



EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS



Monitor phones and radio for emergency information and evacuation notifications. Emergency personnel will attempt to provide timely evacuation notifications and emergency information if your community is threatened. Act quickly and follow their instructions. **Leave early if unsure.**

EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

The terms “voluntary” and “mandatory” are often incorrectly used to describe evacuations. In Oakland, fire/police agencies will use the terms Evacuation Order, Evacuation Warning and Shelter-in-Place to alert you to the significance of the danger and to provide basic instructions.

EVACUATION ORDER	EVACUATION WARNING	SHELTER-IN-PLACE
<p>LEAVE NOW! Evacuate immediately, do not delay to gather belongings or prepare your home. Follow directions given by authorities. In a fast-moving wildfire situation you may only have a few minutes to get out.</p>	<p>EVACUATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. You may have a short time to gather valuables and prepare your home. Leave if you do not feel safe.</p>	<p>Stay where you are or in the safest nearby building or nonburnable area. Sheltering may be required when evacuation isn't immediately necessary or if it is too dangerous at the moment.</p>

4 CRITICAL EVACUATION STEPS

PREPARE	MONITOR	LEAVE EARLY	STAY CALM
<p>Prepare yourself, your family, your pets and your home in advance, long before a disaster strikes. Pack a Go-Bag for everyone, create defensible space, and harden your home. Complete a Family Emergency Plan and practice regularly. Sign up for AC Alerts.</p>	<p>Monitor weather and local conditions, and understand when risk is highest. During Red Flag Warnings take steps to prepare: review your evacuation checklist, double-check your Go-Bags, charge phones and monitor AM/FM radio (530 AM, KCBS 740 AM or KQED 88.5 FM).</p>	<p>Leave immediately if ordered. If a fire is burning nearby (especially during a Red Flag Warning) dress appropriately and follow your evacuation checklist if time allows. Check on and alert your neighbors if possible. Leave early if conditions change or if you feel unsafe.</p>	<p>Take the fastest and most protected route to safety. Use one car per household or carpool. Don't panic in traffic! Head toward a wide road off the hillside as this is the safest place you can be. Be aware of your surroundings and monitor your AM/FM radio.</p>

YOUR WILDFIRE EVACUATION ROUTE

When evacuating, take the fastest and most familiar route to a wide, primary road off any hillside and away from the fire. Don't evacuate by fire road or "cross country" trails where you might be exposed to unburned vegetation, unless there is no other way out. Above all be alert, calm and safe.



ORDERS

When a wildfire threatens your community, authorities will determine areas to be evacuated and routes to use, depending upon the fire's current and predicted location. **Law enforcement officers are responsible for enforcing an evacuation order.** Follow their directions promptly.

If time allows, officials will attempt to advise you of the safest evacuation routes. **You must take the initiative to keep informed and alert.** Listen to your AM/FM radio for updates on changing conditions. Monitor AC Alert for notifications and updates. You may be directed to temporary refuge areas to await transfer to a safe location.

ROADS Take the fastest route towards safety. **The route you normally take to the highway is usually the best route to evacuate by.** If available, law enforcement officers will direct traffic and wave vehicles through intersections. Even during an extreme wildfire, when there may be fire on both sides of the road, you will be safer inside your vehicle than out. Keep the windows rolled up, outside vents closed, turn your lights on and drive slowly and carefully. Don't panic if caught in traffic. **You are safer in your car! Do not stop to ask authorities for fire information.**

CHILDREN & SCHOOLS Public and private schools will attempt to notify parents, and will evacuate children only if time allows. Schools may need to "shelter in place" and will protect children in safe areas on campus if a wildfire strikes without time to evacuate.

REFUGE/EVACUATION CENTERS

Authorities will provide information on safe evacuation and refuge centers if possible. **For small-scale evacuations or sheltering, local schools, community centers, open areas or large parking lots may be used.** The American Red Cross will set up temporary refuge shelters after a disaster.

SHELTERING-IN-PLACE

A building should be your first choice for shelter if evacuation is not possible.

- ❖ Close all doors and windows and leave them unlocked
- ❖ Keep car keys, cell phone, ID, and flashlight with you
- ❖ Gather all family members and pets (in carriers) and lay down near the front door, protecting your airway by breathing near the floor if it becomes smoky or hot
- ❖ Monitor the fire and be observant
- ❖ Call 9-1-1, let them know your location

If your escape route is blocked and there is no safe building nearby to take refuge in, **park and stay in your car: it is far safer than being out in the open.**

- ❖ Turn on headlights and emergency flashers to make your car more visible through heavy smoke
- ❖ Close all windows and doors, shut off all air vents, and turn off the air conditioner.
- ❖ Get below windows, under blankets (preferably wool) and lie on floor
- ❖ Call 9-1-1, let them know your location

OCP&R is a program of the Oakland Firesafe Council.

Contact OCP&R for more information and assistance with emergency evacuations.

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OAKLAND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

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