

March 2024

# Ventana Metropolitan District

www.VentanaMD.colorado.gov

Professionally Managed by WSDM – District Managers; 614 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

## Preparing a Family Emergency Plan

**An increasing number of fire danger warnings have been broadcast in recent weeks, reminding us of the importance of emergency planning. The following tips can help your family with planning for emergencies:**

**Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster.** Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather, and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team. Keep it simple enough so people can remember the important details. A disaster is an extremely stressful situation that can create confusion. The best emergency plans are those with very few details.

**Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen and what to do in each scenario.** Everyone should know what to do in case all family members are not together.

### **Pick two places to meet:**

- Right outside of your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
- Outside of your neighborhood in case you can't return home or are asked to leave your neighborhood.

**Develop an emergency communication plan.** In case family members are separated from one another during floods or other disasters, have a plan for getting back together. Separation is a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school.

**Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to be your "family contact."** Your contact should live outside of your area. After a disaster, it is often easier to make a long distance call than a local call. Family members should call the contact and tell them where they are.

**Discuss what to do if authorities ask you to evacuate.** Arrange for a place to stay with a friend or relative who lives out of town and/or learn about shelter locations.

**Become familiar with escape routes.** Depending on the type of disaster, it may be necessary to evacuate your home. Plan several escape routes in case certain roads are blocked or closed.

**Establish a plan for taking care of your pets.** Pets (other than service animals) are not permitted to be in places where food is served, according to many local health department regulations. Plan a safe space to take your pets if you had to go to a public shelter where they are not permitted.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Eric Farrar  
Vice President: Christina Sparks  
Treasurer/Secretary: Michael Laurencelle  
Assistant Secretary: Rich Vorwaller  
Assistant Secretary: Mick Schuhmacher

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Regular Meeting, March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

*The final agenda will be posted on the website. You may also obtain a copy by contacting Management.*

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

**WSDM – OFFICE:**  
719-900-5822

**DISTRICT MANAGER:**  
Heather Smith  
Phone: 719-639-2656  
heather.s@wsdistricts.co

**GENERAL QUESTIONS:**  
Rylee Delong  
Phone: 719-639-2656  
heather.s@wsdistricts.co

**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:**  
Phone: 719-447-4840

### **Always visit the website first:**

- New Resident Service Requests
- Recreation Center / Great Room Reservations
- Architectural Improvement Applications
- Automatic Payment Enrollment
- Key Fob Requests
- Governing Document Downloads
- Community Event Info & Updates

### PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Ventana Metropolitan District  
c/o WSDM – District Managers  
P.O. Box 91479  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

### SECURITY CONCERNS:

Fountain Police Department  
Non-Emergency Assistance (719) 382-8555  
For emergencies, call 911

### ANIMAL CONTROL:

El Paso County Humane Society  
Phone: 719-473-1741

### FOUNTAIN POST OFFICE:

Address: 101 S. Santa Fe Ave.  
Phone: 719-382-4623

## General Reminders

- ◆ WSDM—District Managers office is opened Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
*For after hours District maintenance issues, please call 719-447-1777 and follow the prompts to be connected with after-hours service. Please call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies.*
- ◆ Trash Pick-Up Days—Thursdays, weekly.  
HBS will be closed in observance of New Years Day. Service will be delayed by one day for each of the Holiday.  
*Large items can be collected by HBS for an additional fee. To schedule removal of large items, please call HBS Directly at 720-547-8600. HBS will request payment over the phone prior to scheduling pick-up of a large item.*
- ◆ Regular Board Meeting—Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.  
*Virtual: <https://video.cloudoffice.avaya.com/join/516109091>  
Phone: 213-463-4500 / Access Code: 516-109-091  
In Person: Ventana Recreation Center—11007 Hidden Prairie Pkwy*  
*All meeting dates are subject to change. Contact Management or check the district website to confirm prior to each meeting.*

## SIGN UP FOR THE ACH PROGRAM

Save time and money and never miss a payment again! Sign up to have your payments automatically debited from your checking or savings account.

Visit <https://form.jotform.com/210387584903057> and click the green “Start Filling” button to submit an ACH application.

Contact Management with any questions regarding the ACH process.



## Mobile Lifelines

During extreme weather events, mobile devices can be essential tools for keeping in touch with family and monitoring response and recovery efforts. Before a severe storm hits, make sure your mobile device is prepared.

**Start a texting tree:** When communication channels are disrupted, texting may be the only available way to stay connected. Create a network of contacts on your smartphone so you can quickly reach out to others in your family and community. In the event of sparse cell signals, text messages may be set to repeatedly send until a signal allows it through, ensuring your best chance at communication.

**Set up Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA):** WEA are emergency text messages sent through your wireless carrier by government authorities, including local and state public safety agencies, FEMA, the FCC, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Weather Service. The alerts can help you stay informed when you may not have access to television or radio and can help keep you safe during a crisis. Messages include extreme weather warnings, local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action, AMBER Alerts and presidential alerts during a national emergency. Most smartphones will allow you to enable these alerts from the setting menu. For information about which mobile devices are WEA-capable and carrier participation, visit [www.ctia.org/wea](http://www.ctia.org/wea) or contact your wireless carrier.

**Use mobile apps:** Banking and insurance apps allow you to move money, pay bills, deposit checks and file claims from your smartphone. Accessing your identification online through the Colorado DMV app can provide identification in the event you become separated from your purse or wallet.

**Prepare for power outages:** If you have advanced warning of a severe weather event, make sure to fully charge your phone. Keep a car phone charger and spare battery on hand as well; if power is out for an extended period, your car can serve as a valuable energy source.