

# 2015 Emergency Preparedness Guide & Evacuation Plan

## Post on Refrigerator and Save for Future Use

(Smokey Bear magnets are available at the Tahoe National Forest Headquarters, 631 Coyote St, Nevada City.)

### Evacuation Planning

Nevada County has the potential for a number of natural disasters that you should be aware of and prepared for. Wildland fire is clearly the number one potential problem. However, a variety of emergencies including wind storms, snow storms, extreme heat, extreme cold, flooding, earthquakes, hazardous materials release, pandemic flu or acts of terrorism might necessitate an emergency response. This emergency preparedness guide is being provided to you so that you are informed and can prepare to care for yourself and your family. Emergency services will be overtaxed in all of these scenarios and may take days to mitigate every situation. In other words, you will need to be prepared to stand alone – potentially for days. Successful evacuations require good planning and coordination – amongst families, neighborhoods, communities and agencies. Start your planning now for possible emergencies in the future.

Specific neighborhood guides are available online at [www.areyoufiresafe.com](http://www.areyoufiresafe.com) under the Get Fire Smart section or at <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/igs/oes/Pages/Community-Emergency-Preparedness-Guides.aspx>

### 2-1-1 & Disaster Response

Dialing 2-1-1 is a free service that provides citizens with critical non-emergency assistance such as: Information on evacuation routes; mass care shelter/housing options; food and water; social services; family reunification status; animal evacuation information; traffic and road closures; and school and work closures. 2-1-1 programs are designed and have been used to relieve pressure on the 911 system and emergency response teams by providing an easy number for citizens to call for non-emergency needs. Remember, when a disaster strikes here in Nevada County and you need non-emergency information, Dial 2-1-1 to find the help you need.

### 4-day Home Survival Kit

**In a large plastic tub store the following items:**

- In a large plastic container with a lid store the following items:
- A good first aid kit
- Large box of wooden matches
- One gallon supply of drinking water per person and pets, per day (4 days)
- Camping stove with fuel (cook only in well ventilated areas!)
- Freeze-dried and/or canned food – make it a variety, with a hand can opener
- Flashlights, candles, oil lamps with lamp oil or lanterns
- Battery operated radio with extra batteries
- Non-electronic telephone (old style phones without power cord will operate without electricity)
- Items required for infants or small children such as diapers, bottles, etc.
- Home generators should be professionally installed to avoid danger of back feeding into electric grid.
- Cards, games, books and other things to keep your mind busy – it can get very boring!
- Remember, you will still have all the amenities of your home such as warm clothes and blankets. Just think of it as “Camping at Home.”

### Annual Pre-Emergency Planning

- Keep gutters and roofs clean of leaves and pine needles.
- Create and maintain 100 feet (or more on steep slopes) of defensible space around your home.
- Stack firewood at least 10 feet from house.
- Service (top off gas) and test emergency backup generator and water pump regularly.
- Check garden hoses and store near water faucets.
- Check address, water supply and generator signage.
- Check and restock emergency supplies (see storm survival kit for 4-day event.)
- Identify important files and personal documents for evacuation such as wills, insurance policies, stocks and bonds, passports, social security cards, immunization records, family photos, bank account numbers, or irreplaceable heirlooms.
- Update household inventory with a video/photograph of house/personal effects for insurance annually.
- Copy important computer files to a CD or memory stick and store a copy in a safety deposit box or with a friend.
- Check flashlights and replace batteries regularly.
- Check portable water and chemical fire extinguishers.
- Affix wrench to propane tank for quick access to shut off gas in the event of an emergency.
- Agree in advance what family members should do if they are away from home when the emergency strikes. Establish a meeting place away from your neighborhood to reconnect. Our meeting place is: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- During fire season, maintain vehicles with more than a half a tank of gasoline.
- If underage children will be in residence without access to transportation, create an emergency exit strategy and arrange for a trusted neighbor to care for them.
- Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your family contact. During a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Family members should be instructed to call this person with their location. In the event of a disaster we will call: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Plan how you will care for your pets and livestock.
- Check to ensure you have adequate insurance coverage. (Contact your insurance agent with any questions.)
- Two escape routes from our home are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- The following are questions to consider should evacuation become necessary: Do the roads on which you would evacuate have adequate clearance for two vehicles to pass? Are streets clearly marked in order to provide easy access for fire crews? Do you have a reflective number sign posted at the road, to direct emergency crews to your home? If not, work to rectify any deficiencies.
- Replace stored water and food at least every six months.
- Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change batteries at least once a year.
- Hold a family meeting to review your emergency plan on an annual basis.

# EMERGENCY EVACUATION ITEMS TO TAKE

Each person must decide what items to gather according to any list depending upon the time given to evacuate.

