



READY! SET! GO!

YOUR PERSONAL WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN



BE PREPARED

**Wildfires are a fact of life in California.
It is not a question of if they will occur, but when.
It is vital that you take the necessary steps to prepare.**

This brochure provides you the tips and tools on how to create and maintain defensible space, as well as steps you can take to harden your home by retrofitting it with ignition resistive features. It also provides information about the preparations and precautions to make in order to evacuate early and safely. Chino Valley Fire always recommends that you comply with any evacuation orders resulting from wildfire.

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family, and your home for when a wildfire strikes.

**Through advance planning and preparation,
you can be ready.**



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GET READY

There are three ways your home can be exposed to wildfire: through flying embers, direct flame contact, and radiant heat. Embers are the main cause of homes igniting during a wildfire.

Getting ready involves two essential efforts:

- Home Hardening, and
- Defensible Space.

Defensible homes are those homes that are in compliance with defensible space requirements and have been retrofitted. New homes are required to comply with specific building standards when they are built in a designated fire hazard area.

A defensible home is a home that has the greatest potential for survivability in the event of a wildfire during average wind conditions. What gives a home the best chance to survive a wildfire are its construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding it.





GET READY

HARDENING YOUR HOME

ROOFS

Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home, since embers can land on it, and become lodged, and start a fire.

Roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles, and rain gutters are all a point of entry.

EAVES AND SOFFITS

Eaves and soffits are a point of entry for flying embers or flames from nearby vegetation. Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

VENTS

Embers enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents.

EXTERIOR WALLS & FENCES

Wood products such as boards, panels, or shingles are common siding materials. Combustible siding and other combustible or overlapping materials provide a surface and crevice for embers to nestle and ignite.

WINDOWS & DOORS

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Radiant heat can also cause windows to break, allowing embers to enter the home. Single-paned and large windows are particularly at risk.

BALCONIES & DECKS

Embers collect in or on combustible surfaces or undersides of decks and balconies, ignite the material, and enter the home through walls or windows.

RAIN GUTTERS

Embers can ignite accumulated leaf litter or plant debris that has gathered in unscreened or unmaintained rain gutters.

HOW TO HARDEN & PROTECT YOUR HOME

HOME SITE AND YARD:

Ensure you have at least a 100-foot of defensible space (cleared combustible vegetation) around your home.

- Create Zone 0 extending from zero to five feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. (Refer to page 6 for additional details).
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants that have a high moisture content and are low-growing.
- Keep woodpiles, propane tanks and combustible materials away from your home and other structures such as garages, barns and sheds.
- Cut dry weeds and grass.
- Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, branches, vegetive debris.
- Ensure that trees are far away from power lines.
- Maintain all vegetative year around.
- Have multiple garden hoses long enough to Reach all areas of your home.

INSIDE: Protect the inside of your home.

- Keep working fire extinguishers on hand.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries twice a year. Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.

ADDRESS: Make sure it is clearly visible from the road.

ROOF: Inspect your roof and maintain it by removing debris and plugging gaps.

- Replace wood shake or shingle roofs with a Class A fire-rated roof, using materials such as composition, metal or tile.
- Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion.
- Clear pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof, gutters, and solar panels, if applicable.
- Cut tree branches within ten feet of your roof.

VENTS: Inspect vents to ensure they are in good condition with no tears or large openings

- Cover all vent openings with 1/16 to 1/8 inch in size corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh.
- Replace screened vents with ember and flame-resistant vents.

WINDOWS: Inspect windows to ensure they are in good condition with no gaps or cracks around the frame.

- Replace single-paned windows with dual or multi-pane windows with at least and one pane being tempered glass.
- Consider limiting the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.
- Install metal mesh screens on openable windows.

EXTERIOR WALLS: Inspect walls for holes and cracks.

- Replace combustible siding with fire-resistant building materials, such as brick, cement, masonry, or stucco. Extend materials from foundation to roof.
- Plug or chalk gaps or joints with openings 1/8 inch or greater.



