



FIRE AWARENESS AND ACTION GUIDE

Every T-Lazy-7 Ranch resident must read this important fire awareness guide – because we are all depending on our friends, neighbors and guests to be FIRE AWARE!

Living in the Colorado Wilderness-Urban Interface comes with increased dangers and these next few pages will outline fire prevention tips and offer action plans that address Red Flag Fire Warnings -- Smoking / Fire Bans -- and Evacuation Orders.

In the Rocky Mountain Region, the worst wildfire danger typically arrives towards the end of the June drought and the onset of the Pacific Monsoon rain pattern in early July. Some of the first thunderstorms of summer pack plenty of lightening but provide little in the way of rain. A lightening-struck tree can smolder internally or deep into the root system for weeks or longer, then suddenly burst into flames during Red Flag Warnings when winds are high, humidity is low and bone-dry ground cover burns rapidly.

Most wildfires are triggered by **human error** and when considering how many tourists visit the Maroon-Bells Wilderness every day, T-Lazy-7 Ranch faces increased fire risk throughout the summer season.

The good news is that Colorado has elite firefighters who are ready around-the-clock to battle fires on the ground and from the air. Aspen is within close proximity to airbases located at Grand Junction, Rifle and Eagle – which provide scouting planes, Hot Shot parachute jumpers, as well as helicopters and air tankers for fire retardant and water drops.

But the best way to fight a fire is to eliminate one before it starts.

- Be aware that a spark, a small flame, an ember or a burning cigarette butt can easily ignite ground cover and spread rapidly to surrounding brush, trees and buildings.
- Do not park a hot car on top of tall, dry grass. If the exhaust system underneath the car makes contact with the ground cover, it can ignite.
- Never leave BBQ's, Tiki torches, candles, etc. burning while unattended. Make sure you are 100% certain that all ignition sources have been completely eliminated before you leave the area.
- Keep lighters and matches “out of reach” or safely-locked away when children are present.
- Try to prevent white cottonwood fluff from accumulating in concentrated piles. It is highly flammable. A vacuum works great to remove excess cottonwood fluff.
- Never store chemical-infused rags because they can spontaneously combust without warning. (Yes. Burst into flames unexpectedly!) For example, linseed oil on rags is extremely flammable.
- Do not accumulate flammable liquids, dry fuels or trash inside or around buildings.

- Do not light sparklers, firecrackers or fireworks on the ranch. Leave that to the professionals and be aware it is “illegal to shoot airborne fireworks” in the State of Colorado – and for good reason.
- Do not burn fires in old pits, rigs or chimenea-type furniture.
- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many plugs.
- Keep stovetops and counters free of clutter. Kitchen fires are the #1 cause of house fires. Please cook carefully.
- Make sure your Smoke Detector is working and has fresh batteries installed. Smoke detectors save lives! Period. Contact Rebecca (970-379-8726) if you need assistance.
- Obey all Fire / Smoking bans. They are not suggestions but Sheriff ordered misdemeanor laws, enforced by arrest and serious fines. When in effect, the law prohibits smoking outdoors, and requires smokers to be inside a car with windows up, or inside a building. (Sorry we still can’t allow smoking in cabins as it is in violation of your lease and could result in eviction). Please be super-careful with cigarettes on the ranch and around town.
- Dirt bikes and small gas-powered engines without spark arresters are prohibited under certain bans. Know when it is safe, and know when it’s illegal.
- Use extreme caution when cleaning-out wood stoves or BBQ ash, and place ash in a metal container to cool, as ash can stay hot and flammable for up to a week or more.
- IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING during Smoking / Fire Bans. Politely explain to someone what they are doing is illegal under current fire restrictions, and if they won’t comply, don’t argue with them. Just call 9-1-1 and let the Sheriff Department deal with it or call the Snowmobile/Ranch Office (970-925-4614) or Rick Deane (970-379-1171).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A HOUSE FIRE OR SMALL EXTERIOR FIRE:

T-Lazy-7 Ranch has over 100 fire extinguishers stationed throughout the property, including every building. Do not be intimidated by the thought of using one. Fire extinguishers are easy to operate and highly effective at combating an early-stage fire.

