

East Mountain Wildfire Preparedness Association



East Mountain Residents: **IMPORTANT INFORMATION!**

During any wildfire evacuation of East Mountain communities, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) East Area Command has specific responsibilities.

BCSO-Emergency Response Team **can:**

- Assist in notifying residents to evacuate, either by door-to-door notification or having BCSO Dispatch do a status check.
- Explain the IPAWS and Everbridge emergency notification systems.
- Block roads with BCSO deputies and patrol cars to prevent people from entering areas being evacuated--usually done until physical barricades can be placed if necessary.
- Patrol cleared areas and neighborhoods to prevent burglary of evacuated homes.
- Provide security if needed at relocation sites such as a school or community center where evacuees have been sheltered.
- Use the East Area Command Center as a command center, meeting place, collection site for food and water donations, or Red Cross staging area--as was done in 2016 during the Dog Head Fire.

BCSO-Emergency Response Team **will not:**

- Physically force residents to evacuate if they refuse. Residents will be encouraged to leave and be reminded that EMS personnel may be unavailable to reach them if needed.
- Require immediate evacuation by parents refusing to evacuate with children or caregivers refusing to evacuate with elderly patients with health issues. BCSO-ERT will assess each situation case by case and likely involve its Special Victims Unit or New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) if necessary.
- Fight wildfires, help evacuees load furniture and belongings, or care for their animals/livestock when they're gone, but BCSO-ERT **will** refer evacuees to available resources.



Captain Matt Rael
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