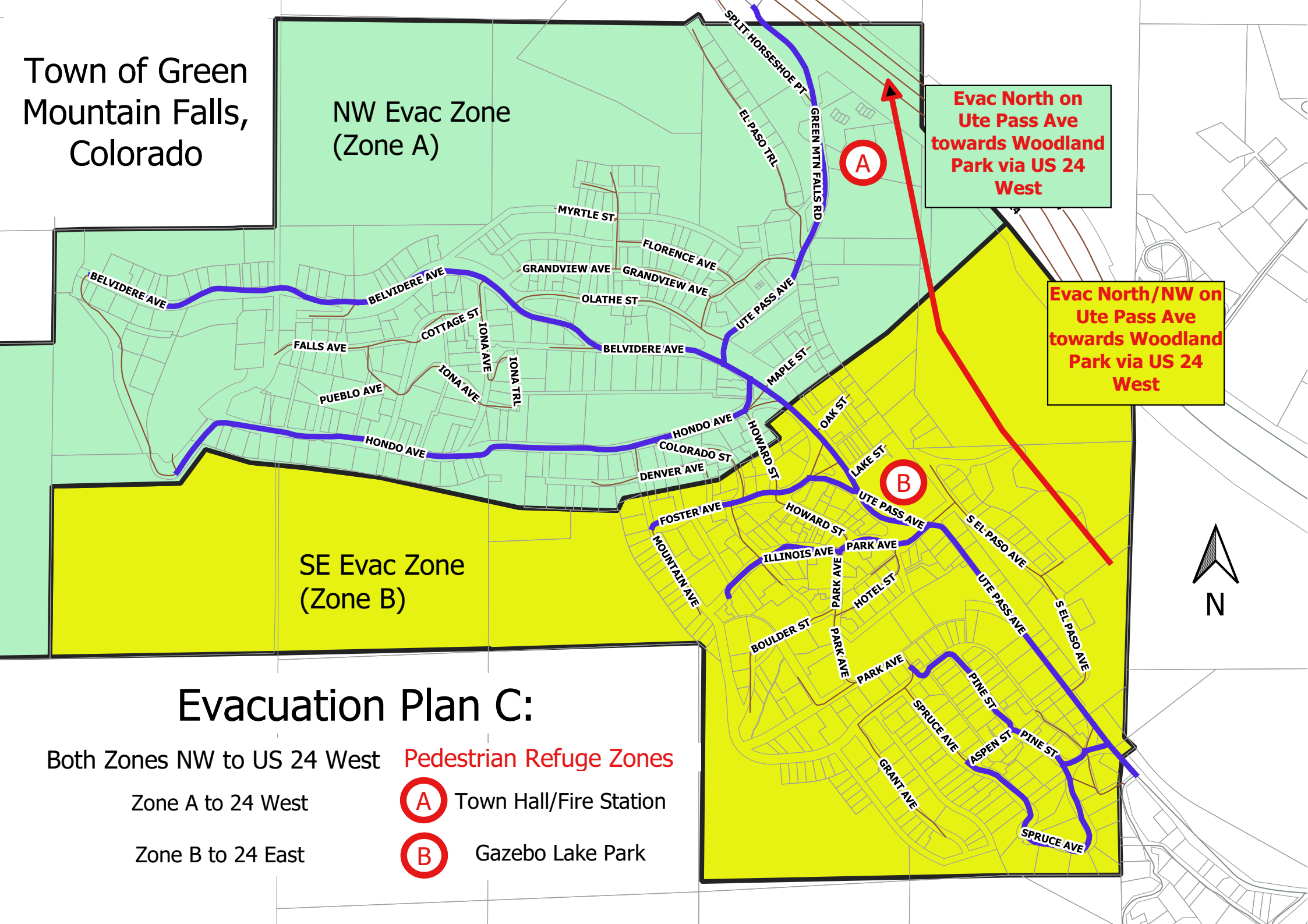
Town Hall/Fire Station



Gazebo Lake Park

Evac North on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Woodland
Park via US 24
West

Evac North/NW on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Woodland
Park via US 24
West





P.O. Box 386
Cañon City, CO 81212
Tel: 719-275-8691
Fax: 719-269-3397
www.SentrySiren.com

A little about us:

Our company is “relationship driven”. Meaning, we establish lifetime relationships with our clients. We approach every job with the intention that each client will, from that day forward, only need Sentry for their warning needs. Next, our products are second to none in quality, durability, and performance. Our warranty is the best in the market and we are proud to offer the lowest failure rate in the industry.

