

Module 3 - Way to go!
How to know which way to go.

Good to Go Sunol!

How to get ready, stay informed, evacuate and return from wildfire



Download additional workbooks at <https://GoodtogoWildfire.com>

Questions? E-mail us at GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com

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Module 1 - Getting Ready to Go!

How to know when to go.

Module 2 - Set to go!

What to take when you go.

Module 3 - Way to go!

How to know which way to go.

Module 4 - Everyone goes!

Evacuating pets and large animals.

Module 5 - Going home!

Tips for returning after a wildfire evacuation.

Module 6 – Just in time!

Last minute tips to help you evacuate from wildfire evacuation.



Funding for this project provided by the
California Department of Forestry and
Fire Protection
as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

Module 3 - Way to go!

How to know which way to go.

Topics

- The evacuation process
- When to evacuate
- Where to go
- Children & schools
- Unable to evacuate own your own
- What if my road is blocked
- But my neighborhood has only one way out
- Fire roads
- If you are trapped

Actions

- *Take your car checklist.*
- *Way to go! Regional map.*
- *Shelter in place checklist.*
- *Shelter in your car checklist.*
- *What's in your way.*



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The Evacuation Process

ROLE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire department will assign an Incident Commander who is in charge of the fire response.

The Incident Commander will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use (if there are options) depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, vegetation and other factors.

ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Incident Commander will issue the evacuation order through the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.

YOUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible by AC Alert.
YOU MUST REGISTER TO RECEIVE ALERTS.

You are responsible for evacuating yourself and your family, pets and livestock.



When to Evacuate

Leave immediately if you receive a notification or alert to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion.

If you ask yourself “should I evacuate,” you probably already should have.

All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.



You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware.

- Seek information for the sources you identified in Module 1 Action: “How do I communicate with my neighbors.”
- Listen to your radio and television for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- Use your smart phone, computer or tablet to check official sources, weather conditions, nearby incidents.
- Use your social network. Check with your neighbors. Step outside and use your own senses.

IT’S OK TO GO EARLY!

Don’t wait to be ordered by authorities to leave if you are unsure, feel threatened, or lose power or communications. Law enforcement will direct the evacuation. They will keep intersections open and moving. But their resources may be limited.

Evacuating early (before evacuation is ordered) helps keep roads clear of congestion, and lets fire apparatus move more freely to do their job. If you are advised to leave, don’t hesitate!



Action: Take your Car Checklist



Your car provides protection.

It protects from hot gases, embers, and the fire's heat.

As long as it stays on pavement, is extremely resistant to burning.

With an AM/FM radio, air filtration and air conditioning, headlights, and protection from heat, your car is like a survival suit for wildfires.

There may be fire on both sides of the road. You will be safer inside your vehicle than out.



- ☐ Take the car that is most capable of getting you out alive.
 - Leave the convertible.
 - Take the SUV, if possible.
- ☐ Take the car with the fullest tank of fuel.
- ☐ Pick up neighbors, elderly or disabled residents unable to evacuate on their own. Fill every seat! Carpool!
- ☐ Take the fastest route out of the canyon. If available, law enforcement officers will direct traffic through intersections.
- ☐ Do not stop to ask law enforcement officers or firefighters for information.
- ☐ Turn your headlights on.
- ☐ Wear your seatbelt.
- ☐ Keep your windows rolled up.
- ☐ Close the outside vents. Turn on inside air and air conditioning.
- ☐ Tune to local news radio stations on your car or emergency radio.
___ KCBS 106.9 FM + 740AM ___ KGO 810AM ___ KNBR 680AM
- ☐ Proceed slowly and calmly.
- ☐ Don't pass cars when visibility is low.
- ☐ Don't panic in traffic. You are safer in your car than outside!

Where to Go

Temporary Refuge, Community Assembly Area or Evacuation Center

Your first thoughts should be to get out of the canyon and out of the Sunol completely. You want to be far from the fire and out of the first responders' way.

But, if the fire is around you. You may need to look for a temporary refuge areas or community assembly areas.

- Depending on the fire's location staying near Sunol may not be safe.
- Refuge and assembly areas may be need to be further away in Pleasanton or Fremont.

