



Emergency Evacuation Plan For Ramsey Canyon Residents and Visitors

**Fry Fire District, Cochise County Emergency Management,
and Ramsey Canyon Firewise**

In the case of an emergency, such as a forest fire, flood, or a hazardous materials event, it may be necessary to evacuate all or parts of Ramsey Canyon. This document provides important information for the safe and expedient evacuation of residents, property owners, and visitors from Ramsey Canyon. It is also possible the public will be notified to “shelter in place”. This document also provides information on steps to take if such a request is issued.

Local fire and law enforcement officials oversee coordinating and facilitating an emergency evacuation of Ramsey Canyon residents and visitors. When an evacuation is ordered, your life and safety should be your primary concern. Quick compliance to an evacuation order is critical. Evacuations save lives and allow responding personnel to focus on the emergency.

Types of Evacuations

• **READY – Prepare Now**

- Register with Cochise County emergency notification system.
 - <https://www.cochise.az.gov/287/Emergency-Management>
- Connect with Cochise County Emergency Management/Sheriff's Office on social media.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/CochiseSO/>
- Take steps now to prepare for seasonal threats
 - National Weather Service Tucson Field Office
 - <https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/socialmedia.php?wfo=twc>
- Make a family communication plan that includes family phone numbers, out-of-town contacts and family meeting locations.
 - <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form>
- Assemble an emergency supplies kit (Go Kit). Start with the five P's; people and pet supplies, prescriptions, papers, personal needs and priceless items.
 - <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Check with your neighbors, family, friends, and elders to ensure they are READY.
- Keep up to date on local news, weather advisories, watches, and warnings.

• **SET – Be Alert**

- Residents should consider voluntarily relocating to a shelter or with family/friends outside the affected area.
 - Grab your emergency supplies kit.
 - Keep in mind unique needs for your family or special equipment for pets and livestock.
- Stay aware of the latest news and information from public safety officials.
- This might be the only notice you receive. Emergency services cannot guarantee they will be able to notify everyone if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Be SET to GO.

• **GO – Evacuate**

- Residents should evacuate immediately to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area.
- If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand emergency services may not be able to assist you further.
- Follow instructions from emergency personnel, stay on designated evacuation routes and avoid closed areas.

Refer to the Notification/Communications section of this plan for ways of staying informed regarding the status of an emergency. Residents are strongly encouraged to help alert others in

the case of an emergency situation and to help neighbors who lack transportation or need assistance evacuating.

Fire or Law Enforcement officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home.

Emergency Preparedness

Plan ahead. This will help to keep you and those around you calm during an emergency. Make it your personal goal to be prepared for any type of emergency.

- Clearly post the 911 address of your property.
- Notify Fry Fire or SEACOM Dispatch of anyone at your residence who will need special assistance in the case of an evacuation.
- Sign up in advance for emergency alerts with the Cochise County Emergency Alert
 - <https://www.cochise.az.gov/287/Emergency-Management>
- Designate a meeting area in case your family is separated prior to an evacuation.
- Designate a person living outside Ramsey Canyon to be your contact person.
- Make a list of the items you want to take in case of an evacuation (medications, prescription glasses, important documents, photos, family heirlooms, etc.).
- Prepare an emergency supply kit and have it easily accessible. It should contain bottled water, ready-to-eat food items, flashlight, extra batteries, leather gloves, and other items you might need if required to evacuate.
 - <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Keep your vehicle fuel tank as full as possible.
- Develop an evacuation plan for your pets/livestock.
- Develop a buddy system with neighbors and friends to make sure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets and/or livestock if you are unable to do so.
- Arizona Livestock Board may provide information and/or suggestions on developing an emergency plan for your horses.
- Create a defensible space around your home.
 - [NFPA - Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire video](#)

Evacuation Process:

Emergency response personnel will determine the areas to be evacuated depending upon the location, behavior, and intensity of the emergency.

The direction of your escape will be dictated by the location of the emergency in relation to your home. You will be directed by emergency personnel in an evacuation. Proceed in an orderly fashion to traffic control points and follow any additional instructions to safely leave the canyon. Do not park on the side of the road or block the travel route of emergency personnel responding to the incident. If involved in a motor vehicle accident during the evacuation, move vehicles out of the roadway so traffic flow is not obstructed. Exchange information with the other driver(s) and, if your vehicle is still able to be driven, continue evacuating from the canyon. Seek assistance from emergency personnel or friends and neighbors if your vehicle is no longer safe to drive.

Those in need of shelter should proceed to a designated evacuation shelter. Information on the locations of these sites may be obtained from local media, or the Cochise County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to access the Cochise County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

Shelters and Large Animal Shelters: Be aware it may take several hours for an American Red Cross shelter/large animal shelter to be activated and operational. The shelter location may be advertised prior to its activation. You may arrive at a shelter location before the shelter is open. Whenever possible, Ramsey Canyon evacuees should arrange to stay with family or friends to keep shelter space available or those who have no other alternative. Depending on the circumstances, pets may or may not be allowed in emergency shelters operated by the American Red Cross. Service animals are generally allowed.

In case of an evacuation:

- Don't wait until the last minute to leave. Traffic will be slow due to the number of evacuees and emergency vehicles.
- Dress in long sleeves and long pants. Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Have leather gloves, a hat, and bring a bandana to cover your face.
- Relay your plans to your designated contact person.
- Take your emergency supply kit and, if time permits, items of personal importance:
 - www.Ready.gov
- Take your pets and necessary pet supplies.
- If time permits, leave a note or sign in a visible location to let emergency personnel know the residence has been evacuated. Specify the date and time the residence was evacuated and make note if utilities, such as a propane tank, have been turned off.

