

CSROA TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE  
RESIDENT EVACUATION GUIDE  
SEPT 2023

Sun Rivers has a single regularly maintained paved entrance/exit route - Sun Rivers Drive fed by numerous other roadways from multiple neighbourhoods. A secondary unmaintained (construction dirt road), accessed through a secure gate at the lower end of Ironwood Drive is available for emergency use only.

TteS has dedicated a team to emergency preparedness and has prepared a new emergency plan for all of their band lands of which Sun Rivers is just a single neighbourhood, albeit likely the biggest and most populated. The plan needs review and approval by Chief & Council before being actioned. CSROA is unaware of when the plan will be available. To that end, this guide has been developed.

Contrary to most residents' notions, the emergency gate is not the significant factor in an evacuation. Rest assured that the gate will be unlocked/open at the very 1<sup>st</sup> indication of an Evacuation Alert. Numerous strategic residents (remain anonymous for privacy) have a key as well as SR Dev. Corp. and the RCMP.

It is possible that a wildfire in Sun Rivers would be a 'ground fire' i.e., grasses, sagebrush etc. rather than a forest fire. In the case of a ground fire there are some things that can be done in advance to assist fire crews in dealing with it. [see below]

In either case there are two stages to an evacuation from wildfires.

#### EVACUATION ALERT

You and your family should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice, in fact you should prepare to leave now. Have your grab bag ready and be aware of how to shut off gas lines, electricity, water etc. Pack your vehicle[s] with necessities and valuable articles you wish to take with you. Your grab bag should contain all personal files of importance i.e., house insurance, medical files, wills, birth certificates, mortgage documents etc. as well as medications. Upon ALERT, stay calm, pack up your vehicle, prep your home and be prepared to leave your homesite. Leaving on Alert is strongly recommended.

#### EVACUATION ORDER

You must leave immediately as per the evacuation plan. This is the law. You should not stay behind to protect your property, unless you are specifically trained and experienced to do so, as this could interfere with firefighting operations and distract fire fighters from doing their job. Upon an Order leave by your designated route and proceed to the location described in your plan ie evac centre, friend or relative, hotel, motel etc. Again, an order requires you to leave immediately.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS PREPAREDNESS; PERSONAL AND HOMESITE.

### PERSONAL PREP

Install Voyent Alert on your phone or tablet, get alerts from TteS, TNRD, City  
Preregister for/as evacuee if under an alert.  
Pack a 72-hr kit for everyone in your household.

Voyent Alert:

<https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/>

To register for Emergency Support Services:

<https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>

For tips about how to prepare grab-and-go bags:

<http://www.preparedbc.ca/emergencykit>

### HOMESITE PREP

Use FireSmart guidelines to eliminate combustibles on your homesite today!

<https://begins-at-home-guide.firesmartbc.ca>

Prep your home for evacuation, i.e. be aware of how to shut off natural gas, electricity, water etc.

FireSmart evacuation checklist:

<https://firesmartbc.ca/resource/firesmart-last-minute-wildfire-checklist/>

### STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Homeowners can do some things to assist in structure protection during a wildfire. Have a garden hose and sprinkler easily accessible on your property that can be turned on if needed. Some homeowners have a sprinkler system already set up on their roofs to prevent ignition from embers. Do NOT turn on a lawn or roof sprinkler system prior to an evacuation order as it could drain necessary water sources. It should be available to firefighters as an addition resource for structure protection during firefighting if needed.

### GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

There is an extensive irrigation system around the entire perimeter of the golf course. If there was an evacuation alert, golf course management would immediately prepare for an evacuation order. If an order were to be issued, golf course staff would turn on the irrigation system and it would water all golf course adjacent lands in Sun Rivers. This system would create very humid atmosphere around Sun Rivers which would assist in firefighting efforts. It worked well at Talking Rock Golf Course in the Shuswap.

## MAP NOTES

Familiarize yourself with the map, locate your home and your exit route as it may not be your normal driving route.

