



Wildfire Preparedness

Get ready before evacuation

We've all become more aware of the dangers of wildfires. There is a lot you can do to reduce your risk of property damage and to get ready long before an evacuation might occur.

Wildfires can start at any moment, and they can move fast and unpredictably. Preparing for an evacuation should begin before there is any danger.

If your household is under voluntary or potential evacuation, begin to prepare your home and get ready to leave.

Important steps for inside your home include shutting your windows while keeping them unlocked, moving any flammable materials or furniture away from windows to the center of a room and leaving your lights on so firefighters can see through the smoke.

Important steps for outside your home include gathering flammable items and placing them inside your home, turning off and moving propane tanks away from structures and checking on your neighbors to make sure they are preparing to leave. Have pre-cut plywood or commercial seals to cover attic and ground vents. Keep your roof and gutters free of debris. Many homes are lost not by direct fire encroachment, but by flying embers landing on debris.

If mandatory evacuations are ordered, it's important to leave promptly. Follow the County Sheriff's directions for evacuation and go as early as possible so responders can travel without clogged roads. Our local fire department suggests that the beach is your last option for evacuation.

Plan ahead to identify places to go safely.



Fire Evacuation Checklist

Be prepared

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- Put your GoBag with food, water & supplies for three days in your vehicle.
- Refer to your prepared Emergency Plan.
- Plan on where to go when it is time to evacuate, and the best routes for leaving your location.
- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove window shades, curtains and close metal shutters.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter; turn off pilot lights. Shut off the air conditioning.
- Leave your interior and exterior lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky condition.

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

- Bring flammable items inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.).
- Turn off propane tanks. Move propane appliances away from structures.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don't leave water running, it can affect critical water pressure.
- Back your loaded car into the driveway with all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- Place a ladder at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Seal attic and ground vents.
- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.
- Check on neighbors and make sure they are aware of the potential evacuation order.

ANIMALS AND PETS

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

