

Oakland Community Preparedness & Response



EVACUATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are to help residents of Oakland determine what best to do before, during and after an evacuation from a threat such as a wildfire. **These are not absolute rules as no one can know before a disaster takes place where the threat will come from and what the best way to safety will be, for example.** You'll need to make careful decisions and take the safest actions when the event occurs.

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; refer to [Guide #02 - Notifications & Warnings](#)
- ❖ Prepare for a disaster; refer to [Guide #03 - Personal & Family Preparedness Before a Disaster](#)
- ❖ Create and practice your family evacuation plan; refer to [Guide #05 - Evacuation Planning](#)
- ❖ Understand evacuation procedures; refer to [Guide #06 - Emergency Evacuations](#)
- ❖ Have your checklist and Go-Bags ready; refer to [Guide #07 - Evacuation & Go-Bag Checklists](#)
- ❖ Harden your home – it may save your life; refer to [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 shortest route away from the threat(s), down off any hill and towards a major road, highway or an area to take refuge in.
- ❖ Help any neighbors who need assistance, but don't put yourself in further danger.
- ❖ 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 will provide significant protection from heat and gases.
- ❖ 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 location and note any 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