

Emergency Preparedness Survey
PRELIMINARY REPORT
May 17, 2023

Sent invitations to 787 email addresses drawn from the Skystone database.

- 86% of recipients opened tier invitations.
- 59% clicked the link to open the survey
- 440 responded including 420 (96%) complete responses. The respondents represent 399 separate addresses.
- Four residents had opted out of SurveyMonkey emails and received a generic link to the survey.
- 34 residents have opted out of SurveyMonkey emails. Five of these asked that I resend the link, and four completed a survey through a generic link.

The first email invitations – excluding committee members, Directors, and members of the council of chairs – were sent on April 21. I sent various reminders through SurveyMonkey, and Joanne included a mention in the PDF attachment to the weekly email twice. I announced that the survey would be closed on May 10, but someone asked for the link to be reopened, and I finally closed it on May 16. We received four responses after May 10.

I've not yet reviewed all the open-end responses.

The sample appears representative.

- 60% of respondents are female
- Nearly 80% are retired. About 15% are working full time (half from home, half from an office), and another 7% work part time (again, half from home, half from outside home).
- About half of respondents are 66 to 75 with the remaining respondents split about evenly between those younger and those older. Less than 1% are under 55. Just over 1% are over 85.
- Nearly 40% of residents moved to Skystone from outside the area.
About half lived in Denver for more than five years before moving to Skystone.
- Nearly three-quarters are here most of the time. Most of the rest travel eight to ten weeks a year or spend a season away. Less than 5% are here less than half the year.
In the Skystone database, a handful of residents list another address as their physical contact address. That may be a primary residence or may have been primary when they completed Skystone's contact information forms.
- 85% have lived in Skystone three years or longer. Under 5% moved in within the last year.
I should have added increments to this question. I didn't realize anyone had moved in eight or nine years ago.

I've asked Joanne and Michelle if Skystone has any statistics we can use to benchmark these numbers but haven't received any response.

Overall, fire concerns nearly all neighbors.

94% of respondents said they were concerned by fire. Of the other possible responses, only tornado/wind storm garnered more than 50% of responses, although plane crash (49%) and snowstorm/blizzard/ice storm (48%) concerns close to half of residents. Power failures, personal emergencies, and armed intruders worry about a third of respondents.

Surprisingly to me, 70% of residents would evacuate to family outside Skystone

- While I expected many residents to have family nearby, I didn't expect that the percentage was that high. The survey didn't indicate distance, however, so "outside Skystone" could include anywhere on the planet, but it's probably safe to assume people understood it to mean "within reasonable driving distance in an emergency."
- Another 10% would go to friends' in the area outside Skystone. A small percentage own second homes. 15% chose paid accommodations.
- Notably, 10 respondents have no idea where they'd go, and only 4 would choose free public accommodations provided by the city or a non-profit organization.
- Those who lived in Denver more than five years prior to moving to Skystone are less likely to go to family (55%) and more likely to go to friends (13%) than those who moved to Skystone from outside the area (77% would go to family, 2% would go to friends).

Overwhelmingly, respondents feel safe in Skystone, feel they can rely on neighbors for help, and would assist neighbors who needed help.

Over 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with these statements. Interestingly, those who lived in the area for five years before moving to Skystone are less likely to agree *strongly* that they feel *less* safe in their homes and Skystone than those who moved to Skystone from outside the area.

Notably, fewer feel prepared for emergencies.

- *Preparation:* About 60% agreed or strongly agreed that they'd taken steps to prepare for emergencies, with nearly 30% responding neutrally and only 12% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. About 51% disagreed or strongly disagreed that they'd made no plans for an emergency, with about 20% agreeing or strongly agreeing and 28% responding neutrally.
- *Feeling prepared:* Less than half disagreed or strongly disagreed that they did not feel prepared for an emergency, with just over 20% agreeing or strongly agreeing. Again almost a third responded neutrally.
- *Worry:* Only about 12% worry about bad things that could happen, but 36% responded neutrally and just under 50% disagreed. The negative connotation of "worry" may have discouraged respondents from agreeing.
- Women are less likely to feel safe in the surrounding community than men are and are less likely to strongly disagree that they worry. Women are less likely to disagree that they do not feel prepared for an emergency.

About one in five respondents have a condition that might limit their ability to respond to an emergency or are not sure.

It's possible that some of the nearly 80% who said no have a condition they're unaware of, may overestimate their ability to respond, or may develop a condition over time or suddenly. I suspect most of the conditions are permanent.

Overwhelmingly, most residents have made a list of items they would take with them.

About 80% have made a list of items, but 40% or fewer have an emergency contact list (41%), evacuation plan (35%), go bag (35%), or emergency certification (18%). Women are more likely to have a list of items. Men are more likely to have listed emergency contacts and to possess certifications.

Most store critical records at home, in a fireproof safe, on a computer, or in print.

Given that the extreme heat of the Marshall Fire destroyed many fireproof safes and the relatively convenience of online storage I found it surprising that the storage methods garnering more than 45% of affirmative responses were in the home. About 30% have stored documents in the cloud, 20% have them on their phones (and this could be mostly contact lists). Only 17% have safe deposit boxes. Less than 10% have them outside home in print.

The open-ends for "other actions you've taken" and "other information" contain interesting comments that I will review.

A couple of people volunteered to help. There are a couple of good quotes. Many are concerned about evacuation routes, even more so with the closure of Simms Street to the north of Skystone.

Email, text and cell phones appear to be reliable ways to communicate.

- Nearly all residents have smart phones, although a couple aren't sure.
- 95% check email daily or hourly, and only one doesn't have an email account.
- 72% check email primarily on their phones, and over 90% listed phones as the first or second device. Computers were second most popular with 19% using it first, and 51% using it second. (I think those still working were more likely to use it first.)
- Nearly 80% check email constantly or hourly with nearly all checking at least daily.
- Social media is less reliable. Just over 60% have a NextDoor account and just under 60% have a Facebook account. Residential also check social media less regularly, about a quarter saying weekly or less often and under 10% checking hourly or constantly. Women are more likely to have social media accounts (NextDoor, Facebook, Instagram) and check it more often. A quarter of male respondents have no social media accounts.