

EVACUATION GUIDELINES



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

If you ever feel unsafe, leave early. Follow all instructions from authorities.

BEFORE EVACUATION - PREPARE IN ADVANCE WITH OUR GUIDES

- ❖ Know how to receive notifications and warnings: **Guide #02 – Notifications & Warnings**
- ❖ Be sure to know your evacuation zone name: **Guide #23 – Genasys Protect (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 and practice 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

- ❖ Monitor for notifications and sources of information such as AC Alerts, and your surroundings
- ❖ Dress in protective clothing and put on sturdy boots, gloves, face mask and eye protection
- ❖ Have your cell phone charged and flashlights 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 thoroughfare, highway or a safe area to take refuge in
- ❖ Help any neighbors who need assistance as best you can, however don't put yourself at risk
- ❖ Take one vehicle or carpool to reduce congestion, always have at least 1/2 tank of fuel/charge
- ❖ Wider roads with double-yellow lines are typical 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 some protection from flames, 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 are 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, who is with you and your plans
- ❖ When returning home, be alert for hazards and check your area for embers or smoldering fires

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Do your very best to remain calm and not panic during this stressful time!