



Support Annex: Evacuation

Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annex is to prepare, coordinate, and conduct the orderly and coordinated evacuation of Stillwater County residents and visitors if such action is the most effective means available for protecting the population from the effects of an emergency. This Annex identifies the main elements and associated tasks for conducting evacuation operations.

SCOPE

This Annex applies to all County departments, districts, municipalities, and agencies as well as to Non- Governmental Organizations (NGO's), volunteer organizations, and private entities that may be asked to provide evacuation assistance in an emergency. This Annex is structured so that agencies can respond under individual authorizations or support in a collaborative effort.

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Situation and Assumptions

SITUATION

Evacuation is a process by which people are moved from a place of immediate or anticipated danger to a place of safety. Citizens may be offered appropriate temporary shelter facilities and provided with life essentials until they return to their normal activities when the threat to safety has gone. Emergency Services, fire and law enforcement agencies have lead responsibility for organizing and mobilizing evacuation operations, during emergencies. The Stillwater County Office of Emergency Services (SC DES) serves as the county point of contact for setting up shelters and ensures coordination in the use of county resources to support the incident.

Direction and control of evacuation is primarily on-scene. The primary function of Incident Command is to confirm an incident has occurred, initiate evacuations, oversee and coordinate all phases of the evacuation process, and fulfill responsibilities deferred to them by local government. This may include:

- Procedures to alert and warn citizens of the need to evacuate
- Providing continuous information on all phases of the evacuation process

ASSUMPTIONS

- The primary responsibility for planning and executing an evacuation rest with the local jurisdiction in which the triggering incident occurs.
- Most people at risk will evacuate using their own modes of transportation when local officials recommend, they do so. However, some will refuse to leave their homes during voluntary or mandated evacuations, regardless of the threat.
- While some emergency situations may be slow to develop, others will occur without warning. In some cases there may be time for deliberate evacuation planning. In others, it is possible that an evacuation may be conducted with minimal preparation time.
- Stillwater County law enforcement agencies and fire services are limited in their resources to conduct door -to- door notification and evacuation of individuals. If notifications are made by partner organizations, appropriate identification shall be established. Preparation and conduct of evacuation is ultimately the responsibility of each resident.

