



What  
does  
this sign  
mean?

## UNDERSTANDING RED FLAG WARNINGS

You may have seen this sign posted at the entrance to our neighborhood.

Red Flag Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) to notify the public and fire agencies in advance of critical weather patterns that may contribute to extreme fire danger and/or extreme fire behavior. Based on information from the NWS, Marin County Fire Chiefs decide which areas of Marin should post Red Flag Warning signs.

**During Red Flag Warnings, extreme caution is urged for all residents because fires are more likely to ignite, and those that do are more likely to spread rapidly and be more difficult to control.**

Red Flag Warning conditions are typically related to wind events lasting at least 8 hours when: vegetation is already dry; annual grasses are cured; and no rain has occurred in the last 24 hours. Relative humidity and wind speed are the primary factors driving a Red Flag Warning declaration. Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches remain in effect through the expiration time noted in the forecast, or until canceled or upgraded.

Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches are posted on the California Fire Weather web page and the website of the San Francisco Bay Area National Weather Service office.

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**For emergency notifications and information,** sign up for **Alert Marin** [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org) and **Nixle** [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). For safety information, visit **FIRESafe MARIN** [www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org).

**Para traducción al Español**  
[firesafemarin.org/espanol](http://firesafemarin.org/espanol)



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## PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS DURING A RED FLAG WARNING

- Review your **Wildfire Evacuation Checklist**. [www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/checklist](http://www.firesafemarin.org/evacuation/checklist)
- **Prepare your home** by enhancing your defensible space, and especially cleaning leaves from roofs, gutters, and around the base of walls.
- Ensure your family and pets are prepared, and keep your **“Go Kits”** nearby.
- Ensure your **car has a full tank or fuel** (or a full charge if electric!).
- Ensure your **cell phone is charged, and monitor phones** for emergency alerts.
- **Keep hydrated**—it’s usually warm and dry!

## ACTIVITIES TO AVOID DURING A RED FLAG WARNING

- Don’t use barbecues or fire-pits outdoors (especially charcoal or wood models, but also gas or propane).
- Don’t use an source of heat or open flame outdoors, including cooking, power tools (gas or electric), and mowers.
- Don’t smoke outdoors.
- Avoid driving or parking in dry grass or vegetation.
- Avoid closed areas and be alert while visiting (open) public lands where wildfires might occur.

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