

Town of Vail
Emergency Evacuation Plan

Introduction:

The purpose of the Vail Emergency Evacuation Plan (EEP) is to educate the citizens, merchants and guests of Vail on how to respond to an emergency requiring a partial or full evacuation of the town and on the steps for the safe and orderly return to homes and lodging. The plan also serves as a guide for Town of Vail emergency responders on how evacuations are initiated, organized and implemented.

Notification:

Information in this plan will be presented at the community picnic held each summer. The Community Information Office will also provide the information through local media and post the plan to the Town of Vail website (www.vailgov.com).

The plan includes emergency broadcast information, a hotline phone number to obtain recorded information, neighborhood pick-up locations, evacuation center locations, shelter locations and an instructions for citizens with functional and access needs. Key to the plan is the community's regular review of how to obtain information and their understanding of critical steps to the evacuation process in the face of a real emergency.

When implementing the EEP, the Vail Communications Center will utilize the emergency phone notification, also known as Reverse 911, the Emergency Alert System via AM/FM radio stations and Roam Secure (EC Alert) text messages to homes, hotels and businesses in affected areas. Messages will contain real event information and emergency evacuation instructions. When time and personnel allow, first responders will drive through neighborhoods and make public notifications on emergency vehicle loud speakers or go door-to-door.

Recorded Information: The road conditions phone number (970-479-2226) will become the evacuation hotline which the public can access for updated information provided by the Town Public Information Officer (PIO), or a designee of the Incident Commander. Use of the hotline will help reduce overwhelming call volumes to the dispatch center. Whenever possible, the updated information will also be posted on the Town of Vail website (www.vailgov.com) and on the Eagle County website (www.eaglecounty.us).

Evacuation Centers and Procedures:

Evacuation Center Check-In Locations (one or more may be designated):

1. Village Transportation Center

Alternative locations:

2. Lionshead Parking Structure and Information Center
3. Donovan Park Pavilion

Evacuation Instructions:

- A. Self-Evacuation by Vehicle:
 - 1. Exit the area/neighborhood in the safest direction
 - 2. Respond to the predetermined evacuation center check-in location

- B. Evacuation by Public Transportation:
 - 1. Respond to the nearest neighborhood bus stop
 - a. Citizens will then be transported to the evacuation center and checked-in.

- C. Shelter in Place:
 - 1. During certain incidents, such as a hazardous materials spill, or communicable disease outbreak, the public may be asked remain indoors and not evacuate. Or due to the rapid spread of a wildfire, they may not be able to leave. In these cases, citizens should be prepared to stay in their homes for a minimum of 72 hours and have enough supplies on hand to support the number of residents living there. See www.ready.gov for more details. Homes should be made Firewise to increase the safety of sheltering in place during a fast moving wildfire. See www.firewise.org for more details.

- D. Safe Zone:
 - 1. In the event of a wildfire where residents are unable to evacuate, they should go to a preplanned safe zone such as a large field that is clear of brush and far away from trees.
 - a. West Vail Shopping Area
 - b. Parking structures
 - c. Ford Park fields
 - d. Vail Mountain School fields
 - e. Big Horn Park

Citizens who self-evacuate or evacuate by public transportation will be asked to indicate they have already vacated their residence by displaying a large, white object (such as a sheet or a piece of paper) inside their home. The object should be visible and conspicuous and in the front (street-side) of their home. They are also asked to turn on their porch light.

Neighborhood Bus Stops: The current neighborhood pick-up locations are the Town of Vail bus stops. When possible, buses will follow their regular routes. If a resident, merchant or guest is unable to make it to their neighborhood bus stop, they should go to the next nearest bus stop or alternative pick-up location for a safe evacuation, see below:

Alternative Pick-up Locations:

- 1. Fire Stations

2. Schools
3. Village Transportation Structure or Lionshead Parking Structure

Pets: Domestic pets may accompany evacuees as long as they are on a leash or contained so as not to injure other evacuees or their pets. Pets will not be allowed at public shelters so the town will work with the Eagle County Animal Control to house pets of individuals housed in shelters.

