

## **MESSAGE FROM STEVE MURPHY, CHIEF,**

### **GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS/CHIPITA PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

A downed power line, lightning, a carelessly tossed cigarette, sparks from a construction site, the list seems endless. Any one of them could easily cause a fiery inferno in Ute Pass like the one we have witnessed in Boulder and outside Denver. Prepare now in case the worst happens.

#### **Do this now**

Go to <http://elpasoteller911.org/to> create an account with Peak Alerts. This puts you in to the “reverse 911” system whereby you will receive notifications from El Paso and Teller Counties of emergency situations, including evacuation notices.

If you already have an account with Peak Alerts, check to make sure your contact information is up to date.

If you have a landline, include that. That could be your only way of receiving a notice should electricity go out due to power outages.

The system will leave a message on any phone line where voicemail or an answering machine is detected.

If you have a solicitation blocker or answering “attendant”, emergency calls may not get through.

#### **Should you have to evacuate**

Be sure to take enough medications, clothing, and other essentials to last for a week or more.

Take chargers for phones, computers, electronic devices.

Take your pets. Arrange to move out horses and other large animals. Many people left their horses behind during Waldo. It was a challenge to evacuate them after the fact.

Take cherished belongings if you have time. It’s a good idea to come up with a plan now.

**Evacuation is up to you** Do not wait to be told by the fire department or town marshal to evacuate. Keep up with developments as reported on television and radio.

#### **Evacuation Plan Where to head**

The evacuation plan written by Green Mountain’s Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee advises:

**If the fire is on the east side (like Waldo), head west on Highway 24 towards Woodland Park.** If directed to go west, folks need to remember that Woodland Park has limited resources so plan for a longer trip. If a fire is large enough, Woodland may get evacuated too. I suggest you research alternate routes to the Denver area ahead of time.

**If the fire is on the west side of the district, go east to Colorado Springs.**