



## NORTHSTAR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY GUIDE

During a large scale emergency, Fire Department resources can be very limited for some time. This guide is intended to assist the Northstar Community in becoming self sufficient during an emergency.

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|----------------------------------|
| NORTHSTAR<br>PROPERTY<br>ADDRESS |
|                                  |
| PHONE<br>NUMBER                  |

Dear Northstar Resident:

There are many kinds of emergencies and disasters which seldom give warning and can be devastating to the victims. During major emergencies, the Northstar Community Services District and neighboring agencies' resources will be stretched thin. You may have to rely on your own resourcefulness to endure until emergency personnel can reach you. This booklet is provided by the Northstar Fire Department and the Northstar Community Services District. Its purpose is to assist you in preparing for and surviving a disaster. In the event of an emergency, planning and preparation can reduce the impact of an emergency upon your family and property.

Please take the time to review the material in this booklet with family and friends. Fill in your Northstar street address and telephone number (including area code) on the front cover. Learn the evacuation routes shown on the map included, and mark your route to a safe area. After you have completed the preparation and training, post this booklet near your telephone for easy access during an emergency.

If you would like further information regarding preparation, please feel free to contact Fire Prevention Officer Jim Conlin at the Northstar Fire Department, 530-562-1212.

## PREPARATION

### Family Meetings

At least once a year, have a meeting with your family to discuss and update your evacuation and emergency planning. Utilize this guide to plan and determine what supplies are needed. Occasional drills will assure quick reaction and avoid injury and panic in an emergency. Share your plan with neighbors, friends and relatives.

### Draw a plan of your home

On the last page of this booklet, draw a floor plan of your home, showing the location of exit windows, exit doors, utility shut-offs (gas, water, electricity), first aid kits and other emergency supplies. In the event of a house fire where all occupants must evacuate the residence identify an area outside the residence you can all meet safely. When the fire department arrives they will want to know if all occupants are out of the residence. Be sure everyone in your household is familiar with your emergency plan. Show it to baby sitters and house guests when you are going to be away.

## HOME EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The following list consists of items usually available in a home and used regularly. It is designed to help your family identify and organize supplies for an emergency.

Quantities stored for emergencies should be adequate to sustain your family for at least 48 hours. This includes consumables such as water, canned and non-perishable foods, medicine. Be sure to consider special needs, such as babies, pets, etc.

### Suggested Survival Supplies

- Water: 2 quarts to 1 gallon per person, per day
- First Aid Kit: Ample and freshly stocked
- First Aid Book: Know how to use it

- Food: Canned or dehydrated, pre-cooked and/or requiring minimum heat or water. Consider infants, pets and other special dietary requirements.
- Can opener
- Critical medications and eye glasses, as required.
- Blankets or sleeping bag: For every member of the family
- Radio: Battery- or crank-operated, portable; spare batteries
- Flashlight: Spare batteries
- Fire Extinguisher: Dry chemical ABC

### **Sanitation Supplies**

- Large plastic trash bags: For trash, waste.
- Hand soap, liquid detergent, shampoo
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Pre-moistened towelettes
- Deodorant, feminine supplies
- Infant supplies
- Toilet paper

### **Safety**

- Heavy shoes for every family member
- Heavy gloves
- Candles & Waterproof Matches
- Knife or Razor Blades

### **Cooking**

Think about how you would cook if you had no electricity or gas. Items to have on hand would include:

- Propane cooking stove or barbecue
- Cooking utensils, lighter
- Pots: At least two
- Paper plates, cups, utensils, paper towels

## **Tools**

- Crescent wrench (for turning off gas main)
- Screwdrivers, pliers, hammer

## **Car Mini-Survival Kit**

During severe snow storms it is not uncommon for roadways to close while you are traveling. A survival kit in your car can help you and your family survive a long wait until help arrives.

