

Wawona Community Emergency Preparedness Plan

Yosemite National Park



April 2009



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An Evacuation Plan for the Wawona Area has been developed in the event that an emergency incident in the area necessitates an evacuation of the Wawona community. The Evacuation Plan is divided into three basic steps: **PREPARATION, NOTIFICATION, AND THE EVACUATION PROCESS**. All actions, locations and routes in this plan are suggested. Environmental conditions and other factors may necessitate changes to this plan. This evacuation plan may be used in the event of a Wildland fire, act of terrorism, hazardous material release, flood, earthquake, or other natural disaster.

The purpose of this plan is to maximize visitor and employee safety and the protection of resources and property. An evacuation order is a frightening event. The order to evacuate could occur in the middle of the night or with a few days warning. It requires enormous and careful coordination with numerous agencies, including precise communication to residents and visitors. Pre-planning by residents and visitors can alleviate much of the stress associated with those orders to evacuate.

Personnel involved in the development and review of this plan include: Mark Dowdle – Wawona District Ranger; Gary Wuchner – Fire Education and Information Manager; Don Coffman – Fire Marshal; Deron Mills – Deputy Fire Chief of Operations; Kelly Martin – Chief of Fire and Aviation Management

APPROVED: 
Steve Shackleton
Chief Ranger

6/17/09
DATE:

Wawona Evacuation Plan

PREPARATION

The best time to prepare yourself and your family in case of an emergency evacuation is before you are called to act. These instructions are intended to help you prepare in case you need to evacuate your home due to an emergency incident. The more prepared you are, the more effectively emergency responders can protect you and your home. For more information about making your home and family safe from disasters please see the following websites:

www.firewise.org Firewise website

www.firesafecouncil.org Fire Safe Council website

www.oes.ca.gov California Emergency Management Agency

www.ready.gov Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/> US Fire Administration – Planning for Wildfires

Before a wildfire or other disaster threatens:

- Plan more than one escape route from your home and community by car and by foot.
- Arrangements should be made for the shelter of pets and/or livestock prior to an emergency.

Prepare a family evacuation kit that includes:

- Three changes of clothing and a change of footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A three-day supply of food and water.
- A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered AM/FM radio, flashlight, & batteries.
- Extra car keys and a credit card, cash, or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of eyeglasses/sunglasses.
- Important family documents.

- Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks, bonds.
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records.
- Bank account numbers.
- Credit card account numbers and companies.
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important phone numbers.
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).

Pick two meeting places for your family:

- A place a safe distance outside your home.
- A place outside of Wawona in case you cannot return to the area of your home.

If an Evacuation Alert is in effect:

- Back your car into the garage or park in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave a second set of keys in the vehicle ignition. Place your valuables in the car ahead of time.
- Confine pets to one room so they will be readily available when the time comes to evacuate. Make plans ahead of time to care for your pets in case you must evacuate. Contact the local kennels, animal shelters, friends, etc.
- Arrange temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area in case the evacuation is longer than expected.

If you're sure you have time, take these steps to protect your home:

INSIDE YOUR HOUSE

- Close windows, vents, Venetian blinds or non-combustible window coverings and heavy drapes. Be sure to remove any combustible materials from near the windows to prevent radiant heat from igniting them.
- Close all interior doors to confine drafts and prevent a fire from moving inside the structure.

- Shut off gas or propane. Turn off pilot lights.
- Move flammable furniture into center of the home away from windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke. Be sure to turn on the outside porch light as well. This will help emergency responders to find your house in low visibility conditions.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE:

- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Remove gas grills from decks and patios, place propane tanks in garage.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Connect garden hoses to outside taps, leave in obvious location for firefighters.
- Place a non-combustible ladder on house for access to roof for firefighters.
- Remove firewood or any other stored combustibles near your home.
- Remove all shrubs within 30 feet of your home.

When an Evacuation Order is in effect and you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately and safely.

- Wear protective clothing-sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, long sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Take your evacuation kit.
- Tie a white towel, sheet or ribbon on your front door; this advises emergency responders that your home has been evacuated.
- Tell family or a close friend when you left and where you are going.
- Check in at the pre-designated Traffic Control Point: Wawona School/Community Center or Wawona Store. Follow the pre-designated Evacuation Route out of the area (See attached Wawona Area Evacuation Map).

