

# WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST



If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival.

## EVACUATION ORDER

Leave now and evacuate immediately. Do NOT delay to gather valuables or prepare your home. Follow any directions given in the evacuation order.

### ALWAYS

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Keep your cell phone fully charged and be sure to pack a charge cord.
- Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status. Update regularly.
- Leave a note with your contact info and out-of-area contact taped to fridge and inside front window or door. (more locations wouldn't hurt)
- Check on or call neighbors to alert them to prepare at first sign of fire.
- Have a your emergency communication plan, printed and filled out ahead of time and add to your go bag.

#### ON YOUR PERSON

- Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
- Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, head protection
- Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator. Tie long hair back.
- Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day)
- Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, charger and spare batteries.
- Drink plenty of water, stay hydrated.
- Put "Go Kits" in your vehicle ahead of time.

#### PETS & ANIMALS

- Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You won't be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
- Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
- Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

## EVACUATION ALERT

Be ready to evacuate. Gather your Go Kit and prepare your home. Pay attention to authorities in case upgraded to full evacuation.

### IF TIME ALLOWS

#### INSIDE THE HOUSE

- Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them unlocked.
- Remove combustible window shades and curtains; close metal shutters.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- Leave indoor and outdoor lights on.
- Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

#### OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

- Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30' from structures (optional: place in pool)
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15' away from combustibles.
- Connect garden hoses with squeeze grip nozzles to outdoor spigots for use by firefighters.
- Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house.
- Fuel up essential vehicles long before evacuation warnings if time allows.
- Back your car into driveway, loaded with doors and windows closed.
- Prop open fence and side gates.
- Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or metal covers (even duct tape will protect from ember entry) if time allows.
- Patrol your property and monitor conditions. Leave if spot fires ignite or conditions change.
- If you have a fire sprinkler system set up, ensure that it is connected and on before you leave (rural properties).

## SHELTER IN PLACE

Evacuation is recommended but if it is impossible to do so, then stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area.

### WHEN YOU LEAVE

- Leave immediately if ordered.
- Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe or conditions change; leave early if unsure.**
- Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Carpool with neighbors to reduce traffic.
- Take only essential vehicles with adequate fuel.
- In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside (recirculated) air and AC, tune to local radio
- Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
- The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest paved route to a valley floor, away from the fire if possible.
- Proceed downhill, away from the fire if possible. Know at least two routes.
- If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter in a building, car, or an open area; park in an outside turn if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.
- If trapped, you are better protected inside a
- Don't abandon your car in the road if passage is impossible. If you must leave your car, park it off the road and consider other options for shelter.
- Evacuate on foot only as a last resort!
- Don't evacuate by fire road, uphill, or into open-space areas with unburned vegetation.
- Remain calm - panic is deadly.

### MY EXTRA'S

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#### LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

FIRE:	AMBULANCE:
POLICE:	OTHER:
MY EVACUATION CENTER:	OTHER: