

Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps

If an evacuation is anticipated, follow these lists (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

Inside the home:

1. Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
2. Remove flammable window shades and curtains. Close metal shutters.
3. Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
4. Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
5. Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
6. Shut off air conditioning.

Animals:

1. Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
2. Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

Outside the home:

1. Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
2. Turn off propane tanks
3. Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
4. Connect garden hoses to outside water valves and spigots for use by firefighters. Fill buckets with water and place them around the house.
5. Don't leave sprinklers on or water running; they may affect critical water pressure.
6. Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
7. Put your emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
8. Back your car into the driveway; load vehicle for evacuation and keep all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you at all times.
9. Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
10. Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
11. Monitor your property and the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened and need to leave.
12. Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.