



EMERGENCY EVACUATION GUIDE

During a wildfire, roads can become congested with limited visibility, making evacuation a slow and potentially dangerous process. Most wildfire-related civilian injuries and fatalities occur when homeowners wait too long to evacuate their homes. By evacuating you are doing two things:

- Removing your family from harm's way.
- Giving firefighters the ability to protect your home without having to worry about civilian safety.

The best thing you can do to make the evacuation process as smooth as possible is plan ahead. Have a Disaster Action Plan in place and put it into action before you are told to evacuate. (For more information go to rsf-fire.org/disaster-preparedness.) This flyer will guide you through the evacuation process so you are ready when it is time to leave.

When a Fire Approaches

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to wait for an official evacuation order to leave. **If at any time you feel threatened, please evacuate.** This is especially true for families with young children, individuals with a medical condition, and those with large animals. By evacuating early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

When there is a wildfire in the area, stay informed. Listen for fire and evacuation information on television or radio. Updates are also posted on various emergency services websites and social media accounts (a suggested list is on the back of this flyer). Be sure to keep your cell phones charged and have your phone charged and extra power sources ready to take with you. If you are told to evacuate, or if at any point you feel threatened, put your plan into action and leave the area immediately. Your plan should include the following:

- Wear a hat, long sleeves, pants, and a mask to protect yourself from embers and smoke.
- Know at least two ways out of your neighborhood and evacuate in the opposite direction of the fire. Do not rely on device map applications as they may not have the latest road closure information. Community-specific evacuation maps can be found on our website.
- If you have a gated driveway, leave the gate open.
- Call your out-of-town contact and let them know you are evacuating and where you are going.
- If you have children attending school, be familiar with their emergency plan so you know what to expect and how you will be notified of when and where to pick up your children.
- Once you have left, stay out of the area until authorities permit re-entry. This may take a while as fire and safety personnel have to make sure the area is safe and the infrastructure is in place for residents to repopulate the area.



If You Can't Evacuate

If you are unable to evacuate, as a last resort, seek shelter in your home. It is the safest place to seek immediate shelter.

- If there is time, move combustible items away from the outside of your house, including lawn furniture, dead vegetation, and mulch.
- Keep all doors and windows closed, leaving them unlocked.
- Move furniture and curtains away from windows and sliding glass doors to prevent ignition through radiant heat.
- Stay inside your house, away from outside walls. Stay in rooms at the opposite end of the structure from where the fire is approaching.
- Keep your entire family together and remain as calm as possible. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, the heat is even more intense outside.
- Once the fire has passed, check the exterior of your home and roof immediately. Extinguish all sparks and embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- Continue to check your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours. Keep in mind that winds may shift and blow the fire back toward you. Stay alert and watch for changing conditions.

If you are trapped by fire while attempting to evacuate in your car:

- Park in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket, and lie on the floor.
- Remain inside your vehicle until the fire passes. Be aware the tires on your car may burst.
- If you have cell service, call 9-1-1 and let them know where you are.

Receiving Emergency Updates

Various emergency services agencies provide updates on their websites and across social media platforms during emergency situations as they become available. The following resources may be helpful for you and your family:

San Diego County

- Website: www.sdcountyemergency.com
- Twitter: twitter.com/SanDiegoCounty
- www.facebook.com/sandiegocounty
- AlertSanDiego (reverse 9-1-1) registration and SD Emergency App download: www.readysandiego.org
- 2-1-1 Community Information Exchange: www.211sandiego.org

RSFFPD

- Website: www.rsf-fire.org
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RSF_Fire
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RSFFire

CAL FIRE

- Website: www.fire.ca.gov
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/CALFIRESANDIEGO
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CALFIRE

For more information about wildfire preparedness and emergency services, please visit our website, www.rsf-fire.org.



The SD Emergency app, available for free in the App Store and on Google Play.