



Safety and Evacuation

Should a wildfire start on the Park the safety and evacuation of the homeowners is of the utmost importance. The likelihood of driving down Crystal Park Road is minimal. Therefore, safety zones must be developed in the Upper Park. The lake is an obvious location, other locations would be aspen stands, rock out cropings, etc. The open area east of the lake would also be a good safety zone. If a fire of large enough magnitude developed and warranted evacuation of the Upper Park the only safe way to accomplish the evacuation would be by helicopter. To land a helicopter would require an area with minimum measurements of 85 feet wide and 150 feet long. Developing and maintaining an area of this size is highly recommended. Planting white clover, blue gramma, or western wheat, on this site, would provide for low growing cover and low maintenance. The area east of the lake is well suited for this purpose.

The development of a volunteer fire department would be of great benefit to the Park. The response time for Manitou Springs fire department is at least 45 minutes for the Upper Park. In most cases Manitou Springs would have little chance to save a structure or keep a wildfire to a minimum size. Also the type of truck Manitou would respond with will not be able to get to some homes due to narrow roads and long twisting driveways. Assistance in developing and training a fire department can be obtained from the Pikes Peak Firefighters Association and the Colorado State Forest Service. The minimum equipment recommended for the Park would be a 4-wheel drive truck with at least a 200 gallon tank and pump with 100 feet of hose, 10 pulaskis, 10 shovels and 3 to 5 backpack pumps. The pulaskis, shovels and backpack pumps (by our records) should already be owned by the Park, if not they can be purchased through the Colorado State Forest Service.

Also the placement of 1000 gallon cisterns at various locations in the Park would increase the sources of water. Locations to consider would be the Sugarloaf Mountain area, top of Eagle Mountain Road, Forest Road, upper Derby Rock Loop and lower Palmer Trail (figure 3).