

# WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A WILDFIRE

POST THIS WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT DURING AN EMERGENCY

**NEVER RISK YOUR LIFE OR YOUR FAMILY'S LIVES TRYING TO PROTECT YOUR HOME**



You may be asked to **EVACUATE** by fire or law enforcement personnel if your community is threatened by wildfire. Do not wait until the fire comes to your neighborhood. By leaving early, you will give your family the best chance of survival. You will also help firefighters by **keeping the roads clear of congestion**.

The **amount of time** you are advised to have prior to a wildfire reaching your place will dictate how much preparation you can safely accomplish prior to your being able to **safely evacuate** you and your family.

**IF TIME IS SHORT**, quickly gather-up and evacuate with your 6 P's:

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers and important documents, driver's license, passport
- Prescriptions, vitamins, medications and eyeglasses/contacts
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computers (information on hard drive and discs)
- Plastic (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

When leaving, close doors, windows, shutters and any attic and basement vents if possible. This will eliminate the possibility of sparks blowing inside. Do not lock doors so that firefighters can gain access. Do not block roads, close or lock gates as this will impede firefighter mobility that is essential for property protection.

**IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME:**

1. Turn **OFF** natural gas or propane (close tank valve located under the metal hood).
2. Leave the electrical service to your home **ON** and leave a light on inside and out so that firefighters can locate your house at night and in the smoke. Also, most rural home water systems require electricity.
3. Close garage door, but leave it unlocked. Disconnect the automatic garage door opener. Bring as many vehicles inside garage as possible and then close. Park abandoned cars at least 30-50 feet from home.
4. Remove combustible items from around outside the house (lawn furniture, toys, fire wood, tarps, etc.). Bring inside else remove 30-50 feet away. These could add exterior heat that could ignite your home.
5. Take down your drapes and curtains. If you don't have time, leave them open. Close all venetian blinds or fire resistive window coverings to reduce amount of radiant heat coming into your home.
6. Move furniture as far away as possible from windows and sliding glass doors.
7. Close all interior doors to block the circulation of air and fire from room to room.
8. Place buckets or cans filled with water around exterior and interior of home if you have them. Fill bathtubs, sinks and other containers with water. These can serve as water supplies for fire personnel or yourself.
9. Attach garden hoses to outside taps and place around house where they can be seen. If there is a nozzle at end of hose, turn on water source but turn off nozzle so it can be quickly used.
10. Apply fire retarding materials, if you have the available resources to do so.
11. Place a ladder against the roof on the opposite side of the house from which the fire will approach. If you have a combustible roof, put a lawn sprinkler on it and turn it on.
12. Open the damper on your fireplace to help stabilize outside/inside pressure, but close the fireplace screen so sparks do not ignite the room. If the screen does not completely close-off the opening, close the damper.
13. Remove or wet shrubs and debris within 15 feet of the house, but only if you have a lot of time.

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### IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE PRIOR TO BEING OVER RUN BY WILDFIRE:

1. Inside the home could be the best protection available as the wildfire passes. The structure won't burn instantly and can provide protection until the fire front passes. Do not try to escape in car if fire is upon you! Many folks have perished in cars but would have survived inside a house.
2. Stay inside house, keep calm, close all doors, but do not lock them. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, it is 4 to 5 times hotter outside!
3. Dress in cotton or wool only, not synthetics. Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, socks and boots, gloves and have a **DRY** handkerchief/bandana to cover or shield your face (wet bandanas can produce hot steam that will damage lungs), and wear glasses or goggles to protect your eyes.
4. As the fire progresses, stay away from windows but aware of any problems that you can take care of from inside the house. Stay close to the floor for the best air to breath, below any smoke or fumes.
5. After the wildfire front passes, look and check to be sure it is safe at your exit before going outside.
6. When outside, check your roof and flammable parts of the home for fires that could be burning inside or outside of the house. Use all available water to extinguish those fires. **DO NOT** use water resources to put out grass fires, burning shrubs or trees that don't impact your house.

### PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME!

Sign up for reverse 911/Code Red so that the emergency notification system can alert you in an event of an emergency while you are at home or at work. Go to [www.sandovalcounty.com](http://www.sandovalcounty.com), click on the Code Red icon and input two phone numbers and an email address. Click on the icon again to enter additional phone numbers and email addresses. Include cell phone numbers if applicable.

Get **reflective** address numbers that are **4 inches high** and place at your entrance so that they can be easily seen from the road by emergency responders.

Know your neighbors! Consider how you could help those who have special needs such as elderly or disabled persons. Plan to take care of children/pets that may be on their own if parents/owners can't get home.

Submit a Pre-Emergency Plan so that emergency responders know how to access your place, where your propane tank is, where your septic tank is buried, where you store flammables, if you have any local water sources, etc. Go to [www.lacuevavfd.org](http://www.lacuevavfd.org) and click on the line for the Pre-Emergency Plan download. Fill in and mail your plan to LCVFD, 122 Twisted Juniper, Jemez Springs, NM 87025 else give to any LCVFD member.

Work at creating a defensible space around your home! Call and ask the State Forestry folks, LCVFD or your local Firewise Community Representatives to come out, look at your property and make suggestions. Many can be as easy and inexpensive as some yard clean-up, moving wood piles, pruning trees, etc.