HOW TO HARDEN & PROTECT YOUR HOME

GARAGE:

- Install weather stripping to eliminate gaps around garage doors.
- Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage.
- Add a battery back-up to automatic garage door openers so the garage can easily be opened if power is out.

DRIVEWAYS & ACCESS ROADS:

- Ensure your driveway is accessible to emergency responders.
- If your property has an access road on it, maintain clearance on both sides. Access road – 20 feet; Driveway - 10 feet.
- Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.
- Maintain a minimum vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches along access roads and driveways.

FENCING: Construct fences using noncombustible materials.

EAVES & SOFFITS: Plug or chalk gaps 1/8 inch size or greater and enclose eaves with ignition-resistant or noncombustible material.

RAIN GUTTERS: Screen or enclose rain gutters with noncombustible /corrosion resistant material.

WATER SUPPLY: Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider a pump.

DECK/PATIO COVER: Surfaces within 10 feet of your home should be built with ignition-resistant, noncombustible, or other approved materials.

- Remove all combustible items from underneath your deck
- Consider enclosing the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials.
- Limit combustible items on top of deck. Bring these items inside the home or move them away during fire weather.

CHIMNEY: Cover the chimney with a noncombustible corrosion resistant metal mesh screen with openings no bigger than 3/8 or 1/2 inch and cut back any tree branches within 10 feet of the chimney.



GET READY

CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Defensible space is essential to reducing the impact of wildfire on your home and property. Defensible space is the required space between a building on your property and the vegetation in the near vicinity, including what is located on your property. When created and maintained, it creates a buffer to help keep wildfire away from your home by reducing the fire's intensity and slowing or halting the spread of fire.

