

# Good to Go Sunol Just in Time!

*Last minute tips to help you evacuate from wildfire.*



For more information, download additional workbooks or other resources at  
<https://GoodtoGoWildfire.com>

Questions? E-mail us at [GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com](mailto:GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com)

# Good to Go Sunol Just in Time!

*Last minute tips to evacuate from wildfire.*

## Topics

- Only You Can Evacuate
- Influences on Wildfire Evacuation Decisions
- 4 Triggers to Action
- When to Evacuate
- What to Expect During an Evacuation

## Actions

- *Sign up Now to Know. Communications and Notifications Checklist*
- *Action Trigger #1: Fire Weather Watch or PSPS Checklist*
- *Action Trigger #2: Red Flag Warning Checklist*
- *Action Trigger #3: Evacuation Warning Checklist*
- *No Time! Must Go! Checklist*
- *Action Trigger #4: Evacuation Order Checklist*
- *If Time Allows Checklist*
- *Disaster Plan Worksheet*



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Fire Protection  
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# Only You Can Evacuate

Successful evacuation depends upon everyone working together in critical roles to respond to a wildfire.

## **ROLE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In the event of a wildfire, 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. This will include local police departments, as well as County Sheriffs' Offices. 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.



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# Influences on Wildfire Evacuation Decisions

Based on studies on what influences wildfire evacuation decisions, researchers have categorized three types of people:

1. Those who are ready to leave.
2. Those who will not leave.
3. Those who will wait and see.

There are many reasons why some individuals will not leave during an evacuation, including: no transport, care of large animals, desire to protect property, uncertainty of where to go, or perception of safety where they are.



Should I stay or should I go now? Or should I wait and see? Influences on wildfire evacuation decisions.

(McCaffrey, 2017)

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/55590>

The largest of the three groups are individuals who “wait and see.” Waiting to see is of particular concern given the dangers of late evacuation. It is important that this wait and see group leave NOW when they receive an Evacuation Order or when conditions change and wildfire is near.

Everyone needs to acknowledge that evacuation decisions will be made on incomplete information in a chaotic, rapidly changing environment. You will want to continue to search for more information. Dr. Shanamar Dewey, a 2018 Camp Fire (Paradise, California) evacuee and survivor,<sup>1</sup> conveys the role of fallibility of perception during evacuation ... your brain will try to categorize what you see or hear by what you already think is true.

Don't be fooled into thinking you will find better and more complete information. Rapid fire growth and new ignitions from flying embers will continually change what is happening on the fire. If you resolve to leave early, you need to be ready to act and not just think about it.

If it is windy and dark in the daytime, you see embers falling, you smell smoke, or see flames ... do not wait and see.

Make your decision to act today.

Be in the group that leaves early.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=587260538612492&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=587260538612492&ref=watch_permalink). 31:00-43:00.

## 4 Triggers to Action

As a resident, you need to be ready to receive and act upon four types of emergency notifications. Consider the following as triggers to action:

- Fire Weather Watch
- Red Flag Warning
- Evacuation Warning
- Evacuation Order

### Fire weather notifications

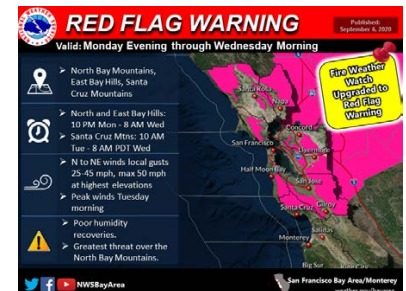
National Weather Service monitors for critical weather that may result in fires that will be difficult to control. Local media outlets and warning systems, such as Nixel and AC Alert, typically announce notifications when they are issued.

#### **FIRE WEATHER WATCH**

A Fire Weather Watch is given up to 72 hours before critical fire weather is expected.

#### **RED FLAG WARNING**

A Red Flag Warning issued when conditions are expected to occur or are occurring within the next 24 hours



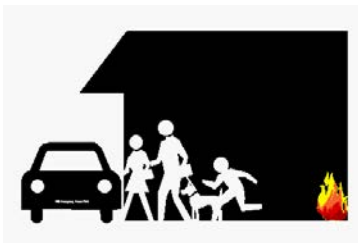
### Evacuation notifications

The terms “voluntary” and “mandatory” are often incorrectly used to describe evacuations. Throughout Alameda County, fire agencies and law enforcement will use the terms Evacuation Order, and Evacuation Warning to alert you to the significance of the danger and provide basic instructions.



#### **EVACUATION WARNING**

Evacuate as soon as possible. Potential threat to life and/or property. A short delay to gather valuables and prepare your home may be ok. Leave immediately if you feel unsafe.



