

# Plumas County Wildfire Preparation & Evacuation Plan



## *Wildfire—Are you prepared? Have you:*

- Taken responsibility to prepare your home?**
- Prepared for an “ember attack” on your home?**
- Assembled an emergency “go” bag?**

## *During a wildfire—learn about:*

- **Types of Evacuation Advisories.**
- **What to do if a wildfire approaches your community.**
- **What to do if you are “trapped” by a wildfire.**
- **Returning home after a wildfire.**



# 1. Take responsibility for your home.

Make your home a safe and inviting environment for firefighters to work.

## Property Access

- Firefighters can find my house. My address is posted with reflective and contrasting 3-inch numbers at the road access.
- A fire engine can drive to my house. The driveway and access roads are free of obstructions; at least 12 feet wide and with a 14-foot overhead clearance.
- A fire engine can turn around on my property/ street.

## Vegetation Around My Home—Defensible Space

- Dry grass, needles, leaves and brush are 30 feet away from structure(s).
- My property has a 100-foot zone of reduced fuel continuity.
- Firewood is stacked away 30 feet from structure(s).
- Trees around structure(s) have been cleared of ladder fuels and limbed up 10 feet.
- Fuel is reduced at least 100 feet from structure(s) or to the property line.
- Tree limbs are at least 10 feet from chimney/ stovepipe.
- Dry grass and brush is cleared 10 feet around and under the propane tank(s).

# 2. Ember awareness checklist.

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### Wood Roof

Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire-resistant types such as composition, metal and tile.

2

### Roof Openings

Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.

3

### Roof Debris

Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof.

4

### Skylights

Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double-pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.

5

### Spark Arrester

Install an approved spark arrester on chimneys.

6

### Windows

Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multiple-pane, tempered-glass types. Close all windows if wildfire is threatening.

7

### Vents

Cover attic, eave and foundation vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh or install new vent types designed to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.

8

### Rain Gutters

Keep rain gutters free of plant debris during fire season. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.

9

### Siding

Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with a good quality caulk and replace poor condition building materials.

10

### Woodpiles

Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings.

11

### Patio Furniture

Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounges, tables and hammocks, inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.

15

### Under the Deck

Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials from under decks. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8-inch wire mesh to reduce maintenance and deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks.

16

### Flowerboxes

Remove wooden flowerboxes from beneath windows if wildfire is threatening.

17

### Eaves

Cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints or other intricate joint types and don't use butt joints.

18

### Flowerbeds

Replace wood mulches with noncombustible types and remove plant debris, including dried grass and flowers, dead leaves and dead branches from flowerbeds next to the house, other buildings and next to wooden fences. Replace ornamental junipers with low-growing deciduous shrubs or flowers under irrigation.

19

### Vehicles

Close vehicle windows. Back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house.

20

### Garage Door

Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight a fit as possible with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.

21

### Garbage Cans and Recycling Bins

Use garbage cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other buildings. Move newspaper recycling bins indoors.

22

### Wooden Fences

Maintain wooden fences in good condition and create a noncombustible fence section or gate next to the house for at least five feet.



This house was ignited by burning embers landing on vulnerable spots. Notice the adjacent forest is not burning.

### 3. Evacuation advisories to be prepared for:

*The Plumas County Sheriff is responsible for all evacuation orders. You will be notified by fire personnel or Law Enforcement (Sheriff and CHP). Evacuation advisories may stay in effect for several days. After the threat is mitigated, access may be limited to residents with identification.*

**Sheriff's Evacuation Advisement:** Residents are encouraged to make evacuation preparations.

**Sheriff's Voluntary Evacuation:** Residents are encouraged to leave the area. Roads will have a "Soft Closure" allowing only residents in to the area. General public will not be allowed.

**Sheriff's Mandatory Evacuation:** Residents are in imminent danger or the potential for imminent danger exists. Roads will have "Hard Closures." Highways may be closed with the only access for firefighter and Law Enforcement safety. Residents and the public will be prohibited from free access.

**Shelter in Place:** Advises people to stay secure at their current location by remaining in place as evacuation will cause a higher potential for loss of life.

#### Travel advisories if evacuated:

- Drive with headlights on.
- Be alert for downed power lines and emergency personnel.
- Watch for rocks and other roadway hazards.
- DO NOT PANIC.

**Evacuees may be advised of safe zones and relief centers by emergency personnel.**

### 4. Evacuation "go" list. What will you take?

*Notice of evacuation doesn't always give you time to gather needed essentials. Plan ahead and place them in one or more easy to carry containers, keep your "go" bag items in a location where you can easily grab them. Develop your own personalized list to meet your specific needs. The following is a list of suggested items:*

- Cell phone and charger
- Laptop computer
- Two-way radios
- Internet passwords
- Driver's licenses
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Prescription medications and medical history
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- Specialized needs for the disabled and elderly. Caregivers need to develop lists to meet the specific needs for these individuals.
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, medications, pet carrier, bowl)
- Social Security cards/passport
- Credit cards
- House deed
- Vehicle titles
- Marriage license
- Birth Certificates
- Insurance policies
- Home inventory list/photos
- Health insurance cards
- Important personal computer information downloaded to disk
- Address book
- Flashlight
- Extra cash
- Valuable jewelry
- Photographs
- Home videos / DVDs
- Items with sentimental value
- One week's worth of clothing
- Games and activities for children

## 5. If a wildfire approaches, take these steps:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get your “go” bag and important documents and place these items in your vehicle.        | <input type="checkbox"/> Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures; turn off propane tanks.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park your vehicle facing outward; carry your vehicle keys with you.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cover up. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, a cap and have a dry bandanna for a face cover or use goggles or glasses. Clothing which is wool or 100% cotton is best. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locate your pets and livestock and keep them nearby.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave lights on inside and outside house.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the outside of the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave windows and doors closed; turn air conditioning off.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remove all flammables such as firewood and lawn furniture from your deck.               | <input type="checkbox"/> Place ladder outside for roof access.   |

## 6. If you become trapped by a quickly-approaching wildfire:

### **While in a Vehicle:**

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation. Do not park on inside curves.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket.
- Lie on the vehicle's floor.
- Alert officials by calling 911 from your cell phone.

### **While in Your Home:**

- Stay calm; keep your family together.
- Call 911 and alert authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- Stay inside your home.

## 7. Returning home after a wildfire:

*Do not return to your home until fire officials determine it is safe. When you do return home:*

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators and lines before turning the gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

## Important considerations before a wildfire event:

- In the event of a wildfire evacuation, what is the meeting place for your family?
- During a wildfire, where will you take your animals?

**For more information, go to:  
[www.PlumasFireSafe.org](http://www.PlumasFireSafe.org) or [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org)**