

Wildfire Emergency Evacuation Checklist

If you see a wildfire, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

Before the Fire Approaches Your House

- Evacuate:
 - Evacuate your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home.
 - Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the young and the elderly should be evacuated immediately.
- Wear Protective Clothing
- Remove Combustibles:
 - Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.
- Close/Protect Openings:
 - Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.
- Close Inside Doors/Open Damper:
 - Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.
- Shut Off Gas:
 - Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.
- Water:
 - Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.
- Pumps:
 - If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.
- Ladder:
 - Place a ladder against the house in clear view.
- Car:
 - Back your car into the driveway and roll up the windows. Leave car doors unlocked (DO NOT LOCK THE DOORS) and key in the ignition. Ensure you have enough fuel in vehicle gas tank to evacuate (1/2 tank or more). If fire is in area and you have time fill tank.
- Garage Doors:
 - Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- Valuables:
 - Place valuable papers, mementos and anything "you can't live without" inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.
- Release any livestock from barns to pastures in the area.

Preparing to Leave Your House

- Turn on exterior lights
- Secure your home appropriately:
 - Law enforcement will be in the area patrolling.

WHAT TO DO NOW TO PREPARE

- Clear debris from roof and gutters
- Clear driveway to at least 20 feet wide with 15 feet vertical clearance (for emergency vehicles)
- Clear vegetation from within 3 feet of hydrants
- Clear weeds and cut grass within 30 feet of structures, propane tanks, utility boxes
- Develop outdoor water supply with hoses to reach entire house, nozzle, and pump
- Document an annotated list of all belongings
- Have fire tools, ladder, and fire extinguishers available
- Install chimney screen or spark arrestor
- Install enclosed sides on stilt foundations and decks
- Install only non-combustible roof material
- Install screens on foundation and eave vents
- Install shutters, fire curtains, or heavy drapes on windows
- Install smoke detectors and test quarterly
- Make a video of all belongings, talking about each
- Post load limits on access bridges
- Post name/address signs clearly visible from street or road
- Practice family fire drill and evacuation plans
- Practice STOP, DROP, and ROLL (should clothes catch on fire)
- Prepare a list of valuables to take with you (store together, if possible)
- Remove branches that overhang within 15 feet of roof and chimney
- Remove trash and debris accumulations
- Remove trees growing through porch, deck, or roof
- Stack firewood uphill or on a contour at least 30 feet away from house
- Take still pictures of all belongings as a backup
- Thin and prune your trees and brush