Concerning product durability and life expectancy, well, that’s where Sentry truly shines. We start our production process with the highest quality raw materials including what we call “single ingot sampling”. To explain, our rotors and stators are produced in pairs rather than in batches like our competitors. Meaning, a single siren’s rotor and stator are produced from the same batch of raw aluminum ingots so as to ensure the rotor and stator expand, contract, age and perform in the same manner. Eliminating the variances in metal behavior over time, experienced by our competitors’ sirens, and therefore, allowing a siren to perform equally 25 years after installation as it did the day it was born. Other sirens not utilizing “single ingot sampling” can get quieter or even seize due to inconsistencies in metal behavior over time.

Next, we take advantage of the latest in CNC mills, lathes and cutting tools to ensure quality fit and finish to our siren parts. Finally, one of Sentry’s expert builders will hand assemble each siren from start to finish ensuring the ultimate attention to quality and detail.

When speaking of a siren’s range. We base the value on an equation set by FEMA. In the 2006 revision to the FEMA warning systems guide, a new equation was issued which takes into account, for the first time, a siren’s pitch and how it relates to atmospheric attenuation. The effect of the change basically said, the lower the pitch, the less sound is attenuated given a set distance. Sentry’s sound pitch, you guessed it, is the lowest in the industry. Since Sentry Sirens produce 460 Hz, the sound reduction factor is set by FEMA at 8 dB per doubling of the distance. For our ratings however, we like to remain conservative and keep the number at 9. This conservative rating still affords us a 70 dB sound pattern of over 3.2 square miles, and it’s Omni-directional, not rotating.

FEMA has something to say about that too. To quote directly from the Warning Systems Guide section 4.4.5: “In situations where there are high fluctuations in the ambient noise level, or near the limits of the audible device range, Omni-directional devices present a distinct advantage, in terms of their signal consistency, over rotational devices. For example, because of the reduced duration of its peak sound level in any single direction during its 360° sweep, a rotational device will have an overall lower dB level when assessed across a given time period than an Omni-directional device operating at the same frequency. Additionally, because sound has a reinforcing effect, Omni-directional devices can act as sound “boosters” with adjacent audible devices.”

FEMA goes even further by saying in section 4.1 “Omni-directional sirens provide greater area coverage than do rotating or directional devices. They provide a more constant signal that improves public alerting in areas with highly fluctuating ambient noise, along with the reinforcing effect of multiple sound sources (up to a 3 dB increase for two adjacent sound sources in the same environmental setting). Therefore Omni-directional sirens can be used to good advantage in areas with high population density, areas with high ambient noise levels (e.g., near factories, highways, or airports), and to cover “pockets” between directional sirens, particularly for partially hilly to hilly terrains.”

Concerning life expectancy, we estimate this value based on the ratings our motors and bearings carry, as well as real world testing and experience. The motors used in our AC and DC sirens are custom built for each particular siren. We did not take the “easy road” and use a store bought motor to accomplish the task of powering our premium sirens. Our motor / bearing combination has the ability to provide

.....

10,000 hours of work before needing service. To explain just how long that is: given a standard 3 minute activation, this equates to 200,000 activations. Based on a weekly test with an average number of emergencies, your siren's motor would need servicing after 2,500 years. That's a pretty long life.

Therefore, our life expectancy rating must be based on other factors, such as rust or environmental damage. Given the huge variance in factors facing installations, we choose to use zinc galvanized, phosphatized, and powder coated metals for our siren bodies. We've found these metals to be the best defense to the perils of Mother Nature. At the end of the day, we estimate our sirens to be useable for a minimum of 25 years. Although, some will certainly last longer, we must find a number we're all comfortable with.

Just an F.Y.I.: Our 10V2T siren, although a different model, uses the same production methods and materials, was given a life span rating by the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) of 53 years, even though we still rate it at 25.

Our pride rests on our quality, and we're pretty proud.

Please let me know if there is anything else you'd like clarification on or if any questions arise. I'd love to help.

