

# Neighborhood News

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | March 2018

## Quick Tip:

Proper planning and preparation is the key to surviving a critical incident or disaster. Knowing your family's personal and medical needs are imperative to designing your own survival kits. Design kits that are functional, easy to move, weather protected and not too large. Remember your pet's needs, as well.



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## Preparing for an Evacuation

Evacuations are becoming more common than most people realize. Here in Colorado, some of the worst winter time conditions and storms can occur in March – May. The best time to prepare for an evacuation is now. Fires, like the Waldo Canyon Fire and Black Forest Fire in Colorado Springs, and flooding cause evacuations most frequently across the U.S. Also, numerous times a year, transportation and industrial accidents can force people to leave their homes for safety reasons.

In some circumstances, local officials might decide the hazards are serious and require mandatory evacuations. Heeding to those evacuation conditions will not only help assure you and your family's safety, but also the safety for the first responders. In other instances, evacuations might be advised or households decide to evacuate to avoid situations they believe are potentially dangerous (i.e., a predicted winter storm). When community evacuations become necessary, local officials provide information to the public through media resources. In other circumstances, various warning methods, such as sirens, text alerts, emails or telephone calls are used.

The amount of time you have to evacuate will depend on the hazard or threat. If the event is weather related, such as a winter storm, you might have a day or two to get your family prepared. However, many disasters arrive without warning and allow little or no time for people to gather even the most essential necessities, which is why planning is so critical. Some basic evacuation guidelines, emergency kit information, and where to receive more information to help you and your family are provided below.

**GUIDELINES FOR AN EVACUATION:** Based on the circumstances, there may be guidelines under which you will personally decide to leave or there may be situations when you are ordered to leave by authorities for personal safety reasons. These guidelines will help during either type of evacuation.

- Identify locations where your family will meet, both within your immediate neighborhood or outside your neighborhood. This might also include locations within El Paso County or the City of Colorado Springs city limits. Create a Family Emergency Plan to determine these locations prior to a disaster or evacuation.
- If you have a car, keep the gas tank full in the event an evacuation might seem likely. Keep at least a half tank of gas in your car at all times in case there is an unexpected need to evacuate. As you have witnessed during events, gas stations may be closed or overly crowded during emergencies or unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one family car to reduce congestion and delays.
- Become familiar with alternate routes. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in the event of an emergency.
- Leave early enough to avoid being stranded by severe weather.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take short-cuts as they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed out roads or bridges or downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

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- If you do not drive a car, decide on a plan how you will leave, if needed. Coordinate with family members, friends, or even your neighborhood watch members if you have an established group.
- Remember to take your emergency supply kit.
- Have a contingency for taking your pets or how they might be cared for in your absence. Understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters.

*If time allows:*

- Call or email any out of state contacts in your family notifying them of where you are going.
- Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows. **ONLY IF SAFE TO DO SO!**
- Unplug electrical equipment such as computers, televisions, and small appliances. Leave refrigerators and freezers plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas, and electricity prior to leaving.
- Leave a note informing family members and first responders when you left and where you plan on going.
- Identify neighbors, such as elderly or handicapped personnel, that may need assistance or a ride.

### **BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT**

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. In most cases, you will probably not have time to search for supplies you may need or shop for them, to include your pet's essentials.

You may also need to survive on your own for some time after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, medications and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster to assist, but they cannot immediately reach everyone. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones might be interrupted for days or even weeks based on the severity of the incident. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

### **BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT:**

Below is a suggested list for a basic emergency supplies kit. Other items can be added or deleted based on personal needs. A basic kit could include any of the following recommended items or more items based on your family's needs:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and hygiene.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First Aid kit and a whistle to signal for help.

- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting with duct tape to shelter in place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, if necessary.
- Manual can opener for food.
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.
- Pet supplies
- Personal medications

### **EXPANDING YOUR PERSONAL DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT:**

Water, food, and clean air are critical items to have if an emergency occurs, but each family or individual's kit should be customized to meet specific needs, such as medications and important family documents.

If you live in a cold weather climate (or even if it's July in Colorado), you must think about warmth. It is possible that the power will be out and you will not have heat. Consider your clothing and bedding supplies to account for growing children, pets, and other family changes. One complete change of warm clothing and shoes per person, including:

- Jacket or coat
- Long pants
- Long sleeve shirt
- Sturdy, warm shoes
- Hat and gloves
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Important documents (i.e., passports, birth certificates, financial papers, pictures, etc.)

### **KIT STORAGE LOCATIONS:**

Since it is difficult to know where you might be when an emergency occurs, you might think about preparing supplies for home, work and your vehicles.

