

# Ready, Set, Go!

## Create Your Own Action Guide

Now that you have done everything you can to prepare your home, it is time to prepare your family. Your **Wildland Fire Action Guide** must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you prepare and gain situational awareness in the threat of wildland fire.

### Ready – Get Ready

- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your emergency supply kit.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.



## Set – Be Prepared

- Monitor fire weather** conditions and fire status. See [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org). Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates.
- Evacuate** as soon as you are set!
- Alert family** and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your **emergency supply kit** on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

### INSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Close all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked and remove all shades and curtains.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

### OUTSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Bring combustible items from the exterior of the house inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) If you have a pool place combustible items in the water.
- Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can effect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.

- Back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol *your property* and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Cover attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

### IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Stay in your home until fire passes. Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers and flames do not destroy them.
- Look for spot fires and extinguish if found inside house.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers. Check attic too.
- If there are fires that you cannot extinguish, call 9-1-1.
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## Go! – Act Early

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildland fire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment.

### WHEN TO LEAVE

**Do not wait to be advised to leave** if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!

### WHERE TO GO

**Leave to a predetermined location** (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Have several travel routes** in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

### WHAT TO TAKE

**Take your emergency supply kit** containing your family and pet's necessary items.

### EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST

The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildland fire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and non-perishable food for family (3 day supply).
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions and medications.
- Important family documents and contact numbers including insurance documents.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

