



Crooked Lake Volunteer
Fire Department



Crooked Lake Area Emergency Plan

Boundary Lake Area Firewise USA[®]

Crooked Lake Firewise USA[®]

Flower Lake Firewise USA[®]

Grindle Lake Firewise USA[®]

Sunrise Lake Firewise USA[®]

2023

Wildfires in Wisconsin are very fast moving, and conditions change rapidly. You may only have advance notification of a few minutes to an hour at most that you will need to evacuate. This timeframe also can be the case in other natural disasters and emergency situations. Therefore, it is imperative that you prepare in advance. Everyone in the community has an important role in ensuring that residents can safely leave an area threatened by a wildfire or other large-scale emergency. Planning, preparing and practicing simple actions as a community can help make leaving quicker, easier and safer for residents and first responders.

A wildfire evacuation plan is a set of actions to take before and during a wildfire to protect yourself and your family. The Crooked Lake Area emergency plan includes the following:

- Checklist of GET READY! (preparations before a wildfire/emergency occurs), GET SET! (actions if you are aware of a wildfire in your area), and GO! (actions when you evacuate)
- Map of the different roads that can be used in an evacuation, leading out of the Crooked Lake area
- Information on signing up for CodeRED
- Graphic on home ignition zone preparation
- Information on creating your emergency kit

If there is a wildfire in the Crooked Lake area, emergency responders will respond from the Crooked Lake Fire Department and the WI DNR. The fire department can call in support from the Nicolet Fire District, U.S. Forest Service and other Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) resources. Emergency messaging to the public will go out through Oconto County's CodeRED system. Emergency managers are able to draw a circle on a map and have the message sent to all cellphones in that area. Evacuation information can also be sent out through CodeRED. The notification will include possible evacuation routes. Information on which evacuation center will be open will be shared via social media, radio and other means that are available at the time. Personnel from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Department, and others will assist with the evacuation. If time allows, emergency personnel may go door to door to evacuate residents.

Although the emergency response is extremely important, property owners also have a role in preparing for an emergency situation and an evacuation. Please read this emergency plan carefully so you know what to do and when to do it. The safety of you and your family is of utmost importance.

Evacuation:

- **Leave early!** If you feel unsafe, you do not need to wait for authorities to tell you to leave. '
- If evacuation is required, a CodeRED alert will be sent to cellphones in the evacuation area. When possible, authorities will knock on your door and tell people to evacuate.
- Leave immediately. Do not delay. Be sure everyone on your property evacuates. Help neighbors if they require assistance.
- When you leave, put the pink flagging on your fire number (address sign). This flag will tell firefighters that you have left your property and save them valuable time in an emergency. Once you put your flag out, DO NOT RETURN to your property until given permission to do so!
- Fire Departments will use yellow caution tape. The yellow caution tape will indicate the fire department has cleared a home or area.
- Follow directions and leave on approved routes if an evacuation has been ordered.
- For more steps before and during an evacuation, see the checklists on the next page.

GET READY!

(Preparations before a wildfire/emergency occurs)

Sign up for Codered. (See page 5.)

Know and recognize warnings and alerts for the area.

Know and practice driving evacuation routes.

Create an emergency kit. (See page 7.)

Create defensible space around your home. (See page 6.)

Make sure your driveway has adequate height and width clearance to accommodate emergency vehicles.

Make sure that your fire number (address sign) is visible from the road. Cut back overgrown vegetation.

Get some pink flagging from your association or fire department, which will be hung on your fire number when you evacuate.

Get to know your neighbors. Share phone numbers and other contact information.

Talk with family members and guests about a possible evacuation. Share information about the emergency plan with them. Decide on a meeting location.

Plan for evacuating your animals.

GET SET!

(Actions if you are aware of a wildfire in your area)

Call 911 immediately if you see a wildfire or your fire gets out of control.

If there is a wildfire in your area and you're not in immediate danger, prepare for the worst.

Evacuate early if you feel unsafe.

Be ready! Watch for warnings and alerts for your area. Stay tuned to the latest news and updates.

Alert family and neighbors of the situation. Reach out to neighbors to see if they need help evacuating.

Place your emergency kit and important personal items in your vehicle.

Back vehicle into your driveway and outside the garage so you are able to leave quickly. Close your garage door.

Close all windows in buildings and any other openings in your home, including vents.

Remove all flammable deck furniture off decks and remove other flammable items around your home.

