

EMERGENCY Evacuation Notification HOW TO BE PREPARED

HOW TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS OF EMERGENCIES

Placer County uses Placer Alert, a notification system that reaches your cell phone; text and voice, home phone, and email. Placer County also uses several media platforms such as Facebook and Nextdoor to provide emergency information.

- A. To receive notifications from Placer Alert you must be signed up. Simply either google “Placer Alert” or go to: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2426/Placer-Alert>
- B. When you sign up you will be prompted to provide your location and ways to be contacted. You can request to receive notifications for up to five locations within Placer County which means you can choose locations of family and friends within the County. Any personal information you submit remains confidential with the Placer County Sheriff’s Office and is used only for emergency notification.

NOTIFICATIONS INCLUDE ALL TYPES OF EMERGENCIES

You will receive notifications that may pose threat to life, health, and the safety of your community. These may include: severe weather events, hazardous material emergencies, wildfire, evacuation procedures, and law enforcement activity.

EVACUATION NOTICES – WHAT THEY MEAN

- A. **EVACUATION ORDER:** Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to **leave now**, do not hesitate, leave.
- B. **EVACUATION WARNING:** Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now, **prepare to leave at a moment’s notice**.
- C. **SHELTER IN PLACE:** Go indoors. Shut and lock the doors and windows. **Prepare to self-sustain** until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

LISTEN FOR DIRECTIONS

You may be given directions as to where to go and what routes to take for evacuation. Listen for directions - it will assist you in successful travel safely out of the area and avoid a dangerous situation.

Many communities provide only one-way-in and one-way-out. This can impact evacuation travel severely. Plan ahead and evacuate upon notification of an **Evacuation Warning**. Don’t wait for an Order to Evacuate which is likely to cause congestion.

CONSIDER THIS PLAN:

- Pack one vehicle with essentials (see the Ready, Set, Go checklist attached). One individual from the household should evacuate with the packed vehicle upon notification of a **Warning**.
- Other household members can perform last-minute home preparation and gather additional items and evacuate in a separate vehicle when complete or when an **Evacuation Order** is given.

LAST-MINUTE HOME PREPARATION DURING EVACUATION

- Shut all windows and doors, turn off air conditioning, and close garage door after your vehicle has exited.
- Remove combustible items away from the house such as patio furniture, door mats, etc. Put them in the house, in the pool, or 30 or more feet away from the house.
- If you have time, shut off propane at the valve close to the house and at the tank.
- **DO NOT** run outside water sprinklers or water features, this can waste critical water supply for firefighting resources.
- Tag your front door that you have evacuated. This will assist Law Enforcement with evacuation duties (once an evacuation is ordered, Law Enforcement will ensure security at all evacuated locations).
- As you depart check your neighbors, if they need assistance and time and conditions allow, help them.
- When evacuating be aware of the surrounding conditions, don't panic, follow instructions if you are given directions

READY, SET, GO -Preparation is Key

Preparation and planning is the key to surviving a wildfire and should be done before you hear of, see, or are notified of a wildfire.

- You may want to taken an inventory of your home by taking photos or video of items within the home. Keep such photos and video in your "go bag".
- Save important documents, collectables, and non-replaceable items in an off-site location away from your home, such as a safe deposit box or at a friend or relatives home.
- Evaluate what items you would take and what you would leave if you had 10 minutes to evacuate. How would you prepare these items beforehand and have them "ready-to-go".
- If you have large animals or many animals, research options beforehand; means of transport, feeding supplies, time it takes to load and go, and locations to evacuate animals to.
- Consider options if you or a family member have physical limitations
- Have a To Go Bag (s) packed & ready to go. Items in the bag are critical for your health & immediate comfort. Each person of your family should have a bag of their own.
- Pack documents, passports, birth certificates, trusts, banking info, cash, etc. Although you may have these items scanned digitally they should be saved during your evacuation.
- Identify what cell phones, laptops and chargers, thumb drives, etc.
- Identify clothing to bring for an extended period of time – consider any changes in weather.
- Vehicle(s) should be ready to go at a moment's notice with adequate fuel
- Have a list of neighbors and their contact information.

Monitor radio and TV as well as social media such as Placer Alert, NextDoor, Facebook, Yubanet, WatchDuty , and Facebook for situation information. Some local resources for information include, Yubanet, Watch Duty

Preparing throughout the year is essential using FIREWISE materials and guides as found here:
[NFPA - Firewise USA®](#)

PRACTICE 'THE PLAN'

It is critical that all family members know “the plan” and what to do in case of an emergency that may require evacuation.

- Have “To Go Bag(s)” readily available and everyone knows what to do and what to take.
- Plan for different scenarios; everyone at home, one individual at home, “get out now”, 30 minutes to get out, an hour or more to get out, etc.
- In the event of an emergency such as a wildfire, emergency resources may be extremely limited in mitigating the situation. Don't rely solely on these resources. They depend on you being prepared and knowing what to do.

