



## Tips for a safe evacuation

The following information, provided by the Ventura County Fire Department, is intended to assist you in preparing for an evacuation:

### **Before you leave**

- Alert family and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots).
- Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department website.
- Remain close to your house, drink water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you leave.

### **Indoor checklist**

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- 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.

### **Outdoor checklist**

- Gather flammable items from the exterior of the house (e.g., wood piles, patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) and bring them inside, move them to an open area away from structures or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks and move them away from any structures.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running—they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back cars into the driveway or garage with keys in the ignition. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.
- Leave residential gate open or manually disconnect in the event of a power failure.

### **If you are unable to leave**

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside the house so embers don't destroy them.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.
- If there are fires that you cannot extinguish with a small amount of water or quickly, call 9-1-1.

## WILDFIRE PROTECTION UNIT®

### Go early

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely to do their job.

#### *When to leave*

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

#### *Where to go*

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

#### *How to get there*

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

#### *What to take*

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family's and pet's necessary items.

If you have questions about protecting your residence or our wildfire protection program, please contact James Rappuhn, Director of the Wildfire Protection Unit, at 619 876-3992 or [james.rappuhn@aig.com](mailto:james.rappuhn@aig.com).

If you have questions concerning the protection of your collection or valuables, contact our art collection management department at [artcollections.pcg@aig.com](mailto:artcollections.pcg@aig.com).

### Emergency supplies

The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildfire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies, visit the American Red Cross Web site at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply)
- First aid kit
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- Sanitation supplies
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Important family documents and contact numbers
- Map marked with evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- Easily carried valuables
- Personal computers (information on hard drives and disks)
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.
- Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night

For more information, visit [www.fire.countyofventura.org](http://www.fire.countyofventura.org).



Bring on tomorrow

The Wildfire Protection Unit complies with state laws and guidelines set by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). These regulations are in place to help protect the safety of public and private fire protection forces. In some instances, they may restrict our access to your home during an active wildfire. To learn more about IAFC's guidelines, visit [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org) or contact the Wildfire Protection Unit.

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