Turn off propane tanks.

Connect a garden hose to outside water spigot for firefighters to use if needed.

Know where your pets are. Keep them close to you.

GO!

(Actions to take when you evacuate)

LEAVE EARLY! You don't have to wait to be told to leave. In an intense wildfire, there may not be time for emergency responders to knock on every door.

When you are told to evacuate, leave promptly.

Head to the evacuation center designated in the Codered message.

Hang the pink flagging on your fire number (address sign) to let emergency responders know you have evacuated.

Adhere to all road closures and keep moving to prevent traffic backups. Drive safely.

Avoid the fire area to allow firefighters room to work.

Open all roadside gates when you leave.

Turn on your outdoor lights so that firefighters have a better chance of seeing your home past the smoke.

After you are evacuated and safe, contact family to let them know you are safe.

Wait for guidance about returning to your home (through radio, social media, notifications, evacuation centers). Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Seek assistance immediately if someone is injured.

Use neighbor contact information to be sure they are evacuated.

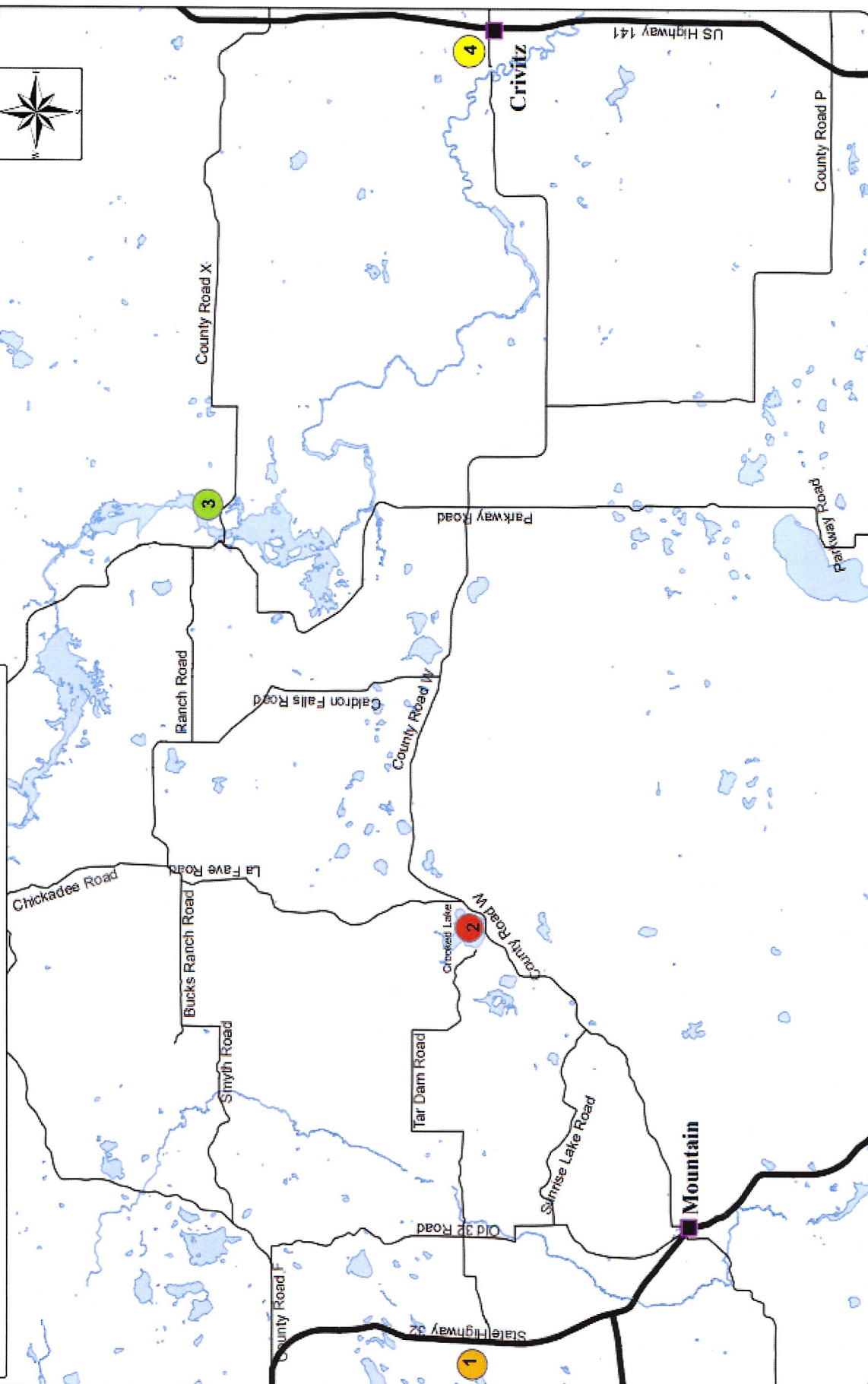
Crooked Lake Evacuation Routes and Evacuation Centers