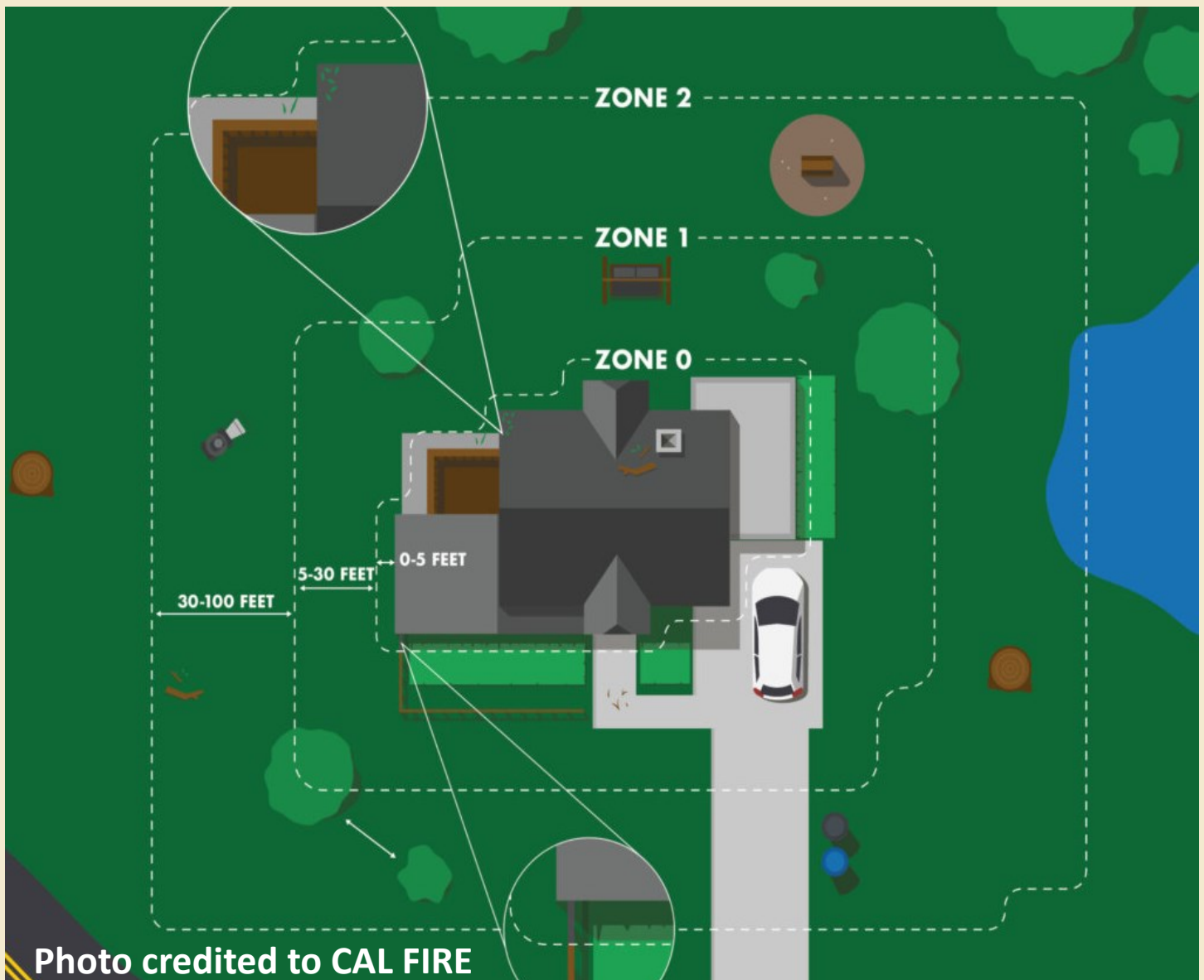


Photo credited to CAL FIRE



GET READY

CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Zone 0 extends from zero to 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove combustible bark or much and replace with hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other noncombustible materials.
- Remove all dead and dying vegetation, including weeds, grass and branches.
- Cut back any tree branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe.
- Limit plants within this zone to low growing, nonwoody, properly maintained and watered plants.
- Relocate firewood and other combustible material, such as trash, recycling and composting bins outside of this zone.
- Replace any combustible fencing, gates and arbors within this zone with noncombustible alternatives.
- Relocate boats, RVs, and vehicles outside of this area.

Zone 1 extends from 5 feet to 30 feet from buildings, structures, and decks.

- Remove all dead and dying vegetation, including weeds, grass, and plants.
- Remove leaf litter (dry leaves and pine needles) from yard, roof, and rain gutters.
- Remove or prune vegetation near windows.
- Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of this zone.

Zone 0 continued ...

- Cut back any tree branches that hang over your roof and within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from structures and other trees.
- Remove combustible material and vegetation from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.
- Create a separation between vegetation and items such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2 extends from 30 to 100 feet from buildings, structures, and decks.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Maintain 10 feet of clearance around exposed wood piles.
- Reduce the continuity of fuels by removing dead material and removing and/or thinning vegetation. Minimum spacing between vegetation is 3 times the dimension of the plant.
- Provide both horizontal and vertical clearance between vegetation.



GET READY

SAFETY MEASURES

While working to create defensible space, remember the following safety measures:

- Mow before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. but never during windy, dry conditions.
- Never use a lawn mower in dry vegetation. Use a weed trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.
- Keep a cell phone nearby and call 9-1-1 immediately in case of a fire. Never put yourself in harm's way to extinguish a fire.

FIRE SMART LANDSCAPING

Creating fire-smart landscaping is not just about maintaining a clean, neat yard. It involves selecting the right plants and placing them where they will flourish. It is important to remember that although some plants may be characterized as “fire-safe” or “fire-resistant”, all plants will burn under the right conditions.

If you are considering replacing existing landscape, know all the facts first. You can visit [*ReadyforWildfire.org/fire-smart-landscaping*](https://ReadyforWildfire.org/fire-smart-landscaping) for additional information. This website contains a variety of information related to fire-smart landscaping.

The last few pages covered a variety of measures that you can implement to increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Now is the time to get ready!



