

## EVACUATION GUIDELINES



These guidelines are to help you determine what best to do before, during and after an evacuation. **These are not absolute rules as no one can know beforehand where a threat will come from and what the best way to safety will be.** You'll need to make careful decisions and take the safest actions possible.

**If you ever feel unsafe or that you may be in danger, leave early if you can!**

### BEFORE EVACUATION - PREPARE IN ADVANCE WITH OUR GUIDES

- ❖ Know how to receive notifications and warnings: **Guide #02 – Notifications & Warnings**
- ❖ Be sure to know your Zonehaven evacuation zone name: **Guide #23 – Zonehaven**
- ❖ Prepare for a disaster: **Guide #03 – Personal & Family Preparedness Before a Disaster**
- ❖ Create and practice your family emergency plan: **Guide #05 – Emergency Planning**
- ❖ Understand evacuation procedures: **Guide #06 – Emergency Evacuations**
- ❖ Have your checklist and Go-Bags ready: **Guide #07 – Evacuation & Go-Bag Checklists**
- ❖ Harden your home – it may save your life: **Guide #09 – Home Hardening for Wildfire**

### DURING EVACUATION - RESPOND THE BEST YOU CAN

- ❖ Listen for notifications, monitor your surroundings and follow all instructions given by officials.
- ❖ Dress in protective clothing and put on sturdy boots, gloves, face mask and eye protection.
- ❖ Have your cell phone charged and a flashlight handy as heavy smoke turns day into darkness.
- ❖ Determine as best you can the safest and fastest route away from the threat(s), down off any hill and towards a major road, highway or a safe area to take refuge in.
- ❖ Help any neighbors who need assistance, but don't put yourself at risk.
- ❖ Take one vehicle or carpool to reduce congestion, always have at least 1/2 tank of fuel.
- ❖ Roads with double-yellow lines are major egress routes, but if blocked you may have to use alternate routes – make sure you have a map to refer to and don't rely on cell phone GPS.
- ❖ In general, when evacuating it is safest to remain in your vehicle and on the pavement, even if you are stuck in traffic, as a vehicle can provide significant protection from heat and smoke.
- ❖ Evacuating by bicycle or by foot should be a last resort – unless it is your only safe option out.
- ❖ Evacuating on trails or fire roads through parks or areas of dense vegetation should be avoided unless there is no other safe option out.
- ❖ If your escape route is totally blocked and wildfire is approaching, look for a fire-resistant building, a large, open area such as a field or parking lot, or even a pool or lake to take refuge in.
- ❖ If you are stuck in your vehicle or have taken refuge, call 911 to report your location.
- ❖ If ordered to shelter-in-place to allow others to evacuate first, do so unless you feel in danger.

### AFTER EVACUATION - RECOVER AND ASSIST

- ❖ Move as far as possible away from the threat to make room for those evacuating behind you.
- ❖ Breathe, recompose, check yourself and your family for injuries and assist others as possible.
- ❖ Text your out-of-area contact with your status, location and names of family members with you.
- ❖ When returning home, be alert for hazards and check your area for embers or smoldering fires.

**During this stressful time, do your very best to remain calm and not panic**

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