

WILDFIRE EMERGENCY GUIDELINES

Should a community be threatened by wildfire, the occupants may be advised to evacuate by law enforcement or fire officials. The purpose of evacuation is to protect people from life-threatening situations. Homeowners have the right to “shelter-in-place”, or stay on the property if they so desire. However, homeowners that shelter-in-place and then change their minds and wish to evacuate later have often hindered firefighting efforts.

WHEN A WILDFIRE APPROACHES

BEFORE THE FIRE

- Collect valuables, important documents, medications, and other personal items in one place and be ready to evacuate if necessary.
- What you can fit into your vehicle is what you can take (make priorities by what is replaceable and what is not).
- Maintain a mobile survival kit. This includes first aid kit, emergency tools, battery powered radio and flashlight, extra batteries, car keys, credit cards, water, and non-perishable food. Also consider blankets and sleeping bags.
- Review the Ember Awareness Checklist to ensure you have addressed as many of the recommendations as possible.
- Make sure your children’s and pet’s needs are met.
- Clearly post name/address so it can be seen from the street.
- Establish and practice a family evacuation plan and meeting location. Know who you will notify about the evacuation. Know where you will get fire updates.
- Be prepared to be directed by law enforcement or traffic control personnel; follow their directions.
- Drive travel routes in advance so that you will be prepared.
- Have checklist and map ready.
- Have means of transporting pets and livestock readily available.

WHEN FIRE IS NEARBY

- Park your vehicle facing out. Put your valuables in the car. Place the car keys where you can find them.
- Dress appropriately. Have sturdy shoes, long pants and shirt, gloves, and handkerchief.
- Confine or secure pets to one room or area. Prepare them to be transported.
- Move all flammable furniture (including outdoor furniture) to the center of the home or storage.
- Leave your electricity on and leave some lights on. Turn on all exterior lights.
- Close shutters, blinds, and heavy drapes. Remove lightweight window dressings.
- Close fireplace dampers and fireplace screens.
- Shut all doors and windows, both exterior and interior. Leave doors unlocked.
- Place a note attached to front door stating names of all evacuees, time and date of evacuation, destination, and contact information.
- Connect garden hose to spigot and leave buckets full of water around the house. Do not turn on water.
- Place a ladder outside for roof access.
- Turn off propane tanks and gas at the meter.
- Bring combustible items from the exterior of the house inside (patio furniture, toys, door mats, etc.).



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EVACUATION

PRE-EVACUATION NOTICE

- Residents will be advised by either law enforcement or firefighters of potential hazards and the possibility of evacuation. Residents should prepare to evacuate, using the checklist on page 18 (When Fire is Nearby) as a guide. Residents may also choose to evacuate at this time, and do not have to wait for the official evacuation order to do so; leave a note on the front door, firmly attached, that states that all residents have evacuated.

EVACUATION ORDER

- When the county sheriff or designated official gives the order to evacuate, immediately follow instructions regarding travel routes and safe locations to congregate. Let the official know that you are either evacuating or sheltering-in-place (stay on the property).

LIFTING THE EVACUATION NOTICE

- Evacuation notices may stay in effect for several days. They will be rescinded when it is determined that the threat is over.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE WHEN A FIRE APPROACHES:

SHELTER IN PLACE

- Stay inside your house away from outside walls.
- Keep all doors closed but leave them unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and REMAIN CALM. Remember if it gets hot in the house, it is four to five times hotter and more dangerous outside.
- Bring garden hoses inside the house so embers don't destroy them.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire.
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.

AFTER THE FIRE PASSES

- Check the exterior, roof, and under deck immediately, and extinguish all sparks and embers. If you must climb on the roof, use caution.
- Check inside the attic and underneath decks for hidden burning embers.
- Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts, or other materials.
- Stay clear of all downed power lines.

RETURN TO YOUR HOME

- The county sheriff or local law enforcement will determine when it is safe for residents to move back into their homes.
- Be alert for downed power lines and contact your gas or electric company before turning utilities back on.

THE SIX "Ps" OF IMMEDIATE EVACUATION:

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|-----------------------|--|
| • People and Pets! → | And other livestock too |
| • Papers → | Important documents |
| • Prescriptions → | Pills and eyeglasses |
| • Pictures → | Irreplaceable memories |
| • Personal Computer → | Information on hard drives, tablets, phones, & disks |
| • Plastic → | Credit cards, ATM cards, & cash |