



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN FOR PECOS CANYON RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

In the case of an emergency, such as a forest fire, flood, or a hazardous materials event, it may become necessary to evacuate all or parts of Pecos Canyon. This document provides important information for the safe and expedient evacuation of residents, property owners, and visitors from Pecos Canyon. It is also possible the public will be notified to “shelter in place”. This document also provides information on steps to take if such a request is issued.

Local fire and law enforcement officials are in charge of coordinating and facilitating an emergency evacuation of Pecos Canyon residents and visitors. When an evacuation is ordered your life and safety should be your primary concern. Quick compliance to an evacuation order is critical. Evacuations save lives and allow responding personnel to focus on the emergency. Please evacuate promptly when requested.

The different types of evacuation notices are as follows:

Evacuation advisory: Issued to media to alert the public to potential evacuation orders. The advisory will contain general information on how to prepare for an evacuation.

Evacuation warning: Issued when an evacuation order is eminent. It includes the specific geographical area that may be evacuated and procedures to follow.

Evacuation order: Issued when there is an immediate threat to life, property, or the environment. The evacuation order contains specific geographic areas included in the evacuation and procedures to be followed.

You will be advised of possible evacuations or notice to shelter in place as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and be aware. Refer to the Notification / Communications section of this plan for ways of staying informed regarding the status of an emergency. Residents are strongly encouraged to help alert others in the case of an emergency situation and to help neighbors who lack transportation or need assistance evacuating.

Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety, security, and accessibility.

Emergency Preparedness:

Plan ahead. This will help to keep you and those around you calm during an emergency. Make it your personal goal to be prepared for any type of emergency.

1. Fill out a Pre-Incident Plan for your residence (see www.pecoscanyonfire.org for the necessary forms) and submit it to Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue.
2. Notify Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue of anyone at your residence who will need special assistance in the case of an evacuation. You may do this by submitting a Pre-Incident Plan as described above or by emailing PCF&R through the link on our website (go to www.pecoscanyonfire.org, click on About Us, then click on Contact Us).
3. Sign up in advance for emergency alerts. Refer to the Notification / Communications section for details.
4. Designate a meeting area in case your family is separated prior to an evacuation.
5. Designate a person living outside Pecos Canyon to be your contact person.
6. Make a list of the items you want to take in case of an evacuation (medications, prescription glasses, important documents, photos, family heirlooms, etc.).
7. Prepare an emergency supply kit and have it easily accessible. It should contain bottled water, ready-to-eat food items, flashlight, portable radio, extra batteries, leather gloves, and other items you might need if required to evacuate.
8. Keep your vehicle fuel tank as full as possible.
9. Know the locations of the identified Assembly Areas within Pecos Canyon.
10. Develop an evacuation plan for your pets and livestock.
 - a. Develop a buddy system with neighbors and friends to make sure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets and livestock if you are unable to do so.
 - b. Contact the City of Las Vegas Animal Control (505-425-7404), the Santa Fe Animal Shelter (505-983-4309), or local veterinary hospitals for information on emergency sheltering of pets during evacuations.
 - c. The NNM Horseman's Association website, www.nnmha.com, provides information and suggestions on developing an emergency plan for your horses.
 - d. Contact the NM Livestock Board (505-841-6161) for information on emergency sheltering of livestock at facilities such as fairgrounds, rodeo grounds, and stock show barns.
11. Create a defensible space around your home.
12. Clearly post the 911 address of your property.
13. If applicable, provide Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue with gate combinations and post load limits for any access bridges on your property.
14. Keep an emergency supply of ready-to-eat foods and bottled water on hand in case you are notified to shelter in place.

In case of an evacuation:

1. Don't wait until the last minute to leave. Traffic will be slow due to the number of evacuees and emergency vehicles.
2. Dress in long sleeves and long pants. Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Have leather gloves, a hat, and bring a bandana to cover your face.
3. Relay your plans to your designated contact person.

4. Take your emergency supply kit and, if time permits, items of personal importance:
 - a. Important documents (proof of address, driver's license, passport, insurance cards, birth certificate, other legal documents)
 - b. Medications and prescription glasses
 - c. Computer and/or backup files
 - d. Cell phone and charger
 - e. Change of clothing
5. Take your pets and necessary pet supplies.
6. If time permits, leave a note or sign in a visible location to let emergency personnel know the residence has been evacuated. Specify the date and time the residence was evacuated and make note if utilities, such as a propane tank, have been turned off.

Only if there is time, prepare your home if you are evacuating due to a wildland fire.

1. Close all windows and doors (interior and exterior).
2. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds, and non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.
3. Move furniture away from the windows and doors.
4. Turn off all pilot lights.
5. Shut off propane at the tank.
6. Connect garden hoses to exterior faucets. Fill trash cans and buckets with water and locate them where firefighters can find them. If you have sprinklers, leave them running.
7. Cover windows and all eave and roof vents with plywood.
8. Turn on the porch or other exterior lights to make your house more visible.
9. Move propane BBQ appliances away from all structures.

