



FIRE Safe

M A R I N

Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness

Information, Procedures, and
Evacuation Drill Tips

www.FIRESafeMARIN.org/Evacuation

Preparedness Goals

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HOME HARDENING SHOULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN PREPAREDNESS.

THESE ARE THE 7 KEY AREAS TO FOCUS ON TO BE READY BEFORE A FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME.

Alert Systems

Marin residents should be prepared to monitor multiple sources for fire and life safety information.

Go Kits

Have a Wildfire and Emergency "Go Kit" assembled for each family member and pet.

Power Backups

Power can go out before a fire strikes. Be prepared to communicate and escape without power.

Action Plan

Wildfire Action Plans must be prepared and familiar to all members of your household well in advance!

Monitor Weather

Red Flag Warning: Monitoring predicted fire weather can provide advanced warning.

Evacuation Checklist

When fire is near, follow the checklist to give you and your home the best chance of survival.

PRACTICE! BE READY TO EVACUATE WITHIN 15 MINUTES

Fire Dept. Priorities During Emergencies

1. Save Lives
2. Protect Property
3. Protect Infrastructure
4. Protect the Environment

Residents' Priorities During Emergencies

1. **Given the Fire Departments' priorities and resources, WE NEED TO DO OUR PART AND BE PREPARED for an immediate evacuation upon alert.**

Alert and Warning Systems

ALERT MARIN

WHEN DO WE USE IT?

- When ACTION is needed at a SPECIFIC ADDRESS
- Imminent flooding, wildfires, and evacuations
- During-event information about evacuation routes, shelters, transportation
- Other public safety incidents where lives may be at risk

Register here:

<https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin>

NIXLE

WHEN DO WE USE IT?

- When INFORMATION is needed in a ZIP CODE
- Road closures, general updates, issues affecting larger areas
- Post-disaster information about shelters, transportation, or supplies
- Police activity and general public safety information

Register Here:

<https://www.nixle.com/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

WHEN DO WE USE IT?

- Less critical and low level UPDATES intended for larger populations
- Traffic updates, road closures, incident updates, and contact information
- Safety announcement, power outages, minor issues, frequent updates
- Disaster recovery resources

Follow: @marinsheriff;
@marincountyfire ; *(and your local agencies)*

Alert and Warning Systems



NOAA Weather Alert Radio

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Hi-Lo Siren

The Hi-Lo siren — a two-tone siren from police vehicles that makes a very distinctive and unfamiliar sound — will only be used for immediate evacuation notifications in a large area and during an extreme emergency.

The Hi-Lo siren means one thing only: Evacuate immediately. When you hear Hi-Lo, it's time to go.



Go Kits

Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time:

Put together your Go Kit (or “Go Bag”) long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs and keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate.

Each person (and pet) should have a readily accessible Go Kit:

Backpacks work great for storing these items and are easy to carry when you leave. Keep it light enough to be able to carry on foot if needed.

Tips for Involving Children:

Create a scavenger hunt for Go Kit items for young children before fire season.

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/go-kit#go-kit>

"GO KIT" CHECKLIST PRIORITIES:

- Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes or boots (preferable) and a spare flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.
- Long sleeve shirt, long pants, cotton (all should be cotton or wool, bright colors are best).
- Leather work gloves
- Full coverage goggles
- Respirator (N95, available at most hardware stores)
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes (if possible)
- Prescriptions medications (ask your doctor for a multi day emergency supply, rotate annually)
- Water bottle
- Small supply of energy food.
- Spare battery and charger for cell phone
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit (compact)
- Headlamp
- Flashlight (handheld)
- Battery-powered radio
- Spare batteries for flashlights, headlamp, and radio
- Sanitation supplies (toilet paper, feminine hygiene, baby wipes/diapers)
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Pet Supplies
 - Carriers for each pet
 - Leashes
 - Pet food and water



ITEMS TO TAKE IF TIME ALLOWS:

- Easily carried valuables
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person.
- Family photos and other small, irreplaceable items
- Personal computer information on hard drives and disks (off site or "cloud" backup is best)
- Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Go Kits

Want to order the items in our recommended Go Kit?
<https://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/go-kit#go-kit>

If an evacuation order is given, leave immediately. Don't wait until the last minute and don't forget your Go Bag.

Conditions can change rapidly and your safety is #1.



