

Northstar Fire Department

Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide



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Introduction

Northstar has the potential for a number of natural disasters. Since most natural disasters seldom give warning, you should always be prepared. Wildland fire is clearly the number one potential problem facing our community. Other natural events to be aware of are: wind storms, snow storms, extreme cold, earthquakes, and flooding. During major emergencies, Northstar Fire Department resources may be overtaxed, and we may not be able to get to you in a timely manner. You may have to rely on your own resourcefulness until emergency personnel can assist you.

This emergency preparedness and evacuation guide is being provided to you so that you are informed and can prepare to care for yourself and your family in the event of an emergency. This guide is divided into 3 sections: Ready, Set and Go. These 3 sections provide helpful information instructing individuals on the necessary actions to take prior to and during an emergency.

Please take the time to review the material provided within this document. In the event of an emergency, careful planning and preparation can reduce the impact of an emergency upon you and your family. If you would like further information regarding emergency planning or have questions specific to this document, please contact the Northstar Fire Department. 530-562-1212



Ready

*What steps can you take **now** for a possible emergency in the future? This section provides various steps to follow - allowing you and your family to be as **READY** as possible for an emergency that might strike Northstar. Review and consider following these steps:*

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and practice it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of your animals.
(See the attached American Red Cross Family Disaster Plan at the end of this document.)
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the community/hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by American Red Cross.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of an emergency.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the emergency.



American Red Cross Emergency Supply Kit

At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) such as MRE (meals ready to eat).
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit – Anatomy of a First Aid Kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with charger - Consider solar charger
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Maps of the area

Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit. Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc...)
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Two-way radios
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Manual can opener

Additional supplies to keep at home or in your survival kit based on the types of disasters common to your area:

- Whistle
- N95 or surgical masks
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Towels
- Work gloves
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Household liquid bleach
- Entertainment items
- Blankets or sleeping bags



Set

*This section provides various steps to follow - allowing you and your family to be **SET** for a possible evacuation or a “shelter in place.” Review and consider following these steps:*

Inside Checklist

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under possible smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.

Outside Checklist

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children’s toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Don’t leave sprinklers on or water running – they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

How you may be Notified of an Emergency or Evacuation

Reverse 911 – Community members may receive a telephone call to your home phones with a brief message alerting you of an emergency or other unusual incident where there has been a substantial threat to life or property.

Placer Alert - This service allows you to opt-in to receive notifications via phone calls, text messaging, e-mail and more based on locations you care about. You can choose to receive notifications about events that may affect your home, workplace, family's schools and more. This system will be used to notify you about imminent threats to health and safety as well as informational notifications that affect your locations or work environments. Administrators will send notifications regarding severe weather, flooding, gas leaks, police activity and more. For more information or to sign-up for this notification service, go to: <http://www.placer-alert.org/>

NIXLE – Northstar Fire Department is registered with Nixle Connect, a service that allows the fire department to communicate directly with the public via text and e-mail at no cost. Communications can range from emergency alerts such as mandatory evacuations, public safety information (like “boil notices”) and other critical community information. The Northstar Community Services District is recommending that all property owners and visitors to the community sign up for this free public safety messaging system. In order to sign up to receive instant text messages simply text “Northstar” to 888777. You will be sent back two confirmation messages advising that you are registered. In order to sign up for e-mail messages go to <http://www.nixle.com> and follow the instructions to sign up as a user.

Station 31 Siren – Northstar Fire Department incorporates a local audible siren on top of the main fire station located on Northstar Drive (Station #31). In the event of a large scale evacuation, you will hear this siren sound continuously. The Northstar Fire Department may occasionally test this siren. This test sounds the siren for only 30 seconds. *Please remember that this 30-second test siren is only a test.* If an actual emergency exists, the siren will sound for a much LONGER period of time.

How to stay informed

- Check for Nixle Alerts.
- Placer Alert.
- Check the internet at www.northstarcsd.com and www.placer.ca.gov/departments/ceo/emergency/currentemergencyinfo
- Listen for fire and law enforcement announcements in your neighborhood.
- Keep your home phone available for emergency evacuation information.

Go

*When should you leave? Where should you go? What routes should you take? What should you take with you? This section provides information for you to follow – allowing you and your family to **GO** in a timely manner and with the utmost confidence during the emergency. Review and consider following these guidelines:*

Evacuation Checklist

- **When to leave** – Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. During a major emergency, emergency personnel may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!
- **Where to go** – Evacuate to a predetermined location. This location should be a low-risk area, such as well-prepared friend or relative's house, a local evacuation center, or motel.
- **How to get there** – Have several travel routes in case one route is compromised in the emergency or blocked by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire or emergency.
- **What to take** – Take your emergency supply kit and any other necessary family and pet items. Do not delay evacuation to gather unnecessary items.