Temporary Refuge Area will provide a safe place to wait while a fire passes. Park your car with windows up in location as far from vegetation or structures as possible. Wait for the fire to pass. A Temporary Refuge Area may be:

- An open area free of unburned vegetation.
- A wide parking lot or ball field.
- A commercial building.

You may remain in the location until there is more information available. Authorities may choose to evacuate the temporary refuge areas en-masse when it's safe to do so.

A **Community Assembly Area** may be in the same location as a Temporary Refuge Area. A Community Assembly Area will be a location to find out additional information, if available.

Evacuation Centers

Emergency managers will attempt to provide information on safe evacuation centers. Centers need to confirmed as safe locations before they can be announced. They may be in Pleasanton, Livermore or Fremont.

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Children & Schools

Schools are maintained as safe places to shelter.

The Sunol Glen Elementary School will attempt to notify parents, and evacuate children only if time allows. The school plans to “shelter in place” and will protect children in safe places on campus if a wildfire strikes without time to evacuate.

When an evacuation is ordered, parents may not be allowed in to pick up students!

Communicate this with your children in advance, and send them to school prepared with the tools they need to communicate and protect themselves. Helpful items may include: extra food, long cotton clothing, and a list of primary and alternate emergency contacts and phone numbers.

Send your children to school prepared.

Communicate that:

- Parents may not be allowed in to evacuated area to pick up students.
- Provide list of primary and alternate emergency contacts and phone numbers.

If your children are in a private daycare, ask the provider about their plans for emergencies.

Unable to Evacuate on Your Own

Access and functional needs persons include anyone with mobility, developmental, cognitive, hearing or language issues. They may be of any age.

- Be proactive.
- Predetermine who will help.
- Have a back up plan.
- Take durable medical goods and any other special needs.
- Don't rely on first responders. They may be overwhelmed with other duties.



If you are a care-giver, take special precautions so that everyone will know about evacuation orders at any time of day or night, even if power fails.

Predetermine who will assist those needing help to evacuate
Have a backup. Consider family, friends and neighbors who live very close by.

Prepare to take durable medical goods, oxygen and any other items to meet your special needs.

If you need help, be proactive and find redundant, responsible people to evacuate you.

