



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## Placer Canyon View HOA, Auburn, CA

Friends and Neighbors:

Imagine for a moment that there is a wildfire in the canyon heading our way, the Police/Sheriff's department is in the neighborhood broadcasting a mandatory evacuation order, and you have 15 minutes to evacuate your home! What would you do? What would you take? Where would you go?

Experts report that in this circumstance, up to 90% of people will understandably panic and lose valuable time deciding what to do next. Don't think it wouldn't happen to you!

At a recent Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council meeting, a lifelong insurance professional who regularly makes emergency preparedness presentations to various groups shared with the Council what happened to her when she was in this exact position a few years ago. She froze in the moment, finally grabbing her purse, her phone, her cat, and an envelope with some spare cash. Left behind were her laptop, her prescription medications, extra clothes, her jewelry, important financial and business documents, family pictures and heirlooms, and much more. Her home was destroyed by the fire, and she lost everything.

This is a cautionary tale for all of us. We all need to take some time to focus and prepare for emergencies. Your Firewise team has assembled emergency planning information and checklists to help you prepare for emergencies. We hope that these materials will help you focus and begin to get ready for wildfire. This information is also posted on the HOA website under the Firewise Tab.

Please feel free to contact members of the Firewise Team with any additional questions you may have.

Thanks!

Your Firewise Team:

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# Household Pre-Evacuation Order Checklist

Follow all verified local emergency instructions for evacuation.

Evacuation Order Status		Task
<b>PEOPLE &amp; PETS</b> 	<b>Mandatory Evacuation Order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Evacuate immediately.</b> Early evacuation is the safest.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Load medications, important documents, supplies, and pets into vehicle.</li></ul>
<b>HOME</b> 	<b>Voluntary Evacuation Order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Move your car</b> from the garage. Park car in driveway facing out with keys in the ignition for a quick exit. Disconnect automatic garage door opener for quick access if the power goes out.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Close windows, skylights, and pet doors.</b> Seal up gaps around doors with metal tape.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shut off gas</b> at the meter. Turn off propane tanks and move 30 feet away from the structure or place inside the garage.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Close fireplace screens</b> and/or doors.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Place combustible patio furniture, doormats, or other flammable items</b> inside or at least 30 feet away from structures.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Turn on a light</b> in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Alert out-of-area family members or friends</b> that you are preparing to evacuate and share your plans.</li></ul>
<b>PROPERTY</b> 	<b>Near evacuation zones, but not in any evacuation status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Evacuate or prepare backyard livestock.</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Review anticipated evacuation routes</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Record your belongings</b> to help with the insurance and recovery process.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Seal attic and ground vents</b> with pre-cut plywood, heavy aluminum foil, or metal tape.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fill garbage cans and buckets with water</b> and place in front of house.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Erect ladders against house</b> and place fire-fighting tools (metal rake/shovel) in front of the house.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> For secondary water sources (pool/pond/water tank), <b>set up a portable gasoline-powered pump.</b></li></ul>

# Evacuation Bag Checklist

Prepare an evacuation bag for every person before a wildfire and keep it easily accessible.

Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time and make bags light enough to be able to lift into your vehicle.

## Evacuation Bag Checklist for Every Person

<input type="checkbox"/> Car keys, credit cards, cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries (including toilet paper, feminine hygiene, diapers)
<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Medications	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Map with multiple evacuation routes labeled
<input type="checkbox"/> Leather work gloves and eye protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Three-day supply of food and water
<input type="checkbox"/> Face coverings (N95 masks recommended for wildfire smoke protection)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and water
<input type="checkbox"/> Eyeglasses or contact lenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Battery-powered radio and extra batteries

## Bonus Items

<input type="checkbox"/> Easily carried valuables	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers, tablets, and hard drives
<input type="checkbox"/> Family photos and other irreplaceable items	<input type="checkbox"/> Chargers for electronics

## What to Wear During an Evacuation?

Dress in **natural-fibered clothes** (cotton or wool) that will protect you from heat, embers, and flamers. Keep these items near your evacuation bag so they are readily available.

