

Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

Get Prepared NOW! It will likely be dark, smoky, windy, and hot. There may be airborne burning embers, no power or telephone, and poor water pressure. A wildfire can change directions quickly, so please evacuate early. Do not wait for a Level 3 notification. Remember, there is nothing you own, worth your life!

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME:

- Register or download local emergency notification systems and apps such as:
Watch Duty Wildfire Maps and your county emergency system.
- Plan and discuss several evacuation routes with your family, both north and south
- Choose the name of a safe meet-up location such as a large grocery store parking lot
- Purchase plastic storage bins or duffle bags that will fit into your vehicles
- Keep a phone charger, N95 masks, old ski goggles, and a fire extinguisher in your car
- Know the location of your natural gas meter
- During fire season, have your important documents already boxed
- Video your home contents: each room, closet, and garage, prior to an emergency
- Take photographs of the exterior of the house and landscape
- Share your plans with a contact person that lives in a different city or state

GO BAG ESSENTIALS:

- Wallet, purse, driver's license, credit cards, keys, and extra car keys
- Cell phone, charger, and car charger
- Documents: banking, bills, passport, trust, investments, insurance, birth certificate, vaccinations
- Computer backup files, passwords, laptops, iPads
- Personal toiletries, glasses, extra contacts
- Medications, first-aid kit
- Clothing, shoes, underwear, and socks for 3-5 days
- Water to drink, and quick snacks or food
- Baby formula, diapers, and food
- Flashlights, portable radio, and extra batteries
- If time: address book, photo albums/videos, jewelry, cameras, heirlooms, sterling silver

WHAT TO WEAR WHEN EVACUATING:

- N95 or P100 mask or bandana, ski goggles
- Wear only cotton or wool clothes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and boots
- Carry gloves, hat, headlamp if available

OVER

PREPARE VEHICLE:

- Keep your gas tanks full during fire season
- If there is a power outage, many garage doors won't open. **If** you can lift your garage doors manually, place your vehicles in the garage, pointing outward. If you can't lift your garage doors, park in your driveway facing out, before you lose power!
- Roll up the windows
- Place essential items in the vehicles
- Close garage door when you leave

INSIDE THE HOME:

- Turn off your HVAC system and all ceiling fans, do not turn on the AC
- Close all interior doors
- Leave a light on in each room so firefighters can see your house through the smoke
- Close fire-resistant drapes, shutters, and blinds
- Turn off all pilot lights
- Move overstuffed furniture, such as couches and chairs, to the center of the room
- Close fireplace damper
- Close or block off any doggie-doors
- Lock-up firearms or valuables

OUTSIDE THE HOME:

- Place combustible patio furniture, pillows, rugs, door mats, and barbecues in the garage
- Shut off natural gas at the meter, and clear away combustible material from the house
- Close all exterior vents, doors, and windows
- Turn on outside lights so firefighters can see your house through the smoke
- Ensure all garden hoses are connected to faucets with the sprayers attached, but leave them turned off
- Don't leave sprinklers on, or water running; they can affect critical water pressure
- If there's time, cover windows, attic openings, and vents with plywood that is at least one-half inch thick

PREPARE PETS:

- Have veterinary records and medications in one easy-to-find place
- Transport food, water, bowls, and leashes in an easy-to-carry container
- Buddy system: Can your neighbor get to your pet if you're not home during an evacuation?
- Crate your dogs and small pets if possible. Well-behaved pets can panic and run away during a stressful event such as a fire with smoke, wind, and sirens.

If it is too late to evacuate or roads are blocked, take goggles, masks, and hats to a large body of water, a wide parking lot, or golf course, away from buildings and trees.

