



Inside

- Keep a working fire extinguisher on hand and train your family how to use it. Store in an easily accessible location (check expiration date regularly).
- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and adjacent to the bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.



Non-Combustible Boxed-In (Soffit) Eaves

- Box-in eaves with non-combustible materials to prevent accumulation of embers.



Non-Combustible Fencing

- Make sure to use non-combustible fencing to protect your home during a wildfire.



Rain Gutters

- Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Roof

- Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from windblown embers.
- Homes with wood shake or shingle roofs are at a higher risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.
- Build your roof or re-roof with fire-resistant materials that include composition, metal, or tile.
- Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion.
- Clear pine needles, leaves, and other debris from your roof and gutters.
- Cut any tree branches within 10 feet of your roof.



Vents

- Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers.
- All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled or otherwise to prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

Walls

- Wood products, such as boards, panels, or shingles, are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.
- Build or remodel with fire-resistant building materials, such as brick, cement, masonry, or stucco.
- Be sure to extend materials from foundation to roof.

Water Supply



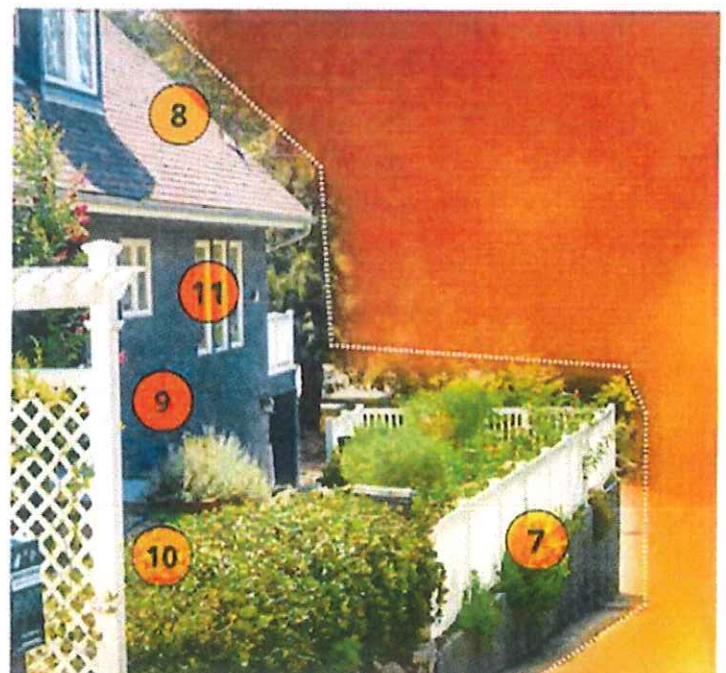
- Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property.

Windows

- Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.
- Install dual-paned windows with an exterior pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.
- Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.

Utilities

- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.



SET!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

Now that you have done everything you can to protect your home, it's time to prepare your family. Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation. Once you finish your plan, practice it regularly with your family, and post it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.



1 Important Phone Numbers

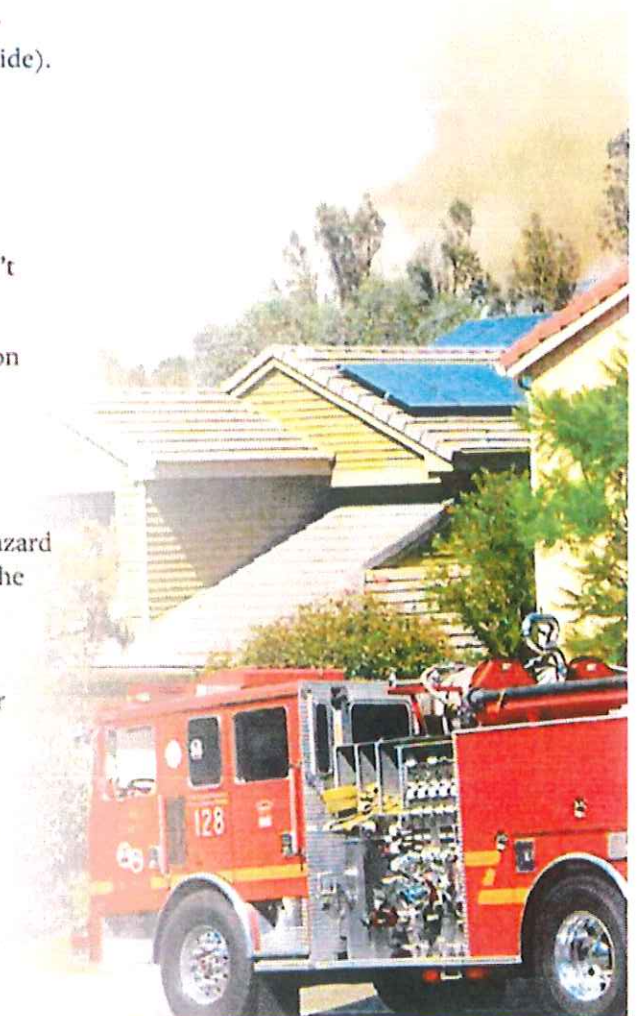
- A family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point-of-contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your Emergency Supply Kit (see page 12 in this guide).

2 What to Take

- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit (see page 12 in this guide).
- Keep an extra Emergency Supply Kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio or scanner, so that you can stay updated on the fire.

3 Prepare to Evacuate

- Designate an emergency meeting location, outside the fire or hazard area. It is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area.
- Have several different travel routes from your home and community identified. Practice these often, so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.
- Have all of the necessary supplies and/or boarding options for your pets and large animals identified and/or packed. If trailers are necessary for larger animals, have a plan that is tested and ready to implement.



SET!

Assemble Your Emergency Supply Kit

Put together your emergency supply kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs, and keep it easily accessible, so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have a readily accessible emergency supply kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except for food and water) and are easy to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light to be able to easily lift it into your vehicle.

Essential Supplies

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, and cash
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (e.g., birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget food and water for your pets!



If Time Allows

- Easy-to-carry valuables
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- Personal computer data on hard drives/flash drives
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps

When an evacuation is anticipated and if time permits, follow these checklists to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

Animals

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare large animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.
- Turn off propane tanks. Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.

Inside

- Shut all windows and doors.
- Remove flammable window shades, lightweight curtains, and close metal shutters.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Leave your lights on, so firefighters can see your home under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.
- Shut off the gas meter and all pilot lights.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Put your emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- Back your loaded vehicle into the driveway with all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- Have a ladder available in a conspicuous location for firefighter use.

Outside

- Gather flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Seal attic and ground vents with a non-combustible material or commercial seals, if time permits.
- Monitor your property and your wildfire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order, if you feel threatened and need to, leave.
- Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.



TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY WHEN WILDFIRE STRIKES

Go Early

By leaving early, you will give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely throughout the neighborhood and do their job.

When to Go

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

The terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as "Precautionary" and "Immediate Threat." These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by emergency personnel should be followed immediately for your safety.

Where to Go

Leave for a pre-determined location. It should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.

How to Get There

Have several evacuation routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an evacuation route away from the fire.



Follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to GO!

- Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle.
- Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, a cap, dry bandana (for face cover), goggles, or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
- Locate your pets and take them with you.

