

## Module 1 - Getting Ready to Go!

*How to know when 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](mailto:GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com)

Update 3/12/21

## *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 1 - Getting Ready to Go!

*How to know when to go.*

## Topics

- Warnings
- Notifications
- Communications
- Situational Awareness

## Actions

- *Sign up now to know.*
- *Determine the current wildfire situation.*
- *Your communication networks*
- *How do I communicate with my neighbors?*
- *Disaster Plan Worksheet.*



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# Warnings

Three types of alerts

- Evacuation warning
- Evacuation order
- Shelter in place

The terms “voluntary” and “mandatory” are often incorrectly used to describe evacuations.

In Sunol and throughout Alameda County, fire agencies and law enforcement will use the terms **Evacuation Order**, **Evacuation Warning**, and **Shelter-In-Place** 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.



## **SHELTER IN PLACE**

Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area. May be required when evacuation isn't necessary or is too dangerous. Be prepared to self-sustain until further notice and/ or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

# Notifications

*Tools used to communicate in an emergency.*

## AC Alert

- Alameda County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Service maintains AC Alert through Everybridge.
- Used for emergency information.
- MUST OPT-IN. Register cell phones, and VOIP phones.
- Also register for text and email messages.
- To register:
  - [www.acalert.org](http://www.acalert.org)
  - Ensure 925-560-5950 is not blocked for notifications.



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

- Alameda County & East Bay Regional Park host NIXLE.
- Used routinely to transmit non-life threatening messages.
- May be first method used to notify community of small fires.
- **Text** your zip code to **888777** to opt in to alerts from local agencies.

## Social media:

- **Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire](http://www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire)
- **Twitter** –@AlamedaCoFire
- **Instagram** - [www.instagram.com/AlamedaCoFire/](http://www.instagram.com/AlamedaCoFire/)
- **Flicker** - [www.flickr.com/photos/alamedacountyfire](http://www.flickr.com/photos/alamedacountyfire)
- **EventBrite** [www.eventbrite.com/o/alameda-county-fire-department-1734344016](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/alameda-county-fire-department-1734344016)

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

## Emergency Alert System (EAS) & Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

- Interrupts TV and radio broadcasts, and sends text to smart phones.
- Used to deliver major local, regional, and national emergency alerts.

## Other Communications

- Pre-designate an out-of-state contact.
- "Safe and well" registration on Red Cross website [www.safeandwell.org](http://www.safeandwell.org).



## Action: Sign up **now** to know

Pull out your smart phone or tablet and sign up for at least one of the notification methods. We recommend everyone be signed up for AC Alert.

*Tip: To confirm if you are signed up, try to sign up again.*

- [www.acalert.org](http://www.acalert.org)
- <https://local.nixle.com/register/>
- [www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire](http://www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire)
- [Alameda County Fire@AlamedaCoFire](https://twitter.com/AlamedaCoFire) (Twitter feed)
- [www.instagram.com/AlamedaCoFire/](http://www.instagram.com/AlamedaCoFire/)
- [www.flickr.com/photos/alamedacountyfire](http://www.flickr.com/photos/alamedacountyfire)
- <https://www.pulsepoint.org/>

## Community Goal:

By end of program all participants should be signed up for AC Alert.

# Situational Awareness – Weather

## Monitor Daily Weather Conditions

- Red Flag warning
- Fire weather watch
- <https://www.wrh.noa.gov/fire2/?wfo=mtr>
- **Text your Zip code to 888777 to register for Nixle and receive Sunol Fire Weather information notices**

## Monitor active fires in the Sunol area

- <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>
- Used to predict when fire will be difficult to control and evacuation may be necessary.

## NOAA Weather Radio .

AC Alert uses the National Weather Service to provide emergency alerts and information for major non-weather related emergencies.

Weather radios are an inexpensive and reliable way to receive these alerts. These devices can be battery powered to provide a means of receiving emergency alerts if your power is out.

Learn more about NOAA Weather Radios at

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



## What to do during a Red Flag warning.

- Prepare your family for potential evacuation.
- Review your Go Bag\* & ensure it is complete.
- Review the steps on your evacuation checklist.\*
- Ensure phones are charged & receiving messages.
- Remain alert & monitor conditions nearby.
- Prevent ignitions. Don't use power tools, barbecues, or any potential heat or spark source outside.



\*See Module 2 – Set to Go! to develop your Go Bag and evacuation checklist.

## What do fire danger signs tell us?

Reflect potential for fire to ignite, spread and resist control.

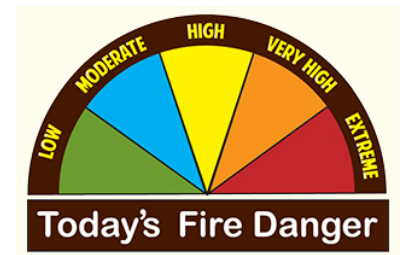
Part of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Allows fire managers to estimate today's or tomorrow's fire danger for a given area.

Closest sign is located at CAL FIRE Station on Pleasanton-Sunol Road.

Key inputs: fuels, weather, topography and risks.

5 Levels of fire danger:

- **Low:** fuels do not ignite easily.
- **Moderate:** fires can start from most accidental causes, but the number of fire starts is usually low.
- **High:** fires can start easily. Fires can become serious and difficult to control unless they are put out while they are still small.
- **Very high:** fires will spread rapidly and have a quick increase in intensity, right after ignition. Difficult to control and will often become much larger and longer-lasting fires.
- **Extreme:** All fires are potentially serious and can spread very quickly with intense burning. Very difficult to fight and may become very dangerous and often last for several days.



- Used to determine staffing and use restrictions.





## Action: Determine the current wildfire situation

What is the current wildfire situation? Should you be ready to evacuate now?  
Worried about evacuating tonight?

Where can you find out?

This group exercise will remind you of where to check current alerts, fire weather and active fires.

Note: You can also do this by yourself -- checking all 4 information sources.

Divide into 4 small groups and assign each one of the tasks.

After 10 minutes gather for discussion and take the group consensus.

1. Connect with AC Alert for alert status [www.acalert.org](http://www.acalert.org).
2. Connect NOAA for current weather status  
<https://www.wrh.noa.gov/fire2/?wfo=mtr>
3. Use weather radio.
4. Connect with <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/> for active fire status.

Other ideas?

Use your social network.

Check with your neighbors.

Step outside and use your own senses.



## Ready for Notifications During Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

It is common for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to turn off electrical power in high fire threat areas before a fire strikes.

The evacuation notification systems are not guaranteed to work during a power outage. Monitoring and understanding the surrounding situation is your personal responsibility.

Ensure you have access to information from multiple sources:

- Monitor a battery powered Weather or AM/FM radio continuously during power outages to keep apprised of current conditions. See the exercise on page 8 for other ways to monitor current wildfire situation.
- Don't neglect to use your own senses - look, listen, and smell for signs of fire and changing conditions!
- Use your neighborhood connections to find out what your neighbors know.

Prepare for a PSPS in advance:

- Update your contact information with PG&E.
- Consider purchasing an uninterruptible power supply for your home phone and internet. Understand the limits of these power sources.
- Know how to open your garage door without power (or install a battery back up).
- Plan for power outages that can last for several days (72 hours +).

## Lessons learned from recent wildfires

Lessons learned in 2017 North Bay Fires and 2018 Camp Fire:

- Not everyone is signed up for emergency alerts.
- Loss of phone service early.
- Loss of electricity early.
- Loss of internet early.
- Loss of cell sites early.
- Ham Radios worked if power was available.

*Take home message: Need for personal responsibility.*





## Action: How do I communicate with my neighbors?

Check all the ways you are able to communicate with others in your community.

- ☐ Face to face. Who do I call first: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Phone tree. Who do I call first: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Email. Who do I email first: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Google groups
- ☐ Social media platforms
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 - Getting Ready to Go!

*How to know when to go.*

## Key concepts

### **Warnings.**

Three different types of warnings. Need to be prepared to go and to shelter in place. *Reminder: warning systems are not guaranteed to work in an emergency. Make sure you know how to find emergency information from many sources.*

### **Notifications.**

Need to be signed up to receive alerts. Various uses of the alerts.

### **Other communications.**

Out of state contacts and registering safe and well.

### **Situational awareness**

When to be ready to evacuate from wildfire by knowing the current wildfire situation. Red flag weather. Fire danger signs. Ready for Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

### **Lessons learned in recent fires.**

Need for personal responsibility and disaster plan.

### **How do you communicate with your neighbors?**

## *Module 2 - Set to go!*

What to take when you go.

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## Module 2 - Set to go!

What to take when you go

### Topics

- Immediate Evacuation
- When Evacuation is a possibility
- Preparing to shelter in place & for PSPS

### Actions

- *No Time! Must Go! Checklist*
- *Got to Go Checklist*
- *Lighten up your "Go Bag"*
- *Family Communication Plan*
- *My Personal Protective Clothing*
- *Additional Information Sources*
- *Preparing to Shelter in Place or for Public Safety Power Shutoffs*
- *Neighborhood Ready: Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)*



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## Immediate Evacuation – 6 Ps

Immediate evacuation is the first of the two types of evacuation.

This may be a call or knock on the door from a neighbor.

Or it may be that you see the nearby smoke or actual flames.

No time to do anything but get in the car and go.

Pre-prioritize your actions with the 6 Ps.

This is the time that a “go bag” is critical

Remember the Six P’s

- **P**eople & pets
- **P**apers
- **P**rescriptions
- **P**ictures
- **P**ersonal computer
- **P**lastic and cash

**Tip:**

You will need official identification (driver’s license) to re-enter the area after evacuation.

If your address is not current, include a current utility bill in your name.



