



EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS



Monitor phones, messages and radio stations 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 Warning, Evacuation Order and Shelter-in-Place to alert you to the significance of the danger and to provide basic instructions.

EVACUATION WARNING

GET READY TO EVACUATE. You may have a short time to gather valuables and prepare your home. **Leave early if you do not feel safe.**

EVACUATION ORDER

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. Do not remain behind.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Stay where you are or in the safest nearby building or nonburnable area. Sheltering may be required if evacuation isn't immediately necessary or if it's too dangerous at the moment. Continue monitoring.

4 CRITICAL EVACUATION STEPS

PREPARE

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. Create an evacuation plan and practice regularly. Have an out-of-area contact. Sign up for AC Alerts.

MONITOR

Monitor weather and local conditions, and understand when risk is highest. During Red Flag Warnings be prepared to go: review your evacuation checklist, double-check your Go-Bags, charge phones and monitor your AM/FM radio (KCBS 740 AM or KQED 88.5 FM).

GET READY

Leave immediately if ordered. If a fire is burning nearby (especially during a Red Flag Warning) dress in protective clothing and follow your evacuation checklist if time allows. Check on, alert and assist your neighbors if possible. Leave early if conditions change or if you ever feel unsafe.

STAY CALM

Take the fastest and most protected route to safety. Use one vehicle per household or carpool. Don't panic in traffic, even if roads are jammed! Head toward a wide road off the hillside that leads to a highway. Be aware of your surroundings and monitor your AM/FM radio.

YOUR WILDFIRE EVACUATION ROUTE

Take the fastest and most familiar route to a wide, primary road or highway off any hillside and away from the fire. Avoid evacuating by fire roads or park 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 do their best to determine areas to be evacuated and routes to use, depending upon the fire's location and predicted direction. **Law enforcement/police officers are responsible for enforcing an evacuation order.** Follow their directions promptly.

If possible, officials will attempt to advise you of the safest evacuation routes. **You still 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.** Know that you may have to alter your route if blocked. If available, law enforcement officers will direct traffic and wave vehicles through intersections. Even during an extreme wildfire, when there is fire around you, you will usually 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 as soon as they can. **For small-scale evacuations or sheltering, local schools, community centers, open areas or large parking lots may be used.** The American Red Cross will typically set up temporary refuge shelters after a disaster.

SHELTERING-IN-PLACE OR IN A VEHICLE

A fire-resistant building is the best option 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 smoky
- ❖ Monitor the fire and be observant
- ❖ Call 911 and tell them your location

If your escape route is blocked and there is no close fire-resistant building, **look for a large, open area such as a field or parking lot to take refuge while in your vehicle.**

- ❖ Turn on headlights and emergency flashers to make your vehicle 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 911 and tell them your location

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

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

Thanking Firesafe Marin for their contribution to this content. Version 1.4 9/29/20

OAKLAND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

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