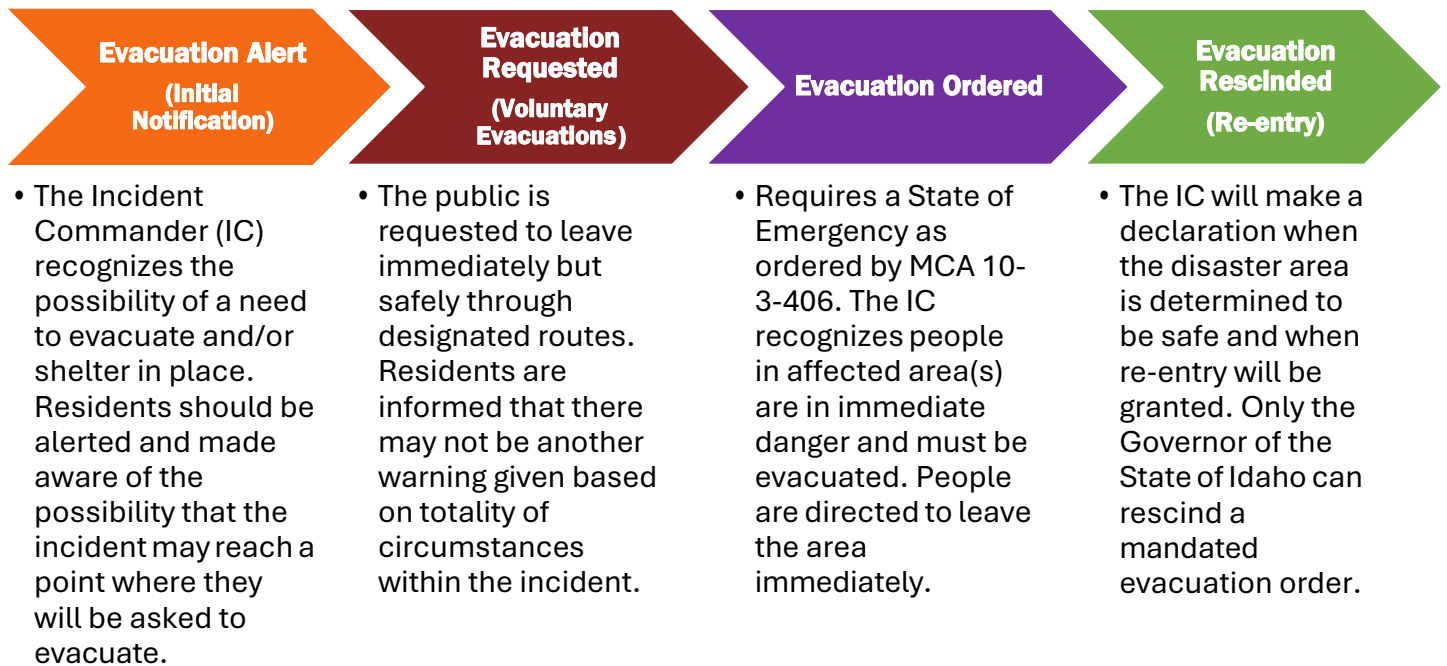
Concept of Operations

PREPAREDNESS

Hazards likely to require an evacuation in Stillwater County are found in the table below, prioritized in the order they are most likely to occur:

Hazard	Areas at Risk	Warning Time
Wildfire	Wildland Urban Interface, all of Stillwater County	Minutes to hours
Flood	Stillwater and Yellowstone River basins, East and West Rosebud Creeks	Days to hours
Hazardous Materials: Transportation	Interstate 90, major highways and railroads	0 to minutes
Winter Storms	Most of Stillwater County, highways, streets	Hours to days
Civil Unrest/ Terrorism	Gas lines, power lines, bridges, dam, large public events, schools, critical facilities	0 to hours
Landslide	Stillwater County	0 to hours
Earthquake	Populated areas and infrastructure	0 to hours

RESPONSE



Voluntary Evacuation:

The Governor of Montana, Board of County Commissioners, Stillwater County Sheriff and fire services personnel may order a voluntary evacuation order. In situations where rapid evacuation is critical to the continued health and safety of the population, the on-scene IC may recommend evacuation of people at risk in and around an incident. Stillwater County uses **Ready – Set – Go** model for evacuation messaging.

Evacuation Order:

Montana Code Annotated § 10-3-406 – Local emergency powers

Refusal to Evacuate:

It should be anticipated that some persons may refuse to leave. Any refusals to evacuate should be noted and recorded through the chain of command. Persons who refuse to evacuate during a recommended evacuation should be left until all others have been warned. Time and safety permitting, further efforts may be made to persuade these individuals to leave if resources are available.

Shelter in Place:

Not all emergencies require evacuation. Shelter-in-place may be a viable option to protect the public by instructing citizens to remain indoors until given the “all clear” or told to evacuate. The IC must weigh the risk of the hazard danger against the risk inherent in evacuation verses protection in place.

Animal Evacuations:

Many people will not evacuate without their pets/ livestock or will delay evacuation to their own detriment in order to attempt to make accommodations for animals left behind. These refusals or delays can initiate a chain reaction which might seriously jeopardize or cause a total breakdown of the overall evacuation plan.

Animal owners bear the primary responsibility for the care, safety, and if necessary, timely evacuation of the animals/ livestock in their care. During these times, members of the community will likely offer assistance with transporting and housing animals via social media or other community led initiatives.

Roles and Responsibilities

In the event of an evacuation, specific tasks will fall to Incident Command and therefore cannot be assigned to a certain Emergency Support Function (ESF).

INCIDENT COMMAND

Tasks

Assess the area affected by the incident and the impact on the population of that area.

Develop and issue appropriate evacuation request or orders.

Coordinate with Public Information Officer (PIO) and Stillwater County 9-1-1 Dispatch Center regarding communication of the evacuation decision; establish an incident communications plan.

Identify, procure, and deploy resources required to support vehicle evacuation such as fuel, tow trucks, etc. Establish staging areas for incoming equipment and supplies.

Monitor evacuation traffic to identify those in need of special services.

Establish community recovery team.

EOC TEAM

Tasks


Establish recovery priorities.

In coordination with Incident Command and/or Law Enforcement, decide upon full-scale or phased re-entry.


Establish a re-entry schedule.

Arrange public transportation as needed.


ESF 1 – TRANSPORTATION

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Montana Department of Transportation (MTD)- Stillwater County Roads and Bridges	Issue public notification of evacuation routes and road closures.
		Utilize pre-determined evacuation routes or identify routes to be used and the Traffic Control Points required.
		Implement traffic control devices along the route.
		Monitor traffic on evacuation routes and provide additional controls as needed.
		Clear debris from roads and critical facility sites.
		Restore traffic control devices (signs, signals, etc) as necessary.


