



# EVACUATION PLANNING

Planning for an emergency evacuation, such as to escape a rapidly-moving wildfire, should take place **long before an actual evacuation is needed**. Make sure that you and your family are well prepared for an evacuation or to shelter-in-place at any time by following these **STEPS TO PREPARE** » » »

## HAVE A PLAN FOR YOURSELF AND FOR YOUR FAMILY

You should have a **documented family evacuation plan** that includes a map of all potential escape routes, a checklist of what to take with you, how you will care for children and pets, a checklist of actions to take before you evacuate, an identified out-of-area contact and a location where and how you will meet up with other family members after the evacuation is over.

You should also have **emergency supplies** including Go-Bags packed and ready to grab.

**Document, review and practice this plan regularly!**

**For additional information refer to OCP&R Guides:**

- #01 - Neighborhood Organization
- #02 - Notifications and Warnings
- #03 - Preparedness Before a Disaster
- #06 - Emergency Evacuations

## STEPS TO PREPARE



❖ Know your neighbors and be ready to help those nearby who are elderly or who may have difficulty moving. Be part of an organized neighborhood that maintains a roster of all neighbor's contact information and emergency phone numbers.



❖ Study a map of your neighborhood streets and know in advance which routes (by vehicle and by foot) could be your **best potential evacuation options** — understand that you may encounter hazards such as wildfire or impassible roads so **be prepared to alter your route if needed**.



❖ Keep copies of important documents in your Go-Bag or handy so that you can grab them quickly.



❖ Have necessary pet supplies on-hand and easy to access (leashes, pet carriers, water, food, etc.).



❖ Identify the location of your home's external gas shut-off valve. Have a gas shut-off wrench near your external gas shut-off valve and know how to turn it off.



❖ If your garage door is electrically operated, **be sure you know how to open it manually** from the inside and/or outside (and how to manually lock it when closed). Consider installing a garage door opener battery back-up for when the power is out.



❖ Always keep at least 1/2 tank of gas in your vehicle and park facing out toward the street. Plan to take only one vehicle if possible, or to carpool.



❖ During a wildfire or other disaster, cell phone/Internet service may not be available as cell towers may be damaged or the system overloaded. A 2-way radio can be a good option to communicate with neighbors and other neighborhood groups.



❖ Be trained and up-to-date on emergency preparedness and response by taking local CORE/CERT classes and by participating in emergency exercises and drills.

## DRESS FOR SURVIVAL

Have personal protective clothing at the ready and put them on at the first sign of trouble:



FLOPPY HAT



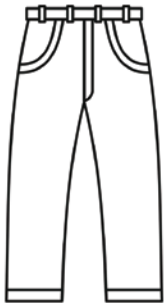
HANDKERCHIEF or BANDANNA



LONG SLEEVE SHIRT wool or cotton/denim, not synthetic



STURDY BELT



LONG PANTS wool or cotton/denim, not synthetic

FULL COVERAGE GOGGLES



SAFETY MASK



HEAVY DUTY WORK GLOVES



SOCKS wool or cotton



STURDY BOOTS

## CREATE EMERGENCY GO-BAGS

Pre-packed emergency “Go-Bags” are personal kits that you grab when there is an emergency such as a wildfire or earthquake, or you are told to evacuate. **You should have a Go-Bag for each family member.** These bags should include items like headlamps, lifesaving tools, AM/FM radio, prescriptions, copies of important documents, chargers, food, water and protective clothing to get you through the first few critical days.

**Put items in a backpack or other easy-to-carry bag** such as a duffel bag with a shoulder strap. Keep Go-Bag(s) in a **quick-to-reach location** such as an entry-hall closet or near a door in a garage. You could also keep them outside your home in a waterproof box or trash can with a lid. **Make sure each bag has a tag with your name and address.**

It is a good idea to also have emergency **Go-Bags in all your vehicles and at work.**

For more information refer to: OCP&R Guide #07 - Evacuation and Go-Bag Checklists

## PLAN TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE IF NEEDED

**Wildfires are unpredictable and spread quickly.** Even if you’ve prepared in advance, **you may be required to “shelter in place”** if ordered or if you find yourself trapped by a wildfire.

As with knowing your neighborhood streets to identify potential escape routes, **also locate in advance nearby places that may be best able to withstand a wildfire.** These may be your home, another building made of more fire resistant materials or that is not surrounded by vegetation, or a large, open outdoor area like a playing field or parking lot away from vegetation.

**Prepare yourself for darkness** (even during the day), noise, chaos, and the natural urge to flee the safety of your shelter. It is important to remain calm and keep together — **practicing emergency evacuations on a regular basis will build confidence!**

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

Contact OCP&R for more information and assistance with evacuation planning.

Thanking Firesafe Marin for their contribution to this content. Version 1.3 8/20/20

**OAKLAND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE**

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