



City of Oakridge
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2021 Community Evacuation Plan

I. PLANNING:

1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures for orderly and coordinated evacuation operations in Oakridge, to outline warning procedures to be used for evacuations, to identify primary evacuation routes and shelter resources, to identify procedures for the security of the perimeter during and after the evacuation; and to identify procedures for allowing evacuees to return to their homes.

1.2 **Scope:** The City of Oakridge has developed this plan to evacuate residents for uncontained wildfire or other catastrophic events. The evacuation can be ordered due to credible information that a serious emergency may threaten the safety and lives of residents and visitors.

1.3 **Background:** Wildfires can present a dynamic and unpredictable risk to life of Oakridge citizens. It is imperative the alert levels are understood:

- **Level 1 - Ready**

- Be Ready, Be Firewise. Be ready for the potential to evacuate. Be aware of the dangers in your area by monitoring emergency service websites and local media outlets for information. Take personal responsibility, prepare your family and belongings so your home is ready to leave. For wildfire, be Firewise by reducing your home's ignition potential. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Create an Evacuation Plan with escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action. Taking the correct route during an evacuation is critical for your safety. Tune into information about where to go during an evacuation, see sources below.

- **Level 2 - Set**

- Situational Awareness. Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice. This level indicates significant danger in your area and voluntarily relocating to a shelter or family is advisable. This may be the only notice that you receive; emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to reach you again if the condition worsen. If you do decide to stay, pack your emergency items and be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

- **Level 3 - Go**

- Act Early! Leave immediately and follow your personal evacuation plan. Do not delay leaving by gathering your belongings or make efforts to save your home. Danger in your areas is imminent and you should evacuate immediately. If you chose not to evacuate, emergency services may not be able to assist you. DO NOT plan to return to check on your house or animals until it's declared safe to do so.

II. TRIGGER POINTS:

2.1 Trigger points for declared alert levels are determined by the Incident Commander, Oregon Emergency Management, Lane County Emergency Management, and the City of Oakridge Administrator.

III. NOTIFICATION and ALERTING:

Alerting the public: Various ways for the public to become notified include:

- 3.1 Postings at city hall and fire department.
- 3.2 News stations: Listen to local radio or TV stations for information.
- 3.3 Emergency Alert System (EAS) Broadcast: The County Sheriff or the County Emergency Management Director can activate the EAS System which is located in the Lane County 911 dispatch center, to alert residents of imminent dangers. Sign up for alerts here: <https://lanecounty.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=3585881&pageId=15915667>
- 3.4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio: The National Weather Service will issue warnings. These notifications will be tone alerted over NOAA Weather Radios and sent over the EAS.
- 3.5 Mobile public address systems and sirens: First Responders using vehicle loud speakers and sirens may slowly drive roads in the affected area announcing the need to evacuate and indicating the best available routes for evacuation.
- 3.6 Emergency public information: An EAS broadcast, other emergency alerting (such as a reverse 911 system), and/or utilization of mobile public address systems may be utilized to inform the public in an emergency situation.

IV. EVACUATION PROCEDURES:

- 4.1 Direction and control: The amount of time it takes to evacuate an area depends upon a variety of factors that include the size of the vulnerable population, high hazard areas and transportation routes. Local conditions, traffic accidents, and different fire scenarios will all affect whether roads will be open. Emergency officials will monitor roads and let the public know through radio stations and other media if alternate routes should be taken.
- 4.2 Evacuation routes: The primary evacuation will be OR-58 West unless the situation dictates otherwise. Evacuation routes will typically follow main roadways and routes utilized for daily transportation.
- 4.3 Evacuation centers: Upon notification of an alert level, the evacuation mustering point will be included with the alert as will Red Cross and Lane County Disaster Shelter locations. The Oakridge High School will act as the primary evacuation center for those unable to self-evacuate. In case that building is not available then another mustering point will be determined and included in the broadcast. For those homebound and unable to get to an evacuation center, please pre-register with city hall (541-782-2258) and you will be placed on a list for a pickup in the event of an evacuation. For those who have not registered and need a pickup during the emergency, call the Incident Command Center at 541-782-2414.

4.4 Evacuation guidelines: The following table serves as a visual aid in reminding the public and responders of some basic guidelines for an evacuation process:

Always:	If time permits:
Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed or unable to pump gas during power outages and disasters or emergencies.	<u>Secure your home:</u> - Close and lock doors and windows. - Unplug electrical items such as radios, televisions and all small appliances.
Make transportation arrangements with friends or your local government if you do not own a car.	Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection, such as long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and a cap.
Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.	Gather your disaster supplies kit.
Gather your family and go if you are instructed to evacuate immediately.	Let others know where you are going.
Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.	
Be alert for closed roads.	
Stay away from downed power lines.	

V. SAFETY and HAZARDS:

- 5.1 Emergency responders: Emergency responders must keep safety as a priority. An injured responder not only adds a victim to the disaster that needs to be taken care of, it decreases the responder pool for the rest of the emergency. In this type of a situation the number of responders will likely not meet the identified need. Basic safety includes an array of usual safety hazards running from transportation to the weather. A disaster or flooding situation will have additional problems including roadways and flooding, electrical issues – in buildings and power lines – and other utilities that will provide a common and wide spread concern.
- 5.2 Exit route maintenance: Officials who are assisting with route maintenance must wear traffic visibility vests if they are available. A strong and real concern is evacuees striking someone in or near the roadway. All appropriate signage should be used as it becomes available. Any vehicle collisions on the route need to be cleared as quickly as possible and traffic should not be stopped unless critical. Traffic backup and issues can cause evacuees to use alternate routes that may not be safe and/or may hinder evacuation procedures.
- 5.3 Perimeter control: Post-evacuation security and maintenance will be the responsibility of local and regional law enforcement agencies. For mandatory evacuations, residents will not be allowed to re-enter evacuated area.
- 5.4 Re-entry: Re-entry into the area will be allowed only after the proper authorities have deemed the area safe for re-entry. The post-evacuation area will be secured by law enforcement and re-entry without proper approval may be considered a criminal offense. Once re-entry seems likely the Emergency Manager will meet with representatives of the proper agencies and develop a re-entry plan that will allow for the safest and most organized re-entry possible.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS:

- 6.1 Shelters: Most evacuation studies show that 40% or less of the affected population will seek disaster sheltering. Shelter assignments will be made in concert among the County Emergency Management Agency, local disaster services such as the Red Cross, and other public and private entities such as school systems and churches. The use of evacuation centers to identify the need for services and shelter assignment is meant to improve accountability and make the transition as smooth as possible for evacuees.
- 6.2 Coordination: All disaster responses need to be coordinated with the County and City Disaster Plans and with all responding agencies, both public and private. Communication among parties will provide the safest and most effective response to the disaster at hand.