- Non-perishable food, such as granola bars,
- Bottled water
- First Aid Kit
- Road Flares
- Fire Extinguisher 1-A:10-BC
- Blanket
- Flashlight, spare batteries & bulb
- Critical medications
- Tool kit, including screwdriver, pliers, knife
- Small package of tissues
- Pre-moistened towelettes

## **Water Safety Tips**

If it is necessary to purify water taken from streams or other untreated sources, you can use any of the following methods:

- Boil for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Use a bacteria/virus water purifying filter, available at sporting goods stores.
- Add 10 drops of a household bleach solution per gallon of water. Mix well and let stand for 30 minutes. A slight smell or taste of chlorine indicates water is good to drink.
- Add household tincture of iodine in the same manner as above.
- Use commercial purification tablets, such as Halazone or Globaline.

## FIRE PREVENTION

Fire can strike both inside and outside the home. This list contains fire prevention tips to assist you in making your home “Fire Safe.”

### **Garage**

- Mount a Type 2-A:10BC fire extinguisher in the garage.
- Place any oily rags in sealed metal containers .
- Store all combustibles away from ignition sources, such as the water heater’s pilot light.
- Remember to allow hot tools, such as soldering irons or welding equipment, to cool before storing.

### **Kitchen**

- Keep a Type 1-A:10BC fire extinguisher in the kitchen.
- Maintain all appliances in good operating condition.
- Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires.
- Turn handles of pots and pans away from the front of the stove, to prevent accidental spills.
- Keep flammable items, such as towels, away from burners.
- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources, such as pilot lights.

### **Living Room**

- Store ashes from the fireplace (and BBQ) in a non-combustible metal container and dispose of only when cold. Be aware that it can take *several days* for ashes to cool.
- Clean fireplace chimney and flues at least annually.

## **Bedroom**

- Install smoke detectors in all possible sleeping areas.
- Turn off electric blankets and other electrical appliances when not in use.
- Do not smoke in bed.

## **Bathroom**

- Disconnect hot appliances, such as curling irons, when done; store in a safe location until the appliance is cool.
- Keep flammable items, such as towels, away from wall and floor heaters.

## **POINTERS FOR PARENTS**

Teach your children about safety!

Prevention is the key to fire safety. Each year several hundred people die, and thousands are injured, in fires caused by children playing with matches or lighters. These numbers can be changed. Here are five tips on preventing fires that children set:

- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach. Children are naturally curious about fire and will often experiment if given the chance.
- Tell children you don't want them using matches or lighters.
- Teach children about the danger of fire. Most children, especially younger ones, don't realize fire spreads.
- Don't let children grow accustomed to handling fire. Letting children handle fire, even under supervision, seems to increase the likelihood that they will play with fire on their own.
- Support school and community fire prevention programs.

## EARTHQUAKES

### During an Earthquake

- Remain calm.
- If you are indoors, get under a table, desk or bed, or brace yourself in a strong doorway. Watch for falling or sliding objects. Stay away from windows.
- If you are outdoors, move to an open area away from buildings, trees, power poles, brick or block walls, and any objects that could fall.
- If you are in a store, get under a table or any sturdy object, or in a doorway. Avoid stopping under anything that could fall. Stay away from glass displays. Do not run. Choose your exit wisely.

### When the Shaking Stops...

1. Put on heavy soled shoes immediately to avoid injury from glass or other debris.
2. Check for injuries and give first aid.
3. Check for fire or fire hazards.
4. Check for gas leaks, starting at the hot water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open the windows, and carefully leave the house. Do *NOT* turn on lights or light matches or do anything that could cause a spark. NOTE: Do not shut off the gas unless an emergency exists. If time permits, call the gas company or a qualified plumber. Do *NOT* turn gas back on until the gas company or plumber has checked it out.
5. If water leaks are suspected, shut off water at the main valve.
6. Check your neighbors for injury.
7. Turn on the radio and listen for advisories.
8. Do not go near downed power lines or any objects touched by power lines.

