

# WHAT IF I HAVE TO EVACUATE?

- **Are you ready to evacuate?** If there is a threat to your neighborhood, local public safety authorities will issue a notice that you may have to evacuate. Act immediately and follow instructions. You should prepare to leave quickly.
- If you have time, gather critical information such as identification, insurance, financial and medical records, contacts and your family disaster plan or checklist.
- Pack your emergency “go kit” with supplies such as medications and medical supplies, water, weather-appropriate clothing, flashlights and batteries, and chargers for phones. For children, older adults and others with unique needs, take the important items that are hard to replace.
- Public safety or utilities officials may advise shutting off the gas and electricity if you have time before leaving your home. Disconnect electronics and appliances to help protect them from floodwaters.
- If there is enough time, pack or move valuables to safe areas and protect family keepsakes.

## **Follow instructions from safety officials.**

- Evacuations protect lives. The purpose is to keep you, your family and your whole community safe.
- When you evacuate, emergency responders can focus on protecting people and property in harm’s way.
- Evacuation orders are not voluntary. There is no support, supplies or other resources available in evacuated areas.

## **Make evacuation easier.**

- Plan ahead to assure your family’s safety, including your four-legged family members.
- Do what you can to secure your home. If you may need to evacuate at some point, plan for how you will protect valuables and minimize damage to your house.
- Follow instructions for the safest evacuation routes and where to go for shelter.

**If you may need evacuation assistance, please contact the Montezuma County Sheriff’s Department at 970-565-8452, or Montezuma County Public Health Department at 970-565-3056 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm to put your address on a list.**

*Assistance may include transportation, mobility assistance, or help with moving durable medical equipment.*