

From: [Ann E. Rondeau, VADM, U.S. Navy \(Ret.\)](#)
To: [NPS](#)
Subject: Wildfire Evacuation Update and Resources for NPS Faculty, Staff and Students ...from Ann E. Rondeau, VADM, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Date: Friday, August 21, 2020 12:37:36 PM

Team NPS,

The area wildfires are a major concern for all of us right now, and the safety of you and your families remains my top priority. I recognize that people are suffering on top of an already difficult situation. While low air quality affects everyone, dozens of our friends, colleagues and shipmates have been evacuated and some have lost property due to the fires.

The danger is real. If told to evacuate, GO! I do not want anyone to think twice about leaving due to financial concern over the expense of temporary quarters.

For NPS military, civilian employees and their dependents affected by mandatory evacuation orders, I have authorized a corresponding [evacuation order](#), which will entitle personnel and dependents for reimbursement of certain expenses caused by the mandatory emergency displacement (see latest [evacuation map for Monterey county](#)).

Effective immediately: In response to wildfires spreading throughout Monterey and surrounding counties, all NPS personnel and their dependents who reside in areas subject to mandatory evacuation orders issued by state or local officials in counties of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, or Santa Cruz are ordered to evacuate and proceed to within 50 miles of Monterey, CA, the designated remote safe haven, or up to 100 miles from home if not located in Monterey County.

Personnel whose primary residence is located in an area covered by a mandatory evacuation order will be issued individual travel orders to authorize evacuation allowance/reimbursement subject to limits authorized by the [Joint Travel Regulations](#). Additionally, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) can assist those qualifying for emergency financial assistance (<https://www.nmcrcs.org>).

Supervisors are directed to report daily accountability of all evacuated personnel through their chain of command to the NPS Command Duty Officer (CDO@nps.edu).

This order will remain in effect through 20 September 2020 or until rescinded. Contact the Chief of Staff, CAPT Phil Old, or Dean of Students, CAPT Markus Gudmundsson for more information.

Three things I need you to do:

1) Stay informed: The Safety office and communication team put together the below webpage which offers a downloadable flyer of information resources for the fires, smoke forecasts, and evacuation status. The page also offers options to sign-up for local alerts, including the [AtHoc](#) system which is used for mass notification in the event of an emergency. <https://nps.edu/web/safety/emergency-management>

2) Keep us informed: Communicate your status daily if evacuated to your program officer or supervisor and NPS CDO. Whether or not you have been evacuated, keep your chain of command informed, ask questions and seek help – on any issue.

3) Be prepared: We have learned much from COVID that we can apply to this latest challenge. Make a plan and have a “Go Bag” ready. Have some cash set aside and check that your insurance is up to date. Again, the above website offers guidance. Most of us have been deployed, and that ready-for-anything mindset saves lives – exactly what we need now. For Navy personnel, make sure your contact and family information in [Navy Family Accountability and](#)

[Assessment System \(NFAAS\)](#) is up to date.

Finally, some of you asked “how can I help?” That’s terrific! I am always so proud of how the students, faculty and staff and families of our NPS community come together in times of crisis to overcome and step-up. There are many ways to help, but one the CalFire and Monterey County Office of Emergency Services is directing people to this website to make donations. <https://montereyco.recovers.org>

If you are inspired by someone's kindness and want to give them a special Shout-Out, we still post them all here: <https://nps.edu/group/mynps/covid19-bravo-zulu>

Please everyone take care this weekend, and in the day ahead. Your hard work, dedication and care for each other are exemplary. Stay alert and stay safe!

With great respect,

Ann E. Rondeau, Ed.D.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
President, Naval Postgraduate School