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SAFETY TIPS FOR WILDFIRE + COVID-19



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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY
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CalOES.ca.gov



**CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND FIRE
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Fire.ca.gov



**CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH:**

CDPH.ca.gov

SAFETY TIPS FOR WILDFIRE + COVID-19

If you know a wildfire is headed toward your area, the best thing to do is leave immediately.

If you live in an area that's high risk for wildfire, prepare ahead of time for evacuation and staying safe from **COVID-19**.

Get prepared for wildfire before it strikes by following these tips based on the *Ready, Set, Go!* campaign by **CAL FIRE**.

KNOW YOUR ALERTS



Red Flag Day: The weather may lead to extreme fire. Prepare **NOW**.



Evacuation Warning: Potential threat to life and/or property. If you need additional time to evacuate or have pets or livestock to evacuate, you should leave when an Evacuation Warning is issued.



Evacuation Order: Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. Leave immediately. The area is lawfully closed to public access.

By evacuating early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help others by keeping roads clear of congestion and allowing firefighters to respond to the active emergency.

✓ **BE READY**

PREPARE AT HOME



Keep brush, weeds, dead leaves, flammable material off your property, especially within a 30-foot radius around your home.

Keep all landscaping watered to prevent your yard from drying out.

Screen or seal any vents or openings to help prevent airborne embers from entering your home.



Make sure all portable, gasoline powered equipment is equipped with spark arresters. Use equipment such as lawn mowers, chain saws, grinders and tractors with extreme caution. Metal blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires in dry grass.



If you live in an apartment, find out about fire safety and your building's evacuation plan from building management.

✓ GET SET

GET ALERTS

- ✓ Sign up at CalAlerts.org/signup.html for emergency alerts to be sent to your phone.
- ✓ Sign up for emergency alerts in the counties where you currently live and work.
- ✓ If you use social media, follow [@CAL_FIRE](https://twitter.com/CAL_FIRE) on Twitter.



MAKE A PLAN

Make a contact list with names and phone numbers of your family and people you care about. Have one person on your list from outside the area where you live. You, your family, and others on your contact list can check in as safe with that faraway relative or friend and share where you are. Give everyone on the contact list a copy of the list.



Pick a meeting place outside of your community to reunite if your family gets separated and can't go home. Make sure that everyone knows where your meeting place is and practice getting there.



Learn your community's evacuation plan from local officials and determine your evacuation routes. Mark multiple escape routes on a paper map in case you have no cell phone service. Practice these routes using the transportation you would take in a wildfire evacuation.

Plan where you can stay if you have to leave your home. Decide if it is safe, and possible, to get to the home of family or friends.



Check with friends or relatives you might stay with if they have symptoms of **COVID-19** or are at high risk for serious illness. Make other arrangements as needed.



Know that everyone is welcome at emergency shelters. Under California state law, all public shelters must be accessible and no one running an evacuation shelter can ask you for your identification.

PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

Call your local humane society or animal rescue organization about sheltering your pet if you have to evacuate and need a place for your pet to stay.

Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information and any urgent medical needs. Microchip your pet as a more permanent form of identification.

Bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster.

Pack a **Go Bag** for your pet with food, water, dishes, garbage bags, copies of pet medical records and vaccinations, any medications, disinfecting wipes, and litter tray or leash as needed.



Have a crate or carrier ready with your pet's name, your name and contact information written on it.



Have recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters).

✓ GET SET

GET HELP TO PLAN

Illness or disability might make it harder for you or someone you care about to survive a wildfire. Get help to plan:

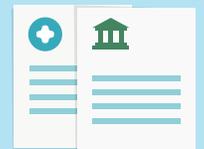
- ✓ Decide what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need.
- ✓ Talk with a family member or neighbor who can help you with making a plan.
- ✓ Reach out to a faith organization or other community group that could help.
- ✓ Check with your emergency management office about what special assistance programs are available in your community to get you the help you need in an emergency.
- ✓ If you are dependent on electricity for a medical condition, be sure to register with your utility company. Also contact a local health, aging or disability organization, about options like borrowing a generator or backup battery, at no cost.
- ✓ Develop a network of at least 4 or 5 people you can count on.