#### **EVACUATION ORDER**

Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access. Evacuate immediately, do not delay to gather belongings or prepare your home. Follow any directions provided in the Evacuation Order.

# Sign up **now** to know

## Communications & Notifications Checklist

Communications and evacuation notification systems are not guaranteed to work during an evacuation or power outage. Monitoring and understanding the rapidly changing surrounding situations are your personal responsibility.

Sign up now to have access to information from multiple sources.



### AC Alert

Must register to receive information:

- Alameda County [www.acalert.org](http://www.acalert.org)
- Ensure caller ID is not blocked for notifications.  
925-560-5950 (AC Alert)



**NIXLE** <https://local.nixle.com/register/>

Text your zip code to **888777** to opt in to alerts from local agencies.



### Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shut Off notifications

[https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/residential/outages/public-safety-power-shutoff/psps-updates-and-alerts.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/outages/public-safety-power-shutoff/psps-updates-and-alerts.page)



**Social media:** Write down your local fire department official information

Twitter \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_



**Pulse Point:** <https://www.pulsepoint>

### Other Communications

Personal out-of-state contact information.

Red Cross "Safe and well" registration at [www.safeandwell.org](http://www.safeandwell.org).

Battery powered weather or AM/FM radio for current conditions.

Your own senses - look, listen, smell for signs of fire and changing conditions.

Use your neighborhood connections to find out what your neighbors know.

 **American Red Cross Safe and Well Web Site**

*When Affected, Get Connected*

1. **Visit** [redcross.org/safeandwell](http://redcross.org/safeandwell)
2. **Register** yourself as "safe and well"
3. **Search** for your loved ones' posted messages

[redcross.org/safeandwell](http://redcross.org/safeandwell)

Be Red Cross Ready  
[redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

#### Fill in Your Out of State Contact information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #



# Action Trigger #1: What to do during a Fire Weather Watch or Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

Early actions for potential

A Fire Weather Watch is given up to **72 hours** before critical fire weather is expected. Also called a Red Flag Watch.

PG&E PSPS notifications also typically occur 72 hours before critical fire weather.

Now is the time to prepare your family for a potential Red Flag Warning or power shutoff.

Monitor sources for changes or additional information. See *Sign Up Now to Know* checklist.

Monitor active fires in the surrounding communities

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>.

Use a weather radio if power goes out.

Learn about weather radios at

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>.

Review what you will need to do if there is a red flag alert.



## Once you are ready for a Red Flag Warning

Fire Weather Watch is often for 72 hours – what else do you need to do?

Fill your car with gas, and fully charge electric cars, to be ready if you have to evacuate.

Maintain situational awareness.

Select actions from the “If Time Allows” checklist for things to do to reduce the chance of an ignition inside and around your home.

Tip: Prevent ignitions. Don’t use power tools, barbecues, or any potential heat or spark source outside when it is dry and windy.



## Action Trigger #2: What to do during a Red Flag Warning



Get ready for potential evacuation!

A Red Flag Warning is issued when conditions are occurring or are expected to occur within the next **24 hours**,

Prepare your family for potential **Evacuation Warning or Evacuation Order**.

Prepare your family to potentially leave on short or no notice. Continue to monitor information sources. Confirm your "Family Communications" plan.

Review your **Go Bag** and ensure it is complete. Consider pre-loading your car with items from your "**Got to Go**" checklist. (\*See **Module 2 – Set to Go!** to develop your Go Bag if you don't already have one.)

Dress for survival (or make sure to have everything ready to put on).

Review the steps on your Evacuation Order checklist.

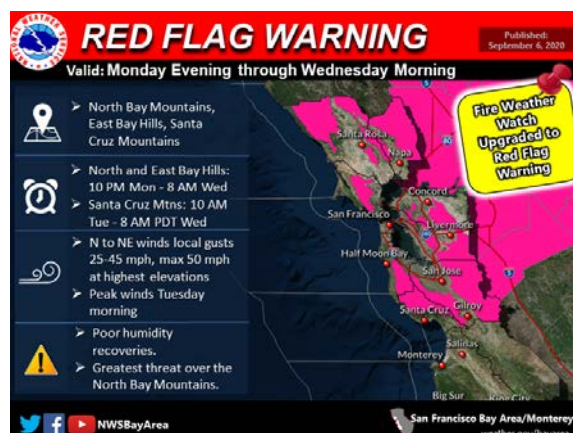
Ensure phones are charged & receiving messages.

Remain alert and monitor conditions nearby.

Once you are ready for a **Red Flag Warning**:

Select actions from the "If Time Allows" checklist for things to do to reduce the chance of an ignition inside and around your home.

