

WHEN WILDFIRE APPROACHES

Should homes be threatened by wildfire, occupants may be advised to evacuate to protect them from life-threatening situations. Homeowners, however, do have the right to stay on their properties if they so desire and so long as their activities do not hinder fire fighting efforts. If occupants are not contacted in time to evacuate or if owners decide to stay with their homes, these suggestions will help them protect their properties and families.

- Evacuate, if possible, all family members not essential to protecting the house. Evacuate pets as well.
- Contact a friend or relative and relay your plans.
- Make sure family members are aware of a prearranged meeting place.
- Tune into a local radio station and listen for instructions.
- Place vehicles in the garage, have them pointing out, and roll up the windows.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. If applicable, disconnect the electric garage door opener so that the door can be opened manually.
- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage.
- Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter.
- Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Proper attire includes long pants, long sleeved shirt or jacket, and boots. Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover face, water to drink, and goggles.
- Close all exterior vents.
- Prop a ladder against the house so firefighters have easy access to the roof.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach a nozzle set on "spray."
- Soak rags, towels or small rugs with water to use in beating out embers or small fires.
- Inside, fill bathtubs, sinks and other containers with water. Outside, do the same with garbage cans and buckets. Remember that the water heater and toilet tank are



- available sources of water.
- Close all exterior doors and windows.
- Close all interior doors.
- Open the fireplace damper, but place the screen over the hearth to prevent sparks and embers from entering the house.
- Leave a light on in each room.
- Remove lightweight and/or non-fire resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around the windows.
- If available, close fire resistant drapes, shutters, or venetian blinds. Attach precut plywood panels to the exterior of windows and glass doors.
- Turn off all pilot lights.
- Move overstuffed furniture (e.g. couches, easy chairs, etc.) to the center of the room.
- Keep wood shake or shingle roofs moist by spraying water. Do not waste water. Consider placing a lawn sprinkler on the roof if water pressure is adequate. Do not turn on until burning embers begin to fall on the roof.
- Continually check the roof and attic for embers, smoke or fire.

If a fire should occur within the house, contact the fire department immediately.
Continue to inspect your house and property for embers and smoke.

Most importantly, STAY CALM!

OUTDOOR BURNING SAFETY TIPS

HOUSEHOLD TRASH

- If you must burn trash, don't pile on it ground. It will not burn completely and will easily be blown around. Local fire officials can recommend a safe receptacle for burning trash. It should be placed in a cleared area, away from overhead branches and wires.
- Check the weather. Don't burn on dry, windy days.

AGRICULTURAL

- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning off your fields or garden spot.
- If possible, a fire line should be plowed around the area to be burned. Large fields should be separated into small plots for burning one at a time.
- Be sure to stay with your fire until it is out.
- Before doing any burning, please contact your local fire officials.
- Check the weather. Don't burn on dry, windy days.

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES
www.firewise.org/communities/usa

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
www.fire.blm.gov

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
www.doi.gov/bia

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
www.fws.gov/fire

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
www.nps.gov/fire

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE FORESTERS
www.stateforesters.org

USDA FOREST SERVICE
www.fs.fed.us

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION
www.nfpa.gov

US FIRE ADMINISTRATION
www.usfa.fema.gov

FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY
www.fema.gov

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**Remember, a little extra
care takes only a few
minutes of your time and
it could prevent a wildfire.**