

## The Waldo Canyon Fire and Flash Flooding

In the wake of the recent Waldo Canyon Fire, flash flooding is an increased concern for Colorado Springs. Directly impacting four drainage basins (Camp Creek, North Douglas Creek, South Douglas Creek, and Dry Creek) and indirectly affecting two more (Fountain Creek and Monument Creek), the Waldo Canyon Fire burn area has the potential to cause a drastic increase in rainwater runoff resulting in flooding within Colorado Springs. With an increase in runoff potential coupled with the debris (boulders, trees, sediment, etc.) from the burn area washing downstream, it is important to understand the risks of flash floods, the warning signs, and what to do in an emergency.

According to NOAA, a flash flood is *a rapid and extreme flow of high water into a normally dry area, or a rapid water level rise in a stream or creek above a predetermined flood level*. Typically occurring between May and September, most flash floods are the result of storms that are out of sight and hearing range. Also, it takes only 6 inches of swiftly moving water to knock an adult of their feet, while 10 inches can move a car, and 2 feet can float a car. In any flooding situation, do NOT enter swiftly moving water on foot or in a vehicle.

When you hear a **Flash Flood Watch** flash flooding is possible. As a result you need to be alert and be prepared to move to higher ground, away from creeks and streams. Stay tuned to the National Weather Service and/or local news stations for notifications. A **Flash Flood Warning** means that a flash flood has already begun or is imminent. In this case, relocate from the hazard area immediately and seek higher ground.

In an effort to protect yourself, your families, and your possessions please refer to the following resources below for more in-depth information on the risks of flash flooding and what you can do to protect and prepare your family.

### City of Colorado Springs:

Flooding Risk Information Page:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=4488>

Flash Flood Education Page:

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=4028>

CSFD Wildland Fire Mitigation

<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=101>

### FEMA:

The National Flood Insurance Program:

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

Flooding Information and Preparation:

<http://www.ready.gov/floods>

### NOAA and NWS:

Flood Safety Homepage:

<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>

NWS Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

[http://forecast.weather.gov/showsigwx.php?warnzone=MAZ011&warncounty=MAC013&firewxzone=MAZ011&local\\_place1=&product1=Flash+Flood+Watch](http://forecast.weather.gov/showsigwx.php?warnzone=MAZ011&warncounty=MAC013&firewxzone=MAZ011&local_place1=&product1=Flash+Flood+Watch)

# Emergency Notification System



## What is the Emergency Notification System?

The Emergency Notification System employed by El Paso-Teller County E9-1-1 may be used to advise you of any situation that threatens harm to life and/or property or is deemed dangerous by officials. This may include, but is certainly not limited to man-made disasters, crime, pandemics, hazardous materials incidents, missing persons, evacuation notifications, and neighborhood emergencies. To register for this service, the address you are registering must be in El Paso or Teller County.

The El Paso-Teller E-911 Authority can contact you using the **Emergency Notification System**. Simply register your information below, and your cell phone and landline telephone number will be added to our registration database. **We will accept cell phone numbers with ANY area code.** By registering your information you will receive an email when an activation is made in your area. You also have the option to receive the notification via text message (SMS message) in addition to a telephone call. Standard message rates and data charges from your cell phone provider apply to sending and/or receiving text messages and email. Check with your cell phone provider if you have questions about your plan and costs.

**What is the emergency notification system used for?** The emergency notification system employed by El Paso-Teller County E9-1-1 may be used to advise you of any situation that threatens harm to life and/or property or is deemed dangerous by officials. This may include, but is certainly not limited to inclement weather, man-made disasters, crime, pandemics, hazardous materials incidents and missing persons.

**What if my home phone number is unlisted?** If your home (landline) number is unlisted, there is a possibility it does not exist within our emergency notification system. To be cautious, please enter it when filling out the Self-Registration Portal form. Should the number already exist in the system's database, you will not be contacted twice on your home phone number.

**What information am I expected to provide through the Self-Registration Portal?** El Paso-Teller County E9-1-1 is requesting your Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, County, and Cell Phone Number.