Complete the following *No Time! Must Go! Checklist* and keep it handy taped to a kitchen cabinet or by your front door.

Do not wait to collect anything, unless you actually have time



## 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).

- #\_\_\_ Family members: \_\_\_\_\_(names/ ages)
- #\_\_\_ Pets: \_\_\_\_\_(names/ species)
- #\_\_\_ Map marked with 2 evacuation routes
- #\_\_\_ Up-to-date Family Communication Plan
- #\_\_\_ Prescriptions (ask your doctor for a multi day emergency supply, rotate annually)
- #\_\_\_ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- #\_\_\_ Sunglasses or goggle to protect eyes from flying embers
- #\_\_\_ Credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- #\_\_\_ 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
- #\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- #\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

# When Evacuation is a Possibility

Having time to think about evacuation is the second type of evacuation.

When a Red Flag Alert or Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) have been called, it is time to consider evacuation as a possibility.

Take the three initial steps to be ready to evacuate:

## 1. Review Your Go Bag & Evacuation Checklist

IF you haven't already fill out your "Got to Go! Checklist" and "Family Communications Plan" turn to pages 7 and 8.

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow these checklists to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Place copies of the completed Family Communication Plan in each family member's "Go Bag."



## 2. Dress For Survival

Dress in Protective Personal Clothing to avoid injury from smoke, sparks, embers and extreme heat. Complete the Actions on page 11 "My Personal Protective Clothing" to identify your best loose fitting clothing from natural fibers such as heavy cotton, denim or wool. Synthetic fabrics can melt or burn.



## 3. Monitor Information Sources

Monitoring predicted fire weather can provide advanced warning and extra time to prepare before a fire strikes. During the North Bay Fires of 2017, the National Weather Service issued a "ed Flag Warning" 72 hours before the fires began.

Complete the Actions on page 13 to identify "Our Additional Information Sources" and ways to monitor for wildfires and evacuation information.



## Action: Got to Go Checklist

At all times during fire season, have a Wildfire and Emergency "Go Bag."  
Assemble a kit for each family member and pet, and keep the bag(s) in your vehicle or near your front door. Cross off items you don't need.



When a red flag warning is announced, use this check list to get ready to go.

- ☐ Up-to-date Family Communication Plan
- ☐ 3 day supply of non-perishable food & 3 gallons of water per person, including can opener and utensils
- ☐ Matches or lighter in water-proof container
- ☐ Map marked with at least 2 evacuation routes
- ☐ Prescriptions (ask your doctor for a multi day emergency supply, rotate annually)
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ One change of clothing and shoes
- ☐ Sunglasses or goggle to protect eyes from flying embers
- ☐ Blanket or sleeping bag
- ☐ Small supply of energy food.
- ☐ Special items for infants, seniors or those with special needs
- ☐ Spare battery and charger for cell phone
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ An extra set of car and house keys
- ☐ Credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- ☐ First aid kit (compact)
- ☐ Emergency tools and work gloves
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Flashlight (handheld)
- ☐ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Spare batteries for flashlights, headlamp, and radio
- ☐ Sanitation supplies (toilet paper, feminine hygiene, baby wipes/diapers)
- ☐ Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- ☐ Entertainment or favorite toy for children
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## Action: Lighten up your "Go Bag"

Store critical information in the cloud or on a memory stick.

Fill out the checklist as you go.

### BE READY IN A FLASH CREATE | SURVIVAL FLASH DRIVE



If there were a fire, flood, or other disaster that destroyed your home, where would your important documents such as birth certificate, passport, deed, licenses, permits, etc be? Protect yourself by scanning all your important documents and storing them on a Survival Flash Drive.

- ☐ Purchase a USB Flash Drive (also called memory sticks or thumb drives due to their small size)
- ☐ Use a permanent marker, sticker, or label to put the word "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) on it
- ☐ Scan your important documents using a scanner, and store the files on the Survival Flash Drive

#### WHAT TO PUT ON YOUR FLASH DRIVE (COPIES OF..)

##### All Government Issues IDs, Licenses, Permits, and Certifications for Each Family Member

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License / ID | <input type="checkbox"/> Passport             | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran/Discharge Papers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth Certificate     | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Permits/Licenses    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Card  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Permit           | <input type="checkbox"/> Irreplaceable documents  |

##### Important Non-Government Documents

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Accounts           | <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination Records     | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Cards + Accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Plan Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (Home/Auto)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advance Directives      | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate / Mortgage  | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce / Custody Papers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Records        | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental Agreement        | <input type="checkbox"/> Restraining Orders       |

##### Other Important Information

- ☐ Current photos of each family member and pet
- ☐ Important Family pictures
- ☐ Family emergency + communications plans
- ☐ Emergency contact list with address + phone number

#### KEEP IT UP TO DATE

Remember to keep the information on your Survival Flash Drive current by updating it regularly.

#### PASSWORD PROTECT / ENCRYPT THE INFORMATION

For an added level of security, you can password-protect the files or encrypt the drive using software like TrueCrypt. Keep in mind that emergency workers would have a hard time opening protected files.

#### STORE IT IN A SAFE LOCATION

Store your Survival Flash Drive in a small sealed plastic bag to prevent damage from the elements. Attach it to your key chain, put it in your purse, put it in a fireproof + waterproof safe, put it in a drawer at work, or put it in the glove box of your vehicle. Keep a copy wherever you think it will be safe and available in an emergency away from your house (in case of fire or flood).



# Family Communication Plan

If you did not create a family communication plan in Module 1, fill out the worksheet.

## 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/xmzO55>

## Dress for Survival

### BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

# Personal Protective Clothing

#### WHY WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING?

**B**eing in or near a bush fire can cause a number of different injuries and everyone should wear protective clothing to avoid injury from smoke, sparks, embers and extreme heat. Loose fitting clothing made from natural fibres such as pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim is important to protect you from injury. Synthetic fabrics can melt or burn.



A wide-brimmed hat or hard hat can stop embers from dropping onto your head or down the back of your shirt.



Glasses or goggles will protect your eyes against any smoke, embers and debris that may be in the air.



Gloves.



A mask or cloth (non-synthetic) to cover your nose and mouth will protect you from inhaling smoke, ash and embers.



A pair of heavy cotton pants. For example denim jeans, oil-free drill pants or cotton overalls.



Sturdy leather work boots or shoes along with a pair of woollen or cotton socks.



A long-sleeved shirt made from thick cotton or wool is ideal (e.g. flannelette or cotton drill work shirt).



**18** PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.

Source: [www.rfs.nws.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nws.gov.au) "Bush Fire Survival Plan." New South Wales, Australia, 2013, page18.



## Action: My Personal Protective Clothing

If you have time, dress in protective personal clothing to avoid injury from smoke, sparks, embers and extreme heat. Choose loose fitting clothing from natural fibers (heavy cotton, denim or wool). Synthetic fabrics can melt or burn.



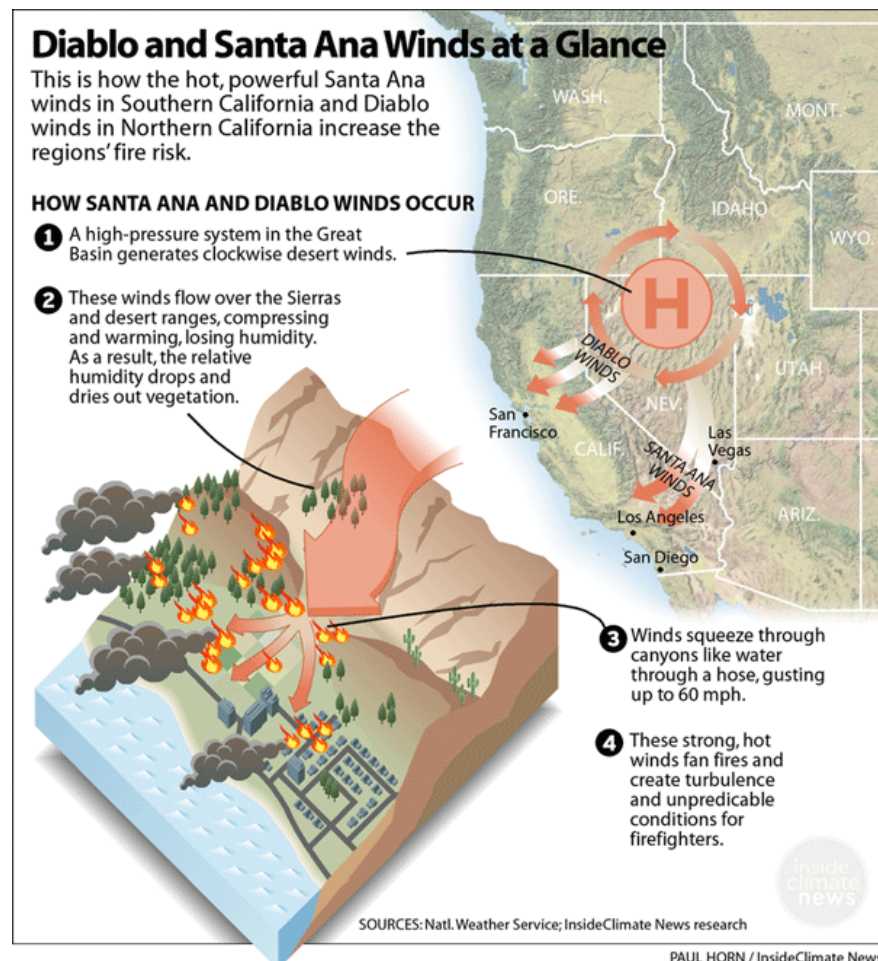
Prepare a checklist of your own clothing

<i>Recommended protective personal clothing</i>	<i>My clothing (and where it is kept)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wide brimmed or hard hat (to stop embers from dropping on your head or down the back of your shirt).	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Full coverage goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Leather work gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Respirator (N95) or non synthetic cloth (to cover nose and mouth to protect you from inhaling smoke ash and embers)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirt. (Natural fibers – all cotton or wool. Bright colors best for visibility.)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy cotton pants (Denim jeans, oil free pants, cotton overalls)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy leather work-boots or shoes. (Sneakers 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice - soles can melt)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Woolen or cotton socks. (Keep with your work-boots)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____

# Monitor Daily Weather Conditions

Monitoring predicted fire weather can provide advanced warning and extra time to prepare before a fire strikes. During the North Bay Fires of 2017, the National Weather Service issued a "Red Flag Warning" 72 hours before the fires began.