Don't rely on first responders or 911 to evacuate you. They may be overwhelmed

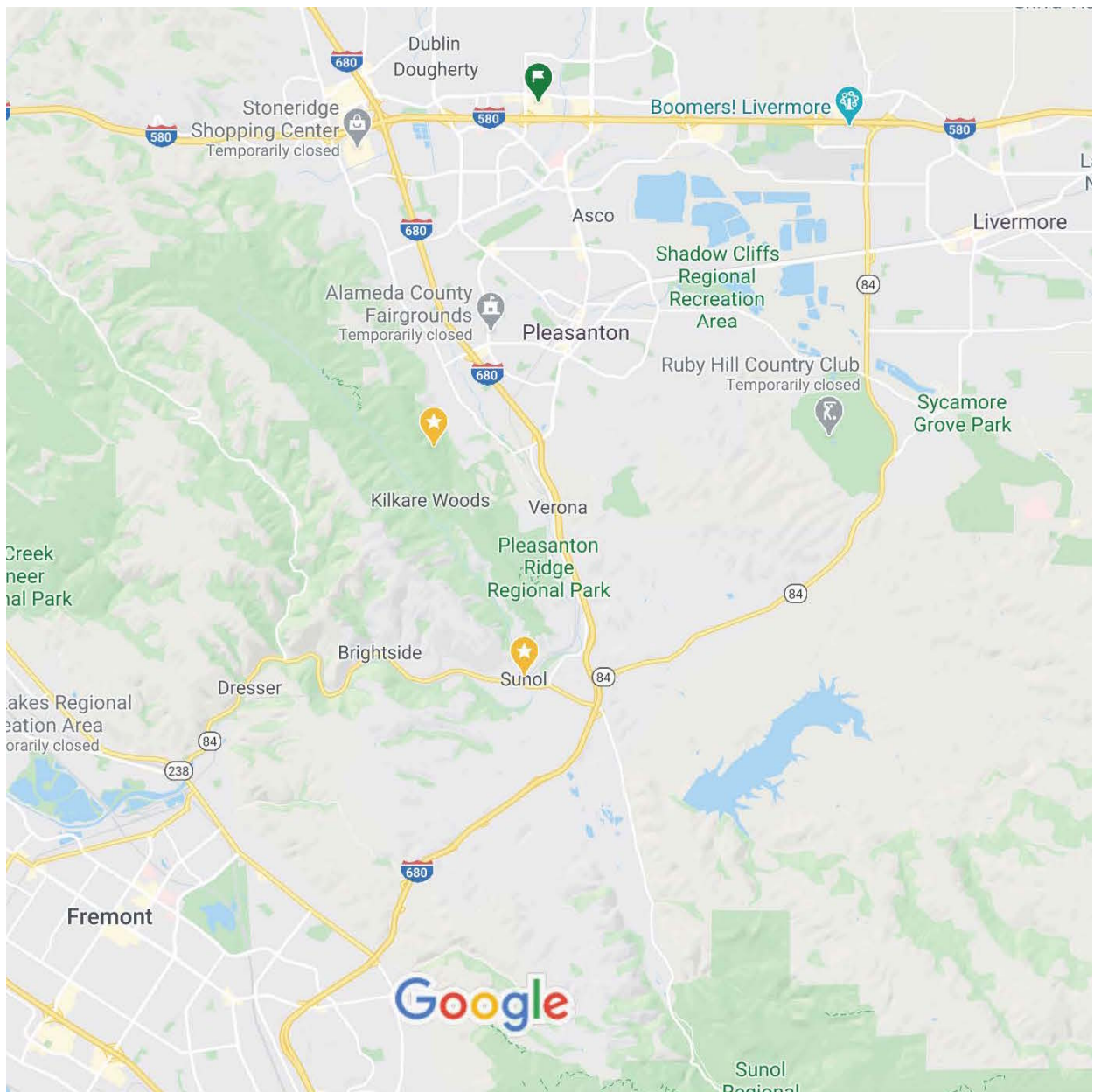
Action: Way to go! Regional Map



Circle your evacuation zone.

- Kilcare Woods – Zone 1.
- Sunol – Zone 2.

Identify potential routes to either Pleasanton, Livermore or Fremont. Highlight the map below to show your routes.



What if my road is blocked?!



The presence of fire on the roadside does not mean your road is blocked.

You can usually safely drive when there is fire burning on the roadsides.

Try to clear the obstruction, IF it's safe to exit your vehicle.

Turn around if the obstruction can't be cleared.

If an alternate route on a paved road is available, take it.

Try to drive away from the fire if possible. Take the shortest route out of the canyon or to valley floor if you're on a hillside.

Remember that your car provides a tremendous amount of protection from heat, smoke, and embers. Being stuck in traffic in your car, on unburnable pavement, is usually safer than being exposed on foot. Don't panic.

Law enforcement can move a large number of vehicles through intersections.

Do not leave your vehicle unless there is no other option or your car is on fire. Leaving your car is a last resort and may prove deadly. You are almost always safer in your car.

Do not abandon your car in the roadway.

Park it off the road if there is no other option.

As a last resort, take refuge in an open area like a ballfield, large parking lot, or shelter in your car or inside a building if no quick escape route is available and flames are approaching.

Stay calm.

But My Neighborhood Has Only One Way Out

If you live in "Kilkare Woods" there is only "one way in, one way out. " Your escape route is predetermined.

Use the "one-way-out" direction and leave! Drive towards downtown Sunol.

Once you reach downtown Sunol, follow instructions in all alert messages if they provide community assembly, evacuation shelter or escape route information.

Do not attempt to evacuate by fire roads in Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. You could be exposed to rapidly spreading fires and no one will know you are there. The fire roads in the park are almost always more dangerous than being in your car on the paved roads.

But fire engines coming into Sunol will block my escape.

When evacuation has been ordered, the fire's Incident Commander will instruct fire engines not to enter areas where evacuation is occurring and two-way passage is not possible. Evacuation is the number one priority for firefighters.



Fire Roads.

Fire roads are for firefighter use. These unpaved roads are not a safe option for evacuation.

Stay on pavement.

Stay in your vehicle, if possible.

The unmaintained vegetation on fire roads, the fact that most lead uphill, and the requirement for high-clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicles makes them unsafe and unsuitable for evacuation.

Firefighters don't evacuate uphill.

