

Evacuation Readiness

Are YOU Prepared?

Here are some things you can do to greatly help your home's survivability during a wildfire threat. You can do these in stages, as illustrated below. These tasks are all simple enough that they can be done in a relatively short period of time.

The following items are things you can do within a few days with very little cost to the homeowner. You can do these tasks even if there is not an active wildfire in your area. In fact, it would be helpful if you did!

- ❑ Remove needles and leaves from your home's roof and rain gutters. These can ignite easily and quickly spread fire into your home.
- ❑ Rake and remove flammable debris (dead grass, pine or fir needles, leaves, etc.) from around your home and out buildings. Pile this material at least 30 feet away from your home.
- ❑ Remove flammable materials from around wooden decks or walkways. Fire can slowly burn the length of a deck or porch and ignite a home.
- ❑ Move all firewood at least 30 feet away from your home. Dry woodpiles can ignite easily and spread fire to your home.
- ❑ If you have a wooden fence attached to your house, remove any sections connected to the house to reduce the risk of the fence acting as a wick and bringing fire to your house.
- ❑ Move flammable deck furniture a safe distance away from your house (30 feet).
- ❑ Cover all vents (roof or foundation) with a fine mesh screen (1/8th inch or less) to prevent sparks or embers from being blown in or under your home.
- ❑ Remove flammable materials from around any propane, oil, or fuel tanks.



Are YOU Prepared? (continued)

These tasks are intended as preparation, perhaps when a wildfire is burning nearby and there may be potential for evacuation. They are precautionary items, which may save you some time:

- ❑ Make a kit that includes:
 - At least a three-day supply of drinking water and food that does not require refrigeration, or generally does not need cooking. If your house survives, you may be without power or water.
 - First aid supplies, portable radio, flashlight and batteries, small cooking equipment, and a change of clothes.
 - A list of valuables to take with you in case of evacuation. If possible, store these valuables together to save time later. Consider items like legal documents, mementos, pictures, etc.
- ❑ Pre-plan an escape route from your home and neighborhood. Designate an emergency meeting place for the reunion of family members leaving in separate vehicles, and establish a contact point to communicate with relatives.
- ❑ Practice a planned emergency exit drill.
- ❑ Contact a friend or relative and relay your plans.
- ❑ Place firefighting tools, such as 100 feet of pre-connected garden hose, a shovel, a rake, a bucket, and containers filled with water, in an accessible place.

If your home is threatened by wildfire, you will be contacted and advised by law enforcement officers to evacuate. Listen carefully to the instructions given by emergency personnel. If you have time, complete these tasks but only if it is safe to do so:

- ❑ Take your evacuation kit - remember to take water, food, first aid supplies, and small valuables.
- ❑ Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter.
- ❑ Close garage doors, but leave unlocked. Disconnect electric garage door opener so that the door can be opened manually.
- ❑ Close all interior and exterior doors and windows.
- ❑ Shut off ventilation/air conditioning systems.
- ❑ Turn off all pilot lights.
- ❑ Remove lightweight and/or non-fire resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows.
- ❑ Leave a light on in at least one room. Turn on exterior yard lights.
- ❑ If you have livestock, open all gates so animals will not be trapped.
- ❑ Prop a ladder against the house so firefighters have easy access to the roof.
- ❑ Gather your pets and belongings and leave.

STAY CALM!

Your safety is top priority

These small tasks can greatly increase the chance of your home surviving when a wildfire threatens. Please take the time - **YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.**

For more information, visit www.firewise.org