Most major wildfires that destroy homes and cause death and injuries have a common denominator: dry winds blowing from the east or northeast. These conditions are most common in the fall from September to October, but can happen any time of year and will always be associated with potentially catastrophic fires during the dry season.



## Additional information sources

See Module 1 to review all the ways to monitor the weather. Check the ones you want to use and the date you last heard an alert or used the method.

- ☐ AC Alert. Received last message on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)
- ☐ NOAA Weather Radio. Listened to used on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)
- ☐ Nixel text alerts: Received last message on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)
- ☐ Neighbors and friends who live outside of the canyon via social media, phone calls or a knock on your door.  
Received last information on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)



## Action: Preparing to Shelter in Place or for Public Safety Power Shutoffs. 5 Ps.



At all times during fire season, be ready to shelter in place or for a public safety power shutoff (PSPS). Assemble enough for all family members. Cross off items you don't need.

When a shelter in place or PSPS warning is announced, use this check list to get ready to shelter for up to 7 days.

- ☐ **P**eople & pets – Personal care for 7 days: nonperishable food, water (1 gal per person per day), supplies, blankets, cooking method without electricity, first aid kit, whistle to signal for help, sanitary items (towlettes, garbage bag, hand sanitizers).
- ☐ **P**apers (important documents for if you have to evacuate)
- ☐ **P**rescriptions and medical equipment
- ☐ **P**ower – battery or hand crank NOAA weather radio, flashlight with extra batteries, surge protectors for appliances and devices, portable generator (+ carbon monoxide detector, smoke detector and fire extinguisher), cell phone with backup powerpack and ability to recharge (such as from crank radio).
- ☐ **P**lastic + cash (a variety of denominations for if ATMs don't work)

## Action: Neighborhood Ready. Map Your Neighborhood.

In a wildfire, and other disasters, your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you.

The *Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)* program guides you and your immediate neighbors through a neighborhood preparedness program to know your skills and equipment, as well as neighborhood needs, for a variety of potential disasters (wildfire, earthquake, winter storm, flooding etc.)

Watch the 4 minute YouTube video for an introduction to the program:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMOFtk8xeV0&list=PLaYp9JZofBz3RSYyvL57jo\\_95G8ziwuTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMOFtk8xeV0&list=PLaYp9JZofBz3RSYyvL57jo_95G8ziwuTV)

Map your neighborhood booklets and videos are available online at

<http://www.mil.wa.gov/myn>

4 things you will need to do before a meeting:

1. Identify your neighborhood boundaries (MYN recommends 5-6 homes minimum. 15- 20 homes maximum. Consider dividing into smaller groups.)
2. Personally invite neighbors to attend. Hold the meeting in one of your homes.
3. Review the MYN video to be familiar with contents.
4. Create a master neighborhood map (streets, blocks and house lots, addresses and, names neighbors).

Detailed information is available to guide your group through the meeting. It also highlights how to make the most after your MYN group gets started.

# Recap - Set to Go!

*What to take when to go.*

## Key concepts

### **Immediate Evacuation.**

*Immediate evacuation means No Time! Got to Go! Have your checklist ready to collect the 6Ps and go.*

### **When Evacuation is a Possibility.**

Take the three initial steps to be ready to evacuate:

1. Review your Go Bag and Evacuation Checklist. Update your Family Communication Plan, if needed.
2. Dress for Survival
3. Monitor Information Sources

### **Sheltering in place and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)**

Prepare for up to 7 days of sheltering in place or PSPS.

Use the checklist to prepare.

*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](mailto:GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com)

Update 3/12/21

## *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.*



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California Department of Forestry and  
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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.

.

## 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



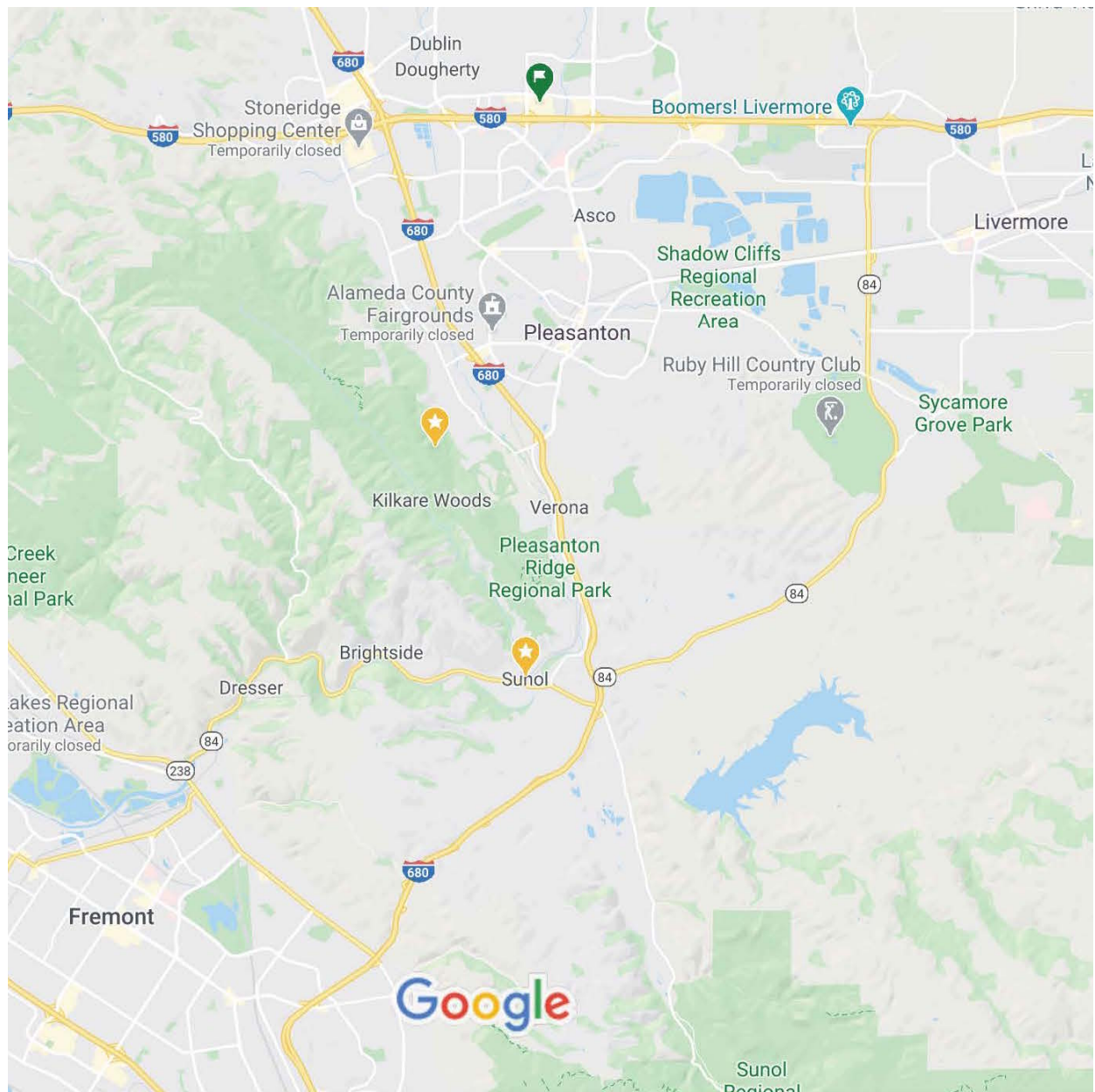
## Action: Way to go! Regional Map



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.



## *Module 4 - Everyone goes!*

Evacuating pets and large animals.

# 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](mailto:GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com)

Update 3/12/21

## *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  
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as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

## Module 4 – Everybody goes!

*Preparing to evacuate pets and large animals.*

### Topics

- Pet preparedness
- Pet Evacuation
- Large animal evacuation

### Actions

- *Pets' Go Bag Checklist*
- *Evacuating Cats Checklist*
- *Evacuating Dogs Checklist*
- *Evacuating Other Species Checklist*
- *As a Last Resort Checklist*
- *Pet First Aid Checklist*
- *After the Wildfire Checklist*
- *Lost and Found Pets Checklist*
- *Wildfire Planning for Your Barn & Farm Checklist*
- *Evacuating Large Animals Checklist*
- *Evacuating Horses Checklist*
- *If You Must Leave Livestock or Horses Behind Checklist*



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# Pet Preparedness

During a disaster what's good for you is good for your pet. Get them ready too.



## **Prepare**

Just like for each family member, build a Go Bag for each animal with items for basic survival (more detail on next page).

Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends or relatives to be able to evacuate your pets while you are at work or away.

Talk to your Vet about: what to include in your pet's first aid kit, names of vets or vet hospitals in cities outside of the area and microchipping.

## **Plan**

Create plans for both to "get away" and to "stay."