**Home:** Keep your home kit in a designated place where everybody knows its location. Have it ready in the event you must leave your home quickly. Make sure all your family members know where the kit is kept. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

**Work:** You should also prepare to shelter at work for a short time. Make sure you have food, water and other necessities like personal medications and a change of clothing in your kit. Also, be sure to have comfortable walking shoes in case an evacuation requires walking long distances. Your kit could be in a back pack and ready to "grab and go" in case you are evacuated from your workplace. You can get more information on building a workplace disaster supplies kit at <http://www.ready.gov/workplace-plans>.

**Vehicle:** In the event you are stranded in your vehicle, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit might include:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlights and extra batteries

- First aid kit and necessary medications in case you are away from home for a prolonged time.
- Food items containing protein such as nuts and energy bars, canned fruit, and a can opener.
- Enough water for each person and pets in your car.
- AM/FM radio for listening to traffic, weather, and emergency messages.
- Cat litter or sand for better tire traction
- Shovel and ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy/warm boots, jacket, and an extra change of clothes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags

*Also consider:*

- a fully charged cell phone and phone charger
- Flares or reflective traffic triangle
- Reflective traffic vest

As previously mentioned, be prepared by keeping your gas tank full and if you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, turn on your flashers, and call for help.

### **Water**

Water is an essential element to survival and a necessary item in an emergency supplies kit. Following a disaster, clean drinking water may not be available. Your regular water source could be cut off or compromised through contamination. Prepare yourself by building a supply of water that will meet your family's needs during an emergency.

You should store at least one gallon of water per person, per day. A normally active person needs at least one gallon of water daily just for drinking, however, individual needs may vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet and climate.

To determine your water needs, take the following into account:

- One gallon of water per person, per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Children, nursing mothers and sick people may need more water.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.
- If you live in a warm weather climate more water may be necessary. If very hot temperatures, water needs can double.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person available.

Information on water treatment is available at [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org).

### **WHERE TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A large amount of the information in this newsletter was obtained from <http://www.ready.gov/>. This site contains much more information on handling emergencies than can be put into a single newsletter. You are encouraged to visit this website for additional information and tips.

## **Crime Prevention Tips**

Please keep your garage doors down when you are away from your residence. Most residential burglaries are opportunistic crime. A criminal doesn't have to use much effort to walk into open garages and possibly into your residence. Lock the door that enters your residence from the garage during evening hours.

Car burglaries (CTA) can be reduced by locking your car doors when you are away from your vehicle. Also, remember to take your valuables out of your car. Before you get to your destination, pull over and put your valuables in the trunk. Don't do this at your destination as criminals will watch for this and enter your vehicle and open the trunk to get those items.

Leave your porch and patio lights on during evening hours. Remember, a criminal doesn't want to get caught. By lighting up your residence and neighborhood, you might deter a burglar from coming to your neighborhood and make him or her choose to go to another neighborhood that is not well lit. Place a home security sign in your front yard, even if you don't have an alarm system. The signs provide a visual deterrence to a burglar that might be considering breaking into your home. Remember, they don't want to be caught so the sign might deter them from burglarizing your home.

Register for the El Paso-Teller County Emergency Notification System (or Reverse 911). This system is used to advise residents of any situation that threatens harm to life and/or property or is deemed dangerous by officials. This could be man-made disasters, crime, pandemics and hazardous materials incidents, missing persons, evacuation notifications, neighborhood emergencies and similar important issues. To register for this service or for more information go to <http://www.elpasoteller911.org>.

Schedule the Crime Prevention Coordinator to come to your residence and conduct a CPTED evaluation (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This evaluation takes about 30 minutes and a few of the items looked at are lights, locks, landscape, and security areas. This evaluation will give you "**options to consider**" to make your residence more secure.

**Help us help you by choosing not to become a victim of crime and making it tough for criminals to commit their crimes.**

## **Going on Vacation?**

Going on vacation can sometimes be stressful. Let us help you relax a bit. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office provides a service that when deputies or Citizen's Patrol volunteers are available, will conduct directed patrol checks at properties for you while you are away.

To participate please go to [www.epcsheriffsoffice.com](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) and under **Services** select **Vacation Check Request Form**.

# Crimes in Your Neighborhood

## Highlights From *February*

### District 1

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 4  
 Burglaries – 0  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 0  
 Thefts – 4  
 Criminal Mischief – 0

### District 2

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 0  
 Burglaries – 1  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 1  
 Thefts – 2  
 Criminal Mischief – 0

### District 3

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 2  
 Burglaries – 6  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 5  
 Thefts – 9  
 Criminal Mischief – 5

### District 4

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 3  
 Burglaries – 6  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 0  
 Thefts – 16  
 Criminal Mischief – 2

### District 5

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 3  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 4  
 Thefts – 10  
 Criminal Mischief – 4

### District 6

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 0  
 Burglaries – 2  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 1  
 Thefts – 6  
 Criminal Mischief – 3