Be ready to evacuate at any moment if conditions change or a fire ignites nearby.









## Action: No Time Must Go Checklist

Didn't get your Go Bag together?

Prioritize your top 10 items to grab if you must go NOW. (Number them 1 to 10).

As soon as a Red Flag Warning or an Evacuation Warning is announced, tape this on the door you will use during an evacuation.

- #\_\_\_ Family members: \_\_\_\_\_ (names/ ages)
- #\_\_\_ Pets: \_\_\_\_\_ (names/ species)
- #\_\_\_ Map marked with 2 evacuation routes
- #\_\_\_ Up-to-date Family Communication Plan
- #\_\_\_ Prescriptions (ask your doctor for multi-day emergency supplies, rotate annually)
- #\_\_\_ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- #\_\_\_ Sunglasses or goggles to protect eyes from flying embers
- #\_\_\_ Credit cards or cash
- #\_\_\_ Official identification (driver's license) plus utility bill, if address is not current.
- #\_\_\_ Cell phone, spare battery and charger
- #\_\_\_ Change of clothing
- #\_\_\_ Small supply of energy food.
- #\_\_\_ An extra set of car keys
- #\_\_\_ First aid kit (compact)
- #\_\_\_ Headlamp and/or flashlight (handheld)
- #\_\_\_ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- #\_\_\_ Spare batteries for flashlights, headlamp, and radio
- #\_\_\_ Sanitation supplies (toilet paper, feminine hygiene, baby wipes/diapers)
- #\_\_\_ Computer, tablet, other electronics + chargers
- #\_\_\_ Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- #\_\_\_ 3-day supply of non-perishable food & 3 gallons of water per person
- #\_\_\_ "Evacuated" sign for front window (to inform first responders)
- #\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Action #4: What to do during an Evacuation Order



**Leave immediately!**

Evacuation Order means leave now. An Evacuation Order calls for immediate movement of people out of an area due to an imminent threat to life.

Law enforcement coordinates all evacuation action with fire department.

Staying will threaten your life. It may also impede work of emergency personnel.

Don't wait for an Evacuation Order if you feel unsafe or conditions change. Leave early if unsure, or you see flying embers, fire, smoke or others leaving.

Use your *No Time! Must Go!!* checklist to help you stay calm and effective.

### Leave Now!

Take one car. Take your most capable vehicle with the fullest gas tank or most electric charge.

Assist elderly or disabled neighbors. Carpool, if possible, to reduce traffic.

Remain calm. Panic is deadly.

In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and air conditioning to recirculate, tune to local news radio station for information.

Drive slowly and defensively. Be observant.

The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest paved route to the valley floor. Move away from the fire if possible.

Never attempt to evacuate by unpaved fire roads or trails through open space and unburned vegetation.

Evacuate on foot only as a last resort.

You are better protected inside a vehicle or building.



## When to Evacuate

Leave **immediately** if you receive an Evacuation Order. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

If you receive an Evacuation Warning you should still leave quickly to avoid being caught in flying embers, fire, smoke or road congestion.

*If you ask yourself "should I evacuate," you probably already should have.*

- 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, and 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!

The fire Incident Commander will issue the Evacuation Order through the Sheriff's Office, and will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use (if there are options) depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, fuels and terrain. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing an Evacuation Order. Follow their directions promptly.

Expect that there will be limited information and communication resources during the evacuation. You must be ready to act even if you don't know everything you want to know.

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. You may need to search for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.

Use your *Sign up now to know* checklist on page 6.

Check with your neighbors.

Listen to your TV and radio (AM1610, AM 840, AM740, FM106.9 + others).

Use your smart phone, computer or tablet to check official sources.

## What to Expect During an Evacuation

### Where to Go

Everyone wants to know where to go in an evacuation.

Most important is to understand that where you will go will depend upon where the fire started, the weather conditions and fire behavior. You won't know where to go until you evacuate.

Even then, you want to keep as many options open as possible to respond to changing conditions.

Remember, flying embers may be igniting new fires, so stay alert.



### As You Go

As the fire approaches: park your car as far as you can from vegetation or structures. Wait for the fire to pass.

Don't abandon your car in the road if you become trapped. If you must leave your car, park it off road so others can pass, and shelter in a nearby building.

Evacuate on foot only as a last resource.

### What if...

If roads are blocked: take shelter in a building, car or open area away from vegetation. Look for wide roads, parking lots, grass play fields etc. If you are trapped you are better protected inside a building or vehicle.

If you must shelter in your car:

- 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.

