

Living With Fire

During a wildfire it will likely be dark, smoky, windy, dry and hot. There may be burning embers being blown about, no power, no phone service and poor water pressure. Remember, there is nothing you own worth your life!

Please evacuate immediately when asked by fire or law enforcement officials. Follow one of your pre-planned evacuation routes to your family's designated meeting place. Drive slowly, turn on your vehicle headlights and stay as far to the right side of the road as possible.

If you have to evacuate and there's time...

Wear and carry... Long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket made of cotton or wool, a hat and boots ~ Gloves, a handkerchief and goggles to cover your face, and water to drink ~ Flashlight and portable radio tuned to a local radio station

Family members should... Evacuate early, especially if not essential to preparing the house for wildfire ~ Relay your plans to a designated out-of-town contact person ~ Follow practiced evacuation routes to the designated safe meeting place

For your animals... Evacuate them if possible ~ Contact the Nevada Humane Society, Washoe County Regional Animal Services or Washoe County Regional Animal Control for assistance ~ Bring current pet photos and make sure distinguishing markings are visible, health records, vaccination information, medications and dosage instructions ~ Secure pets in their own carrier or cage

For your vehicle... If you can lift your garage door manually, disconnect the electric garage door opener and place the vehicle in the garage pointing out and leave the garage door unlocked and closed. If you cannot lift your garage door manually, park the vehicle in the driveway facing out ~ Leave keys in the ignition ~ Roll up the windows

Place in your vehicle... Clothing for 3-5 days ~ Prescription glasses ~ Personal toiletries ~ Important documents (bank, IRS, trust, investment, insurance policies, birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, medical and immunization records, wills, contracts, titles and deeds) ~ Credit and ATM cards and extra cash ~ Medications ~ Driver's license, passport and social security cards ~ Laptop and charger and backup of desktop computer files ~ Address book ~ Cell phone and charger ~ Family photo albums and videos ~ Family heirlooms ~ Photographs and video of the interior and exterior of the house and landscape

Inside your home and out buildings... Close all interior doors, windows, skylights and exterior doors (house, garage, shop and barn) ~ Leave a light on in each room ~ Remove lightweight, non-fire resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows ~ Close fire-resistant drapes, shutters and blinds ~ Turn off all pilot lights, once gas and propane are turned off outside ~ Move couches and easy chairs to the center of the room ~ Close fireplace damper ~ Turn off air conditioning ~ Place an EVACUATED sign in the front window

Outside your home and out buildings... Place combustible patio furniture and accessories inside or toss them away from the house ~ Remove barbecue propane tanks and place away from the house where they can safely vent ~ Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter ~ Close or cover foundation, attic and eave vents with precut plywood covers or several layers of aluminum foil ~ Cover windows with plywood panels at least 1/2 inch thick ~ Prop a noncombustible ladder against the house ~ Connect garden hoses to faucets and attach nozzles set on spray ~ Remove excelsior pads from swamp coolers and toss them away from the house ~ Leave doors and gates unlocked ~ Turn on outside lights ~ Fill trash cans and buckets with water and place where firefighters can find them ~ If you have an emergency water source, post WATER SOURCE HERE sign in a location clearly visible from the street

If you cannot leave...

Stay in your home during the fire as it will be much hotter and more dangerous on the outside ~ Call 911 for assistance ~ If possible, follow all recommendations in the "Inside..." and "Outside your home and out buildings" sections above, except don't place an EVACUATED sign in the front window ~ Turn on all exterior lights ~ Stay away from windows and move to an interior room or hallway ~ Bring pets indoors ~ Do not attempt to leave until after the fire has passed ~ Check for small fires inside the house and extinguish them ~ Drink plenty of water ~ Make sure you can exit the house if it catches fire ~ Fill sinks and tubs with water ~ Place wet rags under doors and other openings to prevent entry of embers and smoke ~ Once the fire front has passed, check your flower beds, roof, rain gutters, attic and crawl space for fires or burning embers and extinguish them



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