Sun Rivers has been roughly divided in ½ (the robust red line running roughly North - South) to make use of the 2 exits (Sun Rivers Drive & Ironwood)

The dashed lines (Green & Yellow) indicate the major egress routes.

The Exclamation sign is the unlocked/open Ironwood gate.

## DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

Proceed to the appropriate exit (Ironwood Gate or Sun Rivers Drive) using 'zipper merge' at all intersections as there may not be any traffic control. If present, follow traffic control directions.

### EAST SIDE (RIGHT)

- Proceed from your home to Ironwood Drive.
- Exit though Ironwood (unlocked & open gate) to Shuswap Road and drive East to Lafarge.
- **Do NOT attempt to go to Hgwy 5!**
- Remain calm and don't panic.

### WEST SIDE (LEFT)

- Proceed from your home to Sun Rivers Drive, upon arrival at the 4-way Stop, use DriveBC procedure:
  - *The first vehicle to arrive at the intersection and come to a complete stop should go first.*
  - *If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the one on the right should go first and then clockwise around the intersection.*
  - *If two vehicles are facing each other and have arrived at the intersection at about the same time, the one making a left turn should yield to the one going straight through.*
- Exit on Sun Rivers Drive to Shuswap Road turn right and drive West to Hwy 5, turn right and proceed North on Hwy 5
- **Do NOT attempt to turn Left at Hgwy 5!**
- Remain calm and don't panic.

## ADDITIONAL INFO

Kamloops Fire & rescue

<https://www.kamloops.ca/public-safety/kamloops-fire-rescue>

BC Wildfire Service information and updates:

<http://www.bcwildfire.ca/>

For preparedness guides from PreparedBC:

<http://www.preparedbc.ca>

Fire bans and restrictions:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>

Emergency information:

<http://www.emergencyinfobc.ca>

<http://www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC>

To check current weather alerts:

<http://weather.gc.ca>

To stay informed of the latest road conditions:

<https://www.drivebc.ca/>

Air quality and advisories:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-quality/air-advisories>

<https://map.purpleair.com/>

<https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>

#### DISCLAIMER

Please note that this document is only a guideline and has not been approved by TteS, RCMP or any other approving authority.

This guideline has been prepared to assist your egress from Sun Rivers in an evacuation situation.

The information contained within it has been extracted from reputable sources and is only accurate to that extent.

CSROA makes no claims of accuracy or accepts any responsibility for the information.

This may contradict the final plan being prepared by TteS.

Ultimately, each homeowner is responsible to be prepared in the event an evacuation order is put in place and to take instruction from the authorities at that time.







# Community Of Sun Rivers Owner Association (CSROA)

## IMPORTANT FIRESMART & VOYENT ALERT INFORMATION

### Firesmart

With the changes in climate and pending drought conditions, it is time to review our landscape wildfire preparedness.

The best (and easiest) way to do this is to ensure that your landscape contractors are aware of and practice the guidelines set out at [firesmartbc.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca) which is the one-stop for all things fire related. CSROA recommends that you visit the website.

Whether you're a homeowner, commercial property manager, government, homeowner association, contractor [firesmartbc.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca) is the resource. Click and bookmark the link.

### Voyent Alert

Part of being prepared for an emergency (wildfires & flash floods come to mind) is to get accurate information early in the event. The best way to do that is get connected to Voyent Alert. Voyent Alert is the emergency warning system used by TteS, TNRD & C of K to alert residents to emergency situations in and around their neighbourhoods. CSROA strongly urges that all residents of Sun Rivers employ Voyent Alert on their phones, tablets & desktops. Info on the system, downloads and instructions can be found at <https://vovent-alert.com/ca/community/>

If you have any questions about the parking patrol, please contact Kinetic Realty and Property Management at [info@kineticproperties.ca](mailto:info@kineticproperties.ca).