Know where your extinguisher is and how to operate it. Please join a scheduled ranch demonstration.

Never use water to fight a grease fire in a pan, on the stovetop or in the oven. If possible, immediately and carefully smother the flames with a lid, some larger cookware, or a wet kitchen towel. But whatever you do, be certain not to knock a pan with flaming grease onto yourself or the floor. Put the fire out by discharging a fire extinguisher close to the base of the flames, while maintaining a safety gap, with your head low to avoid smoke.

Similarly, small surface fires involving burning curtains, carpets, furniture, electronics etc. can be put out or greatly diminished using a fire extinguisher promptly. However, should you encounter a structural fire with heavy smoke and large flames:

- Do not open internal doors that are hot to the touch.
- Evacuate the building immediately.

- Wake or warn any neighbors that might be in danger.
- Summon neighbors that can help with the emergency.
- Call 9-1-1
- Also notify the Snowmobile/Ranch Office (970-925-4614), Rick (970-379-1171), Besha (970-618-5152) or Jesse (970-309-3636). Make sure you speak to a person – do not settle for leaving a message.
- If you cannot find anyone and need help – Activate the Ranch Siren in front of the Snowmobile Shop. Wait there until someone arrives, and explain what the emergency is and where it is located. The siren switch can be found on the wall directly left of the Snowmobile Shop door, at the base of the Main/Upper Office stairs.
- Never worry about making a duplicate call to 9-1-1 because it is better to make a few calls, instead of “*assuming*” somebody already did, and no one actually does.

Should you hear the ranch Emergency Siren sounding, make your way to the office area to find-out what the problem is. However, be absolutely sure not to park helter-skelter and block roads, bridges or passages that fire trucks, ambulances or first responders might need to use to get as close as possible to a scene.

HYDRANTS & HOSES

T-Lazy-7 Ranch has gone to great effort and expense to install fire hydrants on or near every building and purchased thousands of feet of new fire hose. Please make yourself familiar with where the hydrants are located and attend a scheduled demonstration.

- Children must be informed that hydrants are never to be played with because they are pressurized and easily opened with the turn of the handle. If left running unattended, a hydrant is sure to cause a flood.
- The metal ends of the fire hoses must never be tossed, dragged or banged. The exposed metal threads are soft and if deformed, hoses will not marry together as designed, which could lead to a critical failure when a fire hose is most urgently needed.

EVACUATIONS

The best plan is to Plan Ahead because evacuations can come with little or no warning in Fire Country. An evacuation plan begins with knowing all of your secondary exit options. Make sure windows and doors are operating properly, and never block access with furniture or excessive storage. When the wildfire danger is high and Red Flag warnings are posted in our area – be ready to leave.

- Have important documents, valuables, medications, and sentimental items ready.
- Families with children and residents with roommates should have a predetermined meeting location – (ie. The ARC, Aspen Library, the Public Golf Course, etc.) in the event phone circuits get jammed, or go down for a period of time.
- Arrange 2nd and 3rd party telephone contacts, preferably outside of our area, to leave messages with should phone service become spotty.

If fire danger increase across the entire Western Slope of Colorado, adjust your evacuation plan accordingly. If a lightening storm spawns several fires in the region, it is probable that there will be heavy traffic on the way out of the valley, and beyond, should other Colorado communities be required to leave at the same time. Plan ahead for the worst-case scenario and don't expect to find gasoline, drinking water or food "down the road."

- Have your important personal possessions ready.
- Know where family members and friends are.
- Keep your gas tank filled as close to full as possible.
- Have a "Go-Bag" packed with important items like flashlight and batteries, a map, a three-day supply of water and food, portable radio, etc. ready to grab. But keep in mind that we live in bear country, and never leave any food inside a car or park with the doors unlocked. Yes, the bears know how to open car doors!
- Please leave a note on your door that you left and the time (i.e. Kimberly left apt 3:50pm 7/7/17) and text/email Rebecca (970-379-8726/rentals@tlazy7.com) to help eliminate unnecessary searches.

Be Fire Aware. Plan Ahead. Stay Informed. Be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.