

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.