CSROA Board of Directors

c/o

Kinetic Realty & Property Management



## GRAB AND GO KIT

With wildfires destroying and threatening properties across B.C., it is a good time to remind people to have a grab and go kit ready in case they need to evacuate at a moment's notice. More information on what should be in your grab and go kit:

- Food (ready to eat) and water;

## Preparing for extreme fire conditions



- Phone charger and battery bank;
- Small battery-powered or hand-crank radio;
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight;
- Extra batteries;
- Small first-aid kit and personal medications;
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses;
- Copy of your emergency plan;
- Copies of important documents, such as insurance papers and identification;
- Cash in small bills;
- Local map with your family meeting place identified;
- Seasonal clothing and an emergency blanket;
- Pen and notepad;

People should prepare by putting together a grab-and-go kit for themselves, their family and their pets. Province of BC image

As wildfires rage across B.C., the provincial government is urging people to be prepared for evacuations and to follow all regional fire prohibitions.

Before travelling anywhere within the province, check for road closures, evacuation alerts, evacuation orders and other prohibitions, such as BC Parks closures. Follow all instructions from First Nations or local authorities, including evacuation alerts or evacuation orders.

It is important that people who are placed under an evacuation order leave the area immediately and follow the instructions provided by their local authority or First Nation. Decisions around evacuation orders are not made lightly.

As part of their emergency plans, people should connect with friends and family who may be able to provide shelter and support should an evacuation order be issued. This will help ensure local accommodation is available for those who have no other option.

For those who do not have the option of staying with family or friends, Emergency Support Services (ESS), including accommodation, are available. People are strongly encouraged to pre-register for ESS at [ess.gov.bc.ca](https://ess.gov.bc.ca). This can expedite an evacuee's experience at a reception centre and allow e-transfers, where applicable.

People should also prepare by putting together a grab-and-go kit for themselves, their family and their pets. A grab-and-go kit should include:

- Food (ready to eat) and water;
- Phone charger and battery bank;
- Small battery-powered or hand-crank radio;
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight;
- Extra batteries;
- Small first-aid kit and personal medications;
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses;
- Copy of your emergency plan;
- Copies of important documents, such as insurance papers and identification;
- Cash in small bills;
- Local map with your family meeting place identified;
- Seasonal clothing and an emergency blanket;
- Pen and notepad;
- Whistle.

Help from the public can be the first line of defence in preventing and containing wildfires. Early reporting of wildfire is a crucial support in quickly getting firefighters to new starts that are more easily contained.

Wildfires can be reported by calling 1-800-663-5555 toll-free or \*5555 on a cellphone or by downloading the BC Wildfire Service app. The mobile app allows individuals to submit photos



along with their report, which helps inform the BC Wildfire Service's operational decision-making.

As well, people should take extreme care to ensure their own activities are not a source of wildfire ignition. Everyone should also be aware of current fire conditions in their area and abide by any existing alerts or evacuation orders.

As conditions change, stay informed by visiting [BCWildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca) and [EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.ca) or through the BC Wildfire Service app.

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness continues to assess capacity for group lodging and is opening other evacuation spaces throughout the province for people who are unable to stay with friends and family.

One such site is in Rayleigh on Tk'emlups land.

## LEARN MORE

- BC Wildfire Service information and updates: <http://www.bcwildfire.ca/>
- For the latest videos from wildfire incidents, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/@BCWildfireService>
- For preparedness guides from PreparedBC, including floods, wildfires and extreme heat, visit: <http://www.preparedbc.ca>
- For tips about how to prepare grab-and-go bags, visit: <http://www.preparedbc.ca/emergencykit>
- FireSmart evacuation checklist: <https://firesmartbc.ca/resource/firesmart-last-minute-wildfire-checklist/>
- To register for Emergency Support Services, visit: <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>
- Fire bans and restrictions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>
- Emergency information: <http://www.emergencyinfobc.ca> and <http://www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC>
- To check current weather alerts, visit: <http://weather.gc.ca>
- Air quality advisories: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-quality/air-advisories>
- To stay informed of the latest road conditions, visit: <http://www.drivebc.ca>