Evacuation Center Check-in: Check-in operations will be conducted by the Red Cross or Salvation Army. Required check-in information will consist of the evacuee's name, birth date, home address, cell phone numbers, the location of the temporary shelter in which the person will be placed, and when applicable, the date and time a person was released to take care of their own shelter needs. Evacuees will be assigned to shelters based upon the area of their residence. Following check-in, buses will transport evacuees from the check-in location to their assigned temporary shelter. To assist individuals needing to locate family members, a phone system will be set up.

Functional and Access (Special) Needs Population: These are citizens and guests that will require assistance leaving their residence or, in the case of a power outage, those who have medical needs requiring electricity. This special needs population takes into account those who do not have transportation and are unable to get to the designated evacuation center or neighborhood pick-up bus stop location. The citizen provided information should be relayed to the Vail Police Department and Eagle County Paramedic Service even prior to an emergency in order to identify the number special needs persons requiring assistance, their locations and how best to transport them appropriately during an evacuation.

Vail Mountain: People who are on Vail Mountain when an emergency situation takes place should remain on the mountain, as long as it is safe. Vail Resort Security is responsible for organizing shelter on the mountain, rerouting people across the mountain and conveying guests into town.

East Vail Alternate Driving Evacuation Route: In the event the eastern portion of East Vail is blocked during a wildfire incident and residents are unable to exit, an alternative route from the far eastern end of Bighorn Road is to be used. At the spot where the gate marks the end of the road and where the Vail Pass bike path begins, evacuees should turn to the right onto the dirt road, which leads on to the lower I-70 runaway truck ramp and then onto I-70. Generally, any traffic would then be directed east bound on I-70, as it is a high likelihood the west bound I-70 would be closed at Copper Mountain. If I-70 was not closed west bound, then traffic would be routed west. See attached maps for details.

Vail Valley Medical Center (VVMC) Evacuation: Due to the massive coordination required to evacuate the hospital, all efforts will be made to defend and protect it from whatever the nature of incident. If the hospital is evacuated, the VVMC plan will be put into action.

Evacuation Incident Command Structure: Evacuations will be organized through the Incident Command System.

Involved Departments:

Primary Responsibility – Unified Command

Police Department

Transportation Department

Community Information Office

Secondary Responsibility

Fire Department

Public Works Department

Eagle County Paramedic Service

Colorado State Patrol

Staffing Evacuation Center Check-In Locations

Administration/Human Resources Department

Library staff

Shelter Operations

Salvation Army

Vail Valley Cares

Red Cross

Vail Recreation District

Town of Vail Housing Administrator

Emergency Evacuation Checklist

Vail Police Department Incident Command System

Emergency Evacuation Checklist

This checklist is intended to provide a reminder to responding officers, supervisors and an incident commander at the scene of a major disaster. It is recommended that unified command be established to insure coordinated response with other involved agencies. During a major disaster, Law Enforcement and the Transportation Department are primarily responsible for the evacuation of the town or part of the town for safety reasons. Additionally, Law Enforcement is responsible for the protection of a crime scene, for traffic control and for recovery following the incident/disaster.

Situation Assessment

- Location of disaster
- Type of disaster
- Size of involved area, actual and potential
- Specific area that needs to be evacuated
- Additional assistance needed, Police, Fire, medical, federal, military, CDOT, VR security
- Location of Command Post
- Select radio frequency to be used
- Best available ingress/egress routes for emergency personnel and vehicles
- Contact Eagle County Emergency Management

- Special Considerations**
- Potential for disaster area to spread. ie; fire, chemical spill.
- Potential for explosion
- Population of town in Peak Season: 45,000
- Population of town in off season: 4,600
- I-70 closures at Copper Mountain and/or Minturn. Notify CSP
- No incoming traffic into the evacuation area, except for police escorts for people picking up children or special needs persons.
- Traffic Control, Crowd Control
- Determine if disaster is a crime scene
- Contact schools
- Contact Eagle County Animal Control and Animal shelters

