

If a wildfire approaches your neighborhood, this checklist can help you evacuate your home quickly and safely. Review this information now to prepare yourself for such an emergency.

What should I wear and have with me when I evacuate?

- o Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Proper attire includes long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, a hat, and boots
- o Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover your face, water to drink, and goggles
- o Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times
- o Tune in to a local radio station and listen for instructions

What about family members, pets, and livestock?

- o If possible, evacuate all family members not essential to preparing the house for wildfire
- o Plan several evacuation routes from your home
- o Make sure to designate a safe meeting place and contact person

- o Relay your plans to the contact person
- o Evacuate pets and livestock whenever possible. Never turn the animals loose
- o Contact the local Humane Society or other organizations for assistance with animals if needed

How should I prepare my car?

- o Place vehicles in the garage, pointing out with keys in the ignition
- o Keep vehicle fuel tank full during fire season
- o Roll up the windows
- o Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked
- o If applicable, disconnect the electric garage door opener so that the door can be opened manually
- o Place essential items in the car
- o If you do not drive, make other arrangements for transportation in advance

What should I take with me?

- o Important documents (bank, IRS, trust, investment, insurance policy, birth certificates, medical records)

- o Credit and ATM cards
- o Medications
- o Prescription glasses
- o Driver's license
- o Passport
- o Computer backup files
- o Inventory of home contents (consider videotaping now, prior to an emergency)
- o Photographs of the exterior of the house and landscape
- o Address book
- o Cell phone and charger
- o Personal toiletries
- o Enough clothing for 3-5 days
- o Family photo albums and videos
- o Family heirlooms

List here any special items that you might want to include:

How should I leave my home?

- o Close all interior doors
- o Leave a light on in each room
- o Remove lightweight, non-fire-resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows
- o Close fire-resistant drapes, shutters, and blinds
- o Turn off all pilot lights
- o Move overstuffed furniture, such as couches and easy chairs, to the center of the room
- o Close fireplace damper

What about the outside of my home?

- o Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage
- o Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter
- o Close all exterior vents if possible
- o Prop a ladder against the house to provide firefighters with easy access to the roof
- o Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach nozzles set on "spray"
- o Close all exterior doors and windows
- o Leave exterior doors unlocked
- o Turn on outside lights

- o If available and if there's time, cover windows, attic openings, and vents with plywood that is at least one-half inch thick
- o Wet down wood shake or shingle roofs before leaving
- o Fill trash cans and buckets with water and place where firefighters can find them
- o If you have an emergency water source (pool, pond, etc.) and/or portable pump, clearly mark its availability so it can be seen from the street

Be prepared! It will likely be dark, smoky, windy, and hot. There may be airborne burning embers, no power, no telephone service, and poor water pressure.

Remember, there is nothing you own worth your life! Please evacuate immediately when asked by firefighters and law enforcement officials.