



What to do when...

What To Do When You Are Threatened By Wildfire

If you have followed the advance preparation steps previously outlined, you have created a **FireWise** home that has a better chance of surviving a wildfire. But when a wildfire is immediately threatening your area, there are additional steps you can take.

- ❑ If you see a fire approaching your home, report it immediately by dialing 9-1-1. Stay on the phone to answer additional questions the emergency dispatcher may ask.
- ❑ Dress properly to prevent burns and lifelong scars. Wear long pants, cotton or wool long-sleeve shirts or jackets. Gloves and a damp cloth provide added protection. Do not wear short sleeve shirts or clothing made of synthetic fabrics.

Emergency Wildfire Survival Checklist

If there is time before the fire arrives, take the following actions:

Prepare to Evacuate

- ❑ Park your car in the garage, facing out with windows closed and keys in the ignition.
- ❑ Close the garage door but leave it unlocked. Disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- ❑ Place valuable documents, family mementos and pets inside the car in the garage ready for quick departure.

Outside Your Home

- ❑ Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage (if it catches fire while outside, the added heat could ignite your house).
- ❑ Cover windows, attic openings, eave vents and sub-floor vents with fire-resistant material such as 1/2-inch or thicker plywood. This will eliminate the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house.
- ❑ Close window shutters if they are fire-resistant.
- ❑ Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- ❑ Fill trash cans and buckets with water and place them where firefighters can find them.
- ❑ If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location and make sure it is ready to operate.
- ❑ Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire to help firefighters in rapidly getting onto your roof.

Inside Your Home

- ❑ Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- ❑ Close all doors inside the house to slow down fire spread from room to room.

- ❑ Turn on a light in each room of your house, on the porch and in the yard. This will make the house more visible in heavy smoke or darkness.
- ❑ Shut off liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas valves.
- ❑ Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep it from igniting from the heat of fire radiating through windows.
- ❑ Remove your curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.

Evacuating

- ❑ If you do evacuate, use your pre-planned route, away from the approaching fire front.
- ❑ Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times.
- ❑ If you are trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.
- ❑ If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation along a road, or lie in the road ditch. Cover any exposed skin with a jacket or blanket. Avoid canyons that can concentrate and channel fire.

If You Stay in Your Home When a Fire Approaches

- ❑ Stay inside your house, away from outside walls.
- ❑ Close all doors, but leave them unlocked.
- ❑ Keep your entire family together and remain calm. Remember: if it gets hot in the house, it is many times hotter and more dangerous outside.

After the Fire Passes

- ❑ After a fire passes, check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- ❑ Check the roof immediately, extinguishing all sparks and embers. If you must climb onto the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.
- ❑ Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- ❑ Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.
- ❑ Keep the doors and windows closed.
- ❑ Continue rechecking your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours.