

Red Flag Checklist

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Early evacuations save the most lives, and preparation allows you to feel less overwhelmed in the moment. Preparation should happen before fire season starts! Wildfires start small and can become an emergency fast, especially in regions prone to wind-driven fires. This list is helpful for people who have prepared; those that have already done their Evacuation Plans, Family Communication Plans, Go-Bags, Defensible Space, and Home Hardening before fire season. The goal of this checklist is to get you prepared for quick and early evacuations on Red Flag Warning days. Since you may not have much time to evacuate, it is important to prepare in advance and use time wisely.

Prepare to depart quickly:

- Review evacuation plan
- Review communication plan
- Charge phones, electronic devices, and weather alert radio
- Fill car gas tank or full charge if electric
- Park car in the driveway facing out for a quick exit
- Monitor radio, websites, and social media for fire news

Gather evacuation supplies in one location:

- Medications, important documents, and pets
- Family “Go Bags”
- Pet “Go Bags”
- “Evacuation clothes” ready to be put on

Remember six “Ps” for Immediate Evacuation

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computer hard drive and disks
- “Plastic” (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

Source: CAL FIRE

Alternatives to evacuations have been tested with mixed results; it is best to plan for an early evacuation.

Prepare your home BEFORE fire season and check on Red Flag Warning days:

- Take photos of every room, closet, and storage area to help with insurance and recovery process. Store in the cloud or with a relative out of the area
- Close fireplace screens and/or doors
- Remove flammable items from deck and from within 5 ft. of house and deck
- Connect garden hoses to outside taps and sprinklers
- Clear flammable vegetation away from water supply infrastructure
- Place ladder and hoses by house to assist firefighters
- If available, set up a portable gasoline-powered pump

Evacuating:

If you feel unsafe, evacuate immediately. Prepare to take shelter if you cannot leave.

Mandatory evacuation zones:

Evacuate immediately. Early evacuation is the safest, late evacuation causes the greatest loss of life.

Voluntary evacuation zone:

Leaving during a voluntary evacuation order may make your evacuation safer and easier than waiting for a mandatory evacuation order. Take time to review evacuation plans, and prepare your house and vehicle for evacuation. Plan to leave early with family and animals.

Near evacuation zones:

Review evacuation and communication plans, prepare your house, family, animals, and vehicle for evacuation.

Before a wildfire:

If you live in an area that is difficult to evacuate, consider self-evacuating when wildfires are predicted to have rapid growth. Consider evacuating before wildfire ignitions during Red Flag Warnings and especially during high wind events like those that cause Public Safety Power Shutoffs.