GET SET

It is vital that you are prepared before wildfire strikes. During an emergency it is easy to become overwhelmed, confused or panicked.

Getting set involves three essential efforts to prepare you and your family:

- Creating a Wildfire Action Plan
- Creating an Emergency Supply Kit, and
- Creating a Family Communication Plan

Taking the necessary steps to prepare for these items in advance will allow you to keep you focused, which will allow you to act swiftly when evacuation is anticipated or needed.

Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs and situations. The plan should be prepared, known to all members of the household and practiced.





GET SET

CREATING A WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

- Determine a designated meeting location outside of the fire and/or hazard area.
- Designate an out-of-area point of contact to serve as a single source of communication for your household. The contact can be a relative or close friend that everyone in your household can check-in with in the event of separation during the emergency. Ensure your contact is aware of their role and that everyone has the contacts information.
- Identify several different escape routes from your home/neighborhood.
- Have a plan for pets and large animals, such as horses.

PREPAREDNESS ACTION ITEMS

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in the family knows how to use them. Check to make sure that they are still good. (Gauge in the green)
- Ensure that your family knows where the gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit that is specific to you and your family's needs. Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you are not able to return to your home.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your cell phone. Keep the list posted by your home phone and a copy in your emergency kit.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on wildfires.
- Follow your city, fire departments and local law enforcements social media for current information related to emergencies within your city.
- Encourage preparedness, tell your neighbors about Ready, Set, Go! and your Wildfire Action and Communication Plan.

MY ACTION & COMMUNICATION PLAN

Write up your plan and post it in a location where every member of your family can see it and keep a copy in your emergency kit. Rehearse it regularly with your family.

DESIGNATED MEETING LOCATION:

EVACUATION ROUTES:

OUT OF AREA EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Alternative #: _____

Relationship: _____

E-mail: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Local Fire Department: _____

Local Law Enforcement: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

During High Fire Danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information on wildland fires and be ready to implement your plan.



GET SET

THE SIX Ps

Remember the “Six Ps” and keep them ready in case immediate evacuation is required:

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers and important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- Pictures and other irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computer, hard drive and disks
- “Plastic” (Credit cards, ATM card) and cash

INSURANCE PREPAREDNESS

Insurance is the critical back-up plan enabling you to rebuild your home after a wildfire.

- **Conduct an annual insurance checkup.** Discuss your policy limits and coverage with your agent/insurance company. Make sure your policy reflects the correct square footage and features in your home. If you have taken steps to harden your home, submit proof.
- **Know what your policy covers.** Does your policy have a replacement policy that pays to replace all of your items at current market price, or if you have an actual cash value policy that takes depreciation into account and pays less for aged goods.
- **Update your policy to cover home improvements.** If you make home improvements (kitchen remodel, bathroom remodel, etc.) update your agent so that your new improvements are covered.
- **Get renters insurance** to help protect you and your family’s assets if you rent.
- **Make a home inventory.** Document the contents of your home, garage and property. Consider using your cell phone to make a video of your belongings. Store the inventory list and photos at a safe location.



GET SET

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Assemble your emergency supply kit, commonly referred to as a “go bag” for your specific needs. Keep the kit readily accessible so that it can be grabbed in a hurry. For food and water, consider using a container with wheels for ease of transport. Keep the container light enough to be able to lift into your vehicle.

- ☐ Face masks or coverings
- ☐ A minimum of 3-days supply of non-perishable food for each person in your household
- ☐ 3 gallons of water per person/per day
- ☐ Map marked with evacuation routes
- ☐ Prescriptions or special medications
- ☐ Change of clothing, including a cotton long-sleeved shirt and pants
- ☐ Sturdy shoes
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ An extra set of car keys, phone charger, credit cards, cash or traveler’s checks
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Copies of important documents (communication plan, birth/marriage certificates, wills/trusts, vaccination papers, passports, contracts, insurance policies and bank information)

- ☐ Baby supplies (formula, bottle, pacifier, hygiene products, clothing, blankets, baby wipes, disposable diapers, food, and juice)
- ☐ Pet supplies (food, water, medications)
- ☐ Can opener

Other items to take if time allows:

- ☐ Easily carried valuables
- ☐ Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- ☐ Personal computer
- ☐ Extra cell phones, chargers, laptops, etc.

