

## **An Evacuation Planning Guide for Homeowners**

Your community is at risk of wildfire, and there is a real possibility that you may need to evacuate your home secondary to a fire or other emergency event. You and your family should prepare a family evacuation plan before a disaster threatens.

### ***Get Ready***

- Keep your "Important Stuff" list handy.
- Keep sturdy boxes ready for collecting things on your list.
- Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit.

### ***Make Plans with your Family.***

- Where will your family members gather or make contact with other family members? Pre-designate meeting areas and contact numbers. Designate out-of-area family members or friends who will collect family location and condition information. If possible, include your appropriate aged children in preparation planning.
- Have a pet evacuation plan as well. How will you transport your pets during an evacuation? Where will they be housed? Pets are not allowed in Red Cross Shelters. If you have, large animals contact Animal Control or the Humane Association.
- Law Enforcement Authorities may be forced to close roads during a declared emergency.
- Make sure your evacuation plan includes the possibility that you may not be home, but other family members or pets may be home.
- Learn where the alternate route is located in case fire blocks your primary evacuation route.
- Check with your child's school for Student Release Policy. They should have preparations for sheltering or busing to safer locations. To avoid mass confusion and congestion make plans to pick up children at school after the immediate crisis has passed.

### ***Important Stuff:***

Make a list of important items that you need or use on a daily basis. The following are examples. Make your own list and gather the items in advance.

- Prescription drugs.
- Eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- Important documents.

**Emergency Supply Kit:** In an emergency, you will not have time to shop or gather supplies. Assemble a 72-hour emergency supply kit that is readily available.

- 3-Day Emergency Water Supply (1 gallon per day per person).
- 3-Day Emergency Food Supply that will not spoil, and a way to open containers.
- One change of clothing per person.
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- Battery powered radio with spare batteries.
- Flashlight with spare batteries.
- Toiletry supplies.

### ***.Get Set***

#### **When evacuation seems imminent, put your plan into action**

- Remember: Human life is always the priority.
- Park your car facing out to expedite departure.
- Load your 72-hour Emergency Supply Kit.
- Load pets last.
- Then, if there is time...
- Close windows and metal window blinds.
- Close doors, but leave them unlocked. Fire personnel will assume responsibility for security, and they may need to enter your home to protect it.
- Cluster lawn furniture and other items that may snag fire hose in out-of-way areas.
- Remove light curtains and other combustibles away from windows.
- Leave exterior lights on - it helps firefighters find your home in dark or smoky conditions.
- Leave sprinklers OFF (firefighters may need the water).

### ***Get Moving - Go!***

- ❑ Do not wait to be told to evacuate. Authorities may not have time to order an evacuation. If you feel threatened, leave on your own initiative.
- ❑ Obey law enforcement and fire officers. They understand the risk and act on current fire information. They are concerned for your safety.
- ❑ Drive with your headlights on. Drive carefully. Leave room for fire trucks—they are not very maneuverable!
- ❑ Do not block access roads. Emergency vehicles must have clear lanes to the fire.
- ❑ If your normal evacuation route is burning or you otherwise cannot safely leave, go to a recognized “safe zone” where fire suppression efforts will be concentrated.
- ❑ If there is an alternate route to leave your area – use it. Note: This route may be rough with sharp rocks that can cause a blowout on passenger cars, so drive carefully.
- ❑ If fire overtakes you, stay in the car. It is far safer inside than out.
- ❑ **Do Not Call 911 for non-emergencies.** Emergency Contact Numbers will be announced over the emergency communications network. Listen for these numbers on your car or battery-powered radio.
- ❑ Do not attempt to re-enter the area until after officials have declared it is safe to return.
- ❑ Check in at the designated Red Cross Evacuation Center. Even if you do not utilize emergency housing or require assistance, the Red Cross is responsible for tracking contact names and numbers for evacuees. Checking in will ensure others know you are safe.

### **Other Important Resources**

**Red Cross** - [www.redcross.org/services/disaster](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster)

**US Department of Homeland Security** - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)