Dress For Survival

When preparing to evacuate, dress yourself and family in clothes that will shield from heat, embers and flames.

Natural fabrics, such as heavy denim or pure wool are better than synthetics, no matter how hot it is.

Keep these items near your “Go Kit” during fire season, and keep a set near your bed before laying down during a Red Flag Warning.

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/go-kit#go-kit>

Protective Clothing Should Include:

- ❑ Sturdy leather boots with Vibram-lug soles
- ❑ Full-coverage goggles
- ❑ Leather work gloves
- ❑ Long pants (wool or cotton) with sturdy belt
- ❑ Long sleeved shirt that covers neck (tuck into pants)
- ❑ Floppy cotton hat
- ❑ Handkerchief or bandana to cover face
- ❑ Wool socks

BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Personal Protective Clothing

WHY WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING?

Being in or near a bush fire can cause a number of different injuries and everyone should wear protective clothing to avoid injury from smoke, sparks, embers and extreme heat. Loose fitting clothing made from natural fibres such as pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim is important to protect you from injury. Synthetic fabrics can melt or burn.



PUT THESE CLOTHES ON AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE. IF YOU SMELL OR SEE SMOKE, IT'S TIME TO PREPARE!

Pets and Animals

You play an important role in helping your pets stay safe in a wildfire. Make sure they're included in your family's evacuation plan; and build each pet their own pet evacuation kit .

These items will help:

- Microchip & Tags
- Keep Carrier Ready During Fire Season
- During a fire, keep pets in carriers
- Food and water
- Pet medications

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/pets>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Campaigns/TakeAction/TakeActionPetsChecklist.pdf>



If you have pets, they should be crate trained well in advance.

Marin Humane Society provides a wide variety of training classes:
<https://training.marinhumane.org/oh-behave/events/seminars-events>

Power Failure During Wildfires

FIRESafe MARIN strongly recommends that all Marin residents prepare for power outages before and during wildfires.

We recommend the purchase and installation of:

- Battery powered AM/FM/Weather radio
- Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) -- This is a battery backup and surge protector for essential home appliances
- Battery Backups for Garage door openers
- Permanently (professionally) installed home generators



For more information: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/power>

Wildfire Action Plan

ACTION PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE:

1. Designate a safe meeting location outside of hazard area
2. Know the evacuation routes from home and community
 - a. Know your work's evacuation plan
 - b. Know children's school's evacuation plan
3. Have a plan for pets and livestock
4. Have a Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation
 - a. Be aware that phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster
5. Use the evacuation checklist
6. Check on neighbors that may need assistance

ZONE AREA

7 FAIRFAX CASCADE Know your way out.

Scan this QR code to download your neighborhood map on your phone or tablet!

Familiarize yourself with major routes out of your neighborhood in case of an evacuation.

EVACUATION SAFETY TIPS

What to wear?
Wear goggles, leather gloves, and heavy shoes/boots; protect skin with long cotton or wool clothing; protect airway and face with an N95 mask and bandanna. Wear a hat to protect hair from embers.

Where to go? Avoid hillsides. Head for a valley floor by car, away from the fire if possible.

Last resort... Go on foot or bicycle only if no other option exists. Sheltering indoors or in a car is usually safer than being exposed.

Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs, and situations.

For more info, visit:
<https://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/action-plan>

Monitor Daily Weather Conditions

Monitoring predicted fire weather can provide advanced warning and extra time to prepare before a fire strikes. During the North Bay Fires of 2017, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning 72 hours before the fires began.

Most major wildfires that destroy homes and cause death and injuries have a common denominator: dry winds blowing from the east or northeast. These conditions are most common in the fall from September to October, but can happen any time of year and will always be associated with potentially catastrophic fires during the dry season.

Learn more about fire weather:

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/fire-weather>

RED FLAG WARNING!

Diablo and Santa Ana Winds at a Glance

This is how the hot, powerful Santa Ana winds in Southern California and Diablo winds in Northern California increase the regions' fire risk.

HOW SANTA ANA AND DIABLO WINDS OCCUR

- 1** A high-pressure system in the Great Basin generates clockwise desert winds.
- 2** These winds flow over the Sierras and desert ranges, compressing and warming, losing humidity. As a result, the relative humidity drops and dries out vegetation.
- 3** Winds squeeze through canyons like water through a hose, gusting up to 60 mph.
- 4** These strong, hot winds fan fires and create turbulence and unpredictable conditions for firefighters.