Possible Evacuation Centers

- ① Riverview Town Hall: 15471 Highway 32, Mountain WI, 54149
- ② Crooked Lake Community Center: 15445 County Hwy W, Crivitz WI, 54114
- ③ Stephenson Town Hall: W11280 County Road X, Crivitz WI, 54114
- ④ Crivitz Village Hall: 800 Henriette Ave, Crivitz WI, 54114

Legend

- County Road
Major Road
Waterbody



Signing up for CodeRED



CodeRED Alerts & Weather Warning

1/05/2023

Media Release

The Oconto County Emergency Management Agency has an important message for all residents and businesses in Oconto County.

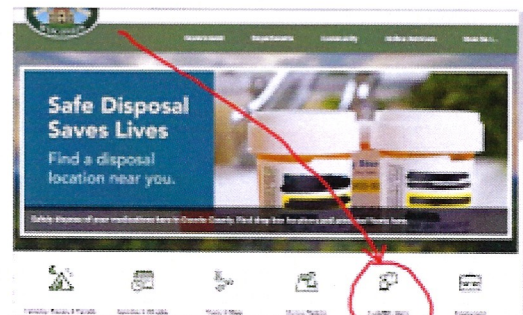
Recently our CodeRED Community Notification System was renewed. This system will alert citizens in the event of an emergency situation, severe thunderstorms, flash floods, severe winter weather, and tornados.

Please note, these messages can be sent to specific geographical locations, or county wide, depending on the circumstances surrounding the event.

Citizens must register to receive these warnings as follows:

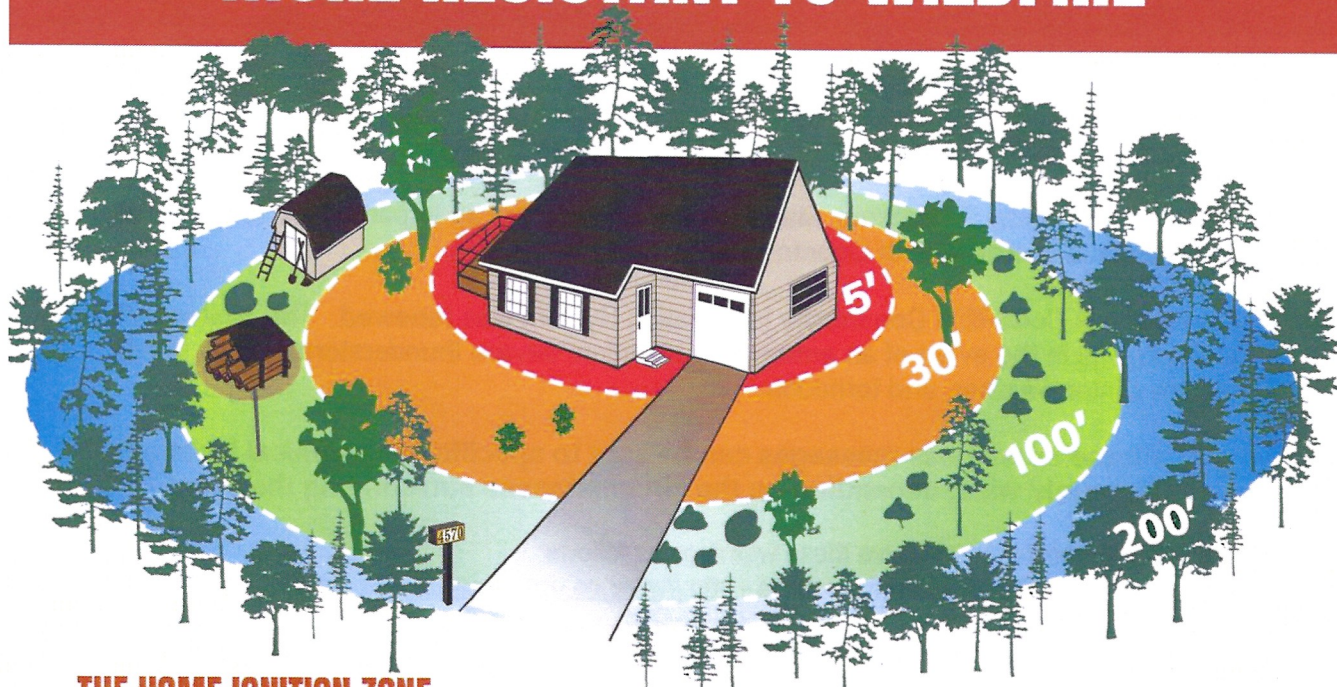
- Go to the Oconto County website - <http://www.co.oconto.wi.us>
- Click on the *Green CodeRED* tab located on the lower center, just below the news and information of our homepage
- Enter your contact information, how you would like to receive the alerts, phone (**mobile phones must list carrier / service provider**), text, email and warnings you would like to receive.
- Entering your information will also update our Community Notification System with your current contact details. If you previously entered your data prior to 2020, we recommend checking your information to make sure it is currently up to date.
- There is no charge to register for this service.
- If you know of anyone who lives within Oconto County and is not signed up for this life saving service, please encourage them to visit the Oconto County website and enter their information. Please contact the Oconto County Emergency Management Office with any questions.

