

A Message from Interim Fire Chief Steve Pischke and the Lyons Fire Department

By now, you have probably heard of the significant fires going on in our state and may have family and friends affected by the evacuations related to these fires. I would like to recognize the well-coordinated response that is taking place by our local, state and national responders to combat these fires. The number-one priority is to keep everyone safe. Let these fires serve as a reminder to all of us that there's no better time than now, no matter where you live, to prepare an evacuation plan well ahead of a future emergency.

The hot and dry weather conditions we've been experiencing make us all susceptible to a fast-moving wildfire. During these circumstances, some homes are being asked to evacuate with little to no notice. If your home is asked to be evacuated within 5 minutes, will you be ready? Given this current Pandemic, what friends or family could be a good place to go if you had to leave? Does everyone in your house know the plan?

California Fire, commonly called Cal Fire, has an excellent website that helps households prepare for wildfire season, including a review of the "6 P's of Preparation" for evacuations. You can find that information here: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan/>

Also, a local resource that many of you have already utilized is the Boulder County Wildfire Partners program, which provides wildfire mitigation support to homes at risk of wildfires. You can find more information about that program here: <https://www.wildfirepartners.org/> While those of us that live in Larimer County may not be able to access this particular program, you can still find wildfire mitigation planning materials at the Colorado State Forest Service Site, found here: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/>

In difficult times and when an emergency strikes, preparation and planning helps us focus on a task that is within our control. Let's all keep those involved in leaving their homes and the firefighters working these fires in our hearts and minds. If you know someone who may need help to evacuate, please offer to help them prepare now!

And, as always, Lyons Fire is here to help. If you have additional questions about being prepared for wildfires in this district, please feel free to reach out to publicinformation@lyonsfire.org. Thanks for helping everyone stay safe!