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Good to Go workbooks and YouTube videos have strategies to address many of the common evacuation challenges. See **Module 3: Way to Go!** for information on common concerns:

What if my road is blocked?

But my neighborhood has only one way out.

Why is it a bad idea to use the fire road or evacuate through the park?

If you are trapped.

How to shelter in place.

How to shelter in your car.

What's in your way.

For more information, download additional workbooks, link to YouTube videos and other resources at <https://GoodtogoWildfire.com>





## Action: If Time Allows Checklist

Use this checklist during Red Flag Warning or Evacuation Warning **ONLY if time allows**.

Remember to maintain situational awareness.

Regularly patrol your property and monitor conditions.

If an Evacuation Order is issued, spot fires ignite nearby or conditions change,  
LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

### Communications

Update your family communication plan and print a copy for every family member.  
Keep your cell phone fully charged. Put charger and extra batteries in your go bag.

Notify an out-of-area contact with your phone number, location and status just in case communications systems go down. Update regularly, if possible.

Alert your neighbors to heightened risk and establish communications, especially if they have children, or are elderly or disabled.

Prepare an “evacuated” sign to tape to the front window to let first responders know when the house is empty.

Prepare a note with your contact information and out of area contact. Be ready to tape the note to the fridge or inside a front window.

### 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. See **Module 2** for Dress for Survival details.

Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, and head protection.

Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator.

Carry headlamp and flashlight (even during the day) and spare batteries.

Carry car keys, wallet, ID, and cell phone.

Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.

Put your “Go Bag” in your vehicle.

### Pets and Animals

Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.

Place carriers near the front door, with fresh water and extra food. Contain pets in a room, enclosure or carrier. You won’t be able to catch them later.

Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

See **Module 4 Everyone Goes!** for more on evacuating pets and animals.

## Insurance

Locate your medical, home and vehicle insurance papers and upload them to the cloud using your mobile device, tablet or computer.



Make a photo or video inventory of your home, vehicle and possessions. An inventory can be completed quickly and easily on your smart phone and safely stored in the cloud. Download a free [home inventory guide](#). See more information at <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/EvacuationChecklist.cfm>

## 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 for firefighters.
- Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

## Outside and in the Neighborhood

- Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or move 30' from structures (or in a pool).
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small, portable tanks at least 15' away from combustibles. (Tip: Do not shut off gas or propane until ready to leave, as they need to be turned back on by professionals.)
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by fire fighters. Attach squeeze-grip nozzles if you have them.
- Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They are ineffective and can reduce critical water pressure needed by firefighters.
- Hosing your roof down is dangerous and ineffective. Consider cleaning your gutters and blow leaves away from house instead.
- Unlock and prop open gates, or remove a panel of fencing nearest your home.
- 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).



# Disaster Plan Worksheet

Post your completed worksheet in an obvious place for quick reference by family members and guests. It may help save a life!



## Family Information

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cross Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Children

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Neighbors

Neighbor 1 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Neighbor 2 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Neighbor 3 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Doctor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Local Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Out of Area Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## School Plan

I have authorized these people to pick up my child/children from school:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The above people, as well as my spouse and children, know the family's secret password. My children have been told not to go anywhere with any person who does not know this password.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## Notification Systems

Call | 211  
Register | AC Alert <https://goo.gl/xmz055>

For additional information on Disaster Planning see Alameda County Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Unit <https://www.acgov.org/ready/>

# Recap - Good to Go Sunol Just in Time!

*Last minute tips to evacuate from wildfire.*

## Key concepts

### **Only You Can Evacuate**

Your role is critical during evacuations. While first responders are doing their job, you are responsible for evacuating yourself, your family, pets and livestock.

### **4 Triggers to Action**

As a resident, you need to be ready to receive and act upon 4 types of emergency notifications: Fire Weather Watch, Red Flag Warning, Evacuation Warning and Evacuation Order. Make your decision to act during each notification.

### **Communications and Notifications**

Communication and evacuation notification systems are not guaranteed to work. You need to monitor multiple sources and understand the rapidly changing situations during a wildfire.

### **Action Triggers and Checklists**

Checklists are provided for the 4 action triggers getting you ready, and telling you when to evacuate. During the pre-evacuation stages of Fire Weather Watch, Red Flag Warning, or Evacuation Warning, checklists can help you identify additional things to do *If Time Allows*. Leave immediately if there is an Evacuation Order.

### **What to Expect During an Evacuation**

Where you will go will depend upon where the fire started, the weather conditions and fire behavior. Keep as many options open as possible to respond to changing conditions. Remain calm in spite of the chaotic conditions. Be prepared for potential challenges.

For more detailed information visit <https://www.goodtogowildfire.com/>