First important decision is to go or stay. Plan for both possibilities.

If specifically told to evacuate or to shelter in place, do so immediately.

Public shelters may not allow your animal inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance for number and type of animals. Options:

- Family or friends outside of area

- Pet friendly hotels or motels <http://www.gopetfriendly.com>

- Boarding facilities (kennel or vet hospital). You may need to board your pet if you are unable to return home right away.

## **Practice Your Plan**

Practice having your buddy evacuate your pet. Can they load your pet into a carrier? Gather the go bag? Know where to meet you?

Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies, human society, SPCA, emergency hospitals. Practice using the list once a year to keep information current.

For more practice see animal specific recommendations on following pages.

## **Stay Informed**

Adapt to changing situations. Follow instruction from authorities on scene.

***Try to take your pets with you,  
but don't become a fatality trying to save them.***

## Action: Pets' Go Bag Checklist



- ☐ Food. 3 days of food in airtight waterproof container
- ☐ Water. 3 days of water specifically for pets in addition to water for family
- ☐ Medicines and medical records. Stay up to date on vaccinations as most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animals shelters will need proof of current shots.
- ☐ First aid kit (talk to your vet) – cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution, pet first aid reference book.
- ☐ Collar with id tag + rabies tag, harness or leash. Include back up leash, collar and id tag in first aid kit.
- ☐ Consider micro-chipping and enrolling pet in recovery database (include both your contact information and contact outside your immediate area).
- ☐ Crate or carrier large enough for pet to stand, turn around and lie down.
- ☐ Sanitation – pet litter, litter box, paper towels, trash bags chlorine bleach (16 drops per gal water to sanitize – not scented or colored bleach)
- ☐ Familiar items such a treats, toys and bedding to help reduce stress.
- ☐ A picture of you and your pet together. Add note with species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics, for if you become separated. .

# Action: Evacuating Cats Checklist

More information on preparing your animals is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.



<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>.

- ☐ Plan ahead to make your evacuation quick and safe.
- ☐ Practice short drives to get your cat use to being in the car
- ☐ Make sure cat is wearing ID. Consider having your pet chipped. Talk to your vet.
- ☐ Put cat in carrier early. Before they become frightened and difficult to catch. Make sure carrier is big enough for them to turn around and lie down. Consider enclosing them in the bathroom or other small space first.
- ☐ Keep cat in carrier or on leash at all times.
- ☐ Avoid feeding immediately before travel
- ☐ Offer water and rest stop every few hours.
- ☐ Provide a quiet place once you reach your destination. Wait a few hours before food and water



**PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY**  
*Helping animals through intervention, education, advocacy*

**AFTER THE DISASTER:  
IS YOUR CAT READY?**

To prepare your cat for a natural disaster, store the following supplies and first aid items in a protected area, in a portable container such as a plastic bin or a trash can with a lid.

Make sure that your cat wears a break-away collar and ID tag at all times. Consider having a microchip ID implanted; contact your veterinarian for more information.

**Supplies**

- 1-week supply of your cat's food
- 2 gallons of water
- Plastic food and water dishes (non-spill design)
- Can opener
- Harness and leash
- Portable cat carrier with towel for bedding
- 1-week supply of any medicines your cat requires
- Photocopies of veterinary records
- Current photo of your cat
- A favorite toy
- Litter box and 10-20 lbs. of litter
- Paper towels, plastic bags, and disinfectant for cleaning litter box

**First Aid Kit**

- Gauze pads and bandages
- Roll of cloth tape
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Scissors
- Antibiotic ointment
- Petroleum jelly
- Tweezers
- Thermometer
- Cat first aid book

**Transporting your cat in an emergency**

- Plan ahead of time to make your evacuation with your pet quick and safe. Take your cat on short drives occasionally so it will get accustomed to being in the car.
- Make sure your cat is wearing an ID tag.
- To prevent your cat from running away or disappearing in the confusion when you're preparing to evacuate, put it in the carrier well before you leave.
- Keep your cat in its carrier or on a leash at all times while traveling.
- Avoid feeding your pet immediately before leaving. Traveling on a full stomach could cause vomiting or other problems.
- Offer water and rest stops every few hours during the trip. Use a harness and leash whenever your cat is out of its carrier.
- When you reach your destination, give your cat a quiet, safe place to rest. Allow it to adapt to its new surroundings for a while before offering food and water.

(Materials produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in cooperation with the American Red Cross Northern California Disaster Preparedness Network.)



Good to Go! 

 \_\_\_\_\_ Initials  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Check the box when you have completed the Action.

## Action: Evacuating Dogs Checklist

More information on preparing your animals is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.



<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>.

- ☐ Plan ahead to make your evacuation quick and safe.
- ☐ Practice short drives to get your dog use to being in the car
- ☐ Make sure dog is wearing ID. Consider having your pet chipped. Talk to your vet.
- ☐ Put dog on leash or in carrier early. Before they become frightened and difficult to catch. Make sure carrier is big enough for them to turn around and lie down. Consider enclosing them in the bathroom or other small space first.
- ☐ Keep dog in carrier or on leash at all times.
- ☐ Avoid feeding immediately before travel
- ☐ Offer water and rest stop every few hours.
- ☐ Provide a quiet place once you reach your destination. Wait a few hours before food and water



**PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY**  
*Helping animals through intervention, education, advocacy*

**AFTER THE DISASTER:  
IS YOUR DOG READY?**

To prepare your dog for a natural disaster, store the following supplies and first aid items in a protected area, in a portable container such as a plastic bin or a trash can with a lid.

Make sure that your dog wears a break-away collar and ID tag at all times. Consider having a microchip ID implanted; contact your veterinarian for more information.

**Supplies**

- 1-week supply of your dog's food
- 6 gallons of water
- Plastic food and water dishes (non-spill design)
- Can opener
- Leash and extra collar
- Portable dog carrier with towel or blanket for bedding
- Paper towels, plastic bags, "pooper scooper," and disinfectant for picking up after your dog and cleaning the carrier
- 1-week supply of any medicines your dog requires
- Photocopies of veterinary records
- Current photo of your dog
- A favorite toy

**First Aid Kit**

- Gauze pads and bandages
- Roll of cloth tape
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Scissors
- Antibiotic ointment
- Petroleum jelly
- Tweezers
- Thermometer
- Dog first aid book

**Transporting your dog in an emergency**

- Plan and prepare ahead of time to make your evacuation with your pet quick and safe.
- Make sure your dog is wearing a collar and ID tag.
- Keep your dog on a leash or in a carrier at all times while traveling.
- Avoid feeding your pet immediately before leaving. Traveling on a full stomach could cause vomiting or other problems.
- Offer water and rest stops every few hours during the trip. Use a leash whenever your dog is out of the car.
- When you reach your destination, give your dog a quiet, safe place to rest. Allow it to adapt to its new surroundings for a while before offering food and water.

(Materials produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in conjunction with the American Red Cross Northern California Disaster Preparedness Network.)



# Action: Evacuating Other Species Checklist



More information on preparing your animals is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.

<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>.

- ☐ Birds are very sensitive to smoke. If leaving be sure bird is removed first and carrier is well covered to keep smoke out.
- ☐ For birds and reptiles offer fruits and vegetables in high water content instead of water.
- ☐ For birds and reptiles consider portable heat source in cool weather. Or a mister to mist your bird's feathers if it hot.
- ☐ For birds and small mammals, cover container to calm during transport. Birds need a certain amount of light each day. If you cover the carrier make sure to allow a few hours of light, either natural light of flashlight.

**PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY**  
Helping animals through intervention, education, advocacy

**AFTER THE DISASTER:  
IS YOUR BIRD READY?**

To prepare your bird for a natural disaster, store the following supplies and first aid items in a protected area, in a portable container such as a plastic bin or a trash can with a lid.

**Supplies**

- 1 week supply of your bird's food (prepack is often to keep it fresh)
- 1 week supply of water
- Large carrier (such as a cat or dog carrier) instead of its regular cage, especially for big birds
- Blanket or towel to cover carrier or to wrap around bird
- Gloves for handling smaller birds


**First Aid Kit**

- Styptic powder such as Quik-Stop (for snails only if your bird breaks a feather or nail, stop the bleeding by gently pinching the wound closed.)

**Transporting your bird in an emergency**

- Plan and prepare ahead of time to make your evacuation with your pet quick and safe.
- Place your bird in sturdy pet carrier that's large enough for it to move around.
- If there is no perch in the carrier, line the bottom with paper towels.
- Keep the carrier in a quiet, safe area. Do not let the bird out of the carrier.
- Place a towel over the carrier to calm the bird. Birds need a certain amount of light each day. If you cover the carrier, make sure to allow a few hours of light, either natural light or a flashlight.
- In cool weather, wrap a blanket around carrier for warmth. In warm weather, carry a plastic mister to mist your bird's feathers.
- Offer a few slices of fruits and vegetables with high water content instead of water.
- Birds are very sensitive to smoke. If you are leaving a fire, make sure your bird is removed first, and that its carrier is well covered to keep smoke out.

(Illustration produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in cooperation with the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Disaster Preparedness Research.)



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**AFTER THE DISASTER:  
IS YOUR REPTILE READY?**

To prepare your reptile for a natural disaster, store the following supplies and first aid items in a protected area, in a portable container such as a plastic bin or a trash can with a lid.

