Get Ready for Fire Season — Ready, Set, Evacuate!

Wildfires can be unpredictable. Sometimes the safest bet is to get out, even if you think wildfire won't happen to you.

We at the California Fire Safe Council encourage you to create and practice an evacuation plan to ensure your family's safety in case of wildfire. It's easier than you think.

Evacuation Readiness: You Can Do It

- Draw a home escape plan that shows your home's floor plan, including all doors and windows. Mark two ways out of each room. Give family members a copy of the plan.
- Pick an emergency meeting place outside.
- Have a contingency plan so family members can contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree.
- Practice emergency exit drills in the house (EDITH), and make sure family members know how to STOP, DROP and ROLL.
- Draw at least two evacuation routes out of your area on a map.
- Create a home inventory that lists what you own, serial/ID numbers and value. Take pictures of the contents of each room, closets and cabinets.
- Create an evacuation plan for your pets because they can't stay at emergency shelters.
- Create an evacuation checklist and organize critical medications, important papers such as insurance policies, essential valuables, change of clothes and toiletries, cell phone, your home escape plan, your evacuation map, your home inventory and your pet evacuation plan.
- During a wildfire, if you think you should evacuate, it's OK to leave before you're asked by law enforcement or the fire department.
- When asked to leave, do so immediately. The safety of your family and the lives of firefighters who need to focus on putting out the fire depend on you getting to safety.

Need help? Contact your local Fire Safe Council to learn about their chipping, home consultations and other programs that can help you become fire safe. Find a Council near you by going to www.firesafecouncil.org.