Firefighters don't evacuate towards "unburned" vegetation.

Firefighters don't attempt to outrun a fire uphill.

You shouldn't either.



If You are Trapped

Wildfires are unpredictable and spread quickly.

Even if you've prepared in advance, you may be required to "shelter in place" if ordered or if you find yourself trapped by a wildfire.

To survive this frightening scenario, it is important to remain calm and keep everyone together.

Prepare yourself mentally for darkness (even during the day), noise, chaos, and the natural urge to flee.

- Stay calm.
- Prepare for darkness, noise, chaos and the urge to flee.

If you're unable to evacuate, it's probably safer **INSIDE** a car or building where your airway, eyes, and skin are protected!

Take shelter in the nearby place that is best able to withstand the fire. This may be your home, another building made of more resistant materials or that is less exposed to burning vegetation, your car, or an open outdoor area like an irrigated playing field or parking lot far from vegetation.

Stay calm and together while the wildfire passes.

When directed, or when the fire outside subsides, move to a safer area.

Action: Shelter in Place Checklist



Shelter in a House or Building

If safe evacuation is not an option, follow these steps:

A building should be your first choice for shelter if evacuation is not possible.



- ☐ Close doors and windows. Leave unlocked. Fill sinks with cold water.
- ☐ Keep car keys, cell phone, ID, & flashlight with you.
- ☐ Gather all family members and pets (in carriers).
- ☐ Lay down near front door, protecting your airway by breathing near the floor if smoky or hot.
- ☐ Stay away from outside walls and windows.
- ☐ If you have a working phone, call 911 and let them know your location.
Note: Even if the phone works, the 911 system may be overwhelmed and you may not get through to anyone.
- ☐ Leave the house **only** if it becomes too hot or smoky inside, or when it's obviously safer outside . If it gets hot inside it is 4 to 5 times hotter outside.
- ☐ Once it is safe to go outside. Monitor the fire. Watch for small (spot) fires.

Action: Shelter in Your Car Checklist.

If your escape route is blocked and there is no safe building nearby to take refuge in, park and stay in your car - it is far safer than being out in the open.

- ☐ Find a place to park on pavement that has little or no vegetation, in an outside turn if on a hillside.
- ☐ Never attempt to evacuate by unpaved fire-roads.
- ☐ Turn on headlights and emergency flashers to make your car more visible through heavy smoke.
- ☐ Close all windows and doors, shut off all air vents, and turn off the air conditioner.
- ☐ Get below the windows, under blankets (preferably wool) and lie on the floor to shelter yourself from radiant heat if it becomes hot.
- ☐ If you have a working phone, call 911 and let them know your location.
Note: Even if the phone works, the 911 system may be overwhelmed and you may not get through to anyone.
- ☐ Stay in the vehicle as long as possible.
- ☐ Wait until the fire front passes and temperature has dropped outside, then get out and move to a safe area that has already burned.



Action: What's in your Way?

Arrange for the group to meet and walk the major evacuation route and identify a hazardous fuel reduction project to improve your community's way out.



- ☐ Overhanging tree limbs.
- ☐ Shrub within 10 feet of pavement edge.
- ☐ Dead or dying trees.
- ☐ Piles of flammable materials.
- ☐ Other_____.
- ☐ Other_____.
- ☐ Other_____.
- ☐ Other_____.
- ☐ Other_____.

Recap - Way to Go!

How to know when & which way to go

Key concepts

The evacuation process.

Fire Department Incident Commander will be in charge of the fire response.

Alameda County Sheriff's Office will be in charge of evacuation.

You must be responsible for evacuation yourself, your family, pets and livestock.

When to evacuate & your evacuation zone.

You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. If you ask yourself "should I evacuate," you probably already should have. It is ok to go early.

How to evacuate - Take your car.

Your car provides protection during evacuation. Take your car and stay on the pavement. Use the checklist to drive safely.

Where to go + special circumstances.

Temporary refuge or community assembly areas are the first place to head.

Evacuation centers need to be confirmed as safe locations before they can be announced. Use your potential route map to remind yourself of the various ways to go.

What if your road is blocked or you are trapped.

Be prepared for potential challenges in Sunol. Your neighborhood may have only one way out. Be prepared to shelter in your home or car.

Do not use fire roads in Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.