Thank you,
Jon Spice
Director, Oconto County
Office of Emergency Management
920-834-6850 / Jon.Spice@co.oconto.wi.us



Preparing your Home Ignition Zone

MAKE YOUR HOME IGNITION ZONE MORE RESISTANT TO WILDFIRE



THE HOME IGNITION ZONE is your home and its surroundings out to 100-200 feet. Research has shown that the characteristics of buildings and their immediate surroundings determine the risk of ignition during a wildfire. Vegetation and personal property should be managed and maintained to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve the likelihood of your home surviving with little or no assistance from firefighters. There are simple things property owners can do to reduce wildfire risk on their property. **For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov, search "firewise."**

0-5 feet from buildings	Up to 30 feet from buildings	30-100 feet from buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the area around buildings free of anything that can burn, including plants and mulch • Choose rock, brick or bare dirt over mulch • Remove pine needles and leaves from your roof and gutters • Remove branches that overhang roof • Select slow growing, deciduous plants and shrubs • Use fire-resistant materials for roofs and gutters, windows, vents, eaves, and attachments like decks • Keep decks free of debris on, under, and 5 feet around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake leaves and needles away from structures • Keep lawn green, short and mowed • Remove debris from under decks and around wooden fences • Limit the number of conifers (evergreens) trees and leave space between the crowns of trees • Prune branches up and away from the ground • Move firewood at least 30 feet away from buildings • Keep propane tanks 30 feet away from buildings and clear of vegetation and leaf and needle debris • Remove dead trees, shrubs and branches • Thin shrubs and trees to create separation between tree crowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favor deciduous trees and shrubs over evergreens • Remove dead trees, shrubs and branches • Thin trees and shrubs to create separation between tree crowns • Ensure that your fire number signs are visible from both directions of travel • Create driveway clearance at least 12-20 feet wide and at least 13.5 feet of vertical space to provide access for emergency vehicles.

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Emergency Kits

An emergency kit should be prepared before a wildfire would be in your area. It is important to pre-plan for this emergency kit because there may not be time to grab important items before evacuating. These important items are called the “7 P’s” of fire evacuation. Many of these items in the 7 P’s can be prepared ahead of an emergency event. Remember to go through your emergency kit annually to update any items in the kit.

Below are some of the important items you should remember during an evacuation:

Remember the “7 P’s” of Fire Evacuation

People and Pets – you and your family

Prescriptions – special medications, vitamins, eyeglasses and contact lenses

Papers – phone numbers, and important documents (passport, medical records, birth certificates, insurance policies, financial records)

Personal Needs – food, drinking water, first aid kit, flashlight with extra batteries, extra keys, personal toiletries, personal hygiene items, extra clothes, personal computer and charger, hard drives and thumb drives

Priceless items – family photos, heirlooms, and irreplaceable items

Phone – with chargers

Plastic – credit cards and cash