



WHAT TO DO WHEN AUTHORITIES ORDER YOU TO EVACUATE DURING A WILDFIRE



If the danger of wildfire is imminent, local authorities may issue an evacuation notice to alert residents that a fire is nearby and it is important to leave the area. Evacuation orders vary by state and community and may range from voluntary to mandatory. When authorities issue a mandatory evacuation notice, leave the area immediately. Know your evacuation routes; plan your transportation and a place to stay.

To ensure you will be able to act quickly should you need to evacuate, you need to plan ahead:

- Know your community's local evacuation plan and identify several escape routes for your location in case roads are blocked; include plans to evacuate people with disabilities and others with access or functional needs, as well as pets, service animals, and livestock. Shelters will accept also service animals.
- If you will evacuate by car, keep your car fueled and in good condition. Keep emergency supplies and a change of clothes in your car.
- Store supplies so you can grab them quickly if you need to evacuate; know in advance what else you will need to take. Take time now to make a list of the things you would need or want to take with you if you had to leave your home quickly. Store the basic emergency supplies in a "Go Bag" or other container and be ready to grab other essential items quickly before leaving. Remember to include specialized items for people with disabilities and others with access or functional needs, such as older adults, children, and those with Limited English Proficiency.
- When making your list, consider the **Five Ps of Evacuation**:
 1. **People**—and if safely possible, pets and other animals/livestock.

2. **Prescriptions**---with dosages, medicines, medical equipment, eye glasses and hearing aids.
3. **Papers**---including hard copies and/or electronic copies saved on external hard drives.
4. **Personal Needs**---such as clothes, food, water, first aid kit, cash, phones and chargers.
5. **Priceless items**---including pictures, irreplaceable mementos and other valuables.

While your safety and your family's safety are most important, there are things you can do before evacuating that can help firefighters. **If there is time before you need to evacuate, do the following:**

- Turn on lights outside and in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.
- Close all windows, vents, doors, and fireplace screens. This will help reduce drafts in the home and reduce radiant heat.
- Disconnect automatic garage door openers so doors can be opened by hand if you lose power.
- Move flammable furniture, including outdoor furniture, into the center of the home away from windows and sliding glass doors. Remove flammable curtains and window treatments.
- Connect garden hoses. Fill garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water. Shut off natural gas from the source, and move propane or fuel oil supplies away from the house.
- Follow any additional guidance provided by local authorities. –

When driving away from a fire:

- Roll up windows and close air vents because smoke from a fire can irritate your eyes and respiratory system.
- Drive slowly with your headlights on because smoke can reduce visibility.
- Watch for other vehicles, pedestrians, and fleeing animals.
- Avoid driving through heavy smoke, if possible.

For more details, visit [Ready Set Go](#).