

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Ketchum and/or Blaine County officials will issue one of three official notices to residents, depending on the circumstances. For your information, the notices that could be issued are listed below, including an explanation of each.

Advisory: Issued only as a precaution so residents can plan ahead, should the fire situation change. **If you receive an advisory, you are not being asked to leave your home and no evacuation or threat is imminent!** However, it means your residence is near a forested area or near an area where the fire could potentially threaten your home. An advisory means it's time to think about what you would do and where you might go, should an evacuation become prudent. What would you take? Where are your photo albums and valuable papers? What about your pets? Are your cars gassed up? Have you moved your woodpile and other combustibles away from your house? You should be "fire ready" anytime of course, but especially now! An Advisory is a reminder.

Voluntary Evacuation: This can mean a couple of things. The fire is getting closer and it is suggested you gather up at least some of your valuables and important papers and leave your home until the danger has passed. This will also allow fire fighters to work in your neighborhood unimpeded and do their best to keep the fire away.

A voluntary evacuation might also be recommended for those susceptible to smoky conditions, such as those who are older or younger, or with respiratory and heart problems.

Mandatory Evacuation: You and your home are at risk from the fire and you must leave your home! Under this scenario you will see a large number of fire fighters and their equipment in your neighborhood. You must not interfere with their efforts, and to do so could lead to arrest! It is imperative that you leave your home for your own safety!

The authority to issue a mandatory evacuation order (and to enforce it) comes after the Governor's Office declares a disaster area, and the evacuation authority is delegated to the Blaine County Commissioners and the Mayor of Ketchum. That was done earlier this week. The Sheriff's Office and Ketchum Police enforce the order.

If a Mandatory Evacuation Order is issued, you will be notified by telephone, and/or in person, as well as by police loudspeakers going through your neighborhood.

Our goal is to save lives, protect property, and keep you informed!