ESF 2 – COMMUNICATIONS

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stillwater County 9-1-1 Dispatch Center- Montana Highway Patrol	Maintain communications and support incident command.


ESF 3 – PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stillwater County Roads & Bridges- Municipal Public Work Departments	<p>Utilize pre-determined evacuation routes and identify the Traffic Control Points required.</p> <p>Implement traffic control along evacuation routes with traffic control devices.</p> <p>Monitor traffic on evacuation routes and provide additional controls as needed.</p> <p>Clear debris from roads and critical facility sites.</p> <p>Restore traffic control devices (signs, signals, etc) as necessary.</p>


ESF 4 – FIREFIGHTING AND EMS

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stillwater County Fire Departments- Outside county mutual aid departments- MT DNRC- U.S. Forest Service- Bureau of Land Management	<p>Identify at-risk populations and determine resources needed for evacuation assistance.</p> <p>Assist with notifications as available.</p>


ESF 5 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stillwater County Emergency Services (SC DES) - Stillwater County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (MT DES) - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 	Coordinate Evacuation Plan and initiate public alerts and warnings.
		Assist with obtaining any required resources.
		Coordinate setting up mass transportation if requested.
		Set up citizen inquiry as needed.
		Coordinate with agencies and other community partners to provide consistent public information.
		Coordinate with ESF 6 to provide mass care and sheltering needs.


ESF 6 – MASS CARE AND SHELTERING

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red Cross - Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) 	Coordinate with SC DES to establish shelter facilities and to provide other mass care services for evacuees.
		Coordinate with partners for crisis counseling as requested.


ESF 8 – PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stillwater Billings Clinic – Health Department - Stillwater County Emergency Medical Service Departments - Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ) - Local Hospitals - Healthcare agencies - Montana Healthcare Coalition 	Coordinate with associated agencies to determine locations of people who may need assistance with evacuations.
		Coordinate provision of medical support services for evacuating special needs populations.
		Provide Crisis Counseling for residents.
		Identify special populations, institutions (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities) and locations to be evacuated.
		Upon request from first responders, emergency management, or elected officials, provide data to assist with identification of individuals on Medicare/Medicaid who may need evacuation assistance due to specific medical conditions.

ESF 9 – SEARCH AND RESCUE

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stillwater County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) - 	Conduct search and rescue operations as requested. Assist with evacuations.
		Inform Incident Command of evacuations or refusals.


ESF 10 – HAZMAT

	Associated Agencies	Tasks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team - MT DEQ 	Conduct decontamination as needed.
		Provide the information needed for alerts and warnings.


ESF 12 – UTILITIES

	<i>Associated Agencies</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Western Energy - Beartooth Electric - 	<p>Relay critical information regarding public utility service(s) in evacuation zones.</p>

ESF 13 – PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

	<i>Associated Agencies</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stillwater County Sheriff's Office - Columbus Police Department - MT Highway Patrol - Mutual Aid Law Enforcement 	<p>Implement and coordinate with other agencies for traffic control along evacuation routes.</p> <p>Determine evacuation points. Establish security at these locations to control traffic and maintain order.</p> <p>Coordinate with agencies providing emergency public information and other community partners.</p> <p>Note and report refusals to evacuate to Incident Command.</p> <p>Activate traffic control plan.</p> <p>Provide and maintain security of the evacuated area(s).</p> <p>Establish roadblocks to prevent mass entry of the population into impacted areas so as to keep rescue routes cleared.</p> <p>(Re-Entry) Establish a method for identifying authorized vehicles and individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's License with local address • Company Identification • Back up : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utility bill ○ Car registration ○ Property tax documents

ESF 15 – PUBLIC INFORMATION

	<i>Associated Agencies</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC DES - Organizational PIOs - Joint Information System (JIS) - Media Partners 	<p>Coordinate with Incident Command regarding communication of the evacuation decision, establish an incident communications plan.</p> <p>Notify other jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations that may be receiving evacuees and coordinate messaging.</p> <p>Establish a Joint Information Center as requested.</p> <p>Plan and carry out public information strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When reentry will begin • Full-scale or temporary re-entry • Transportation instructions • Identification instructions • Safety considerations • Emergency assistance • Instructions on permissible re- entry area activities (should restrictions be in place) • If there are curfews • Public Health Advisories • Insurance information • Establishment of Disaster Recovery Center