Thanks,

Scott Yarberry
Executive Vice President
Sentry Siren, Inc.
719-275-8691 x 1114

Sentry Siren, Inc. Warning Siren and Software References

Cliff Weaver, Director
Nick Adams, Deputy Director
Vanderburgh County EMA
Evansville, IN 47711
(812) 421-6204

Steve Hauser, Director
Perry County, EMA
Tell City, IN 47586
(812) 547-4426

Dan Howell, Director
City of Martinsville EMA
Martinsville, VA 24112
(276) 403-5000

Paul Mahaney, Senior Project
Engineer
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244
Tel: (315) 443-5328

Michael Baxter, Chief
City of Chatsworth
Chatsworth, Georgia 30705
Tel: (706) 695-7600

Pike County Emergency
Mgmt.
Petersburg, IN 47567
(812) 881-0333

Rodney Neff
City of Cuba
Cuba, MO 65453
(573) 205-1102

Dustin Willett, Director
Pennington County EMA
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-2185

Dave E. Woolen, Director
Warrick County EMA
Boonville, IN 47601
(812) 897-6178

City of Dearing
Randy Haymaker, Mayor
306 S. Independence St.
Dearing, Kansas 67340
Tel: (620) 948-3302

City of Mammoth Springs
Jean Pace, Mayor
Mammoth Springs, Arkansas 72554
Tel: (870) 625-3518

City of Mount Vernon
Jackie Cates
Mount Vernon, Texas 75457
Tel: (903) 588-6148

City of Hobart
Jerry Lankford, Fire Chief
Hobart, Oklahoma 73651
Tel: (580) 726-5237

City of Valley Mills
Tommy Roach, Chief of Police
Valley Mills, Texas 76689
Tel: (254) 932-6300

City of Lyons
Randy Sheppard, Fire Chief
Lyons, Kansas 67554
Tel: (620) 257-2320

Town of Highfill
Rob Holland, Fire Marshall
Highfill, Arkansas 72734
Tel: (479) 619-5962

City of Clyde
David Jones, Fire Chief
412 Washington
Clyde, Kansas 66938
Tel: (785) 446-3533

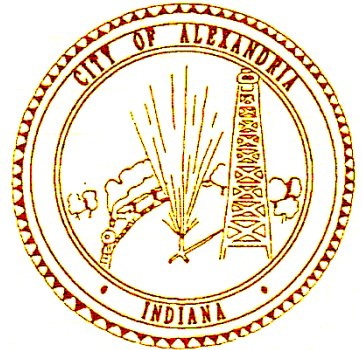
City of Mound Valley
Ruth Clines, City Clerk
P.O. Box 164
Mound Valley, Kansas 67354
Tel: (620) 328-3752

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Small Town U.S.A.

Jack Woods
Mayor

Lynne King
Administrative Assistant



INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 4, 1893

October 21, 2014

The city of Alexandria, Indiana has a population of 5,145 and hasn't had an early warning siren capable of serving the public.

Upon my search for a unit that will have the capability to warn our citizens of severe weather, I found that Sentry Siren was the best option. I have had great service from the first telephone conversation and have not been disappointed by their expertise to have the precise sirens installed for our city.

The citizens have appreciated the new system and have complimented on the sound level as we have many elderly citizens.

Thank you Sentry Siren for assisting Alexandria with our first weather alert siren.

Jack Woods
Mayor, City of Alexandria



MARSHALL COUNTY
Emergency Management



Melissa Combs, Director
1101 Main Street
Benton, Kentucky 42025
(270) 527-4739

9 May 2012

Judge Perry Newcom
Crittenden County Judge/Executive
107 S. Main Street
Marion, KY 42064

Dear Judge Newcom:

It is my understanding that Crittenden County is reviewing bids on new sirens.

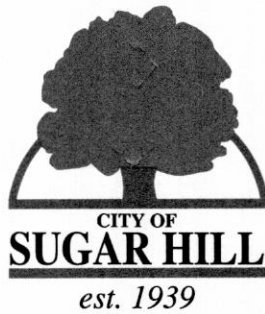
Please allow me just a moment to provide a testimony for Sentry and their sirens.

Marshall County purchased nine outdoor warning sirens from Sentry in 1999 and an additional three in 2006. Until our recent (within last 4 years) efforts to upgrade the controllers to next generation equipment the units required very little maintenance and most issues were due to lightening interference or the tripping of a breaker. Sentry representatives have always shown an eagerness to assist us in identifying and addressing issues. Questions or concerns are addressed in a timely manner. Units requiring shop work were received back into the county in a very timely manner. We have found their customer service to be very satisfactory.

When faced with a decision such as yours, which units are best for our community, it is sometimes helpful to hear from someone who has utilized the product. We understand the bid process and are very familiar to the constraints that budgets are under today, it is simply our hope that this testimony provides additional information that will assist you and your staff with making your decision.

