

POPULATION PROTECTION PLAN

INFORMATION

The Missoula County Fire Protection Association and Missoula County Sheriff's Department would like to offer some basic tips that will help you determine what actions to take in the event a wildland fire threatens the area where you live, work or recreate.

Stages of Population Protection

ALERT (Stage 1).....Persons within the affected area will be advised of the emergency and recommended response. If time permits, law enforcement and fire services representatives will make personal visits to each residence and business.

WARNING (Stage 2).....There is a good probability of the need to evacuate. Information about moving property and livestock will be provided. It may be suggested that some residents temporarily relocate during this stage.

REQUEST (Stage 3).....Occupants of the affected area are asked to leave within a specified time period along pre-designated routes and check-in at an evacuation center.

ORDER (Stage 4).....Evacuation is mandatory in order to protect the lives of area occupants and the lives of emergency personnel responding to the incident.

MAINTAIN (Stage 5)....Roadblocks and 24-hour patrols by law enforcement are instituted to protect property within the evacuated area.

RETURN (Stage 6).....Occupants are allowed to return as soon as it is safe. This may initially involve brief visits to inspect property. A wide range of assistance is provided by emergency and human services organizations.

√ **KEEP INFORMED:** Population protection is a cooperative effort with area occupants as the main players. Stay tuned to local media outlets for updates issued by emergency services. Listen and ask questions when emergency services representatives visit you. If time permits, a resident information site will be established in the area and up-to-date incident information will be posted.

√ **PLAN AHEAD:** A little pre-planning can help avoid last minute frustrations. Plan where you will go and what you will take before a fire emergency threatens your area.

√ **DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 FOR INFORMATION: The 9-1-1 Center is designed and staffed to dispatch emergency services. They are not equipped to serve as an information resource.**