

WHY SHOULD I EVACUATE?

During a wildfire emergency safety of lives is the first and most important objective of firefighting. If you, your family, and neighbors are in a safe place when a wildland fire gets close, the main goal of firefighting is accomplished.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN TO BEGIN EVACUATING?

- You see smoke or flames within 1 mile of your home
- Police or Fire Officials notify you
- Listen to the local news radio and/or TV for notifications
- Visit the Klamath County Fire District 1 website: <http://www.kcfd1.com/>
- Call the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center Hotline (541) 947-6223 for recorded updates
- Visit <http://www.scofmp.org/lifc.shtml>

*******Call 911*******

IF YOU ARE ADVISED TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME BY OFFICIALS, PLEASE LEAVE WHEN ADVISED TO. YOUR LIFE COULD DEPEND ON IT

BEFORE FIRE SEASON STARTS

Make a Wildfire Action Plan and have it ready. Here is an example checklist to include within your plan and customize however you see fit:

- Determine the best way to gather all your family members together and how to keep track of everyone.
- Have a designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area.
- Plan out several different escape routes from your home and community. Practice these often so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.
- Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock.
- Put together a Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. (It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster.)
- Catalog your belongings either by listing them and their value, taking pictures, or videotaping. Send copies to friends or family who live in a safe area, or in a safe deposit box.

DURING FIRE SEASON – BE PREPARED

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them (check expiration dates regularly).
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.

- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit for each person, as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra Emergency Supply Kit in your car in case you cannot get to your home because of fire or other emergency.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

Tell your neighbors about your Wildfire Action Plan

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE I LEAVE?

- DON'T PANIC. You will think more rationally if you remain calm
- Gather pets and secure them in a safe location – ready to go
- Wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, and boots or sturdy shoes for protection.
- Follow posted evacuation routes, unless the location of the fire compromises the safe use of a designated route. If necessary, choose an alternate route
- Park cars facing out, windows up, unlocked. Keep keys with you. In the garage with door closed is OK. Know how to manually open your garage door
- Leave a note in your home telling where and how you can be located

#1: AS TIME ALLOWS - pack essentials first:

- Pets and food for them
- Prescription medications/supplies, Doctor's contact number
- Pictures and photo albums
- Baby supplies (diapers, food, etc.)
- Personal hygiene supplies and glasses/contact lenses
- Cash, checks, and credit cards
- Personal files (include ID: Driver's license, Passports) and computer hard drive
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Cell phones and contact numbers

#2: Prepare Your Home (after packing essentials) - AS TIME ALLOWS!

OUTSIDE THE HOME

- Move flammable and combustible materials away from the home, including: wooden furniture, seat pads, garbage, lumber, chemicals, and gas. Move items 30' away from house (chemicals, gas) or inside garage or home and clear out under decks and stairs.
- Seal unscreened attic and foundation vents with pre-cut plywood
- Turn off propane tanks, BBQ included. Move in garage or away from house into an open area. Keep them visible for firefighters.
- Connect garden hoses to outside faucets.
- Wet down shrubbery within 25 feet of your house – start on the downhill side. Turn sprinkler system just before leaving – don't use water too early, firefighters might need the capacity elsewhere.

INSIDE THE HOME

- Close windows, vents, doors, Venetian blinds, or non-combustible window coverings. Leave doors unlocked.
- Remove lightweight curtains, close fire resistant blinds.
- Move flammable furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- Leave interior/exterior lights on. If electrical power does not fail, lights will help firefighters locate your home during hours of darkness or in heavy smoke.
- Turn off natural gas at the house meter just before leaving, if you know how! Don't force the valve - best to leave it if it's stuck.

WHERE SHOULD I GO WHEN I EVACUATE?

- Follow directions given by officials or from reliable sources such as your local Fire Department.
- Follow posted Wildfire Evacuation Route signs. Stay on these routes unless they are unsafe!
- Know your quickest route well ahead of time, as well as alternate routes.
- Proceed to a safe place, friend's house, or identified shelter.

WHEN CAN I RETURN HOME?

Emergency personnel will let the public know when it is safe to return to the area. Again, consult the Klamath County FD#1 website, or the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center Hotline (541) 947-6223 for recorded updates. Other sources include checking local news radio and/or TV for notifications and for continuing updates of the situation.

All homeowners in wildfire-prone areas should catalog their belongings either by listing them and their value, taking pictures, or videotaping. Send copies to friends or family who live in a safe area, or in a safe deposit box.



Useful links:

Living with fire: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire_game/

Firewise: <http://www.firewise.org/?sso=0>

Ready, Set, Go! <http://www.kcfd1.com/rsg.pdf>