9. Clean up any potentially harmful materials.
10. Check the house, roof and chimney for damage.
11. Check your emergency supplies.
12. Do not use the telephone except for genuine emergencies.
13. Do not go sightseeing.
14. Be prepared for aftershocks.
15. Open closets and cupboards carefully; items may fall.
16. Cooperate with public safety officials.
17. Be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

## **EVACUATION and EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Depending on the nature and severity of the situation, residents will be advised to use one of the following three options, all of which are consistent with the Placer County East Side Emergency Evacuation Plan.

### **“EVACUATION WARNING”**

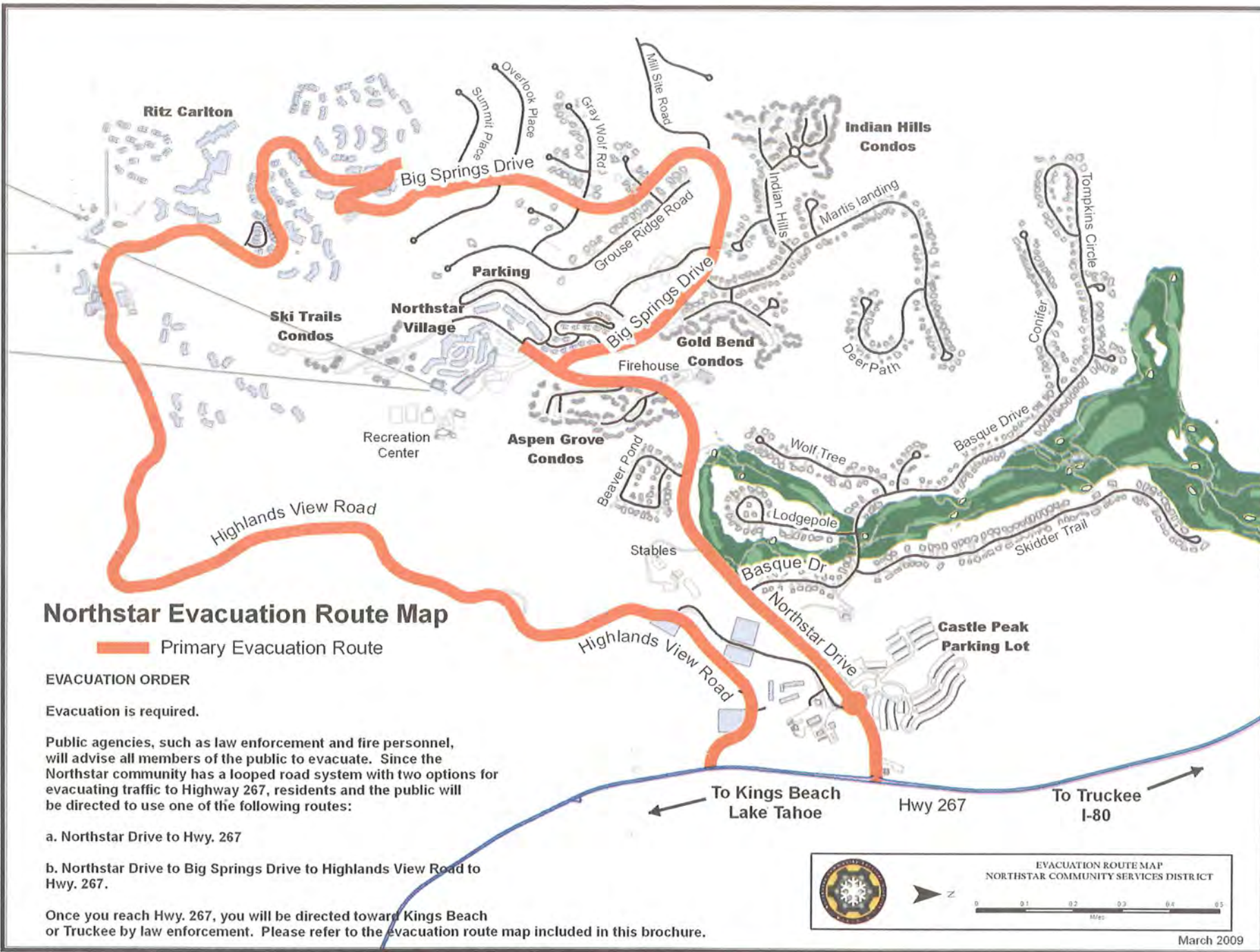
Residents and public will be warned that they are in a threatened area that is being considered for evacuation.