ALWAYS KEEP A STURDY PAIR OF SHOES AND A FLASHLIGHT NEAR YOUR BED IN CASE OF A SUDDEN EVACUATION AT NIGHT.

Our family’s additional supply kit items:



GET SET

POWER OUTAGES

Power outages may occur before and during the threat of a wildfire. It is important be prepare for a power outage.

- ❑ Learn how to manually open your automatic garage doors or gates. This is extremely important!
- ❑ Be familiar with the utility shutoffs for your property. This includes electric, gas and water.
- ❑ Keep flashlights in designated areas of your home.
- ❑ Keep your cell phone charged.
- ❑ Consider purchasing a generator for your home.
- ❑ If you currently have a generator for your home, be sure to follow the safety guidelines. Generators should only be used outside and away from windows. Teach other family members how to properly use it.
- ❑ Sign-up for alerts related to power outages with your power provider.
- ❑ Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- ❑ Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- ❑ Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.



GO!

Being ready to go means following pre-evacuation steps, knowing when to evacuate, and knowing what to do if you become trapped.

By evacuating early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, allowing them to get to the areas they need to.

Be safe and don't wait until it is too late!

KNOW THE LAW

California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident, or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409.5)





GO!

PRE-EVACUATION STEPS

When evacuation is anticipated, **if time allows**, follow these checklists:

OUTSIDE:

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Turn off propane tanks.
- ☐ Move propane appliances (BBQ, heaters, etc.) away from structures.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses to outside water valves. Fill water buckets and leave them around your house.
- ☐ Turn off sprinklers and running water, as it waste critical water pressure.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on.
- ☐ Put your emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- ☐ Back your car into the driveway with it loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your keys with you.
- ☐ If you have a ladder, place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access the roof.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- ☐ Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

- ☐ Monitor your property and the fire situation. You do not have to wait for an evacuation order, if you feel threatened. GO!

INSIDE:

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- ☐ Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- ☐ Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- ☐ Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- ☐ Shut off the air conditioning or heater.
- ☐ Remember the Six Ps. (See page 11)

ANIMALS:

- ☐ Locate your pets and keep them with nearby.
- ☐ Prepare horses or livestock for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early.



GO!

EVACUATION STEPS

- Review your evacuation checklist.
- Ensure your emergency supply kit is in your vehicle.
- Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, a long sleeved shirt, heavy shoes/boots, hat, a dry bandana or other face covering/mask, goggles or glasses. Clothing made of 100% cotton or natural fibers is best.
- Locate your pets and take them with you.
- Check-in with your out-of-area emergency contact so they are aware of what is happening.

WHEN TO EVACUATE

Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location.

Leave when evacuation is recommend by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. You do not need to wait to be ordered by authorities to evacuate.

Remember, if you feel you are threatened or in danger, the best action you can take is to leave.

If you are advised to leave, do not hesitate, take action to protect you and your loved ones.



GO!

WHAT TO DO IF TRAPPED

While in your vehicle:

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation
- Close all vehicle windows and vents. If possible, cover inside of windows with a wool or cotton blanket to minimize radiant heat.
- Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket.
- Lie on vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to contact officials - Call 9-1-1.

While on foot:

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch, or depression on level ground, if possible.
- Lie face down and cover your body.
- If near a body of water (pool, creek, pond, lake, etc.) seek safety in the water or use it to keep distance away from the fire. Be careful not to be swept away by moving water or get in too deep.
- Use your cell phone to contact officials - Call 9-1-1.

While in your home:

- Stay calm and keep your family together.
- Call 9-1-1 and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.
- Turn on lights so emergency officials know you are inside.



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