If requested to shelter in place because of an emergency such as a hazardous chemical spill:

1. Close all windows and doors (interior and exterior).
2. Turn off any heating systems, air conditioners, swamp coolers, or fans.
3. Shut fireplace dampers and close all exterior vents.
4. Turn off pilot lights and shut the valve to any propane tanks.
5. Bring your pets inside.
6. Only seal doors and windows when told to do so by emergency officials. If instructed, cover cracks along doors and windows with tape, wet rags or towels.
7. Notify your designated contact person that you are sheltering in place.
8. Gather in a room with few doors or windows. Ideally, the room should allow room for everyone in your family, have access to water and bathroom facilities, and has a phone that does not rely on electricity. Make sure you have your emergency supply kit.
9. Keep the phone line available for emergency calls.
10. Remain indoors until notified by fire or law enforcement personnel that it is safe to leave your residence.

Evacuation Process:

Emergency response personnel will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the location, behavior, and intensity of the emergency.

The direction of your escape will be dictated by the location of the emergency in relation to your home. You will be directed by emergency personnel in an evacuation. Proceed in an orderly fashion to traffic control points and follow any additional instructions to safely leave the canyon. Do not block the travel route of emergency personnel responding to the incident. If involved in a motor vehicle accident during the evacuation, move vehicles out of the roadway so traffic flow is not obstructed. Exchange information with the other driver(s) and, if your vehicle is still able to be driven, continue evacuating from the canyon. Seek assistance from emergency personnel or friends and neighbors if your vehicle is no longer safe to drive.

You may be directed to temporary Assembly Areas to await transfer to a safe location. When heavy smoke reduces visibility, traffic movement may be restricted to escorted convoys.

Because Pecos Canyon has only one road leading out, a hazardous incident near NM State Highway 63 could conceivably prevent evacuation of the canyon. In this case, an Assembly Area offers the best chance of survival. The locations identified as Assembly Areas within Pecos Canyon are listed in the “Pecos Canyon Assembly Areas” section of this plan.

As you evacuate the canyon, check in with the personnel manning the roadblock restricting entry into Pecos Canyon. They will add your name to the list of those who have safely evacuated. If you evacuate before any roadblocks have been set up, contact local law enforcement or NM State Police and ask to be added to the list of evacuees. Check in with your designated contact person so your family and friends will know you are safe.

Those in need of shelter should proceed to a designated evacuation shelter. Information on the locations of these sites may be obtained from the personnel manning the roadblock, the San Miguel County Office of Emergency Management, 505-425-6190, or the American Red Cross, 800-560-2302. Emergency information broadcasts by local radio and TV stations will also provide locations of evacuation shelters. Whenever possible, Pecos Canyon evacuees should make arrangements to stay with family or friends in order to keep shelter space available for those who have no other alternative.

For health reasons, pets are not allowed in emergency shelters operated by the American Red Cross and most other organized volunteer groups unless they are service animals with their masters. Contact the City of Las Vegas Animal Control (505-425-7404) or the Santa Fe Animal Shelter (505-983-4309) to arrange for emergency sheltering of companion pets during evacuations. Veterinary hospitals are another possible solution for small animals. Livestock and other agricultural animals may be temporary sheltered at facilities such as fairgrounds, rodeo grounds, and stock show barns. Contact the NM Livestock Board (505-841-6161) for the locations of these temporary shelters. The website for NNM Horseman’s Association, www.nnmha.com, provides information and suggestions on developing an emergency plan for your horses.

Notification / Communications:

Residents are strongly encouraged to help alert others in the case of an emergency situation.

Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue will place updates and information concerning emergency situations on their website, www.pecoscanyonfire.org. Residents are encouraged to sign up on this website to automatically receive emergency alert emails.

Santa Fe County Fire Dispatch will send a Reverse 911 emergency phone message to Pecos Canyon residences within the area affected by the emergency. **** Note: PCF&R is still waiting for confirmation this system will work within Pecos Canyon. This document will be updated when Reverse 911 coverage is verified. ****

Local radio and TV stations will provide emergency information. Residents are encouraged to tune into to a local TV station or a local radio station such as AM 770 KKOB, AM 810 KSWV, AM 950 KDCE, FM 89.1 KANW, or FM 89.9 KUNM.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hazard situation radios: In case of an emergency, including evacuations due to wildland fires, a message will be priority broadcast over the NOAA channel. Not all radios feature this capability, so check for this feature before purchasing a radio or a hand-held unit.

Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue may utilize the San Miguel County radio alert system by setting up a portable radio station at a critical location within Pecos Canyon. Once set up, the radio station will broadcast a recorded message with emergency information on AM 1640 and AM 1680. Due to this system's limited broadcast range only the locations within a half mile of the portable radio station will be covered.

The New Mexico State Forestry has created an email alert system for notices regarding wildfires. Go to www.emnrd.state.nm.us/fd/ to sign up for alerts. Please note that the NM State Forestry Email Alert Service will only distribute information about wildfires on state or private land, not fires burning on federal land such as national forests.

Amateur radio operators: There are a number of amateur radio operators in Pecos and Pecos Canyon who may be used by state and county agencies to provide real time information in the case of an emergency. To receive their communications, you will need a scanner or receiver programmed to monitor the following frequencies: 146.820, 147.260, and 147.300.

Other forms of notification may be used:

1. Door-to-door contact.
2. Broadcasts over emergency vehicle PA systems.
3. Notifications placed on windshields of vehicles left at recreation sites and trailheads.

Pecos Canyon Assembly Areas:

Because Pecos Canyon has only one road leading out of the canyon, a wildfire or other hazardous event near NM State Highway 63 could conceivably prevent evacuation of the canyon. In this case, if conditions make it unsafe to shelter in place, an Assembly Area offers the best chance of survival. The locations identified as Assembly Areas within Pecos Canyon are listed in the table below. These areas are open expanses with few or no trees, easy to access from Highway 63, and are often close to water. Every effort will be made to have emergency personnel present at each of the Assembly Areas being used to provide information. Keep in mind facilities are limited or nonexistent at these Assembly Areas; there will likely be no shelter or supplies at these sites. It is your responsibility to bring the items you will need.

Assembly Area	Location	GPS coordinates
Benedictine Monastery meadow/lake	NM Highway 63, mile 7.1	N35°35'40" / W105°40'51"
Macho Canyon Church parking lot	NM Highway 63, mile 14	N35°40'36" / W105°41'34"
pasture north of Tres Lagunas	NM Highway 63, mile 18.2	N35°43'44" / W105°40'48"
Tererro General Store parking lot	NM Highway 63, mile 19.1	N35°44'33" / W105°40'35"
Jamie Koch / Willow Creek day use area	NM Highway 63, mile 20.8	N35°45'40" / W105°40'14"
Cowles Fishing Ponds / parking lots	NM Highway 63, mile 25	N35°48'45" / W105°39'33"
Iron Gate Road meadow (west side)	1.8 miles up Iron Gate	N35°48'51" / W105°38'54"

Avoid driving an oversized vehicle or pulling a trailer, as the road already will be crowded and parking may become limited at the Assembly Area. Know the locations of all the identified Assembly Areas within the canyon because based on the location of the emergency, not all Assembly Areas may be available. If you cannot make it to one of the identified Assembly Areas, go to the nearest open meadow. Seek out a depression with sparse fuel and avoid steep slopes, natural 'chimneys', and saddles.

In the case of a wildland fire, individuals should gather together in the center of the Assembly Area with ideally 200 feet or more between you and the approaching fire. Wearing cotton or wool is preferable to synthetics, which can melt. Staying dry is also safer, since steam produced from wet clothing would cause injury. In the event of a fire reaching the Assembly Area, lay face down on the ground until the fire wave passes.

Going to an Assembly Area should be considered a last resort, to be used only if NM State Highway 63 is blocked to traffic and no other escape route is available. Bring your emergency supply kit containing, at minimum, bottled water, ready-to-eat food items, flashlight, portable radio, extra batteries, and leather gloves. The Assembly Areas have limited or no facilities and you may be there for an extended length of time. It is your responsibility to bring the items and supplies you will need while at an Assembly Area.

Contacts and Resources:

>>> IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911 <<<

American Red Cross 800-560-2302
City of Las Vegas Animal Control 505-425-7404
Lifeway Glorieta Conference Center 505-757-6161
New Mexico National Guard 505-474-1200
New Mexico State Fire Marshal 505-476-0065
New Mexico State Forestry 505-425-7422
New Mexico Game and Fish Dispatch 505-827-9376
New Mexico State Police Communications Center 505-827-9126
Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue (non-emergencies only) 505-757-2591
Pecos Schools Administration 505-757-4700
San Miguel County Office of Emergency Management 505-425-6190
San Miguel County Fire Marshal 505-425-2855
San Miguel County Sheriff 505-425-7589
Santa Fe Animal Shelter 505-983-4309
Santa Fe National Forest Pecos Ranger Station 505-757-6121

For Additional Information:

For information on how to prepare yourself and your property against fire threats:

Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue, www.pecoscanyonfire.org
Ready, Set, Go!, www.vcreadyssetgo.org
Firewise, www.Firewise.org

Visit these web sites for a list of additional public education materials:

www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm
www.firesafecouncil.org/homeowner/index.cfm
www.smccounty.net/
www.emnrd.state.nm.us/FD/index.htm
www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/

Visit the NNM Horseman's Association website, www.nnmha.com, for information and suggestions on planning for your horses in the case of an emergency.

For information on fires in New Mexico: www.nmfireinfo.com

“New Mexico Family Emergency Preparedness Guide”, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, 13 Bataan Boulevard, Santa Fe

“Living with Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner”; by Ed Smith, University of Nevada Co-op

“A Homeowner's Guide to Fire Safe Landscaping” (2005), www.firesafecouncil.org