



# County of Tulare

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When a disaster occurs, Tulare County wants you to be as prepared as possible. Here are some of the steps to take in the event of an emergency.

## WHAT TO BRING IN CASE OF EVACUATION

- Important documents
- Prescription and other emergency medication
- Non-perishable food items and water
- Extra clothing
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Hygiene supplies
- Other comfort items
- Special items for children and infants, such as diapers, formula, and toys
- Pets and their food/medications (leashes, bedding, kennel)

## WILDFIRE SAFETY

### **Before a wildfire threatens your area...**

Courtesy the National Fire Protection Association ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org))

#### *In and around your home*

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house. Learn more about the [basics of defensible space](#) on the Firewise website.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to treetops. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.



# County of Tulare

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- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screens with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.
- Learn more about how to protect your home and property at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

## *Creating an emergency plan*

- Assemble an emergency supply kit and place it in a safe spot. Remember to include important documents, medications and personal identification.
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan and practice it with everyone in your home.
- Plan two ways out of your neighborhood and designate a meeting place.
- Learn more about emergency preparedness planning on NFPA's [emergency planning](http://www.nfpa.org/emergency-planning) webpage.

## *In your community:*

- Contact your local planning/zoning office to find out if your home is in a high wildfire risk area, and if there are specific local or county ordinances you should be following.
- If you are part of a homeowner association, work with them to identify regulations that incorporate proven preparedness landscaping, home design and building material use.
- Talk to your local fire department about how to prepare, when to evacuate, and the response you and your neighbors can expect in the event of a wildfire.
- Learn about wildfire risk reduction efforts, including how land management agencies use prescribed fire to manage local landscapes.
- Learn how you can make a positive difference in your community.

## HEAT SAFETY

Courtesy Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency ([www.tchhsa.org](http://www.tchhsa.org))

- Tips to help keep you safe this summer:
- NEVER leave people or animals in a car in hot weather, even with the windows partway down. Temperatures can easily reach 120° F. and cause heat-related illness or death.
- When you are out at dawn or dusk, wear long pants and long sleeves, in addition to using insect repellent, to prevent mosquito bites, as they can carry West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis.
- Avoid direct sun, but if you cannot avoid it, wear a head covering and sunscreen.



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- When wearing sunscreen, remember to re-apply every few hours.
- If you do not have air conditioning during very hot days, visit your local shopping center or library where you can stay cool.
- Keep curtains closed during the heat of the day to keep your home or apartment cooler.
- Stay hydrated during hot or humid weather. The Institute of Medicine determined that an adequate intake (AI) for men is roughly three liters (about 13 cups) of total beverages a day. The AI for women is 2.2 liters (about 9 cups) per day.
- Store food safely during the heat to avoid food poisoning.
- Water Safety and Swimming Pools: *California's Swimming Pool Safety Act* (Health and Safety Code §§115920-115929) requires at least one approved safety barrier be in place for all pools and spas built after January 1, 1998, and for any pools being remodeled. Property owners should voluntarily install barriers around pools that have been constructed prior to 1998. Also:
- More California toddlers are killed by accidental drowning than by any other kind of accident. If a child is missing, always look first in the pool.
- Never swim alone, always supervise children near the water, and wait a half hour to swim after eating.
- It is recommended that parents, babysitters, guardians, daycare workers, and anyone supervising children should take the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course annually.
- Wear life jackets. While on a water vessel, children under 13 must wear a life jacket at all times. Have a personal flotation device onboard for each person present.
- Take caution in and around rivers and waterways, as high currents can be dangerous. Don't approach the river's edge or enter whitewater under any circumstances and use caution when near open waters.