

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 1st 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 Hwy 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 Hwy 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.

