

Emergency Preparedness Tips

Wildfire Safety

During a Fire:

- Get everyone, including your pets, out of the building quickly and safely. Once you are outside, stay out of the building.
- Do not open any door without first testing it from bottom to top with the back of your hand to see if the door is hot. If it is hot, do not open the door. Get out another way if possible.
- If the room or hallway is already filled with smoke, cover your mouth and crawl on your hands and knees under the smoke. Heat rises, so cleaner air will be near the floor.
- Cover your head and shoulders with a wet towel or blanket to help protect you from smoke or flying embers.
- Once outside, do not re-enter the building. Call the fire department (911) from the nearest phone. You do not need coins to call 911 from a pay phone. From your cell phone, in Oakland, call 510-444-1616.
- If your clothes catch on fire, Stop, Drop and Roll until the flames are extinguished. Cover your face with your hands as you roll. Remove clothing and jewelry immediately and cool burned skin with cool water. Seek medical attention.

If A Fast-Moving Fire Threatens Your Home, Prepare to Evacuate:

- Listen to emergency broadcast radio stations KCBS, 740 AM; KNBR, 680 AM; or KGO, 810 AM for updates on the fire's direction and the safest escape routes.
- Locate the map with your primary evacuation routes already highlighted. Having your map ready is especially important in areas where roads can be difficult to find and follow.
- Identify several evacuation routes going in different directions away from your neighborhood. Your route might include hiking trails, bicycle paths, or gates through a neighbor's yard.
- Move your car off the street so that you don't block emergency vehicles.
- Park with the front of the car facing the street for a quick escape. Shut the doors and roll up the windows.
- Begin assembling your irreplaceable possessions (e.g., photo albums, original art, medications, address book, vital documents). Choose these items ahead of time.
- Confine your pets so they don't run away and so that you can bring them with you if you need to leave quickly.
- Arrange temporary housing at a friend's or relative's home outside the threatened area.
- Go to one of the predetermined places near your home and wait to meet your family.
- If the roads out of your neighborhood become impassable due to abandoned vehicles or the approaching fire, evacuate on foot or bicycle using trails.

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Before Leaving Your House (only If time permits):

- Shut-off utilities.
- Close windows, vents and doors.
- Remove flammable window coverings and move other flammable items away from the windows into the center of the room.
- Open the fireplace damper, and close the screen.
- Let people know you are okay by hanging something white, (e.g. sheet, pillow case, shirt/blouse) that is visible from the street. Mark your Pet Alert sticker “evacuated” or “not here.”

After a Fire:

- To protect your property from further damage, weather and possible vandalism, attach plywood over broken windows and doors. Take valuables with you.
- Contact your local disaster relief services whether you are insured or not. The Red Cross or Salvation Army can help you arrange for temporary housing, food, eyeglasses, medication, and other essential needs.
- If you can't bring your pets with you, make sure they are sheltered in a clean, safe environment, such as at a friend's house or a kennel.
- Notify the following parties of your situation & your relocation address: family and friends, insurance agent, mortgage company, employer, children's school, bank, utility companies, post office, newspaper companies, fire department (if the fire is under investigation), Department of Motor Vehicles

For additional information about wildfire safety, please visit:

- www.calema.ca.gov
- www.ready.gov
- www.redcross.org