

Hello everyone:

Below are two messages from Sheriff David A. Weaver that we would like for you to put in your publications and HOA messengers as well as forward out to your email distribution groups. These messages are extremely important as we are in fire season and want/ need our public to be prepared in the event of an emergency/ evacuation..

Creating a Grab and Go Bag in Case of an Emergency by Sheriff Dave Weaver.

Wow! Can anyone believe that we are in the middle of one of the worst fire danger periods since 2002 (Hayman Fire year)? AND IT IS ONLY APRIL! The Burning Tree fire in Parker last month is an example of how the combination of ultra-dry conditions, low humidity, and strong winds can whip a small grass fire into a 1600 acre inferno in just a couple of hours. The fast moving characteristics of that fire resulted in the evacuation of 8500 homes in Burning Tree, The Pinery and other nearby subdivisions.

How you would be notified of a need to evacuate?

My office has an Emergency Management Staff that is responsible for coordinating notification. While they use many avenues to inform the public such as alerts to the media, the fastest and most assured way used to alert those at risk is through the County's Citizen Alert System (Everbridge) In order to be sure you receive an evacuation communication, you should register with the County on this system. You can visit our website at www.dcsheriff.net and click on the Emergency Mass Notification System tab and follow the instructions for sign up.

This system allows you to register not only your primary phone number, but also a cell phone, a work phone number, a pager or to receive email or text message to an iPhone or Blackberry or any other cell phone. Thus you can easily be contacted even if you were not home. The system also permits you to register someone in your home who might have special needs, e.g., an elderly person who is not mobile or someone with a disability. You might also be contacted via a house-to-house search by my deputies as was done in the recent Parker area fire (this is extremely time consuming and we would prefer you be notified via the above means).

What do you take with you?

First, get yourself a large photo organizer box or something similar to create your 'grab and go' box. Make sure it's a size you'll be able to easily carry. You may want to get one for each family member. This will become your 'grab and go' box in case of emergency.

Medications – This is category of Must Have items that we often overlook. During the recent evacuation of the Pinery subdivision several residents took valuable time to go back in their houses to retrieve needed medications. So your 'grab and go' box should include at least a two day supply of medications for your entire family.

Important papers

Next, you'll need to start gathering all your important papers and make copies of at least the first page that contains your account number and contact number for each of your policies or accounts

should you need to contact them after an emergency. Having this information handy will make it easier and quicker to contact everyone after an emergency.

Insurance policy

In your 'grab and go' box, make sure you include items such as insurance policy, homeowners policy or renter's insurance, social security card and driver's license. Don't forget your life insurance policy and credit card statements.

Professional Licenses

You may also want a copy of any military and medical records in your emergency 'grab and go' box. It's also a good idea to include copies of any professional licenses and even your marriage certificate. Personalize your emergency grab and go box to include all paperwork or information that is important to you and your family.

Store grab and go box in a handy area

Lastly, if you choose to have a second box, use it for many of your photos/memory books. Keep the box or boxes handy in your bedroom on a side table. It will look decorative and in case there is an emergency, you'll be able to get out with your 'grab and go' box and have your most important papers and information with you.

Finally, we are currently in the highest level of fire danger. That means NO OPEN FIRES. If you are a smoker, be particularly careful about extinguishing your tobacco and matches. The last time we had such dangerous fire conditions was in the summer of 2002. In June of that year we experienced the Hayman fire. Let's not let anything like that happen again.

Sheriff David A. Weaver would like to remind all Douglas County Residents how they can receive information when an emergency event is taking place within the county. During emergencies the Sheriff's Office does its best to post the most recent information regarding evacuations and other public safety concerns on dcsheriff.net. Residents can subscribe to the [dcsheriff](http://dcsheriff.net) news blog and receive alerts via email, facebook, and twitter, when the blog is updated. To get the latest information it is suggested that county residents subscribe today to the dcsheriff.net news blog, Facebook (Douglas County Sheriff) and Twitter (Dcsheriff) or by going to dcsheriff.net and using the Facebook and Twitter icon in the middle of the home page.

Sheriff's Office news can be accessed here: <http://blogs.douglas.co.us/sheriff/>

Additionally:

If you are a county resident please register for the **Emergency Mass Notification System**. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is able to alert residents about fires, floods, toxic environmental issues and other emergencies using Everbridge Aware™ mass notification system. Messages can be sent to residents on – cell phone, home phone, email, text messaging, pager, PDA and more – ensuring that individuals that work in the county or reside here receive life-saving emergency information and important public service announcements. Any **Qwest** home phone listed in the county's 9-1-1 database is automatically subscribed to alerts by phone. If your home phone service is any provider other than **Qwest**, you will need to contact your phone provider to determine if you have been registered. If you are not registered please go to the

below link to register. It is suggested that all county residents and those that work in Douglas County register and provide additional contact information such as cell phones, text messaging, home and work email, etc.... (It is suggested that if you work at a location that has a large phone system or PBX type system that you do not register your work line). This will ensure you will receive important emergency information that is affecting your residence or place of work, no matter where you are. It is also suggested that you include all forms of communication devices for all residents living at your address including children.

Register for the Emergency Mass Notification System here:

http://dcsheriff.net/Emergency_Mass_Notification_System.html