## Emergency Items

- Cell phones and charges
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Cameras and extra batteries

## Family

- Photographs of all family members
- Pets (if advance warning, take to pre-planned caregiver)
- Pet ID tags, medications, leashes, food

## Documents

- House deed
- Marriage license
- Insurance papers-home, health

- Tax papers and legal documents
- Birth certificates and passports
- Drivers' licenses
- Computer backup disks
- Computers (time permitting)

## Money

- Checking and Savings books
- Credit cards and cash
- Purse or Wallet

## Medications

- Prescriptions, Analgesics
- First-aid kit
- Prescription glasses, dentures, hearing aids

## Jewelry

- Gold, silver, and other valuable jewelry

- Family heirlooms
- Military decorations, pins, awards

## Sentimental

- Photos and albums, slides, movies, home videos
- Family Bible
- Irreplaceable keepsakes

## Food and Water (for 3-7 days - if time permits)

- Water (1 gallon per person and pet per day)
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat food
- Pet food
- Manual can opener

## Toiletries (if time permits)

- Soap and towels

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shaving articles
- Sanitary devices

## Clothing (appropriate for the season)

- Change of clothes for each person (for 1-7 days)
- Coats or Jacket
- Gloves, scarves and hat
- Shoes and boots
- Change of underwear and sleepwear
- Infant supplies and toys

## Additional Items to Take (if time permits)

- Reading material
- Recreational items

## IF AN EVACUATION IS ANNOUNCED

Don't Become a Statistic! Numerous civilians have died trying to evacuate too late. Wildland fires, significant winter storms, hazardous material releases or terrorism could affect us. This checklist is provided so you may prepare to evacuate, or in the event you become cut off from evacuation by fire or other circumstances, to shelter in place. Since emergency conditions can change rapidly, it is important that you remain informed as information may be your best tool to react to the situation present.

### HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

Tune into local radio stations KNCO at 830 AM or STAR 94.1 FM, or KVMR 89.5 or 105.1 FM. Also check the internet at [www.yubanet.com](http://www.yubanet.com) or [www.theunion.com](http://www.theunion.com). Listen for fire and law enforcement announcements in your neighborhood. Keep your home phone available for emergency evacuation information. Call CAL FIRE, Fire Information at (530) 823-4083 or other emergency response numbers.

### STAY CALM. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

### STAY BEHIND ROAD BLOCKS.

This Emergency Preparedness Guide and Evacuation Plan cannot predict all possible scenarios. Each incident is unique, presents different problems and requires different evacuation routes. You may be directed into green zones, such as irrigated pastures, golf courses, or orchards as a temporary measure for your protection. This makes it imperative that you listen to and follow directions. If you think it is time to evacuate, you are probably correct.

### HOW YOU MAY BE NOTIFIED

Fire and law enforcement will do what they can to notify you of when to leave and where to go, but there is no possible way they can reach everyone. That is why it is imperative that you tune into local media for up to the minute information.

The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is offering additional ways for residents of Nevada County to be notified of emergencies such as wildfires threatening your neighborhood. If you have a residential or business phone number utilizing AT&T, your phone number is already accessible as part of the public safety data base. If you desire to

be notified via your AT&T residential or business phone only, no action is required on your part. In order to be notified by the county's Emergency Notification System via your cable service phone line, cell phone, Voice over IP (VoIP), cell phone text messaging, or personal email, residents will need to manually add their information.

### REGISTER YOUR CELL PHONE FOR LOCAL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS NOW!

To assure your additional contact information is included, go to the Nevada County OES website:

<http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/igs/oes/>  
and look for the CodeRED link. The emergency notification system will only be activated by County public safety personnel.

For additional questions or comments, contact the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services at [oes@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:oes@co.nevada.ca.us) or 530-265-1515.

### REMEMBER

**Once out, you will not be allowed back into your home until the evacuation order is lifted.** This is for your safety and the safety of firefighters, as well as reducing the chance of looting. There are countless hazards during a fire or other emergency or afterwards. A few for you to be aware of are:

- Downed power lines
- Rolling rocks on steep slopes
- Falling trees and limbs
- Reduced visibility from smoke
- Fire equipment and firefighters in the mop-up stages

### ANIMAL EVACUATIONS

Again, listen to local media for the location to which animals are being evacuated. Pets/animals are not allowed at shelters except for official disabled persons' assistance animals. Owners are responsible for locating placement for pets/animals during an evacuation. For animal specific evacuation planning visit the FEMA Ready.Gov website at <http://www.ready.gov/animals> If time allows for an orderly evacuation, assistance for animal evacuation may be coordinated through the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services.

# EVACUATION ORDER CHECKLIST

Because the time available to you may change in a moments notice, start with the first priority.