- Cotton hat
- Glasses or full coverage goggles
- Heavy shoes or boots
- Leather work gloves
- Long pants with sturdy belt
- Long-sleeved shirt that covers neck
- N95 mask or other face covering (e.g., bandanna)
- Cotton or wool socks



For more information about wildfire evacuation preparation, visit <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/emergency-supply-kit/>.

# Pets and Disaster Safety Checklist

## How can I prepare?



**Plan to take your pets with you in an evacuation. If it is not safe for you to stay, it is not safe for them either.**

- Know which hotels and motels along your evacuation route will accept you and your pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no-pet policies could be waived in an emergency.
- Most Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your animals in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers.
- Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately.
- Include your pets in evacuation drills so that they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly.
- Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations to reduce the spread of disease.
- Consider having your pet "microchipped" by your veterinarian.

## What should I do?



**Assemble a portable kit with emergency supplies for your pets.**

- Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers so that they can be carried easily. Your kit should include—
  - Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape.
  - Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan and a manual can opener.
  - Medications and copies of medical records stored in a waterproof container.
  - A first aid kit.
  - Current photos of you with your pet(s) in case they get lost. Since many pets look alike, this will help to eliminate mistaken identity and confusion.
  - Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
  - Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

## After a disaster ...



- The behavior of pets may change dramatically after a disaster, becoming aggressive or defensive, so be aware of their well-being and protect them from hazards to ensure the safety of other people and animals.
- Watch your animals closely and keep them under your direct control as fences and gates may have been damaged.
- Pets may become disoriented, particularly if the disaster has affected scent markers that normally allow them to find their home.
- Be aware of hazards at nose and paw or hoof level, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that might not seem to be dangerous to humans.
- Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

## Know what to do as the disaster approaches.

- Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Ensure that all pets are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification.
- Check that your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring pets inside so you won't have to search for them if you need to leave quickly.

# What To Do When Trapped – In Vehicle or Outside

If you find yourself about to be trapped by approaching flames in your vehicle or out in the open, use these strategies to protect yourself.



## Step 1: REMAIN CALM

An approaching wildfire will be extremely loud, create extreme heat and smoke, and will likely evoke fear and panic. However, the active flame will pass.

## Step 2: PREPARE SAFE ZONES

Whether in a vehicle or on foot, select an area that will not burn or an area with the least amount of combustible material – the bigger area, the better.

- Examples include irrigated pastures, golf courses, parking lots, large ponds, depressions in the ground, or any other area that will not support combustion.
- If trapped in a vehicle, park vehicle off the road, if possible.

## Step 3: PROTECT YOURSELF

Use every means possible to protect yourself and your lungs from the extreme heat emitted by the flames.

- Examples of natural features to look for include boulders, rock outcrops, large downed logs, trees, snags, etc.).
- If trapped in a vehicle:
  - Stay inside the vehicle until the fire has passed. The car should remain on with windows rolled up and AC recirculation on.
  - Lie on vehicle floor and cover yourself with a natural fibered blanket or jacket.
  - Be aware that metal parts of the vehicle will be hot. Avoid direct contact if possible.
  - Evacuate on foot as a last resort.
- Call 9-1-1 for help if you need medical assistance and cannot leave the area after the fire has passed.

# RESIDENT INFORMATION

Fill this out and post in your front window before or during an evacuation order.

## RESIDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name:

Residence Address:

Primary Phone #:

Secondary Phone #:

Email:

## HOUSEHOLD EVACUATION INFORMATION

Date of Evacuation:

Time of Evacuation:

Location of Intended Evacuation Destination:

Evacuation Destination Phone/Email:

Names of Residents Who Evacuated:

Names of Residents Who Stayed:

Number of Pets Evacuated:

Number/Type of Pets Left Behind:

## PROPERTY INFORMATION

Propane Shut-Off Location:

Natural Gas Shut-Off Location:

Power/Generator Shut-Off Location:

Water Access: