

## Broadmoor Bluffs Residential Evacuation Drill After Action Summary

### EXERCISE OVERVIEW

<b>Exercise Name</b>	Broadmoor Bluffs Residential Evacuation Drill
<b>Exercise Date</b>	Saturday, October 19th from 0800-1000
<b>Scope</b>	This exercise was a drill, planned for approximately two hours in the Broadmoor Bluffs Neighborhood, ultimately ending at Pikes Peak Community College, Centennial Campus. Exercise play was limited to residents who signed up to participate and completed a liability waiver.
<b>Core Capabilities and Objectives</b>	<p><b>Critical Transportation:</b> Provide an opportunity for residents to evacuate their homes with police officers and fire fighters working in the area, simulating a real-world disaster.</p> <p><b>Operational Coordination:</b> Provide an opportunity for police and fire personnel to simulate their response activities, coordination and communication amongst themselves during an evacuation involving residents.</p> <p><b>Community Resilience:</b> Educate residents on how to best prepare for an evacuation, while simulating telephone and in-person evacuation notifications.</p>
<b>Threat or Hazard</b>	Wildfire in an Urban Interface
<b>Scenario</b>	The exercise scenario involved a fast moving wildfire in the Broadmoor Bluffs neighborhood that caused an emergency evacuation.
<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management (CSOEM) Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD)
<b>Point of Contact</b>	Dave Husted, Preparedness Officer Colorado Springs Police Department/Office of Emergency Management Hustedda@ci.colospgs.co.us 719-385-5957

An evacuation exercise was designed and executed for the Broadmoor Bluffs neighborhood in southwestern Colorado Springs. The purpose of the exercise was to simulate a residential evacuation resulting from a fast-moving wildfire in an Urban Interface environment.

Residents were notified of the exercise and encouraged to participate through a variety of methods including direct mail; email through neighbors and homeowners association(s); standing signs throughout the neighborhood; press release; and by a link on the Cheyenne Mountain School District 12 website home page.

A pre-exercise meeting was held on October 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at Cheyenne Mountain Elementary School. Approximately 200 residents attended this meeting and indicated their willingness to participate in the Drill. During the meeting, information about the exercise was provided and residents were given Participation and Waiver Agreements to sign. Residents were also provided with a placard to place on their doors on the day of the exercise, indicating their participation. Residents were given additional opportunities to participate after this meeting by signing up at Fire Station 16, located in the neighborhood on Farthing Drive.

Residents who signed up to participate in the exercise provided their phone numbers in order to receive a simulated automated call to evacuate. Residents were told to expect two phone calls, one the evening before the Drill and one on the morning of the Drill. The automated system that was used to place these calls was NOT the El Paso-Teller County Emergency Notification System (ENS) that would be used during a real-world event. The purpose of using this automated call was to *simulate* the type of ENS call that would be used during an evacuation.

Simulating a mass evacuation in a residential neighborhood involves many challenges and opportunities to improve the City's response. One goal of completing an evacuation exercise is to create the sense of urgency and congestion that would occur in a real-world event. Without full participation of every resident in a simulated evacuation area, it is necessary to weigh the exercise design with the needs of non-participating residents, especially as it pertains to creating traffic congestion.

Approximately 10% of the targeted neighborhood signed up to participate in the October 19<sup>th</sup> Drill. An automated call was sent to participating residents at 8:00a.m., requesting an 8:30a.m. evacuation. An effort was made to create a level of congestion by asking all residents to leave their homes at the same time – 8:30a.m. This would never happen in a real-world event, and that was explained to participants.

Participants were also asked to place placards on their doors. CSPD officers conducted door-to-door evacuation notifications at those houses that displayed a placard. At the same time, CSFD personnel and apparatus were in the neighborhood simulating maneuvers that they would make during a real-world event. CSPD officers also staffed traffic control points to assist with residents leaving the area.

Residents were directed to respond to Pikes Peak Community College's Centennial Campus for a briefing after departing from their homes. This was an exercise artificiality. During a real-world event, residents would likely evacuate to a wide variety of locations (e.g. friends, family, hotel, or shelter).

## CONCLUSION

The Broadmoor Bluffs Residential Evacuation Drill was successful in providing an opportunity for participating residents to practice evacuating their neighborhood and to receive educational materials and presentations from the City of Colorado Springs. As previously discussed, evacuation drills prove difficult in simulating the congestion and potential chaos that would exist during a real-world event. This Drill did, however, provide an opportunity for residents to receive education on evacuation procedures, interact with law enforcement and/or fire first responders, practice leaving their homes, and increase overall awareness of issues related to evacuation.

The City of Colorado Springs would like to thank all of the residents who participated in this evacuation drill and are championing the preparedness efforts in their neighborhood, as well as with their families and friends.

**Participant Feedback on Drill:**

Number of Households Registered to Participate:	157
Number of Households that Signed In:	156
Number of Participants noted on Sign-In Sheet:	296
Number of Surveys Completed:	151

Assessment Factor	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree	
	The scenario challenged the capabilities of my household.	47%	15%	18%	15%
This drill improved my understanding of the role of public safety first responders.	2%	4%	23%	30%	42%
This drill improved my understanding of the role of the Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, Police and Fire Departments.	5%	2%	14%	32%	48%

**Participant Actions Taken During Drill:**

Assessment Factor	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Everyone in my family was accounted for during this drill. If so, how? <b>{79%}</b> In-Person <b>{12%}</b> Phone/Text Contact <b>{6%}</b> Person Already Away <b>{3%}</b> Other	96%	2%	2%
Do you have elderly family members living with you or neighbors that may need assistance to evacuate?	18%	80%	1%
Were all of your pets accounted for and provisions brought with you (or thought about/simulated) when you evacuated?	55%	4%	41%
Did you bring (or think about/simulate) your critical documents with you when you evacuated?	81%	17%	2%
Did you bring (or think about/simulate) your critical medications with you when you evacuated?	68%	24%	8%
Did you stay with your family members during the evacuation?	63%	18%	19%
Did you take more than one mode of transportation from your home?	16%	81%	2%
Did you receive the emergency notification to evacuate?	90%	9%	1%
Were the directions in the message clear and easy to understand?	91%	4%	5%

**Personal Preparedness:**

Assessment Factor	Not Severe At All					Very Severe
If a natural disaster, such as a flood, a tornado, or wildfire happened in our community, the impact to my household would be:	0%	1%	14%	19%	65%	
If an act of terrorism, such as biological, chemical, radiological or explosive attack happened in our community, the impact to my household would be:	0%	1%	8%	21%	70%	
If a hazardous materials incident, such as a transportation or a power plant accident happened in our community, the impact to my household would be:	1%	7%	23%	29%	40%	

**In the event of a disaster, my household is prepared to be self-sustaining for:**

{5%} Less than 24 hours    {5%} 24 hours    {23%} 48 hours    {36%} 72 hours    {30%} More than 72 hours

**Knowledge of Colorado Springs Emergency Preparedness:**

Assessment Factor	Yes	No	Unknown
Does the City of Colorado Springs have an emergency or disaster plan?	86%	0%	14%
Do you know which radio station is designated as the primary Emergency Alert System broadcasting channel in Colorado Springs?	27%	64%	9%
In the past 30 days, have you seen or heard any messages that encourage people to take steps to be more prepared for emergency situations in our community?	82%	14%	4%

**Additional Comments:**

- Would like to have more families participate and conduct the drill on a repeating basis.
- Emergency preparedness is a necessity in this community.
- Encourage the 5P's: People, Pets, Prescriptions, Paperwork and Photo's.... Everything else can be replaced.
- Provide additional education regarding individual preparedness actions that should take place during pre-evacuation, such as gathering documents, medication, etc.
- Additional incentives for individuals to engage in mitigation efforts may be helpful.
- Provide more detailed information on what you should take with you during an evacuation.
- The emergency message should also be in Spanish.
- Landlords should provide emergency preparedness information to their tenants.
- Need education on how to obtain medications and important papers if the evacuation begins when you are not at home.
- Residents should be directed to put up a placard after they evacuate so that police and fire do not have to check the house.
- Need to ensure that homes on flag lots/streets are clearly marked at the street.