**Supplies**

- 1 week supply of your animal's food (reptile food is preferable to dog food), and food for reptiles that eat only greens, and baby food as a vegetable and fruit substitute for reptiles that need more supplementation than that provided only by greens (fresh vegetables and fruits are preferable)
- 1 week supply of water
- A portable heat source, such as a warm container with a heater (if a heater is not available, put your pet in a soft pouch and put the pouch in a bucket of your pet's or the Thermomex Heat Wrap that you break to use - always place a cloth between the reptile and the source of heat because of the risk of burns)

**First Aid Kit**

- Citrus liniment
- Q-tips
- Antiseptic ointment such as Neosporin
- Quickstop for bleeding
- Betadine solution

**Transporting your reptile in an emergency**

- Plan and prepare ahead of time to make your evacuation with your pet quick and safe.
- Snakes can be transported in a gillnet or large sack, but must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach their destination.
- If your pet requires frequent feeding, have food available within two days.
- Take a tray or bowl large enough to hold water for drinking or snail or soaking.
- For lizards, offer fruits and vegetables high in water content. If fresh fruits and vegetables are not available, offer baby food.
- Keep your reptile's container in a quiet, safe place.
- Have your veterinarian's phone number available.

(Illustration produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in cooperation with the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Disaster Preparedness Research.)



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Helping animals through intervention, education, advocacy

**AFTER THE DISASTER:  
IS YOUR SMALL MAMMAL READY?**

To prepare your rabbit, guinea pig, hamster or other small mammal for a natural disaster, store the following supplies and first aid items in a protected area, in a portable container such as a plastic bin or a trash can with a lid.

**Supplies**

- 1 week supply of your animal's food
- 1 week supply of water
- Bowls for food and water
- Cat or dog carrier
- Large supply of your pet's regular bedding material (enough for deep burrowing by small rodents)
- Litter box and litter

**First Aid Kit**

- Citrus pulp and liniment
- Roll of cloth tape
- Elytren gel ointment
- Neosporin
- Antiseptic ointment
- Petroleum jelly
- Tetracaine
- Thermomex
- Small mammal first aid book

**Transporting your small mammal in an emergency**

- Plan and prepare ahead of time to make your evacuation with your pet quick and safe.
- Transport small pets in a sturdy container (preferable to shipping, that is suitable for living in at a shelter or other emergency location).
- Cover the container with a towel to calm the animal during transport.
- Stop every few hours to offer the animal food and water.
- Keep the container in quiet, safe place.
- Keep rabbits and guinea pigs cool, rather than too warm.

(Illustration produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in cooperation with the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Disaster Preparedness Research.)





## Action: As a Last Resort Checklist

If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home there are some precautions you must take, but remember leaving your pet at home alone places your animal in great danger.

As a last resort if you must leave your pets.



### Do

- ☐ Confine pets to the house, preferably in a room with few or no windows
- ☐ Separate dogs and cats (and dogs of different sizes) to avoid fights
- ☐ Put out plenty of fresh water and dry food. Less palatable food is best, as your pets will be less likely to over-eat.
- ☐ Use non-spill bowls for food and water. Or leave a tap dripping as a water source.
- ☐ Leave a note or sticker on front door or window notifying rescuers of animals inside.
- ☐ If possible have someone check on your animals at least once a day.

### DON'T

- ☐ Don't leave pets outside to fend for themselves. A post disaster area is a dangerous place. Your pet will be scared, confused and disoriented.
- ☐ Don't leave animals unattended where there is a swimming pool. They could drown attempting to drink.
- ☐ Don't leave vitamin tablets accessible. They are usually tasty and pets may eat them all at once causing salt poisoning and other problems

# Action: Pet First Aid Checklist



- ☐ Have a first aid kit. in portable container.
  - Gauze pads, gauze roll and or bandages
  - Rolls of cloth tape and medical adhesive tape.
  - Scissors
  - Thermometer
  - Tweezers
  - Hydrogen peroxide
  - Antibiotic ointment & petroleum jelly
  - Cotton sticks (Q Tips)
  - Instant cold pack
  - Rags and rubber tubing for tourniquet
  - Muzzle
  - Animal first aid book
- ☐ Talk to your Vet about other first aid items for your pet.
- ☐ Learn pet first aid. Red Cross has an on-line course.
- ☐ Download an App, such as from the Red Cross.
- ☐ Learn pet's vital statistics
- ☐ Understand when vet care is needed.
- ☐ Learn basic first aid procedures.
- ☐ Learn how to handle an injured animal.



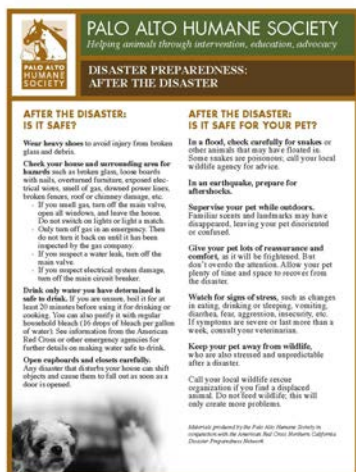
More information on First Aid for Animals is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.

<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>.

# Action: After the Wildfire Checklist



- ☐ Check your house and surrounding area for hazards. Wear heavy shoes to avoid injury. Do not let your pet out until everything is cleared.
- ☐ Supervise your pet while outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may have disappeared, leaving your pet disoriented or confused.
- ☐ Drink only water you have determined is safe to drink. If unsure boil for at least 20 minutes before using for your pet's drinking (or yours). You can also purify with regular household bleach -16 drops of bleach per gallon.
- ☐ Inside house open closets and cupboards carefully to make sure contents have not shifted.
- ☐ Keep pets away from wildlife who are also stressed and unpredictable after a disaster. Call your local wildlife rescue organization if you find a displaced animal. Do not feed wildlife; this will only create more problems.
- ☐ Give your pet lots of reassurance and comforts, as it will be frightened. But don't overdo the attention. Allow your pet plenty of time and space to recover from the disaster.
- ☐ Watch for signs of stress – changes in eating, drinking or sleeping, vomiting, diarrhea, fear, aggression, insecurity etc. If symptoms are severe or last more than a week, consult your vet.



More information on returning home with animals is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.

<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>

# Action: Lost and Found Pets Checklist



## If you lose a pet

- ☐ Place ads in local stores on social media & read ads.
- ☐ Contact rescue groups for your breed.
- ☐ Post flyers in neighborhood and local shelters.
- ☐ Visit shelters at least every other day.
- ☐ Inform neighbors, mail carriers etc. about pet.
- ☐ Search neighborhood on foot at dusk and dawn.
- ☐ Search farther than you expect.
- ☐ Don't give up.



## If you find someone's pet

- ☐ Contact local humane societies/ shelters.
- ☐ Check local papers, social media for lost pet notices.
- ☐ Put up found pet signs with your phone number. If possible include a photo.
- ☐ Keep pet until owner is found, or find someone else who can keep it.

## When you find your pet

- ☐ May be difficult to catch. If you see your pet outdoors, it may be so frightened that it runs from you. Try catching it with a humane box trap. Use caution handling your pet as a scared or injured animal may bite or scratch.
- ☐ Examine pet for injuries and signs of dehydration or illness. Take it to the vet as soon as possible for a thorough exam.
- ☐ Expect an adjustment period. Allow your pet to readjust at its own pace. It may not eat much for a few days, or it may hide.
- ☐ Provide place for pet to hide and feel safe, such as a closet, but which is easily accessible to you. That will allow you to keep an eye on your pet to make sure it's healthy. It will also enable you to catch your pet quickly if you need to re-evacuate your home.
- ☐ Have patience. Comfort your pet but also give it time by itself. Patience and affection will help your animal cope with disruption and return to normal.

# Wildfire Planning for your Barn & Farm Checklist



Prepare your barn & farm. Develop specific plan of action for wildfire.

Assemble disaster kit. Keep supplies in covered waterproof containers in easily accessible spot. Include:

- ☐ Food and water for each animal for at least 3 days.
- ☐ Food and water for each human for 3 days.
- ☐ Animal first aid kit and first aid book.
- ☐ Leather or cotton halters and leads, collars, hog snares, hot shot etc. Blindfolds or bandanas. Nylon and synthetic materials can melt in fire and injure animals.
- ☐ Flashlight, weather radio plus extra batteries.
- ☐ Buckets for food and water.
- ☐ Basic firefighting supplies for spot fires – fire extinguishers, shovel, rake, long hoses, buckets, ladder, wheelbarrow.
- ☐ Identification photos and medical records for each animal (if possible).
- ☐ Rope, wire, wire cutters. Gloves. Wrenches for turning off gas and water valves. Other tools you may need
- ☐ Blankets or sheets.
- ☐ Change of clothes for humans (see dress for survival).

Post a diagram of your barns and property at each entrance and in all rooms within a barn. Information should include

- ☐ Emergency phone numbers
- ☐ All exits
- ☐ Shut-off points for water, gas and electricity
- ☐ Stored emergency supplies
- ☐ Firefighting equipment
- ☐ Safety zones
- ☐ Trailers

Water sources. Find or create several alternative water sources on your property. Use storage tanks and water troughs. Prepare way of obtaining water from running streams or springs.

## Good to Go Sunoll!: How to get ready, stay informed, evacuate and return from wildfire

### Reduce fire hazards in and around your barns.

- ☐ Enforce no smoking rules
- ☐ Store gas, paints, solvents and other flammables in separate area
- ☐ Store hay, straw, shavings and manure and wood away from barn.
- ☐ Clear vegetation for at least 50 feet. Prune overhanging trees.
- ☐ Clean gutters and roofs regularly.

Id animals with freeze marking, branding, tattoos, ear tags, microchips. Store copies of medical records, papers and photographs with emergency supplies.

Maintain trucks and trailers in good condition and make sure they're available at all times. Accustom your animals to lading and trailering quickly and calmly.