### **“EVACUATION ORDER”**

This is when evacuation is required.

Public agencies, such as law enforcement and fire personnel, will advise all members of the public to evacuate. Since the Northstar community has a looped road system with two options for evacuating traffic to Highway 267, residents and the public will be directed to use one of the following routes:

- a. Northstar Drive to Hwy. 267
- b. Northstar Drive to Big Springs Drive to Highlands View Road to Hwy. 267.



Once you reach Hwy. 267, you will be directed toward Kings Beach or Truckee by law enforcement. Please refer to the evacuation route map included in this booklet.

### **“SHELTER IN PLACE”**

Residents are advised to remain in place. This warning is issued for the following conditions:

- a. Emergency personnel feel the incident will be controlled in a short amount of time.
- b. Hazardous roadway conditions exist, such as damaged roads or poor visibility.

## **KNOW WHEN TO EVACUATE**

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### **Local Radio Stations**

KTHO – 590 AM  
KKOH – 780 AM  
KTKE – 101.5 FM  
KRNO – 106.9 FM

### **Local TV News Stations**

KTVN – Channel 2, Reno  
KRNV – Channel 4, Reno  
KOLO – Channel 8, Reno

### **Teleminder**

What is Teleminder? Teleminder is a computer-based telephone notification system, basically a “Reverse 911,” which allows information to be relayed to citizens by telephone. Fire department personnel can provide Placer County Sheriff’s dispatch with an emergency message to relay to the public (such as an order to evacuate).

Placer County Sheriff's Dispatch can then program a computer to dial all phone numbers within a given address range, and provide the emergency message to all citizens through a voice recording.

When is Teleminder used? The system is primarily used during an emergency or other unusual incident where there is a substantial threat to life and/or property.

Who operates Teleminder? The Teleminder system is operated by the Placer County Sheriff's dispatch office, where it is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **Audible Siren**

Northstar Fire Department incorporates a local audible siren on top of the main fire station located on Northstar Drive. In the event of a large scale evacuation you will hear this siren sound continuously.

The Northstar Fire Department occasionally tests this siren. This test sounds the siren for only 30 seconds.

#### **Remember that this 30-second siren is only a test.**

If an actual emergency exists, the siren will sound continuously.

### **What to Do When Evacuation Occurs**

When you are notified that evacuation is necessary, follow the steps outlined in this booklet and proceed to the announced evacuation route and shelter. Be patient; emergency shelters take time to get established so that they function efficiently.

## NEVER DIAL 911 UNLESS YOU HAVE AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIAL 911?

The emergency 911 system has proven to be one of the most effective tools to expedite emergency response to people in need.

If you live in or are visiting the Northstar community and you call 911, the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) is the Placer County Sheriff's office, located in either Tahoe City or Auburn. Most PSAP locations within California are with the County Sheriff.

The dispatcher (the person that answers the 911 call) should immediately know where you are, thanks to the assistance of enhanced 911, which lists the caller's street and address on the screen.

The enhanced 911 system works well, but is not 100% accurate. You should always know the city, address, and phone number you are calling from.

