# Plan, Prepare, Go! A Guide to Evacuating Your Home

If you must evacuate your home, planning ahead will help you save the most essential items, find a safe escape route away from danger, and locate a suitable place to stay. Refer to the next page for help identifying what to take with you.

#### Plan Ahead

- Where Will You Go? Plan ahead to stay with family or friends outside your immediate neighborhood for local disasters such as fire, and outside the area for large disasters such as earthquakes. If you cannot get to family or friends due to road closures, etc., you may need to go to a public shelter.
- How Will You Get There? Plan ahead by mapping several evacuation routes going in different directions away from your neighborhood. Think about potential problems like downed trees, power lines, or overpasses that might prevent a car from passing. Your route on foot might include hiking trails, bicycle paths, or gates through a neighbor's yard. Keep the map with marked routes near your door. Also, be sure to keep your car's gas tank at least half full at all times.
- What Will You Take? Plan ahead by listing what to take and where each item is located. Make the list
  in three parts: what to take if you must evacuate on foot, what to take if you have just 5 minutes warning
  and a car, and what to take if you have 30 minutes warning and a car. Keep the list with your map near
  the door.
- How Will Your Family Find You? Plan ahead by identifying a reunification site away from your neighborhood as well as an out-of-area contact who can relay messages between family members.
- Who Will Care For Your Pets? Pets (other than service animals) are not allowed at most public shelters. Plan ahead for a safe, secure place to take your pets if you must evacuate.

#### Prepare to Evacuate

- When you learn that evacuation may be necessary, listen to emergency broadcast radio stations KCBS 740 AM; KNBR 680 AM; or KGO 810 AM for updates on the fire's direction or earthquake damaged areas and the safest escape routes.
- Use your detailed map with your primary evacuation routes already highlighted. Check which routes may be the best based on radio updates.
- Move your car off the street so that you don't block emergency vehicles. Park with the front of the car facing the street. Shut the doors and roll up the windows to keep smoke out.
- Confine your pets so they don't run away and you can bring them with you if you need to leave guickly.
- Assemble your irreplaceable possessions from your "What to Take" list. (See next page.)
- Arrange temporary housing at a friend's or relative's home outside the threatened area.
- Tell neighbors where you are going. Offer a ride to those without transportation.

#### Go!

- Stay calm. Follow your plan. Leave in a safe, orderly way.
- Do not risk your life or the lives of others by staying in your home when ordered to evacuate. Follow instructions from police & fire personnel.
- Lock your house.
- Reunite your family at your pre-identified reunification site. Call your out-of-area contact to report your location and what you will do next.
- Continue to monitor radio or TV emergency broadcast announcements to learn when you may safely return to your home.

### Use this information to identify what to take with you when evacuating your home.

# Some ideas for your What to Take list: (personalize to suit your needs) Leaving immediately on foot: Location Backpack or duffle Map with escape routes highlighted Sturdy shoes Coat/rain gear Radio (battery or crank) Flashlight Vital medication Extra glasses Vital documents (copies) Wallet/purse House keys Cell phone Address book Water Snacks Pets (leashed) Towel (dampen for smoke) Other: Location If 5 minutes warning with a car, add: Emergency supply kit Laptop computer Photo albums Financial/business records Special items for infants, elderly, disabled Other:\_\_ Location If 30 minutes warning with a car, add: Family heirlooms Original art Clothing Shelter supplies (food, water, sleeping bag) Comfort items for kids (favorite toy) Pet supplies Other:

## **Examples of vital documents:**

- · driver's license or identification
- proof of residence (deed or lease)
- · insurance policies
- contracts, deeds, stock & bond certificates
- bank and financial institution statements with account numbers & contact info
- credit card numbers & contact info
- · wills & trusts
- family records (birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, naturalization, residency, military, death)
- inventory, pictures, appraisals of your home plus valuables and household goods for an insurance claim
- · medical records & insurance cards
- prescription medication, dosage, & Rx #
- pet license & vaccination records
- photos of your pet taken with you (to prove ownership)
- tax returns & documentation for past 7 yrs
- automobile/RV/boat title documents
- professional licenses & credentials
- passports
- critical computer file back-ups
- address and email information for critical personal & business contacts

# If fire threatens *AND* there is time before leaving the house:

- Close windows, doors, and vents.
- Remove flammable window coverings and move flammable items away from windows into the center of the room.
- Open fireplace damper, close fireplace screen.
- Unplug electrical appliances except refrigerator & freezer.
- Let others know you are OK: hang something white (pillowcase, shirt) visible from the street.