PACK A GO BAG

Pack up important items now so you and your family will have what you need if you have to leave in a hurry:

- ✓ Copies of important documents (identification, insurance, legal)
- ✓ Your contact list and map marked with routes to get to your meeting place
- ✓ A list or copies of all prescriptions taken by family members
- ✓ Some cash
- ✓ A list of what you will grab as you leave, including:
 - Keys, wallet, or purse
 - Phones, laptops and chargers
 - Medications and medical devices
 - A portable radio so you can stay updated on the fire
 - Pictures and irreplaceable items
 - Personal items you or a family member cannot do without



Make sure everyone has at least one mask that covers the nose and mouth. Pack hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes if possible.

Have a water bottle for everyone and something filling and easy to eat, like a granola or protein bars.

Pack a separate bag for each member of your family, including pets. Make sure that everyone has enough clothes and supplies to be safe and comfortable.



✓ BE READY TO GO!

WHEN A WILDFIRE IS IN YOUR AREA

Prepare to Evacuate

When conditions are smoky, find a place indoors. Wildfire smoke can affect your health. Though you need it for **COVID-19**, cloth masks or scarves don't offer much protection against wildfire smoke.

Plan for no electricity. Make sure your phone is fully charged. Prepare flashlights and lanterns—don't use candles.

Keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

Keep vehicle gas tanks at least half full or have arranged transportation to evacuate.

If you have an electric garage door opener, know how to get the door open if the power goes out. If it is not physically possible for you to open the door on your own, park your vehicle outside while you still have power. Make sure it is facing toward the street so there is no delay in leaving the area.

Listen for announcements from emergency personnel and if you haven't already left, leave immediately when evacuation is ordered.

Protect yourself against heat and flying embers with long pants, long sleeves and hat.

When you check on neighbors before evacuating, stay at least 6 feet away.

If there is time before you have to evacuate:

- ✓ Remove grills, propane tanks, or other flammable materials from decks and yard.
- ✓ Shut off natural gas, propane, or fuel oil supplies.
- ✓ Reduce the risk of floating embers catching by wetting your roof.
- ✓ Leave your garden hose connected.
- ✓ Close all doors and windows.
- ✓ Leave lights on when you leave so your house is visible to firefighters.

Prepare to Shelter

Pay close attention to local emergency officials about where to go if you need shelter. Because of **COVID-19** and social distancing requirements, some shelters can't hold many people.

Protect yourself and others while in a public shelter:

- ✓ Wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet from other people outside of your household.
- ✓ Wash your hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid sharing food and drink with anyone if possible.
- ✓ Avoid touching high-touch surfaces, such as handrails, as much as possible.
- ✓ Keep your living area in the shelter clean and frequently disinfect items such as toys and cell phones.

If you feel sick when you arrive at the shelter or start to feel sick while there, tell shelter staff immediately.

Some symptoms, like dry cough, sore throat, and difficulty breathing can be caused by both wildfire smoke exposure and **COVID-19**. Symptoms like fever or chills, muscle or body aches, and diarrhea are not related to smoke exposure.



BE READY TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST SMOKE AND ASH



- ! Wildfire smoke can have an effect on your health, including stinging eyes, headache, respiratory problems or aggravated chronic heart disease. People with asthma, COPD or heart disease, and children are especially at risk. Stay indoors if possible.
- ! People who currently have or who are recovering from **COVID-19** may be at increased risk of health effects from exposure to wildfire smoke because of compromised heart and/or lung function related to **COVID-19**.
- ! N95 respirators without exhalation valves offer the best protection from wildfire smoke. Cloth masks can be used to help reduce the spread of **COVID-19**, but do not catch small, harmful particles in smoke.
- ! Check **Fire.AirNow.gov** for the latest air quality information. Learn more about reducing exposure to wildfire smoke during **COVID-19** at **CDC.gov/air/wildfire-smoke**.



RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

[Plan.ReadyforWildfire.org](https://www.fire.ca.gov/readyforwildfire)

Get the CAL FIRE Ready for Wildfire app.

211

[211CA.org](https://www.211ca.org)

Dial 211 for evacuation routes, shelters.

CAL ALERTS

[CalAlerts.org](https://www.calalerts.org)

Sign up to get your County's alerts.

WILDFIRE RESPONSE RESOURCES

[Response.ca.gov](https://www.response.ca.gov)

Real-time wildfire & shelter news.

COVID-19 RESOURCES



[Covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov)

[CDPH.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov)

Health & safety information.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



[CalOES.ca.gov](https://www.caloes.ca.gov)

State guides, alerts & resources.

LISTOS CALIFORNIA



[ListosCalifornia.org](https://www.listoscalifornia.org)

Learn about the Listos California Emergency Preparedness Campaign.