*Enhanced 911 does **not** work with cell phones.*

After you have called 911, the dispatcher will ask you what is the nature of your emergency and the location. If your emergency is medical- or fire-related, the dispatcher will tell you they are transferring your call and push a button that will transfer you to the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVECC). This takes only seconds. You will then be asked the nature of the emergency and the location.

As you are talking, the dispatcher is typing the information into their Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The CAD will list the appropriate fire department and equipment response.

911 is an excellent system that works very well. Normally, from the time you pick up the phone and dial 911 to the time the first fire engine or ambulance pulls out of the station is less than two minutes.

## *Things to remember when using 911*

- Remain calm.
- Be able to provide the nature of the emergency, location such as city or town, address, and a call-back phone number.

## **WILDLAND FIRE**

The key to surviving a wildfire is advance planning and preparation. First, if you see a wildfire approaching your home, report it immediately. Do not assume that someone else has already called. For more detail, check out our website, at <http://www.northstarcsd.org/defensiblespace.html>.

### **PREPARING TO EVACUATE**

*Only if there is time before the fire arrives*, take the following precautions:

- Park your car in the garage, heading out, with the windows closed and the keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. Be sure to disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- Place valuable documents, family mementos and pets inside the car in the garage for quick departure if necessary.  
Prepare a list ahead of time of those items you'd want to take with you in an emergency (passports, insurance papers, wedding photos or negatives, bank statements, family albums, etc.)

### **IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED**

If you are trapped by fire while evacuating in your car:

- Park in an area away from any vegetation.
- Close all windows and vents in your vehicle.
- Do not operate the air conditioner.

- Cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.
- It may become very warm in your vehicle, but this is your best chance of survival.
- Remain calm and stay inside your vehicle.

If you are forced to evacuate on foot and become trapped:

- Select an area clear of vegetation near a road, lie in a ditch or creek.
- Cover any exposed skin with a jacket or blanket.
- Avoid canyons that can concentrate and channel fire.
- Lie face down in the lowest depression you can find.
- Try to dig a hole for your face and nose.
- Breathe through your nose.
- Mentally prepare yourself to stick it out, keeping your face pressed to the ground no matter how painful it gets. It is your only chance for survival.

### **OUTSIDE YOUR HOME**

- Move combustible yard furniture away from the house, or store it in the garage. This includes lawn and patio furniture, umbrellas, tarp coverings, BBQ briquette bags or propane bottles. Radiant heat from a wildfire can catch these items on fire and cause your home to ignite.
- Close outside vents to attic, eaves or, basement and other vents.
- Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire to help firefighters get onto your roof.

### **INSIDE YOUR HOME**

- Close all windows and doors inside the house.
- Turn on a light in each room to make the house more visible in dense smoke.

- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep it from igniting from the heat of the fire radiating through the windows.
- Remove curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire-resistant window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.

### **WHEN YOU LEAVE**

- Leave doors closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight fire. Do not worry about looting; the entire community will be isolated and guarded by law enforcement.
- If it becomes necessary to drive through fire, roll up the car windows, turn on the headlights, and drive slowly. A motor vehicle can be driven through considerable fire provided the driver remains calm. Look for other vehicles and pedestrians when driving through smoke-filled streets. Be aware of responding emergency vehicles.

