



GET PREPARED

GET READY

The first thing you must do is make a list of important items (things that cannot be left behind)

- Medications, Prescriptions, eyeglasses
- Important documents, (birth certificates, tax records)
- Photos, art, jewelry and other important mementos
- Pets, pet food, leash and pet carrier(s)
- Computers or back up disks (*external USB hard drives large enough to copy or back up most people's entire computer. This is an easy way to keep a portable back up of your data - particularly if you do your banking on your computer.*)

BEFORE YOU GO (IF TIME PERMITS)

- Close all windows and doors (inside and out)
- Shut off air conditioners and heating units
- Move furniture, curtains and draperies away from windows
- Disconnect motors on automatic gates and leave open and unlocked
- Fill trash cans and buckets with water, leave around exterior of house
- Soak rags, towels and small rugs in water to help extinguish small embers
- Attach garden hoses to spigots outside
- Place a ladder against the house on the opposite side from where the fire is approaching.
- Apply plywood over eave vents, subfloor vents, roof vents and windows.
- Turn all the lights on in your home (this will make your house more visible to firefighters in dense smoke.)
- Remove combustible fencing that leads to structures. (This can act as a wick if your home has good clearance otherwise.)

GET GOING

- Review your special needs plan – does a neighbor need assistance? Are your pets ready to go?
- Close your garage door behind you.
- Leave all access gates open.
- Can you carpool with a neighbor to reduce cars on the road?
- Drive safely and cautiously.
- Keep headlights on and windows rolled up.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Heavy smoke.
Flying embers and fire brands.
Extremely heavy traffic.
Panicked drivers.
Abandoned vehicles.

TRAPPED! WHAT TO DO

If you absolutely cannot evacuate here are some things to do to optimize your survival.

AT HOME

- Stay inside your home, it's safer than being outside or in a vehicle. As hot as it gets inside your home, it is MANY times hotter outside!
- Close all interior and exterior doors, leaving them unlocked (including garage door *after* putting the car inside!)
- Stay CALM, and initiate contact with your out-of state relative.
- Call your local emergency number (i.e. 911) and inform the dispatcher that you cannot evacuate.
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water.
- Shelter in rooms opposite the approaching fire.
- Stay away from perimeter walls.
- Stay as calm as you can and keep your family together.

IN YOUR CAR

- Try to drive to an area clear of vegetation, away from wires and trees.
- Close all windows and keep doors unlocked.
- Turn on the A/C in "recirculation" or "max" mode.
- Lie on or as low to the floor as possible.
- Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket.
- Attempt to call your local emergency number (i.e. 911) and inform the dispatcher that you are trapped and where you are.
- Wait for the front to pass.

Keep in mind that there WILL be smoke in your vehicle. After the fire passes, if you see flames in your vehicle, wrap yourself in clothing/blanket and exit the vehicle.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OUT RUN A WILD FIRE.