

BUILDING RESILIENCE FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE



NAME

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SUMMARY

In [this video](#), an immigrant from South Sudan shares the story of her family's evacuation from a wildfire that wiped out entire neighborhoods in her suburb west of Denver. She shares her sense of panic as her historical trauma was triggered as she struggled to coordinate her family's unforeseen evacuation.

KEY WORDS

Language
Culture
Transportation
Barriers

SYSTEMIC FACTORS ADDRESSED

Culture and Language
Historical Trauma
Insurance Navigation
Family Support



LOCATION

Colorado

EMERGENCY TYPE(S)



Wildfire/Natural Disaster

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS



FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Be clear about what you need and reach out to your circle of support. Be polite AND persistent.



FOR HEALTH AND RELATED SYSTEMS

Immigrant families are unfamiliar with sub-cultures that are hidden in recovery efforts. The barrier was not related to being a non-native English speaker, but rather understanding various processes with unclear rules and expectations.



FOR COMMUNITIES

Decision-makers and recovery teams should not expect all families to understand or trust evacuation processes. Organizations related to recovery need to understand that families are navigating multiple systems at once.

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