### Prepare your people.

- ☐ Familiarize all your people with emergency procedures and location of equipment. Hold disaster drills and practice procedures.
- ☐ Focus on how to handle animals in an emergency – particularly those with special needs (stallions, bulls, pregnant females etc.)
- ☐ Form a neighborhood group to watch out for each other. Teach neighbors about farm's procedures and animals and learn about theirs.
- ☐ Identify at least 2 escape routes from your farm. Some roads may be blocked.
- ☐ Consider buying gas generator to run water pumps and emergency equipment.
- ☐ Train in first aid and CPR.

Work with local fire department and sheriff's office to develop emergency plan. Ask for annual inspection of fire extinguishers and storage of combustibles.



More information on developing a plan for your barn and farm is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.

<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>.



# Action: Evacuating Large Animals Checklist



Preparing horses and other large animals for a wildfire evacuation requires an extra level of planning, preparedness and practice. If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.

- ☐ Ensure all animals have some form of identification. Spray paint or livestock crayon to write your name and phone number on side of animal. Braid temporary ID into horse's mane. Attach neck-band. Also have photos of brands and of you and your animal showing unique markings or tattoos.
- ☐ Evacuate animals EARLY whenever possible. Don't hesitate, fires move quickly. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- ☐ Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- ☐ Load evacuation kits in trailers and vehicles.
- ☐ Provide vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Provide experienced handlers and drivers for each trailer. Vehicle should be set up & tow trailer. Trailer maintained in road worthy condition and prepositioned to connect to vehicle. Practice loading your horse prior to evacuation.
- ☐ If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside. Let animals run loose have a better chance of finding safety.

See CAL FIRE for more information.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/5408/rmac-3-animal-evacuation.pdf>



## Animal Evacuation

### Wildland Fire Safety for Your Livestock and Pets

You've taken steps to keep your family and home fire safe. Don't forget your pets and livestock. With some advance planning you can increase their chances of surviving a wildland fire.

#### Livestock

- Clear defensible space around your barns, pastures and property just as you do your home. PRC 4291 requires clearance around all structures on your property.
- Plan ahead, know where you would evacuate the animals. Contact your local fairgrounds, stockyards, equestrian centers, friends etc. about their policies and ability to take livestock temporarily in an emergency. Have several evacuation routes in mind. If you don't have your own truck and trailer, make arrangements with local companies or neighbors before disaster strikes. Make sure your neighbors have your contact numbers (cell phone, work, home, etc.).
- Have vaccination/ medical records, registration papers and photographs of your animals (proof of ownership) and your Disaster Preparedness Kit.
- If you must leave your animals, leave them in a preselected, cleared area. Leave enough hay for 48 to 72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems. Power may be lost.
- **Do not wait until the last minute to start evacuating!**



#### Livestock Disaster Preparedness Kit

- Hay, feed and water for three days
- Non-nylon leads and halters
- First aid items
- Wire cutters and a sharp knife
- Hoof pick
- Leg wraps
- Shovel
- Water buckets
- Plastic trash barrel with a lid
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Flashlights



During a wildland fire, local animal rescue organizations work with law enforcement and fire departments to rescue as many animals as they can. In battling a wildfire, firefighters will do what they can but they are not responsible for evacuating your livestock. Firefighters may cut fences or open gates to free trapped animals.

# Action: Evacuating Horses

## Checklist

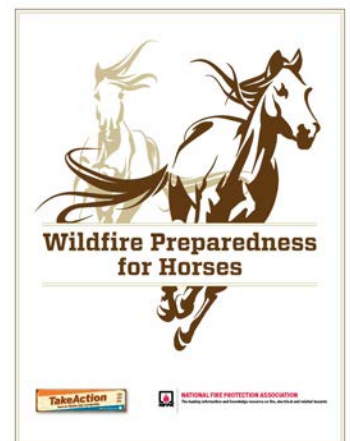


Building evacuation kits, and having a plan that has been practiced, increases the potential your horses will be able to leave when you do.

- ☐ Food and water. Hay and grain for 3 to 7 days (in airtight water proof container – rotate every few months. Water for 3 – 7 days. Feed and water buckets.
- ☐ Medications – your vet may be evacuated or office closed during wildfire. List of current medications and doses. If possible keep extra supply of medications (periodically check expirations and rotate as needed)
- ☐ Tack: Rope, halters, stud chains.
- ☐ Phone numbers: printed list of veterinarian, local animal control agencies, animal shelter, boarding facility, friends or relatives willing to temporarily board horse, neighbors in your buddy system network. Keep clipboard of important numbers in highly visible area in case others can provide assistance.
- ☐ First aid kit and animal first aid book. Cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, scissors, tweezers, duct tape, vet wraps, medical type gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution.
- ☐ Cleaning supplies: paper towels, trash bags, spray cleaner, disinfectants and hand sanitizer.
- ☐ Miscellaneous: dry shavings for stall, pitchfork, leather gloves and towels, grooming supplies, fly spray, fly masks, muzzle (if needed).

Store your kit – in dry location where temperature does not get too hot or below freezing. Make sure in quick access for vehicle loading.

In the cloud and in the kit: Records, microchip information, photos, vet records, current vaccination and health records for temporary boarding.



See <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Campaigns/TakeAction/TakeActionHorseChecklist.ashx> for a workbook.



## Action: If You Must Leave Livestock or Horses Behind Checklist



If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside.

Loose animals have a better chance of finding safety. Humane society recommends a minimum field size of 1-acre.

Reminder: firefighters may cut fences or open gates to free trapped animals so providing id on each animal is important.

- ☐ Do not enter barn that is already burning. Smoke inhalation can kill you. Blindfold animals if necessary. Put halters on animals and led to safe area out of burning barn.
- ☐ Remove any nylon material (halters, leads, fly masks etc.) before you turn animals loose, so they don't melt during fire's extreme temperatures or from embers.
- ☐ Close barn doors after removing animals. Otherwise they may try to return to barn and become trapped inside.
- ☐ If caught in open, go to bare or rocky area. Don't try to outrun a fire.
- ☐ Post a sign for recue workers noting the number and types of animals left and location of extra food. Include important contact numbers.
- ☐ Return to check on animals as soon as emergency personnel deem it safe.



# Recap - Everyone Goes!

*Wildfire preparedness for pets, large animals and livestock*

## Key concepts

### **Pet preparedness (4 Ps)**

*Just like for people there are 4 Ps for pets:*

- Prepare with go kits. Develop your own list and order of go.
- Plan for both go and stay: Develop buddy system. Talk to your vet and get contact numbers.
- Practice your plan.
- Participate with your neighbors. Stay informed

### **Pet evacuation**

Identification is critical, in case you and your pet get separated.

There are special considerations of travel for various types of pets.

Last resort is to leave your pet at home. Use the checklist of Dos and Don'ts.

After the fire use the checklist for keeping your pet safe. If you have lost or found pets use the checklist.

### **Large animal evacuation**

Develop specific plan of actions for wildfire. Assemble disaster kits. Post

diagram of property, water sources, and fire hazards. Be ready to go:

identification marks on animals; trucks, trailers and people ready to go.

Complete an assessment of whether to shelter or turn out if you must leave animals behind.

## *Module 5 - Going home!*

Tips for returning after a wildfire evacuation.

# 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](mailto:GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com)

Update 3/12/21

## *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 5 – Going Home!

What to expect after an evacuation.

### Topics

- Going home
- Outside and inside your home
- Cleaning up & health issues

### Actions

- *Going Home Checklist*
- *What to Look For Around Your Home Checklist*
- *Inspecting Your Home from the Outside Checklist*
- *Inside Your Home Checklist*
- *Going Home - Cleaning Up Checklist*
- *What's in Your Fridge Checklist*
- *Your Pets' Return Home After a Wildfire Checklist*
- *It's still smoky out.*
- *What to Expect to Find Group Exercise.*



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## Action: Going Home Checklist



*What to look for on your way home.*

Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility. Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Be ready to re-evacuate if necessary.

What to look for:

- ☐ Do not try to return home until fire officials say it's safe.
- ☐ Watch roads for downed power lines, fallen trees, brush, rocks and other debris.
- ☐ Use extreme caution around trees, power poles, and other tall objects. Most burned structures and surfaces will be unstable.
- ☐ Stay out of burned forests during windy conditions, as burned trees are easily downed by wind.
- ☐ Watch out for other hazards, such as:
  - Hot spots that can flare up. Wildfires may have left burning embers that could reignite.
  - Flash floods, if rainy season has started as you return home. Stay away from burned forests, storm channels, rivers, creeks, and engineered channels. Deadly flows of water and debris can occur after a wildfire. Be ready for further evacuations from flash floods.
- ☐ Be ready to re-evacuate if necessary.



## Action: What to Look for Around Your Home Checklist



Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire.  
Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Be ready to re-evacuate if necessary.

What to look for around your yard and outside of your home:

- ☐ Keep a “fire watch.” Look for smoke or sparks throughout the house and on rooftops (e.g., in gutters), etc. Check for embers in:

- Rain gutters
- On the roof
- Under overhangs
- Under decks and in crawl spaces
- In wood piles and debris piles

For several hours afterward, recheck for smoke and sparks throughout the home, including the attic. The winds of wildfires can blow burning embers anywhere. Keep checking your home for embers that could cause fires.

- ☐ Look for downed power lines around your home.
- ☐ Visually check for hazardous trees. Any tree that has been weakened by fire may be a hazard. Look for burns on the tree trunk. If the bark on the trunk has been burned off or scorched by very high temperatures completely around the circumference, the tree will not survive and should be considered unstable. Check hazardous trees at the roots and partially scorched trees.
- ☐ Be aware of potential hazardous materials. Take precautions while cleaning your property. You may be exposed to potential health risks from hazardous materials.
- ☐ For more detail on what to look for around your home see <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/post-wildfire/after-a-wildfire/>.