Secure Structure, People & Pets (as time allows - refer to local emergency plans for additional information.)

| Time Available    | Priority | Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0-10 Minutes      | 1        | Load your Disaster Supplies Kit (medications, important documents, supplies and pets) into vehicle.                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                   | 2        | Park car in driveway facing out with keys in ignition for a quick exit. Disconnect automatic garage door opener for emergency personnel access.                                                                                                                           |
| 10 Min. to 1 Hour | 3        | Close windows, vents, doors, venetian blinds or non-combustible window coverings and drapes.                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                   | 4        | Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off propane tanks including BBQ and other portable tanks. (After fire threat passes call gas company to re-establish service if assistance is needed. Affix wrench to propane tank for quick access to shut off gas during an emergency.) |
|                   | 5        | Close fireplace screens and/or doors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | 6        | Move flammable furniture, doormats, brooms and other flammable items into the center of the home away from windows and glass doors.                                                                                                                                       |
|                   | 7        | Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | 8        | Erect ladders against house and place fire-fighting tools (rake, shovel, chainsaw) in front of house.                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | 9        | Place combustible patio furniture inside or at least 30 feet away from structure.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                   | 10       | Connect garden hoses to outside taps and sprinklers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1 Hour to 4 Hours | 11       | Set up portable gasoline powered pump (if available.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | 12       | If combustible materials are present, place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near above-ground fuel tanks and wet down.                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | 13       | Wet or remove shrubs within 30 feet of home.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                   | 14       | Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or heavy aluminum foil.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                   | 15       | Fill garbage cans and buckets with water and place in front of house.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | 16       | Protect water sources – wet down pump house, clear flammable vegetation away from supply infrastructure.                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                   | 17       | Implement evacuation of livestock.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## EVACUATION DESTINATION

- Follow instructions and cooperate with emergency personnel. There are multiple community evacuation destinations to which you may be directed and the location may not be the closest to your home.
  - Notify an out of area contact person to inform them of your location and status.
  - Leave a note with your emergency contact information and out of area contact on your refrigerator or kitchen table in the event emergency crews need to contact you.
  - Take only essential vehicles – the more vehicles, the more congestion on the road. Larger vehicles such as horse trailers and RV's clog evacuation routes and endanger everyone's life.
  - Put on long trousers, heavy shoes, cotton long sleeve shirts, gloves and scarf (no polyester/synthetics – it melts.)
  - Stay clear of any downed power lines and poles. Always assume they are live!
- History has shown that individuals who chose to stay and fight decided way too late that they were not prepared to be a firefighter. Early evacuation in the face of a

life-threatening wildfire is the single most important thing a homeowner can do to protect lives. **If you are trapped by fire**, please refer to the Fire Entrapment checklist.

## POSSIBLE EVACUATION CENTERS/SHELTERS:

Listen to local media for evacuation center destinations. Examples of American Red Cross shelters in Nevada County:

- The Fairgrounds (unless there is a large event taking place such as the County Fair or Draft Horse Classic.)
- Nevada Union High School.
- The Red Cross shelter at the Baptist Church across from Nevada Union High School.
- The Grass Valley Veteran's Hall.

**NOTE:** The chosen shelter will be announced via all available media outlets based on current emergency conditions.

## FIRE ENTRAPMENT CHECKLIST

**Just Leave Early. You are strongly urged to evacuate when advised or if you are in doubt, just get out. Due to the unpredictability of fire there is always the possibility that you may become cut-off from escape and trapped at your home, so we have developed a guide that may help save your life.**

Remember, one of the first things to go is electricity, so you won't have the garden hose to help you if you are on a well without a backup power supply.

Legally, you may stay and protect your home. However, your home should be very well prepared for wildfire. It is strongly recommended you evacuate whenever it is possible. During a wildfire event, there

will not be a fire engine available to protect every home. Defending your property from wildfire may take many hours of strenuous activity. You must be physically and emotionally able to provide for your safety during the emergency, but most people are not. You may be placed in a situation that demands you stay due to the inability to safely evacuate.

# FIRE ENTRAPMENT CHECKLIST

**1. REMAIN CALM** – an approaching wildfire will be extremely loud, create extreme heat and smoke and likely evoke fear and panic as it reaches your home. The duration of the fire front varies by vegetation type and density. Generally, grassland vegetation environments typically burn for 10 minutes, brush lands for 20 minutes and timber for over an hour.

**2.** Before the fire front arrives, identify **SAFETY ZONES**. A simple definition of a SAFETY ZONE is: an area used for escaping a wildfire that is clear of flammable materials. Examples include irrigated pastures or golf courses, parking lots, large ponds and any other area that will not support combustion.