Safety Hazards during an Evacuation

Each emergency is unique and will present with various problems/hazards. It is imperative that you follow the directions of emergency personnel and public service workers to minimize the risk of these hazards. The following are examples of hazards to be aware of:

- Downed power lines.
- Reduced visibility from smoke.
- Falling trees and limbs.
- Rolling rocks on steep slopes.
- Emergency barricades.
- Roads, highways, and bridges with broken pavement.
- Fire equipment and personnel.

Destination

- There are multiple community evacuation destinations to which you may be directed and the location may not be the closest to your home. In the event that a community evacuation destination is not yet established, have a number of potential predetermined evacuation destinations.
- Notify an out-of-area contact person to inform them of your location and status.
- Leave a note with your emergency contact information and out-of-area contact on your refrigerator or kitchen table in the event emergency crews need to contact you.

If you are Trapped: Survival Tips

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit your home.
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out
- After the natural catastrophe has passed, survey your property and structure/roof to make sure there are no fires, sparks or embers.

What happens when you call 911?

The advent of the 911 system has proven to be one of the most effective tools ever designed to expedite emergency response to people in need. Simply pick up any phone and dial three numbers and you're immediately connected to a person who can get you the assistance you need.

But how does this work? Well, if you live in the Northstar community and call 911, you will be connected to the Placer County Sheriff's Office. The dispatcher will immediately know where you are calling from if you are using a "land line*," because the enhanced 911 system shows the street address associated with your telephone number. The dispatcher will ask you what the emergency is and to verify its location. If this is an incident in Northstar, the dispatcher will tell you they are transferring your call to the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center, located at the Grass Valley Airport and operated by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE). This process takes only seconds. The Grass Valley dispatcher will type all the information you provide to them into their Computer Aided Dispatch system, which will indicate that the Northstar Fire Department is the appropriate response agency.

**If calling from a cell phone, your call will go to the California Highway Patrol, who will not automatically know the location you are calling from. They will need this information before they can transfer you to the Grass Valley dispatcher.*

You might wonder why we are dispatched out of Grass Valley when it is so far away. CALFIRE has a statewide radio system and we contract with them to be our dispatching agency. Their system provides mountaintop radio sites and multiple radio frequencies for our use. CALFIRE dispatches for almost all of the local fire departments, so they know where every crew is at any given moment, ensuring a seamless communication link. With computer aided dispatch and radio technology, it is conceivable that a dispatch center could be located as far away as New York and still be effective and complete the process as well as one located across the street.

911 is a wonderful system that works very well. You and your family need to know *how* and *when* to use it. Do not waste the system on questions that are not emergency related (like requesting road conditions) as this may delay response to a real emergency. Before you call 911, make sure you know your address, and more importantly, that it is visible from the street. The best system will not help us find your home if your address is hidden from us on a snowy night.