## Action: Inspecting Your Home from the Outside Checklist



Check the outside of home before you enter.

- ☐ Check for the smell of gas and check for damage to gas meter or lines that enter your house. If there is any visible damage do not attempt to repair. Call PG&E.
- ☐ Look for downed electric wires and electric meter.
  - If there is any visible damage or downed wires call PG&E. Stay clear of all electric wires on the ground.
  - If power is on, turn off at main until you've completed your inspection of inside the house. Use a battery-powered flashlight to inspect a damaged home.
- ☐ If you have a solar electrical system, this system should be inspected by a licensed technician to verify that the solar panels and electrical wiring are safe for continued operation.
- ☐ If you have a propane tank or system, contact a propane supplier, turn off valves on the system, and leave valves closed until the supplier inspects your system. If you have a heating oil tank system, contact a heating oil supplier for an inspection of your system before you use it
- ☐ Watch for hazards:
  - Slip, trip and fall hazards
  - Detect or suspect any source of heat or smoke, notify fire department immediately.
  - Sharp objects such as metal pieces, concrete, wood, nails.
  - Ash, soot, demolition dust
  - Hazardous materials - Workplace chemicals, kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, pesticides, paint, batteries, fuel containers that have been partially damaged or destroyed.
  - Propane cylinders for heating or BBQ.





## Action: Inside Your Home Checklist



Use caution as you enter your home. Complete the checklist for outside of your home before you enter.

- ☐ Use a battery-powered flashlight to inspect a damaged home. (Note: the flashlight should be turned on outside before entering. The battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.)
- ☐ Check for embers in the attic and other vented spaces.
- ☐ Turn off all appliances before turning on main circuit breaker. Do not use appliances that have been in contact with fire water or fire retardant until they have been checked and cleared for use by a qualified electrician.
- ☐ Do not drink or use water from the faucet until emergency officials say it is okay; water supply systems can be damaged and become polluted during wildfires or as a result of subsequent post-fire flooding.
  - Do not use water that you think may be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, or to make ice or baby formula or give to your pets/ animals.
  - If your well has been damaged by fire, contact a local licensed and bonded well constructor or pump installer to determine the extent of the damage and what must be done to either repair or decommission the well.
  - Flush all water using fixtures by running the tap for 5 minutes (or longer if service connection is long).
- ☐ Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot. Before you dispose of items, make sure you inventory them as part of fire insurance claim. Take lots of photos.
- ☐ Discard medicines, cleaners, cosmetics and toiletries that could have been damaged by heat, smoke and lingering chemical residues.
- ☐ Dispose of hazardous materials. Cleaning products, paint, batteries and damaged fuel containers need to be disposed of properly to avoid risk.

## Action: Going home – Cleaning up Checklist



If your home was spared but was exposed to extreme heat and smoke, United policyholders (UP) offers specialized guidance on insurance claim issues related to [proper cleaning, inspecting for damage](#), restoring healthy [indoor air quality](#) and repairing obvious as well as hidden damage.

Follow public health guidance on clean up.

- ☐ Wear protective clothing:
  - Use a two-strap dust particulate mask with nose clip and coveralls for the best minimal protection.
  - Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects while removing debris.
  - Wear rubber gloves when working with outhouse remnants, plumbing fixtures, and sewer piping. They can contain high levels of bacteria.
- ☐ Determine if your home's air quality is safe to move back into. Heavy smoke, nearby flames and extreme heat can impact a home's air quality and create health hazards that you may not be able to see or smell.
  - Be cautious about moving back in.
  - Qualified health and environmental safety experts can help you determine whether it is safe to move back into your home.
  - See UP Insurance guideline about communicating with insurer and request they cover costs.
- ☐ Create inventory of items, both inside and outside that have been damaged by fire, smoke, chemicals, soot, ash, water or fire retardant.
- ☐ Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes. There are applications available to time stamp photos, which is beneficial for insurance claims.
- ☐ Don't throw away anything that has been damaged until the inventory is made by the insurance adjustor.
- ☐ Contact your insurance company early and work with adjusters. See United policy holders" Roadmap to Recovery" resources for tips. <https://www.uphelp.org/>

# What's in Your Fridge Checklist

## Food safety after a PSPS



A power outage of 2 hours or less is usually not considered hazardous to food stored under safe conditions when outage begins. University of California, Davis offers suggestions on food safety. For more detail see "Guidelines for Food Safety During Short Term Power outages Consumer Fact Sheet"

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/7264.pdf>.

- ☐ Power outage and "perishable" foods
  - Less than 2 hours generally OK
  - Unopened full freezer 2 days
  - Unopened refrigerator 4 hours
  - Temperature danger zone 40° to 140°F
- ☐ Partially cooked meat and poultry are safety risk.
- ☐ Cooked foods – serve as soon as possible. Do not keep leftovers from more than 2 hours.
- ☐ Uncut fresh fruits and vegetables generally not a concern. Consider cut food "perishable."

**Guidelines for Food Safety During Short-Term Power Outages**  
**Consumer Fact Sheet**

LINDA J. HARRIS  
Specialist in Microbial Food Safety, Department of Food Science and Technology  
University of California, Davis

All Californians now and then experience random, unplanned power outages. These power outages are commonly known as blackouts.

Certain foods are a safety concern during a blackout. Moist, perishable foods need special handling. Bacteria can grow quickly when these foods are kept in the temperature danger zone (40° to 140°F, or 4° to 60°C).

A power outage of 2 hours or less is not considered hazardous to food that is stored under safe conditions when the outage begins. For blackouts of more than 2 hours, please consult publications that specifically deal with longer power outages (see "For More Information," below).

**FROZEN FOODS**  
Keep the freezer door closed. A full freezer will stay at freezing temperatures for about 2 days. Short power outages should not affect the safety of frozen foods. Make sure the freezer turns on when the power is restored.

**REFRIGERATED FOODS**  
Return cold, perishable foods that might be at room temperature to the refrigerator as quickly as possible when the power goes out. Keep the refrigerator door closed as much as possible during the outage.

In general, cold foods kept in a refrigerator should be safe during power outages of less than 4 hours. Make sure the refrigerator turns on when the power is restored.

**FOODS IN PREPARATION DURING A POWER OUTAGE**  
When the power goes out, make sure you turn off heat-producing appliances like electric stoves. This will prevent fires if the appliances are unattended when the power is restored.

Partially cooked meat and poultry can be a food safety risk during a power outage. If you are using an electric cooking appliance during an outage and the meat is not fully cooked, you have two options.

1. Continue cooking on an outdoor grill or camp stove. Cook until the meat and poultry reaches a safe internal temperature (see the table below).

Cook leftovers to an internal temperature of at least 165°F (74°C). Always use a thermometer to measure the temperature.

OR

2. Throw away the partially cooked meat or poultry.

**Partially cooked combination foods (e.g., casseroles)** should be cooled quickly on ice or in an ice and water bath. When power is restored, heat the food to at least 165°F (74°C). If this is not possible and the power outage is longer than 1 hour, throw the food items away. This is especially important if the ingredients were raw before they were combined.

**Completely cooked foods.** Serve completely cooked foods as soon as possible. Do not place warm leftovers in the refrigerator when the power is out. Instead, if possible, chill leftover foods using ice or an ice and water bath. Place these foods in the refrigerator after power is restored. Leftovers kept in the danger zone (40° to 140°F, or 4° to 60°C) for longer than 2 hours should be thrown away.

**Cooking Temperatures**  
Recommended by the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline

Temperature	°F	°C	Product
145	63	beef, lamb, and veal steaks and roasts, medium rare	
160	71	beef, lamb, and veal steaks and roasts, medium	
160	71	ground meats (beef, pork, veal, and lamb)	
165	74	pork chops, ribs, and roasts	
165	74	"egg dishes"	
165	74	ground turkey and chicken	
165	74	stuffing and casseroles	
165	74	hot dogs	
170	77	chicken and turkey breasts	
180	82	chicken and turkey (whole bird, legs, thighs and wings)	

To contact the Hotline, see "For More Information," on next page.

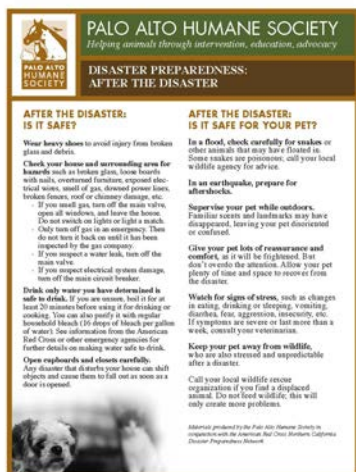
University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Publication 7264

# Action: Your Pets' Return Home After a Wildfire Checklist?



For more information about your pets and evacuation see Module 4.

- ☐ Check your house and surrounding area for hazards. Wear heavy shoes to avoid injury. Do not let your pet out until everything is cleared.
- ☐ Supervise your pet while outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may have disappeared, leaving your pet disoriented or confused.
- ☐ Drink only water you have determined is safe to drink. If unsure boil for at least 20 minutes before using for your pet's drinking (or yours). You can also purify with regular household bleach -16 drops of bleach per gallon.
- ☐ Inside house open closets and cupboards carefully to make sure contents have not shifted.
- ☐ Keep pets away from wildlife who are also stressed and unpredictable after a disaster. Call your local wildlife rescue organization if you find a displaced animal. Do not feed wildlife; this will only create more problems.
- ☐ Give your pet lots of reassurance and comforts, as it will be frightened. But don't overdo the attention. Allow your pet plenty of time and space to recover from the disaster.
- ☐ Watch for signs of stress – changes in eating, drinking or sleeping, vomiting, diarrhea, fear, aggression, insecurity etc. If symptoms are severe or last more than a week, consult your vet.



