

WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

Learn more at <https://www.mhanation.com/emergency-operations-center>

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Please take time to complete the **Family Communication Plan** for each family member and keep in your wildfire and emergency “Go Kit(s).”

EVACUATION ORDER: LEAVE NOW! Evacuate immediately! Do not delay to gather valuables or prepare your home. Follow any directions given in the evacuation order.

EVACUATION WARNING: Evacuate as soon as possible! A short delay to gather your Go Kit and prepare your home may be OK. However, do not hesitate to leave if you feel unsafe or conditions change.

SHELTER IN PLACE: Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburn-able area. May be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.

ALWAYS: COMMUNICATION

- Keep your cell phone fully charged.
- Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status. Update regularly.
- Leave a note with your contact info and out-of-area contact taped to fridge or inside a front window.
- Check on or call neighbors to alert them to prepare at first sign of fire.

ON YOUR PERSON

- Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
- Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, head protection.
- Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator. Tie long hair back.
- Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day).
- Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.
- Drink plenty of water, stay hydrated.
- Put “Go Kits” (reverse) in your vehicle.

PETS & ANIMALS

- Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You won't be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
- Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
- Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

IF TIME ALLOWS: INSIDE THE HOUSE

- Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them unlocked.
- Remove combustible window shades and curtains; close metal shutters.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- Leave indoor and outdoor lights on.
- Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

- Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30' from structures (optional: place in a pool).
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15' away from combustibles.
- Connect garden hoses with squeeze-grip nozzles to outdoor spigots for use by firefighters.
- Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house.
- Back your car into driveway, loaded, with doors and windows closed.
- Prop open fence and side gates.
- Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or metal covers (even duct tape will protect from ember entry) if time allows.
- Patrol your property and monitor conditions. Leave if spot fires ignite or conditions change.

WHEN YOU LEAVE:

- Leave immediately if ordered.
- Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe or conditions change; leave early if unsure.
- Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Carpool with neighbors to reduce traffic.
- Take only essential vehicles with adequate fuel.
- In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC, tune to local radio.
- Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
- The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest paved route to a valley floor, away from the fire if possible.
- Proceed downhill, away from the fire if possible. Know at least two routes.
- If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter in a building, car, or an open area; park in an outside turn if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.
- If trapped, you are better protected inside a building or vehicle.
- Don't abandon your car in the road if passage is impossible. If you must leave your car, park it off the road and consider other options for shelter.
- Evacuate on foot only as a last resort.
- Don't evacuate by fire road, uphill, or into open-space areas with unburned vegetation.
- Remain calm - panic is deadly.