Only if there is time, prepare your home if you are evacuating due to a wildland fire.

- Close all windows and doors (interior and exterior).
- Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds, and non-combustible

window coverings to reduce radiant heat.

- Move furniture away from the windows and doors.
- Turn off all pilot lights.
- Shut off propane at the tank.
- Bring in flammable objects adjacent to your home such as outdoor chair cushions.
- Connect garden hoses to exterior faucets.
- Cover windows and all eave and roof vents with plywood.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from all structures.

Notification/Communications:

Residents are strongly encouraged to help alert others in the case of an emergency. We strongly suggest taking the following actions:

- Follow the Cochise County Sheriff's Facebook page
 - <https://www.facebook.com/CochiseSO/>
- Sign up for the Cochise County Emergency Alerts
 - <https://www.cochise.az.gov/287/Emergency-Management>
 - Why you should sign up in advance:
 - If you are not home, you will not receive an alert. Standard cell phone alerts are only sent to cell phones physically in the area. If you sign up in advance, your cell phone is tied to your address – in this case, an evacuation at your home would trigger an alert to your cell phone.
 - Register your loved ones - then family members, friends, or caretakers can receive alerts when emergencies affect that specific area.

Cochise County will send alerts in the following ways:

- **Wireless Emergency Alerts** – alerts to cell phones, similar to an Amber Alert or Silver Alert
- **Emergency Telephone Network (ETN)** – voice calls to land lines from the white and yellow pages (AKA “Reverse 911”)
- **Public Sign Ups** – if you have signed up in advance, you will receive alerts via: cell voice, cell text, landline, email, Alert Sense mobile application. Additionally, you can add other phone numbers to your account.
- **Social Media** – all alerts are sent to local area Public Information Officers and subsequently local area social media

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hazard situation radios will advise of weather conditions and emergencies. However, NOAA weather radio may not have timely information regarding evacuations in specific areas, such as Ramsey Canyon.

Other forms of notification which vary and may be used:

- Door-to-door contact.
- Broadcasts over emergency vehicle PA systems.
- Notifications placed on windshields of vehicles left at recreation sites and trailheads.

Shelter in Place

If requested to shelter in place because of an emergency such as a hazardous chemical spill:

- Close all windows and doors (interior and exterior).
- Turn off any heating systems, air conditioners, swamp coolers, or fans.
- Shut fireplace dampers and close all exterior vents.
- Turn off pilot lights and shut the valve to any propane tanks.
- Bring your pets inside.
- Only seal doors and windows when told to do so by emergency officials. If instructed, cover cracks along doors and windows with tape, wet rags, or towels.
- Notify your designated contact person that you are sheltering in place.
- Gather in a room with few doors or windows. Ideally, the room should allow ample space for everyone in your family, have access to water and bathroom facilities, and has a phone that does not rely on electricity. Make sure you have your emergency supply kit.
- Keep the phone line available for emergency calls.
- Remain indoors until notified by fire or law enforcement personnel that it is safe to leave your residence.

Contacts and Resources:

- American Red Cross: (800) 733-2767 or (800) RED-CROSS
 - <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief.html>
- Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management: (602) 771-1400
 - Newsroom: <https://dffm.az.gov/newsroom>
- Cochise County Animal Control Division: (520) 803-3550
- Cochise County Sheriff: Emergency - 911 Non-Emergency - (520) 432-9505
 - <https://www.facebook.com/CochiseSO/>
- Coronado National Forest Ranger Station: (520) 388-8300
 - Alerts/Notices: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/coronado/alerts-notice>
- Fry Fire: Emergency - 911 Non-Emergency - (520) 378-3276
 - <https://www.fryfiredistrictaz.gov/>
- Inciweb – national fire info - <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>
- SEACOM Dispatch” (520) 803-3550
- Sierra Vista (Nancy J. Brua) Animal Care Center (520) 458-4151
 - <https://www.sierravistaaz.gov/our-city/departments/animal-care-and-control>
- Cochise County Humane Society: (520) 955-0668
- Going to Grandmas: (520) 378-6000 or www.goingtograndmas.com/
- The Sierra Vista Riding Club
 - <https://www.facebook.com/sierravistaridingclub/>

Additional Information

- READY, SET, GO!
 - <https://ein.az.gov/ready-set-go>
- Firewise
 - <http://www.firewise.org/>
- “Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire”
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_syp1ZScM
- “Protecting Your Home From Wildfire”
 - <https://youtu.be/gW4ojYJtGbA?si=NtVmvgBS45QiZwdp>
- “Living with Wildfire”
 - https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5339207.pdf
- “Preparing Homes for Wildfire”
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/Education-and-Research/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>
- “How to Make Your Home And Property Fire-Safe”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufi3rFFh1MM>
- “Your Home and Wildfire. Choices That Can Make a Difference.”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfbEcMeYFFA>
- "Comparing the Ignitability of Mulch Materials for a Firewise Landscape"
 - <https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1440-2014.pdf>
- Firewise Construction: Site Design and Building Materials
 - <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/firewise-construction2012.pdf>
- Waldo Canyon Report
 - <https://co-co.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06waldo-canyon-report.pdf>