

**FLATHEAD RESERVATION**  
**TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER/LAKE/SANDERS/MISSOULA AND**  
**FLATHEAD COUNTIES**  
**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR AN EVACUATION**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

In the event of a major forest fire, or other disaster event(s) that threatens life and property, the Tribal Law & Order/City Police/Lake/Sanders/Missoula and Flathead Counties Sheriff's Offices will have the responsibility of notifying residents of the need to evacuate the affected area. These actions will be in accordance with the Tribal and Counties Emergency Operations Plan under the management of The Tribal Disaster Emergency Services, and The Counties Office of Emergency Management. To ensure maximum protection of persons any property during the evacuation, while areas are vacated, and upon return of the evacuees.

The purpose of this document is to inform law enforcement officers and others of the basic structure of the evacuation process, of the chain of command, and procedures to be followed during the evacuation emergency. It is expected that this document may be modified as the overall evacuation planning proceeds by the various agencies involved.

**B. CHAIN OF COMMAND AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)**

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Division of Fire, Fire Management Officer or assigned Incident Command, or the delegated Incident Management Team is responsible for identifying the need for an evacuation and helping to plan the evacuation process.

2. **TRIBAL COUNCIL/COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Tribal Council and Lake/Sanders/Missoula/Flathead County Commissioners are responsible for declaring a disaster emergency by resolution. The purpose of the resolution is to direct the Tribal

Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator with the Counties Emergency Manager. To open up an Emergency Operations Center, and activate the Emergency Operation Plan.

3. **TRIBAL LAW & ORDER/LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Tribal Law & Order along with City Police/Lake/Sanders/Missoula/Flathead Counties Sheriff's Offices have the responsibility for notifying residents of the evacuation ( with support and help from the Tribal Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator and County Office of Emergency Management) assisting in providing traffic coordination, establishing perimeter control with roadblocks and patrols and, upon termination of the emergency, assisting residents' safe reentry to their property.

4. **ROAD DEPARTMENTS**

The County Road Department, Tribal and BIA Road Department, and the State Highway Department, as needed, will coordinate with other agencies evacuation routes and provide signs and equipment as appropriate.

5. **OTHER AGENCIES**

Depending upon the nature of the emergency, the following are some of the major resources available.

- a. Fire Departments
- b. Tribal and Lake CO. TERC/LEPC members, and other County LEPC members
- c. Highway Patrol
- d. Tribal Law & Order
- e. County Officers
- f. City Police
- g. Other Law Enforcement
- h. Emergency Medical Services
- i. Tribal Health and Human Services
- j. Public Health
- k. Search and Rescue
- l. Tribal NRD/Tribal Lands Dept.
- m. Tribal Housing
- n. Tribal Preservation/Culture Offices
- o. Mission Valley Power/Flathead Irrigation Division
- p. Red Cross

## C. EVACUATION STAGES

Residents must be aware that in rapidly changing situations an evacuation might not proceed by stages. For example, an evacuation order (Stage 4) might be necessary without being preceded by Stages One through Three.

1. **STAGE 1:** Pre-evacuation contacts and briefings of persons within the affected areas(s)
2. **STAGE 2: EVACUATION WARNING:** Good probability of need to evacuate. Recommend movements of persons requiring special care, livestock and large mobile property.
3. **STAGE 3: EVACUATION REQUESTED:** Occupants of the affected areas are asked to leave within a specified time period by pre-designated routes. Perimeter roadblocks are established with the support from the Tribal Disaster Emergency Services, and County Office of Emergency Management.
4. **STAGE 4: EVACUATION ORDERED:** A disaster declaration or proclamation has been initiated by the Incident Commander and through the chain of command an order for evacuation has been issued. Access to the affected areas is prohibited to anyone not authorized by the IC or his designee.
5. **STAGE 5: AREA CONTROLLED:** Resources permitting, perimeter roadblocks are maintained and evacuated areas patrolled 24 hours a day.
6. **STAGE 6: AREA REENTRY:** Evacuees allowed returning to their homes.

## D. LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

### 1. BRIEFING

All briefings will be made through the Tribal Law & Order, and County Sheriff's Office. Deputies/officers and the Tribal DES/County Office of Emergency Management, working through the Tribal Forestry Division of Fire will be assigned to assist in the following tasks:

- a. Road assignments for notification or closure

- b. Location of roadblocks
- c. Marking of residences with tape after visiting/communicating with
- d. Marking with placard if residents not at home
- e. Communication procedures
- f. Use of maps
- g. Mobile traffic control
- h. Patrol routes of evacuation areas
- i. Record keeping
- j. Sending residents to manned evacuation centers set up by American Red Cross or families out of harms way
- k. Records of shift changes and length
- l. Provisions for food, water and other essential needs

## **2. DOCUMENTATION**

Record everything you do or observe. This is especially important when residents and homes are contacted. All names must be recorded and times when contacts are made with people and homes. If people contacted have special needs, note them and notify the Tribal Law & Order and or County Sheriff's Office's Dispatch. If residents refuse to leave when requested to do so, a "refusal form" (copy attached) **MUST** be completed.

## **3. PERSONAL CONTACTS**

Be sympathetic. Put yourself in their shoes. Be firm but not antagonistic. Promises or implied promises to help in moving personal property must be avoided.

## **4. FLAGGING**

When an evacuation of an area is in effect, if an officer/responder responds to a residence where no one is home, the officer/responder will complete a Notice of Evacuation (see attached) and post it where it is completely visible to warn the residents when arriving to their residence.

## **5. ROADBLOCKS**

Instructions will vary depending upon location and type of incident. The following are general principles:

- a. Your primary role (officer/responder) is to provide a sympathetic emergency service to the public. Be patient. Answer questions as best as you can and refer to other sources as necessary.
- b. Maintain the roadblock log. Record vehicle or persons' time in and time out. Destination, such as residence number on a specific road, incident location, etc. must be noted. Include all vehicles and personnel.

## 6. TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PATROL

Especially in an emergency evacuation **DON'T ASSUME PEOPLE AND VEHICLES WILL GIVE WAY TO YOUR UNIT** even with lights and sirens on. Use the PA system to slow traffic. Perimeter control will likely involve some time on foot. Be certain you have radio contact when you start out.

# EVACUATION REFUSAL

\_\_\_\_\_ HAS BEEN ADVISED BY  
TO EVACUATE THIS PROPERTY/LOCATION DUE TO EXTREME FIRE DANGER.

\_\_\_\_\_ HAS REFUSED TO EVACUATE THIS PROPERTY  
AND LOCATION AND ACKNOWLEDGES AND UNDERSTANDS THE HAZARD AND  
HOLDS HARMLESS THE RESPONDER/OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR EVACUATION.

ADDRESS/LOCATION WHERE INDIVIDUAL WAS ADVISED TO LEAVE:

**PERSON REFUSING TO EVACUATE:**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT OF KIN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESS SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

**PERSON TAKING REPORT:**



**NOTICE:  
THIS AREA HAS  
BEEN  
EVACUATED  
BECAUSE:**

**BY ORDER OF:  
Tribal Council/Lake and/or  
Sanders/Missoula/Flathead Co  
Commissioners,**

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

**YOUR CLOSEST SHELTER IS:**

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**PACK ONLY BARE ESSENTIALS & REPORT  
THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!**