Sincerely,

Melissa Combs
Director



The city of Sugar Hill recently installed a Storm Sentry weather center and automatic siren activation system from Sentry Siren. We have been extremely satisfied with its performance and operation in addition to the excellent customer service provided by Sentry Siren and by Sirens for Cities. The Storm Sentry is in full control of our Sentry Sirens and provides us with reliable weather data and peace of mind. The representatives at Sentry and Sirens for Cities are always just a phone call away and fix any issues in a timely manner.

The system successfully activated our sirens automatically during a recent tornado without any need for the staff of the city to do so. We recommend the Storm Sentry as well as Sentry Sirens to any community looking for the absolute best in warning systems products and service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Hail", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert M. Hail
City Manager
City of Sugar Hill

Chuck Weisling

----- Original Message -----

From: Combs, Melissa (MRSCO)

To: Perry Newcom, Judge/Executive Crittenden County

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 6:38 PM

Subject: Crittenden County Siren Project

Judge/Executive Newcom:

One thing that I failed to mention in the letter and previous email was that when Marshall County conducted their review of bids and prospective providers one of the main selling points for Sentry is that they have no moving parts like the Whelens in Calvert City. That is a constant problem for them. Due to the age they are unable to get replacement parts and are currently conducting a review to determine how to best address the issue. The old "Thunderbolts" also had moving parts. That is all and again I hope this has been helpful.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate, my contact information is listed below.

Melissa Combs

Director, Marshall County Emergency Management

Chairman, Marshall County LEPC

President, West Kentucky Emergency Managers Association

1101 Main Street, Benton KY 42025

Ofc: 270-527-4739 / Mobile: 270-205-8947 or Fx: 270-527-4795

<http://marshallcounty.ky.gov>

"As it should, every response teaches us something new!

May we continue Working Together To Improve Overall Response!"

Marshall County Emergency Management receives and distributes information regarding equipment, events, products, training, and resources; however, distribution does not imply endorsement. Agencies are encouraged to review and utilize the distributed information as best suits their needs.



**Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency
P. O. Box 371
Fayetteville, TN 37334**

May 9, 2012

Judge Perry Newcom,
Crittenden County Judge-Executive
107 S. Main St.
Marion, KY 42064

Dear Judge Newcom:

I understand you are in a process of bidding sirens for your county. Please allow me to tell you about Sentry Siren.

Lincoln County purchased ten outdoor warning sirens in 1999. Our equipment has had very little maintenance other than causes due to electric storms. The times that we have had to call Sentry Siren for parts they shipped the parts to us overnight and we received the parts the next morning. When requesting new quotes or information we have always received the information within just a short period of time.

You may have the choice of going with a low bidder, please check their service record very carefully. We made that mistake once and we are still paying for it.

You will not find another company with customer service as excellent as Sentry Sirens. The people at Sentry Siren treat you with respect, dignity and most of all like family.

If you have any questions about Sentry Siren, the business or owners please give us a call.

Respectfully,

Mike Hall
Director
Lincoln County EMA
931-438-1575



Proudly manufactured in the U.S.A.

Premium Outdoor Warning Systems

Since 1905, Sentry Siren, Inc. has proudly set the standard for hand-made warning sirens in the United States and around the world. Call us today and let our team go to work on your siren system!

www.SentrySiren.com



"We are so pleased with our selection of Sentry Siren, Inc. as our warning siren system supplier. The performance of our Sentry sirens is impressive; they are very reliable and very loud. And the customer service they provide is second to none. We would highly recommend Sentry to anyone looking to invest in their community with a warning siren system."

**-Roger Swint
Fire Chief
City of Morrow Fire Dept.
Morrow, GA**

Model 3V8-H-B:

Introduced in 2016, the 3V8-H-B has quickly become one of our top performers. Featuring DC primary, full battery operation, the 3V8-H-B provides UPS reliability at a fraction of the cost of many battery backup siren systems.

Key features:

- Rated at 116dB(C) at 100ft.*
- 3,400ft. estimated coverage radius / effective range*
- 4HP, continuous-duty DC motor; 48VDC; only requires 120VAC service for battery charging
- Minimum 30 minutes run time from batteries
- Omni-directional (non-rotating) warning siren
- True 360 degree full dB sound output
- 100% maintenance free
- Electro-mechanically generated sound
- 5 year factory warranty
- Powder coated steel construction. Stainless steel available on request.
- Easily replaces aging existing sirens

*Based on Sentry Siren field tests

The Blizzard of Embers Initiative

Even though a fire may be raging a mile or more away, fire professionals will tell you that a “blizzard of embers” could waft to your home in Green Mountain Falls and set it on fire.