**District 1**—Woodmoor/Canterbury, Gleneagle, Kings Deer, Club Villas, Palmer Lake, Monument

**District 2**—Black Forest, Wissler Ranch, Hawk Ridge

**District 3**—Cimarron Hills, Constitution Hills, Claremont Ranch, Park Vista & Siefert

**District 4**—Woodmen Hills, Falcon, areas east of Meridian Road

**District 5**—Security, Fountain Valley, Colorado Centre, Clearview Estates, Southmoor

**District 6**—Widefield and Little Ranches area

**District 7**—Stratmoor Valley, Stratmoor Hills, B Street, Hwy 115

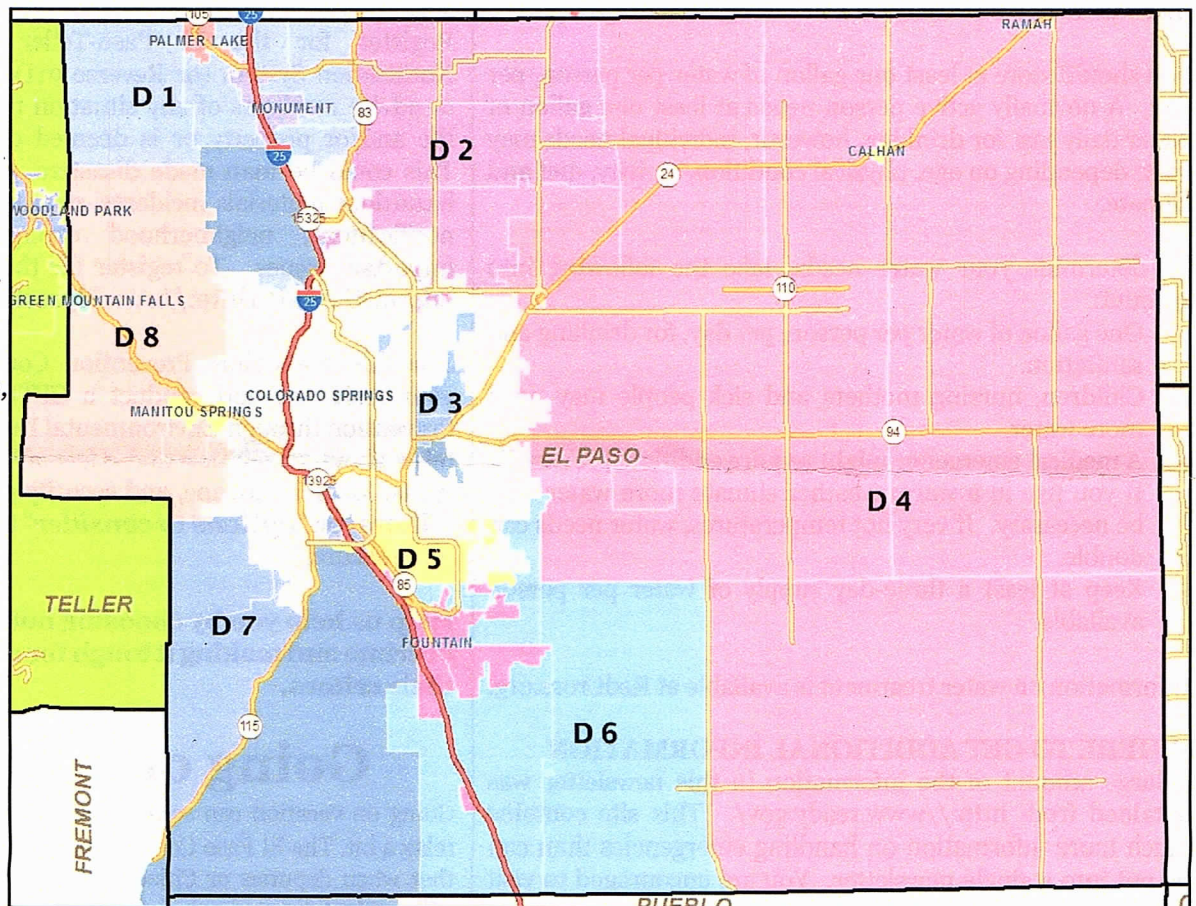
**District 8**—West Colorado Avenue, Ute Pass, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Rampart Range

### District 7

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 2  
 Burglaries – 2  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 3  
 Thefts – 4  
 Criminal Mischief – 5

### District 8

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 0  
 Burglaries – 0  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 1  
 Thefts – 1  
 Criminal Mischief – 0



The above statistics reflect the various assigned Sheriff's Office districts and furthermore illustrate a "snapshot" of what the Sheriff's Office is experiencing across El Paso County. The illustrated numbers show the number of case reports, not calls for service, the Sheriff's Office has taken. If you are interested in individual neighborhoods or areas, please contact Brent Ambuehl, El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator at (719) 520-7151 or email at [brentambuehl@elpasoco.com](mailto:brentambuehl@elpasoco.com) for more specific information.