More information on returning home with animals is available at the Palo Alto Humane Society.

<https://www.paloaltohumane.org/education-programs/disaster-preparedness/>



## It's Still Smoky Out Checklist.

Wildfire smoke affects health in many ways. If you see or smell smoke in the immediate area, limit or avoid outdoor activity, including exercise. This particularly applies to young children and older adults, people with breathing or heart issues, such as asthma, and pregnant individuals.

The greatest hazard comes from breathing fine particles in the air, which can reduce lung function, worsen asthma and other existing heart and lung conditions, and cause coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing.

For the latest recommendations see <http://www.acphd.org/air-quality.aspx>

### Stay Indoors

- ☐ Stay indoors with windows and doors closed, where air quality is better.
- ☐ Go to a library or mall (check if they are open).
- ☐ Visit an air-cooling center.

**If you must work outdoors** see CAL/ OSHA for tips on protecting workers exposed to smoke from wildfires <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/wildfire/worker-protection-from-wildfire-smoke.html>

### Protect indoors air

- ☐ Keep indoor air cool. (Tip: If you have an electronic filter on your furnace or air conditioning, set system to re-circulate to prevent drawing in smoky air.)
- ☐ Set car vents on re-circulate to prevent drawing in smoky outside air.
- ☐ Close and seal windows and doors.
- ☐ Avoid adding toxins to the air. (Tip: Avoid hair spray, paint, or frying foods see <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/indoor-air-pollution-cooking>).

### Protect your health

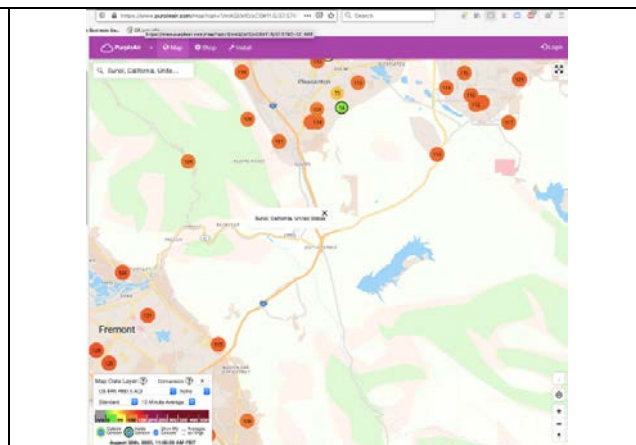
- ☐ Stay hydrated by drinking water.
- ☐ Use an air purifier with a HEPA filter.
- ☐ Limit or avoid outdoor recreational and sports activities. Or lower the intensity of your workout.
- ☐ If possible, leave the affected area for the duration heavy smoke.
- ☐ If you must go outside, consider an N95 mask.

### Stay informed

- ☐ Track fire conditions (see Module 1 – Situational Awareness).

### Monitor the air quality on a regular basis.

When the air quality PM2.5 reading is above 150, it is recommended to stop outdoor activities. If you can, wait for a time when the air quality has improved. "PM 2.5" refers to the fine particulate matter 2.5 micrometers, or smaller, that can be inhaled into the deepest part of the lungs.



<https://www.airnow.gov/>

**Air Now** is the Environmental Protection Agency website that allows you to enter your zip code for air quality in your area. You also can see recent trends, as well as a forecast for the next few days.

Tip: Pay attention to the time the air quality was posted. It can be up to 59 minutes old (or more). A lot could have changed

<https://www.purpleair.com/map?opt=1/mAQI/a10/cC0#1/8.6/-30>

**Purple Air** is a commercial company. Their website shows the location of sensors belonging to their subscribers around the world. You can enter your zip code for sensors near you. There are a few sensors in the Sunol area (Palomares and Castlewood). Look at the wider area and not just one sensor.

Tip: Be sure to view only outdoor sensors. Click off the "inside sensors" in the box in the lower left corner.

### Concerned about your animals?

American Veterinary Medical Association has tips for signs to watch for and how to protect your pets and livestock from smoke.

<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/emergencycare/wildfire-smoke-and-animals>







## What to Expect to Find

### Group Exercise

Discuss what you and your family would do in the following scenarios. What traps would you have to watch out for?

Scenario 1. Going home you find official personnel or a notice that says the area is not safe .... What do you do?

Scenario 2. Going home you find your way blocked by a downed tree branch .... What do you do?

Scenario 3 – Going home you find your way blocked by a downed line. Whether it is a power line or communication line – you are not sure .... What do you do?

Scenario 4 . You get home only to find a down tree has smashed your second car .... What do you do?

Scenario 5. You get home only to find your wood pile is smoldering .... What do you do?

Scenario 6. You get home only to find a tree blocking your front door .... What do you do?

Scenario 7. You get home only to find you have no electricity .... What do you do?

Scenario 8. You get home unsure if you should go in? .... What do you do?

Scenario 9. You get in your home and you aren't sure if there was smoke or heat damage .... What do you do?

Scenario 10. You get in your home and everyone is upset (even your pets) .... What do you do?

#### Hints:

- Fire officials need to determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Before you move branches and other debris in the road or against your house, check for down power lines and other hazardous
- Not sure if the downed line is for power or communication. If unsure don't touch. Call 911 to report. Also report to PG&E. If you can safely drive around the line proceed on home.
- Call your insurer before you clean up or move any damaged insured items (homes, cars, etc.)
- For several hours after your return keep a "fire watch" for smoke, sparks or smoldering materials.
- Be ready to re-evacuate if necessary.
- If you suspect damage have PG&E inspect your equipment before turning back on your power.
- Take your time returning home. Inspect outside of your home before you enter.
- Talk to experts about inspecting for damage and proper cleaning. Follow public health guidance.
- Everyone needs lots of reassurance and comforts when they return home after a fire.

# Recap - Going Home!

*What to expect after an evacuation.*

## Key concepts

### Going home

Don't be in a hurry to get back home.

Make sure everything is safe each step of the way.

Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility. Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Be ready to re-evacuate if necessary.

### Outside and inside your home

Check the outside of home before you enter. Visually check for hazardous from downed powerlines, hazardous trees and hazardous materials. Check for the smell of gas. Turn off electrical power until you have completed your inspection of inside the house. Use a battery powered flashlight to inspect your home.

Keep a "fire watch." Look for smoke or sparks around and through out the house and on rooftops.

### Cleaning up, health issues, your pets & continuing smoke from wildfires

Follow public health guidance on clean up. United policyholders (UP) offers specialized guidance on insurance claim issues. Discard food, medicines, cleaners, cosmetics and toiletries that could have be damaged by heat, smoke and lingering chemical residues

Supervise your pet while outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may have disappeared, leaving your pet disoriented or confused.

When it remains smoky out, revisit the resources to stay safe from the smoke from nearby wildfires. Monitor the air quality before going outside.



# 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.*

# 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*



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

# 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.



Good to Go Sunol Just in Time! *Last minute tips to evacuate from wildfire.*

# 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

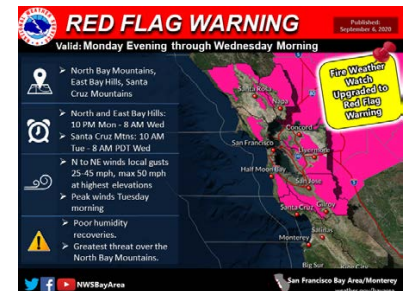
National Weather Service monitors for critical weather that may result in fires that will be difficult to control. Local media outlets and warning systems, such as Nixel and AC Alert, typically announce notifications when they are issued.

#### **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) 

#### 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.



Public Safety  
Power Shutoff

## 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.

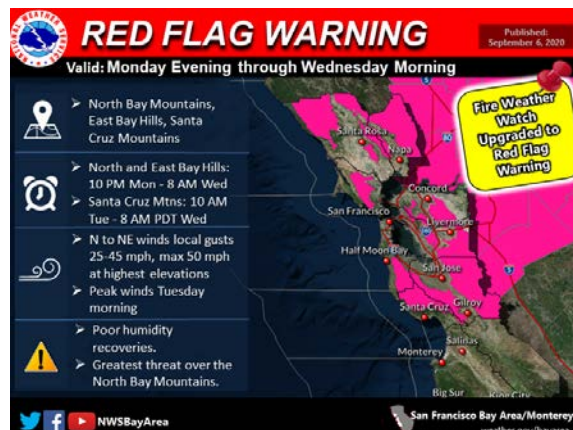
Ensure phones are charged & receiving messages.

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 #3: What to do during an Evacuation Warning



**Be ready to leave at any moment.**

Prepare your family for a potential Evacuation Order.

Typically, Evacuation Warnings are given up to 2 hours before an Evacuation Order.

Review what you will need to do if there is an Evacuation Order. If there wasn't a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, review those checklists too.

Dress for survival in protective personal clothing to avoid injury from smoke, sparks, embers and extreme heat.

Review your Go Bag and Got to Go! checklist.

See **Module 2 – Set to go!** What to take when you go for more details on personal protective clothing and go bags.

Preload your car and park it facing the street (in driveway or with garage door open).

If you have pets and animals take actions now. You may not be able to catch and transport them later. Consider moving them before evacuation is ordered.

Continue to monitor information sources for local fire and emergency information and evacuation notifications, including: TV, phones, radio, and social media. Be sure you are signed up for AC Alert. Confirm the status of warning by visiting official websites or official social media.



Once you are ready for an **Evacuation Order**:

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.

Good to Go Sunol Just in Time! *Last minute tips to evacuate from wildfire.*

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/>