“About 60 to 90 per cent of homes lost to wildfire aren’t destroyed by a wall of fire but ignited by embers coming from a mile away or more,” David Root, a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service (CFS) told this reporter. He said wind and other weather variables play a large role in how far flaming embers travel, adding he’s heard of them coming from as far as five miles away.

Green Mountaineers still suffer collective trauma from when the entire town had to evacuate because of the nearby Waldo Canyon fire in 2012.

This article begins a series, developed by the Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee, to let residents know how they can do their part to protect their homes and their beloved Green Mountain Falls.

COULD YOUR HOME OR PROPERTY BE A TARGET FOR FLAMING EMBERS?

Take this test.

Are there flammable materials within five feet of your house?

Is your deck made of wood or other material that might catch fire easily?

Do you store stuff that could easily ignite under your deck?

Do grass and weeds within 30 feet of your house need mowing?

Have you checked your roof for dead leaves and branches that could catch fire?

If you answered “yes” to one or more of these questions, a forester for a group working to assure the ecological health in the area, says your home could easily catch fire if embers fall on it.

After checking 15 homes in one area of GMF, Adrian Knight of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte came up with these startling findings: 73 per cent had flammable materials close to houses; 66 per cent had flammable decks; 47 per cent of surrounding areas needed mowing; 27 per cent stored flammable material under their decks. Only 13 per cent had stuff on their roofs.

CFS has published an excellent guide for residents to prepare their homes for wildfire and creating defensible space around them. Click this link to get it. [2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf](#)

BLIZZARD OF EMBERS INITIATIVE FOR GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS

A PROPOSAL

Forestry and fire professionals use “blizzard of embers” to describe how embers from a wildfire waft from one to five miles, depending on wind and other conditions, to residential areas. In 2012, Green Mountain Falls (GMF) almost fell victim to an embers “blizzard” during the Waldo Canyon fire.

Many people believe their homes are no match for a wall of fire. But airborne embers may be the real culprits. According to many experts, embers drifting from a fire are responsible for destroying 60 to 90 per cent of homes. Flammable decks and materials, untended grass and shrubs, and dead vegetation on rooftops provide ready fire starters.

A cursory review of homes in one GMF neighborhood by Adrian Knight of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) reported these startling findings: 73 per cent had flammable materials close to houses; 66 per cent, flammable decks; 47 per cent, surrounding areas needed mowing; 27 per cent, flammable material under their decks, 13 per cent, dead leaves and tree branches on their roofs.

Despite their close call in 2012, some folks in GMF don’t practice good fire mitigation hygiene. They are setting themselves and the town up for tragedy. The Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee (FMAC) wants to educate residents about easy, low-cost actions they can do themselves, as well as the latest in fire-resistant technology for those who can afford it.

The challenge for FMAC is getting the word out. Attendance at Board of Trustees and other town meetings is lackluster; few people are in the habit of checking the town’s website or Facebook page for information; stories on the GMF Facebook and Politics pages easily get lost. Even if they’ve read about fire mitigation, people largely don’t take immediate action. Research into human nature shows that people must be reminded over and over again that before they change behavior. The same is true whether the topic is protection against Covid or fire mitigation.

FMAC wants to convince residents they don’t have to wait on the town government for effective fire mitigation. FMAC’s proposal is a tactful, but in-your-face, approach to keeping the idea of residents’ responsibility in protecting GMF before the community.

1. Call it the Blizzard of Embers Initiative. Graphic artists can easily visualize in case you want to create emblems or posters.
2. Create a website dedicated to fire mitigation with stories and updates on fire mitigation in GMF. Subscription to the website would be free; MailChimp would send out email notices to subscribers alerting them to new stories. We post the same stories on Facebook, but the website is something people can get into the habit of checking and finding things easily. Besides tips, we can write about CUSP’s work with grants for homeowners, choosing a reliable mitigation contractor, and stories gleaned from the Colorado State Forestry Service website.
3. Firefighter members (active and retired) of FMAC don their uniforms and go out into the community to speak before every available forum. Ute Pass Elementary (kids can be great noodges for parental action), Church of the Wildwood for starters. These are places to distribute flyers and other paper.