**3.** Your home will serve as your primary **SHELTER** from the fire front.

**4. BEFORE** the fire arrives: dress in protective clothing (long sleeve cotton shirt, heavy pants, vibram soled boots, no synthetic clothing); shut all windows and doors to prevent smoke and flames from entering the house; move furniture away from windows to help prevent embers that enter the house through a broken window from igniting furniture inside of home; place a ladder next to home; fill bathtub and buckets for putting out small fires; cover your face with a cotton handkerchief to protect yourself from smoke inhalation; place wet blankets or towels around window and door edges inside the house to stop smoke and embers from entering.

**5. BEFORE** the fire arrives **OUTSIDE** the home: check water supplies around your home and fill any available containers; remove garden furniture, doormats and other loose items that could trap embers; hose down the structure and 30 feet of vegetation surrounding it; block downspouts and fill rain gutters with water; actively patrol your property for any embers blowing in from the fire front and extinguish with wet mops, buckets, backpack sprayers or fire pump; turn on your irrigation system if available; continue to

monitor media outlets for updates on the fire.

**6. DURING** the fire: go inside the home when it becomes too hot to stay outside. The skin on your ears and hands will alert you that conditions have become too hot to survive outside. When you feel it has become too hot for you, go inside to take shelter. Take all fire fighting equipment inside with you, including hoses, rakes, shovels and water supplies. Stay inside your house while the fire front passes around the house and look out for burning embers landing inside the home. Extinguish any spot fires. Do not shelter in a part of your home that does not allow you to see the progress of the fire. If your home catches fire and you are unable to extinguish what has now become a structure fire – go outside onto burnt ground after the fire front has passed (or go to your auxiliary safety zone.) Keep well away from the radiant heat that is being generated from the structure fire. Do not return into the house for any reason.

**7. AFTER** the fire front has passed: continue to wear your personal protective clothing; after main fire front passes, go outside again as soon as it is safe; inspect the perimeter of the home to extinguish any spot fires; water down the outside of the home and vegetation; continue to look for small fires from burning embers for many hours after the fire front has passed.

**8. LOOK** for burning embers: inside and on the roof; under the floor boards; under house crawl spaces; on decks and patios; window ledges and door sills; roof lines and gutters; outdoor furniture; doormats; garden beds and mulch; wood piles; sheds or other out-buildings.

**9. COMMUNICATE** your status to your out of area contact so your family knows you are safe.

## CHECKLIST FOR RETURNING HOME AFTER A FIRE

Unfortunately, a fire has passed through your area and considerable damage may have been done. To ensure your safety as your return, please keep these precautions in mind.

### When driving to your property check for:

- Trees, brush and rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire. Trees and brush weakened by fire may lose limbs or fall. Rocks loosened by fire may roll and crumble. If rocks have rolled down a slope, expect more to follow.
- Debris or damage from fire on roads and driveways.
- Debris on the road near your home and in your driveway. Clearing the debris to the edge of your driveway and removing it later will help keep your home safe from fire.
- Utility poles weakened by fire.

### At your property, check for fire or fire damage:

- Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof and under overhangs.
- Hot embers under decks and in crawl spaces.
- Hot embers in wood piles, debris piles and lawn.
- If well or pump-house is in working order.
- If your electrical service has not been interrupted you may continue to use your power for such things as pumping water, etc.

### If your utility services are off, check for burned service equipment and facilities:

- Is there damage to the gas meter, gas lines, or propane tank? If there is ANY visible damage DO NOT attempt to repair or turn on these services. Call your local propane or utility company for assistance.
- Look at the electric meter. If there is any visible damage DO NOT ATTEMPT to turn the breaker on. Call your local utility company for assistance.
- If there are electrical wires on the ground STAY CLEAR, CONSIDER THEM ENERGIZED and contact your local utility company immediately.

Beware of metal fences – they may be energized by downed power lines away from view.

### When you have secured safety outside your home, check inside for fire or fire damage:

- Embers in the attic, which may have entered through vents.
- If electricity is off, before turning it on, check all appliances to ensure they are off. Once you are sure all appliances are turned off, there is no fire damage to your building and the meter does not have any visible damage you may turn on the main circuit breaker, or contact your utility company for assistance.
- Check if the phone is working.
- Check if security system and alarms are working.
- Use flashlights to help inspect your home and surrounding area.

### If you find any of these conditions:

**Fire** – stay away and report condition to a local fire or law enforcement official in the area or call 911.

**Damaged Utility Equipment** – report electrical problems or damaged equipment to your local utility company.

**Gas Leaks** – Report gas service problems to your local supplier.

**Other** – Report any other safety issues or emergencies to 911.

### After checking your property, continue to use caution and note outdoor conditions:

- Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking should be considered hazardous.
- Smoldering holes in the ground can be full of hot coals.
- White ash is evidence of hot material.