

# National Wildfire Prevention Day Workshop

Sponsored by the Oakland Firesafe Council, the Piedmont  
Pines Neighborhood Association and the Montclair  
Neighborhood Council

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# Neighborhood Evacuation Planning

Sue Piper, Oakland Firesafe Council

# Recent wildfires are more volatile

- 1971 Mission Valley fire 6 football fields/minute
- 1991 Tunnel Fire 11 football fields/minute
- 2017 Tubbs Fire 18 football fields/minute
- 2018 Camp Fire 30 football fields/minute

Leading to a new look at evacuation planning  
and implementation

Bottom Line:

Evacuate Early

Don't wait to be told to go

# Evacuation Issues

- Blocked roadways
- Limited routes in and out
- Traffic loads (We can impact)
- Timing of evacuation communication (City)
- Messaging (City)
- Motivation to evacuate (Personal)
- Destination of evacuees (and animals)
- Alternatives (Leave Early)

# Pre-Planning

- Organize neighbors (CORE/Firewise)
- Identify alternative evacuation routes in neighborhood
- Promote safe parking on narrow streets—leave at least 14 ft.
- Survey maintenance issues--low hanging branches, brush or dirt encroaching on roadway
  - PWA Call Center to request support
  - Neighborhood workdays
- Inventory of children, seniors, disabled, pets and at what address—develop Plan B if caregiver/parent not home
- Survey neighbors to ascertain # of people/cars that could evacuate at different times of day/week

# Neighborhood Communications

- Provide residents with information
- Develop plan for communications
  - Door to Door
  - Phone Tree
  - Email

## WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Complete the Family Communication Plan on the opposite side for each family member and keep in your "Go Kit(s)."

**ALERT MARIN:** Register for emergency notifications at [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org) to receive evacuation notices by email, phone, or text. Evacuation notices sent through Alert Marin will use the following terminology.



### EVACUATION ORDER

Leave now! Evacuate immediately, do not delay to gather valuables or prepare your home. Follow any directions given in the evacuation order.

### EVACUATION WARNING

Evacuate as soon as possible. A short delay to gather your Go Kit and prepare your home (see below) may be ok. Leave if you feel unsafe.

### SHELTER IN PLACE

Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area. May be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.

### ON YOUR PERSON

- ☐ Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants - heavy cotton or wool is preferable no matter how hot it is.
- ☐ Wear leather gloves, head, and eye protection - full coverage goggles are best.
- ☐ Cover your face with a dry bandanna or (cotton or wool) scarf over an N95 respirator.
- ☐ Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day), cell phone, and spare battery.
- ☐ Carry car keys, wallet, and ID on your person.
- ☐ Drink lots of water and stay hydrated.
- ☐ Put your "Go Kit" in your vehicle.

### PETS & ANIMALS

- ☐ Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You will not be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
- ☐ Be sure your pets wear tags and microchips.
- ☐ Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- ☐ Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

### INSIDE THE HOUSE

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them unlocked.
- ☐ Remove combustible window shades and lightweight curtains; close metal shutters.
- ☐ Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- ☐ Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; turn off pilot lights.
- ☐ Leave indoor and outdoor lights on for firefighters.
- ☐ Shut off air conditioning and house fans.

### OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

- ☐ Gather up combustible items outside the house (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc) and place in garage or move them at least 30' from structures (optionally: place in your pool).
- ☐ Close propane tank valves. Move small tanks away from structures.
- ☐ Create a road block to a utility or structure that is a fire hazard.

- ☐ Fill water buckets and place them around the outside of house, especially near decks and fences. Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they are ineffective and can reduce critical water pressure for the entire neighborhood.
- ☐ Hosing your roof down is dangerous and ineffective. Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house instead (only if time allows).
- ☐ Back your car into the driveway so it is facing out, with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed.
- ☐ Unlock and prop open fence and side gates.
- ☐ Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or metal covers.
- ☐ Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation.
- ☐ Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.
- ☐ Check on or call neighbors and make sure they are aware and preparing to leave.
- ☐ Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- ☐ Carpool to reduce traffic when evacuating!

## WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY "GO KIT"

Put together an emergency supply kit in advance and keep it easily accessible. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have their own Go Kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana, N95 respirator, goggles, leather gloves                | <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of important docs (birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottles and food  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and water, leashes, pet supplies and medications                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map marked with two evacuation routes (if possible)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription medications  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation supplies   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothing  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash                       | <b>Items to take only if time allows:</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit   | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily carried valuables  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight and headlamp with spare batteries                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Family photos and other irreplaceable items                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal computer and digital information backups on hard drive |  |

# Prepare to evacuate when Red Flag Days are called

[www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/what-does-red-flag-mean?](http://www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/what-does-red-flag-mean?)





# When to go?

- Better to leave early to avoid traffic and flames
- Leave when you feel it is not safe— don't wait for mandatory evacuation notification
- Given “new abnormal” no such thing as a voluntary evacuation

Better to save lives than worry about inconvenience

# When you go

- Call neighbors to alert
- Assist elderly or disabled neighbor
- Carpool if possible to reduce traffic

Don't wait to evacuate if you feel threatened