**Who do I contact if I have other questions?** For more information, please email [support@elpasoteller911.org](mailto:support@elpasoteller911.org) or call 719-785-1900



## Community Alert – Vehicle Break-Ins

### Falcon Division

December is here and with it comes holiday celebrations and end of the year events. Traditionally this time of year brings an increase of vehicle break-ins. It takes less than a minute for a thief to break into your vehicle window or open an unlocked vehicle door and then steal an I-pod, laptop, cellular telephone or purse on the front seat. Each year \$1.26 billion in personal items and accessories are stolen from vehicles. In the Falcon Division to date the division has had 663 reported vehicle break-ins. In the year 2010 the City of Colorado Springs had a total of 3,956 reported vehicle break-ins. Please do not leave valuable items in your vehicle that are in view and always lock your vehicle doors.

### *Preventing Vehicle Break-Ins*

**1. Keep your car visible:** Park in well-lit areas, near people or with a parking lot or garage attendant on duty. Avoid having your car concealed by larger vehicles, fences or foliage; thieves like to work in private.

**2. Don't make it easy:** Keep windows and sunroofs closed and doors locked. Almost one-fourth of thefts from vehicles are from unlocked cars.

**3. Activate your vehicle's alarm:** Don't have one? Factory-installed anti-theft systems are best, but a professionally installed alarm can discourage a car break-in thief who likes to work in silence.

**4. Hide your valuables:** Many smash-and-grab thieves act on impulse. So keep your stuff out of sight – either with you or in a locked trunk. Don't count on the glove box; thieves know to look there, and they're easy to break into.

**5. Hide your valuables 2:** If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area open, get a retractable fitted cover to keep shopping bags or other belongings hidden.

**6. Don't hand a thief your keys:** Take your keys with you. And if you think you have a great hiding place for a spare key, car break-in thieves know to look above the visor, in the center console, under the floor mat, in the trunk well, etc.

**7. Stow your stuff before arrival:** Experienced thieves often stake out parking lots to watch for people putting items in their trunk. Help prevent car break-ins by putting valuables, like laptops, messenger bags and electronic devices, into your trunk before you get to the parking lot.

**8. Stash the evidence, too:** After you've put your stuff in the trunk, don't forget such telltale evidence as power plugs, MP3 adapters and navigation system windshield suction-cup mounts. Thieves know what they're looking for, so hide the electronic accessories, too.



**9. Trust your instincts:** If you see suspicious activity, find another spot to park. If you're concerned, tell the attendant or report your suspicions to police. You may be helping keep another person from being a victim of a car break-in – or worse.

**10. Take it one more step:** Many vehicles are broken into with the intent of stealing the vehicle itself. Visible anti-theft devices, like steering wheel locks, steering column collars or brake pedal locks, may discourage the would-be thief from breaking in and trying.



## CRIME PREVENTION AND HOME SECURITY

- Security alarm systems should be used in addition to, not in place of, other security measures.
- House numbers should be in a well-lit area and easily visible to neighbors and emergency response units.
- Exterior doors should be solid core. Hinges should be on the inside. Seal gaps between the door and frame in order to prevent a jimmy bar from being used.
- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and other entrances into the house from the garage or basement.
- Install wide-angle viewers for exterior doors.
- While proper locks on sliding glass doors are recommended, inserting a fitted piece of wood or metal in the door's lower track improves security.
- Secure basement and ground level windows, as well as other possible points of entry, such as pet doors and window-mounted air conditioners.
- Check references of people you employ to work in and around your home.
- List only surname and initials in the telephone book.
- Have adequate insurance coverage on your home and contents.
- Keep tools, ladders and garbage pails locked away.
- Keep bicycles, barbecues and lawn equipment securely stored.
- Have adequate exterior lighting.
- Trim trees and shrubs that could easily hide intruders.
- Don't leave notes on your door.
- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside - they can be found.
- Don't use a nameplate outside of your house with your full name. A criminal can use this information to look up your number in the phone book and call to see if you are home
- Leave doors and windows locked whenever possible.
- Use curtains on basement and garage windows to prevent others from shopping for goods.

- Store credit cards, identification and other valuables in a safe place, and use a safety deposit box for seldom used valuables.
- Avoid leaving house and car keys available to a thief or intruder.
- Do not leave purses or valuables in view of persons at your door.
- Insist on seeing identification from sales and service people.
- Consider purchasing a home security system.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions feel free to call or email me.

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