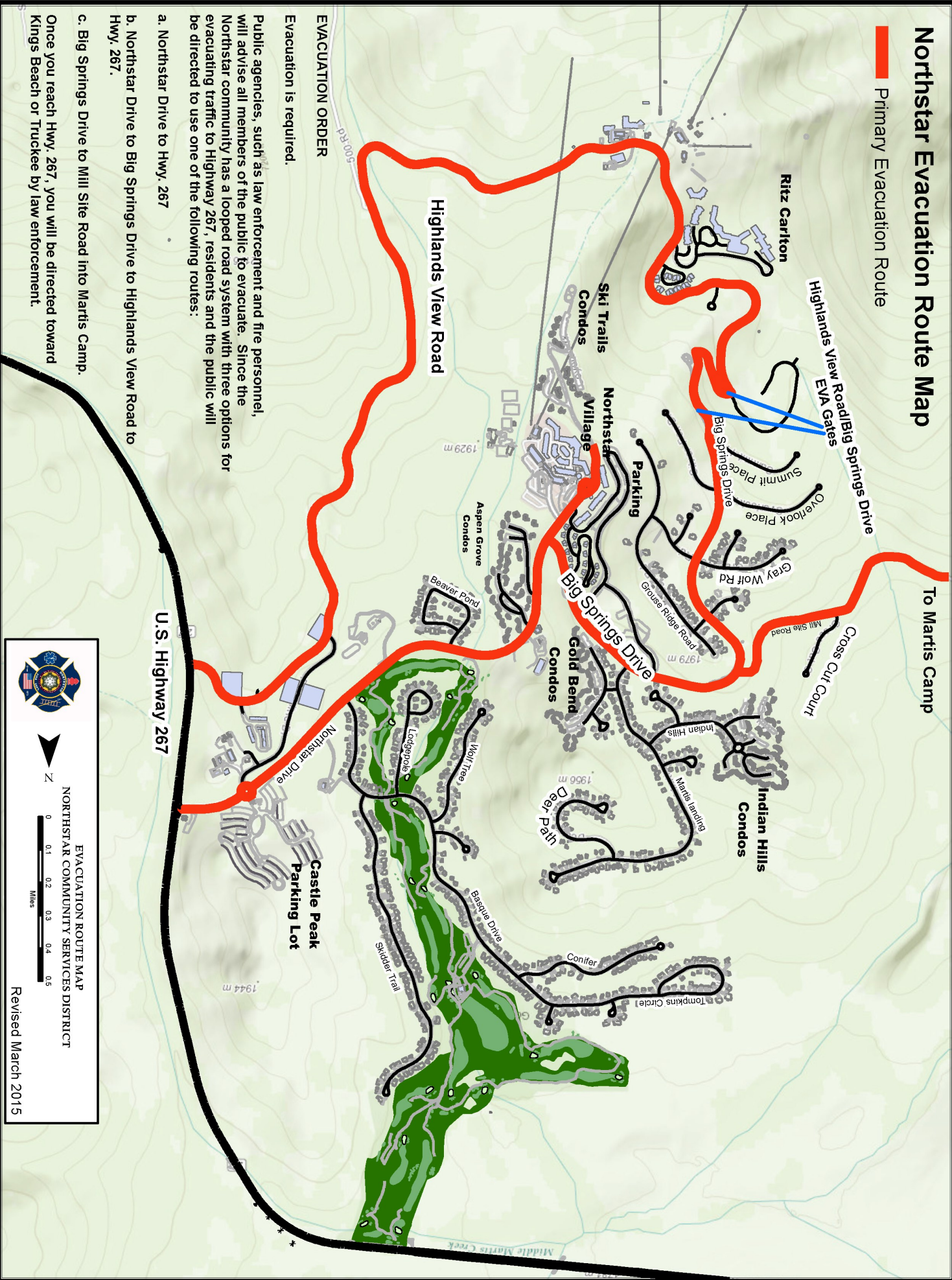


Resource Directory

Northstar Ski Resort	530-562-1010	www.northstarcalifornia.com
Northstar Community Services District	530-562-0747	www.northstarcsd.com
Northstar Fire Department	530-562-1212	www.northstarcsd.com/emergencyupdates.html
Placer County Public Health	530-546-1970	www.placer.ca.gov/public-health
CALFIRE - Fire Information	530-823-4083	www.calfire.ca.gov
CALTRANS - Road Conditions	1-800-427-7623	www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi

Northstar Evacuation Route Map

 Primary Evacuation Route




EVACUATION ORDER



Evacuation is required. Public agencies, such as law enforcement and fire personnel, will advise all members of the public to evacuate. Since the Northstar community has a looped road system with three options for evacuating traffic to Highway 267, residents and the public will be directed to use one of the following routes:

- a. Northstar Drive to Hwy. 267
- b. Northstar Drive to Big Springs Drive to Highlands View Road to Hwy. 267.
- c. Big Springs Drive to Mill Site Road into Martis Camp.

Once you reach Hwy. 267, you will be directed toward Kings Beach or Truckee by law enforcement.



EVACUATION ROUTE MAP
NORTHSTAR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Revised March 2015



Family Disaster Plan

Family Last Name(s) or Household Address:

Date:

Family Member/Household Contact Info (If needed, additional space is provided in #10 below):

Name

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email:

Pet(s) Info:

Name:

Type:

Color:

Registration #:

Plan of Action

1. The disasters most likely to affect our household are:

2. What are the escape routes from our home?

3. If separated during an emergency, what is our meeting place near our home?

9. Family Member Responsibilities in the Event of a Disaster

Task	Description	Family Member Responsible
Disaster Kit*	Stock the disaster kit and take it if evacuation is necessary. Include items you might want to take to an evacuation shelter. Remember to include medications and eye glasses.	
Be informed	Maintain access to NOAA or local radio, TV, email or text alerts for important and current information about disasters.	
Family Medical Information	Make sure the household medical information is taken with us if evacuation is necessary.	
Financial Information	Obtain copies of bank statements and cash in the event ATMs and credit cards do not work due to power outages. Bring copies of utility bills as proof of residence in applying for assistance.	
Pet Information	Evacuate our pet(s), keep a phone list of pet-friendly motels and animal shelters, and assemble and take the pet disaster kit.	
Sharing and Maintaining the Plan	Share the completed plan with those who need to know. Meet with household members every 6 months or as needs change to update household plan.	

*What supplies and records should go in your disaster kit? Visit www.redcross.org

10. Other information, if not able to be included above.

Congratulations on completing your family disaster plan! Please tell others: "We've made a family disaster plan and you can, too, with help from the American Red Cross."

Get the facts about what you should do if an emergency or disaster occurs at www.redcross.org