NOTIFICATION

The decision to implement either an Evacuation Alert or an Evacuation Order is made by the Incident Commander, or other park authorities. In the event of the threat of an evacuation (Evacuation Alert) or the need for immediate evacuation (Evacuation Order) of Wawona notification will be made to the general public in the following manner:

Evacuation Alert: a notification of danger; alerts are issued to advise the population at risk of the potential for loss of life from an emergency incident and recommends that the population involved be prepared to evacuate based on an expected time frame.

- ✓ **Low:** Threat may require evacuation in 24 hours or more
- ✓ **Moderate:** threat is predicted to require evacuation in 12-24 hours
- ✓ **High:** threat will likely require evacuation in 2-12 hours

Evacuation Order: instructions are given to the population at risk in the affected area. Residents will be advised to leave the area immediately via the designated traffic control points for North and South Wawona. Traffic Control Points are as follows:

- ✓ **North Wawona (Chilnualna Falls Rd) Traffic Control Point** – Wawona Community Center/School
- ✓ **South Wawona (Forest Dr) Traffic Control Point** – Wawona General Store

Law Enforcement rangers or incident personnel will staff each Traffic Control Point to contact each exiting vehicle. Further, directions concerning the evacuation process or safe evacuation routes will be provided at this time.

The National Park Service will conduct the evacuation process using the park's telephone system and if necessary by door to door contact. In addition, the National Park Service will be responsible for notifying surrounding communities and media outlets.

- ✓ Wawona residents and the general public may call the park's General Information telephone number at 372-0200 to obtain updated recorded information on an Evacuation Alert.
- ✓ Information about an Evacuation Alert or Order may also be obtained from the park's website at www.nps.gov/yose.
- ✓ Mariposa County Sheriffs Department Dispatch will initiate its Reverse-911 Telephone System to alert Wawona residents via a telephone call to each individual residence.
- ✓ The park's Public Information Office or the Incident Information Officer will notify local media outlets and issue a press release with updated information.
- ✓ As available, or in the event an immediate evacuation is necessary, law enforcement officers will conduct a door-to-door notification of all area residents.

EVACUATION PROCESS

Traffic control points will be established to organize and control the evacuation process by denying entry of unauthorized persons, directing evacuees to an established evacuation route, and by recording all outgoing evacuees, if time allows. Collected information may be used by incident personnel as a communication conduit to assist the public searching for family members. These control points will also coordinate incoming emergency response vehicles and outgoing evacuees to prevent traffic congestion problems.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will assist with establishing refugee or evacuation shelters based upon the need and type of incident.

Traffic Control and Security:

The National Park Service will be responsible for traffic control & security during an evacuation and will coordinate the traffic control plan during the evacuation.

The departure routes should be used according to the pre-designated evacuation route on the Wawona Area Evacuation Map.

During a wildfire, law enforcement officials may ask you to evacuate with little warning. Take precautions now to prepare for that possibility.

A community “**Safety Zone**” has been designated at the Wawona Golf Course. In the event that Highway 41 (Wawona Road) is cut-off in both directions the public may be directed to a large open area on the golf course until the evacuation route is re-opened.

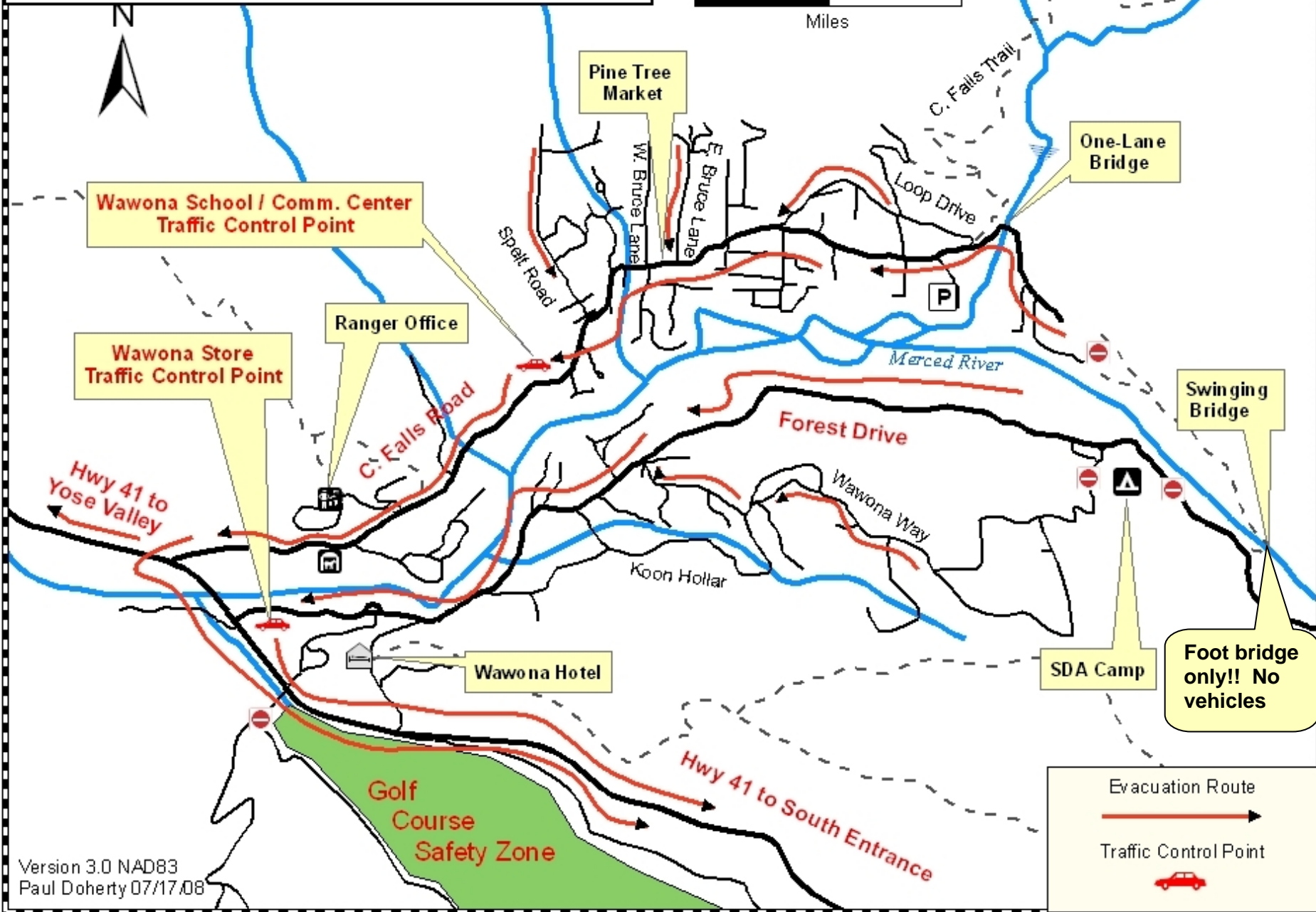
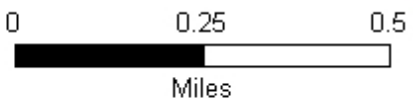
Wawona Emergency Evacuation Plan Tips:

- ✓ Listen to media reports for updated information.
- ✓ Prepare important documents ahead of time.
- ✓ Take a disaster supply kit.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing during the evacuation.
- ✓ Follow the routes outlined in this plan.
- ✓ Check-in with a traffic control point coordinator
- ✓ Prepare yourself, if needed, to shelter in place

RETURN / RE-ENTRY

After the risk of potential for loss of life and property from unstable incident conditions has subsided and the Incident Commander deems it safe to do so, the Declaration of All Clear shall be broadcast. Priority for re-entry and the re-entry process will be at the discretion of the Incident Commander with priority given to the overall safety of incident personnel, property owners, and the general public.

Wawona Fire Evacuation Route



Evacuation Route
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Traffic Control Point
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Paul Doherty 07/17/08