

What To Do When Trapped – Near Home

If you are about to be trapped by approaching flames near your home or while you are evacuating, find a building for shelter.

Avoid getting burned over in your vehicle!



Step 1: REMAIN CALM

An approaching wildfire will be extremely loud, create extreme heat and smoke, and will likely evoke fear and panic. However, the active flame will pass.

Step 2: PREPARE SAFE ZONES

Choose the most well-constructed or modern building for shelter.

- Shut all windows and doors and put wet towels across window and door edges to prevent smoke and flames from entering the house.

Step 3: PROTECT YOURSELF

- Stay inside while the fire front passes. Stay low to keep cool and avoid smoke inhalation.
- Move to the end of the house farthest from the fire front. Preferable to shelter in a part of your building that allows you to see the progress of the fire.
- Look out for embers landing inside the home and extinguish any spot fires.
- **After the fire has passed over the house, head outside to an area with no flames for safety.** This may be an area that just burned.

Step 4: ASSESS HAZARDS AFTER FIRE FRONT HAS PASSED

- **Call 9-1-1 for help if you need medical assistance and cannot leave the area after the fire has passed.**
- Continue to wear personal protective clothing.
- Inspect the perimeter of the home/structure and extinguish any spot fires. Test door surface with the back of your hand before opening.
- Be aware of trees, brush, or rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire.
- **Stay clear of electrical wires on the ground – consider them energized.**