MORE PREPARATION IS A PLUS

Address signs are of major importance during an emergency. It is highly recommended the “green” metal sign with “white” reflective numbers attached to a metal post be used for your home. This ensures that:

- Emergency responders can find your home
- Fire resources can identify potential threats to homes such as in a wildfire
- Law Enforcement personnel can identify homes in evacuation areas and can provide security
- When an evacuation has been lifted homes can be identified to be re-populated
- In the event homes are destroyed by wildfire, many times these metal address signs remain untouched and can be quickly identified

Personal preparation for wildfire

Wildfire can strike at any time and can intensify in a matter of minutes putting you and your home in great danger. We pretty much know the time of year and conditions when wildfires cause catastrophic results. Hot dry winds, low humidity, and high temperatures are all signs to be on the “alert” for potential wildfire conditions.

Preparing and planning tools can be found in The **Ready, Set, Go** program.

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/ready-set-go/>

Ready, will identify areas that you can do around your home to create and maintain defensible space and harden your home against flying embers from wildfire.

Set, will prepare yourself and your home for the possibility of having to evacuate. Getting set requires three main preparation actions that should be completed and familiar to all members of your household long in advance of a wildfire.

1. Create a Wildfire Action Plan that includes evacuation planning
2. Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit for each person in your household.
3. Fill-out a Family Communication Plan that includes important information

Go, will show how to give your household the best chance of surviving a wildfire in being ready to go and evacuating early. Being ready to go also means knowing when to evacuate and how to do it safely.

READY, SET, GO!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

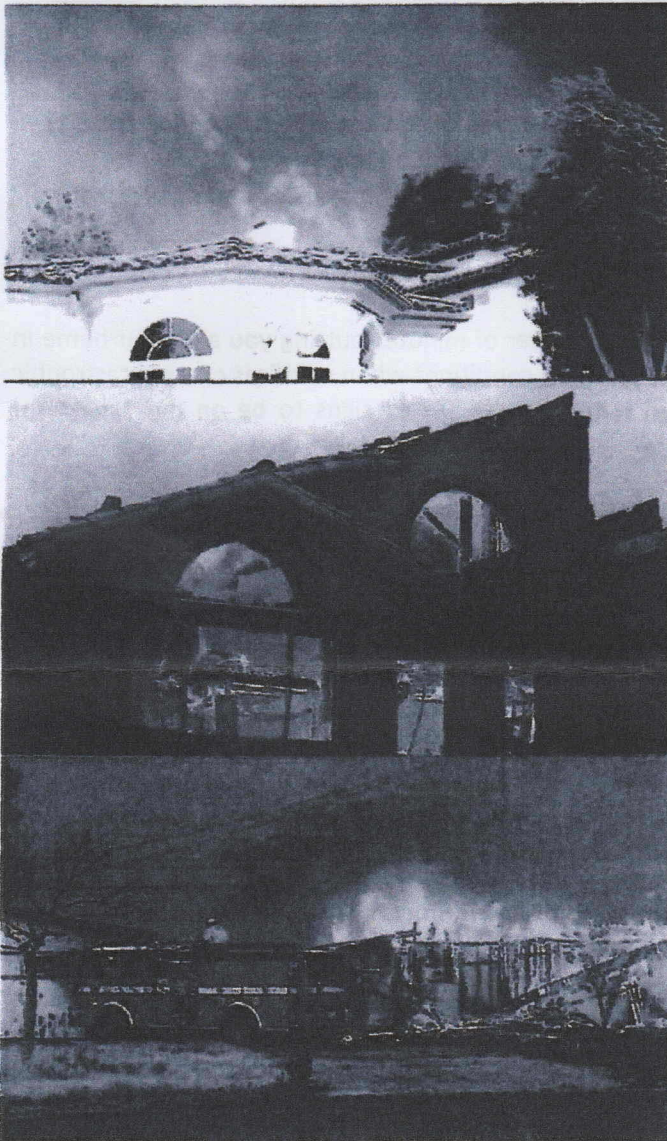
Now that you've done everything you can to protect your house, it's time to prepare your family. Your **Wildfire Action Plan** must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire.

Use these checklists to help you prepare your Wildfire Action Plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation.

Once you finish your plan, practice it regularly with your family and keep it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.

GET READY

Prepare Your Family



- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communication plans and practice it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

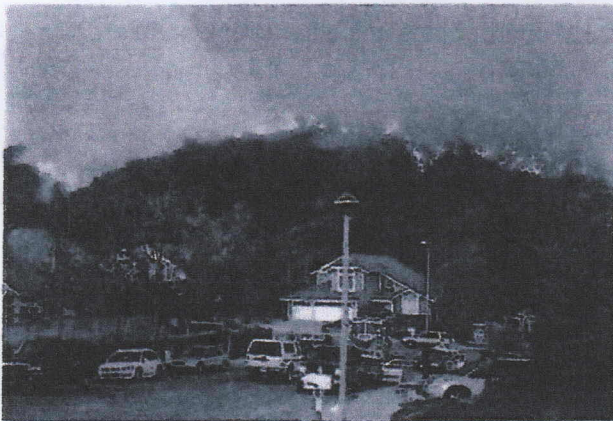
GET SET

As the Fire Approaches

- Evacuate as soon as you are set!
- Alert family and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department Web site.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

INSIDE CHECKLIST

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.



OUTSIDE CHECKLIST

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers don't destroy them.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.
- If there are fires that you can not extinguish with a small amount of water or in a short period of time, call 9-1-1.