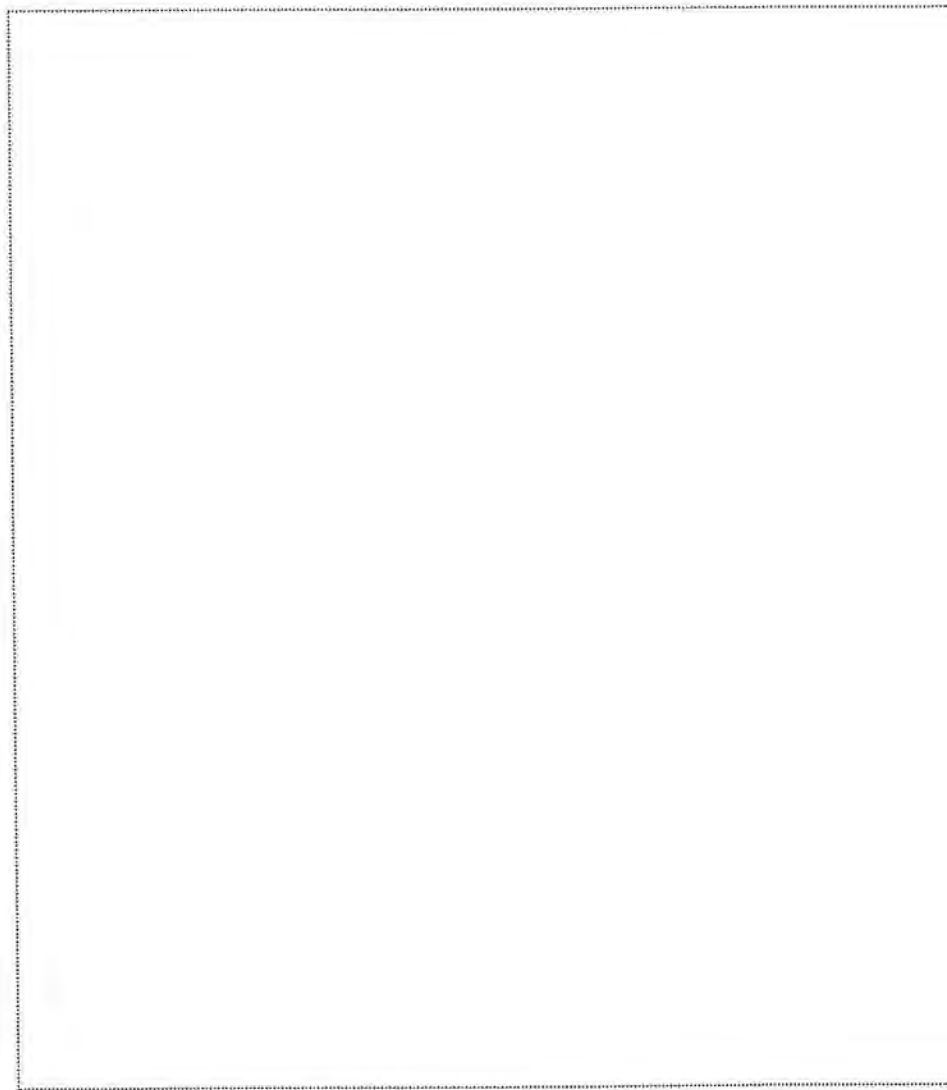
### **IF YOU PLAN TO STAY**

- As the fire approaches, go inside the house and stay there, away from outside walls and windows.
- Be sure all doors are closed and unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and remain calm.
- Remember, if it gets hot in the house, it is many times hotter and more dangerous outside. Although the house may eventually be destroyed by fire, the greatest mass of heat and fire may have swept by outside before it becomes untenable inside, and it may then be possible to leave the building safely.

### **WHEN THE FIRE PASSES**

- Check the roof immediately. Extinguish all sparks and embers. If you must climb on the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.
- Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.

- Check your yard for burning wood piles, trees, fence posts or other materials. If you have a fire, do what you can to extinguish it until the fire department can get to you.
- Have all pilot lights and gas services checked and restored by qualified personnel.



Use the box, below, to draw a diagram of your home. Include EXIT ROUTES and a specific MEETING SPOT outside the home, where the family has been instructed to meet.

A large, empty rectangular box with a dotted border, intended for drawing a home diagram. The box is oriented vertically and occupies most of the page below the instruction box.

## Provided by:

Northstar Community Services District  
908 Northstar Drive  
Northstar, CA 96161  
530-562-0747



Northstar Fire Department  
910 Northstar Drive  
Northstar, CA 96161  
530-562-1212