- Contact CDOT for sign information and TOV VMS signs
- Contact Salvation Army
- Assign Police Officers at shelters and check-in locations resources allowing
- Set up containment/perimeter
- Consider traffic control at Buffehr Creek and Chamonix
- Set trigger points for evacuation and warning of evacuation

Alerting the Public

- Reverse 911. (location of disaster, evacuation directions for people with transportation, staging areas for people w/o transportation, location of shelter) RoamSecure
- PIO or Comm. Center contact media with evacuation info

Evacuation Transportation

- Some buses have handicap access
- 35 Town buses; capacity (75pp) Standing and sitting room.
- ECO buses
- Avon/BC buses
- CME
- Eagle County School District Buses

Emergency Evacuation Pick-up Locations

The pick-up locations are the current TOV bus stop routes.

S #	NEIGHBORHOODS	PICK-UP LOCATIONS / BUS STOPS
1	EAST VAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aspen Lane ▪ Booth Falls ▪ Pitkin Creek ▪ Falls at Vail ▪ Lupine / Bighorn ▪ Columbine/Bighorn ▪ Streamside Circle ▪ Timber Falls ▪ Racquet Club ▪ Bighorn Park ▪ Meadow Lane East ▪ Meadow Dr. ▪ Main Gore Juniper ▪ Main Gore/Bighorn ▪ Racquet Club Townhomes ▪ Streamside E/Bighorn ▪ Lupine/Bighorn ▪ Pitkin Creek ▪ Falls at Vail ▪ Booth Falls ▪ Bald Mountain Rd
2	GOLF CURSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hanson Ranch Rd. ▪ Golden Peak ▪ Soccer Field ▪ Ptarmigan West ▪ Ptarmigan East ▪ 1448 Vail Valley Dr. ▪ 1610 Sunburts Dr. ▪ Club House ▪ Pulis Bridge ▪ Ford Park ▪ Gore Creek Dr.
3	VAIL VILLAGE IN-TOWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gold Peak ▪ E. Meadow/Vail Valley Dr. ▪ E. Meadow /Covered Bridge ▪ E. Meadow /Crossroads ▪ E. Meadow /Vail Road
4	LIONSHEAD IN-TOWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ W. Meadow ▪ W. Meadow/VVMC ▪ W. Meadow/Dobson/Library ▪ Lionshead Mall ▪ W. Lionshead Cir./Concert Hall Plaza ▪ W. Lionshead Cir./Marriott
5	SANDSTONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Middle Creek ▪ Sandstone School ▪ Red Sandstone Rd. ▪ Vail View Red/ Sandstone ▪ Sandstone Creek Club ▪ Simba Run ▪ Vail Run
6	WESTVAIL/ SOUTH SIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vail Muni Building ▪ Cascade Crossing ▪ Cascade Village ▪ Matterhorn ▪ Ptarmigan ▪ Underpass ▪ Intermountain ▪ Meadow Creek ▪ Spruce Creek
7	WEST VAIL NORTH SIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chamonix ▪ Holiday Inn ▪ West Vail Mall ▪ Vail Commons ▪ Upper Buffehr Creek ▪ Timber Ridge ▪ Lower Buffehr Creek

Shelter Locations

In Vail:

- Vail Chapel
- Town of Vail Council Chambers if not being used for the Joint Information Center or Vail Valley Medical Center Alternative site
- Red Sandstone Elementary School, Red Cross approved
- Vail Mountain School
- Dobson Ice Arena, if not being used as a hospital surge capacity facility
- Donovan Pavilion

West of Vail:

- Homestake Peak School
- Battle Mountain High School
- WECRD Field House
- Avon Elementary School
- Eagle Valley Elementary
- Eagle Valley High
- Vail Bible Church
- Trinity Church Edwards
- Avon Recreation Center
- Avon Municipal Building
- Homestead Court Club

East of Vail:

- Copper Mountain Chapel

