

Returning Home

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a "fire watch." Check and recheck for smoke, sparks or hidden embers throughout the house.
- Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Follow your local news/media for updates

After the fire passes, and if it is safe, check the following areas for fire:

The roof and house exterior, under decks and inside your attic, and your yard for burning trees, woodpiles, etc.

Every year, hundreds of acres of land are damaged by wildfires. More and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property and their neighborhood much safer from wildfire.

RESOURCES

If you would like more information, the following resources may be helpful.

- Tulare County Office of Emergency Services (OES):
oes.tularecounty.ca.gov/oes/
- CALFIRE: www.fire.ca.gov,
readyforwildfire.org
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): www.nfpa.org
- U.S. Fire Administration (USFA):
www.usfa.fema.gov
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/fire/
- Ready: www.Ready.gov/wildfires

To receive important messages from Tulare County Notification System, register your contact information online at www.AlertTC.com

Tulare County Fire Department
835 S. Akers Street, Visalia, CA93277
(559) 802-9800

www.tularecounty.ca.gov/fire/

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WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

What you need to know to protect your family and property

ARE YOU PREPARED?





Wildfire Safety

When a wildfire threatens your area, the best action to protect yourself, your family, and your pets is to evacuate early to avoid being trapped.

Prepare Before



Inside

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and a communication plan.
- Plan and practice escape routes, by car and by foot.
- Have a fire extinguisher on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit.
- Have a portable battery /emergency radio so you can stay updated on the fire.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-offs are and how to use them.

Outside

- Ensure you have a 100 foot radius of defensible space (clear vegetation) around your home.
- Regularly clean the roof and gutters.
- Be sure your house numbers are clearly visible at the street.
- Have a ladder available.

As the Fire Approaches

Inside Checklist

- Shut all windows and doors.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off the air conditioning.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.



Outside Checklist

- Turn off propane tanks
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on
- Have a ladder available
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

Preparing to Leave

- Be ready to evacuate on short notice
- Have your car backed into the driveway.
- If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 911.
- If ordered to evacuate, do it immediately. Make sure to tell someone where you're going and when you have arrived.
- Listen to your local authorities.
- Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.
- Choose an escape route away from the fire.
- Do not return to your home until authorities tell you it is safe.

*"During a **Wildfire**, prepare to evacuate, listen to emergency channels and know the status of the fire. Put emergency supplies and must-have items in the car so you can evacuate quickly."*

If You Become Trapped

While in your home

- Stay calm, keep family members together.
- Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- Stay inside the house and away from walls and Windows.
- Place blankets around the bottom of doors.

While in your vehicle

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with a wool blankets or jacket.
- Lie on the vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials - Call 911.
- Take water to stay hydrated.

While on foot

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression if possible.
- Lie face down, cover up.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials - Call 911.
- Be aware of landmarks near you.

