

# Evacuate with Confidence: Choose the Right Vehicle

If a wildfire threatens Marin, we may all need to evacuate to safety in cars. Inevitably, traffic is going to be a problem, so it is important that we use as few cars as we can. If possible, use one car for your household or even car pool with your neighbors. In households with multiple vehicles, here are some factors to consider:

## **Take the Car With the Longest Range Available**

Evacuations can be unpredictable, marked with long periods of waiting, and congested traffic. Whether your vehicle is gas or electric, take whichever has the longest range available. This might be the car with the highest charge level or “fullest” tank.

*Consider carpooling to reduce the amount of drivers on the roads.*

## **Plan for Public Safety Power Shut Offs**

Red Flag Warnings are issued when weather conditions, such as strong winds and low humidity, significantly increase the likelihood of wildfire ignition and rapid spread. In Marin it is common for these days to coincide with public safety power shut offs. It is crucial to remain vigilant during the summer months and keep your car charged up, as power outages could impact your ability to charge in an emergency. Remember gas stations also require electricity at the pump. Sign up for PG&E safety alerts here to stay informed.



## **Take the Most Reliable Car**

While it might be tempting to take the car with the highest monetary or sentimental value, our recommendation is always to take the car that is most reliable and has the most room for passengers and evacuation essentials.

## **The Bottom Line**

Regardless of the type of car you drive, the safest and most efficient wildfire evacuation requires pre-planning. If there is an evacuation order in your community, take the vehicle that will keep you and your family safe for the longest time possible. For more information on how to evacuate safely in your vehicle, check out this video Make it Downhill Alive.

**Learn more at [firesafemarin.org](https://firesafemarin.org)**