SOURCES: Natl. Weather Service; InsideClimate News research

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News

Evacuation Checklist

ALWAYS: prepare these before fire season

IF TIME ALLOWS: prepare during a red flag warning or evacuation warning

WHEN YOU LEAVE: complete during an evacuation and GO!

ALWAYS:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Keep your cell phone fully charged.
- Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status. Update regularly.
- Leave a note with your contact info and out-of-area contact taped to fridge or inside a front window.
- Check on or call neighbors to alert them to prepare at first sign of fire.

ON YOUR PERSON

- Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
- Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, head protection.
- Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator. Tie long hair back.
- Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day).
- Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.
- Drink plenty of water, stay hydrated.
- Put "Go Kits" (reverse) in your vehicle.

PETS & ANIMALS

- Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You won't be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
- Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
- Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them *unlocked*.
- Remove combustible window shades and curtains; close metal shutters.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- Leave indoor and outdoor lights on.
- Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

- Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30' from structures (optional: place in a pool).
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15' away from combustibles.
- Connect garden hoses with squeeze-grip nozzles to outdoor spigots for use by firefighters.
- Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house.
- Back your car into driveway, loaded, with doors and windows closed.
- Prop open fence and side gates.
- Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or metal covers (even duct tape will protect from ember entry) if time allows.
- Patrol your property and monitor conditions. Leave if spot fires ignite or conditions change.

WHEN YOU LEAVE:

- Leave immediately if ordered.
- Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe or conditions change; leave early if unsure.
- Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Carpool with neighbors to reduce traffic.
- Take only essential vehicles with adequate fuel.
- In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC, tune to local radio.
- Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
- The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest *paved* route to a valley floor, away from the fire if possible.
- Proceed downhill, away from the fire if possible. Know at least two routes.
- If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter in a building, car, or an open area; park in an *outside turn* if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.
- If trapped, you are better protected inside a building or vehicle.
- Don't abandon your car in the road if passage is impossible. If you must leave your car, park it off the road and consider other options for shelter.
- Evacuate on foot *only as a last resort*.
- Don't evacuate by fire road, uphill, or into open-space areas with unburned vegetation.
- Remain calm - panic is deadly.

Wildfire Evacuation Checklist and Family Communication Plan (2019-07-17)

FIRESafe MARIN | www.firesafemarin.org

Download a copy of the evacuation checklist here:

https://www.firesafemarin.org/images/documents/resources/evac/FIRESafe_MARIN_Evacuation_Checklist.pdf

FIRESafe
MARIN

DON'T BE THIS GUY

YOU'RE WASTING WATER AND PLACING YOURSELF
AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT RISK.

FIRE Safe
M A R I N

ALWAYS BE PREPARED:

1. Assemble an emergency supply kit for each person (and pet)
2. Follow our Evacuation Checklist
3. Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your communication plan
4. Keep an extra go kit in your car just in case
5. Have a portable AM/FM radio or scanner so you can stay updated
6. Tell your neighbors about Ready, Set, Go! and your Wildfire Action Plan
7. On Red Flag Warning days, fill up gas tank and park facing street

Create Defensible Space and Harden Your Home

DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS THE BUFFER YOU CREATE BETWEEN A BUILDING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND THE GRASS, TREES, SHRUBS, OR ANY WILDLAND AREA THAT SURROUND IT. DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S CHANCE OF SURVIVING A WILDFIRE...**IMPROVE YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE BEFORE FIRE SEASON!**

Defensible space can help slow or stop the spread of wildfire and protect your home from catching fire – either from embers, direct flame contact, or radiant heat. **Creating defensible space is also important to give you the most time to evacuate** in the event of a wildfire and to help protect firefighters when they are defending your home.

WHAT NOW?

PRACTICE! The separate document “Tips to Coordinate an Evacuation Drill” will walk you through how to practice your evacuation steps. FIRESafe MARIN recommends practicing this on your own first, and include any and all housemates/family members. Our goal is to have you in the car (just choose one...recommend the vehicle with the most capacity and highest clearance), **ready to go within 15 minutes of receiving an evacuation order.**

Once you have practiced on your own, it may be a good idea to practice with your neighborhood. We don't necessarily need the Fire Department involved to run a drill, but it would be a good idea to at least make them aware. Also, given that the fire seasons are getting longer, **we recommend practicing in the months leading up to fire season.**