



# Evacuation Tips:

Evacuations save lives and allow responding personnel to focus on the emergency at hand.  
**Please evacuate promptly when requested!**

## The Law

California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409.5)

## Evacuation Orders

The terms *Voluntary* and *Mandatory* are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as *Precautionary* and *Immediate Threat*. These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. **All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.**

## Long Before a Fire Threatens

### Prepare an *Evacuation Checklist* and Organize:

- Critical medications.
- Important personal papers, photos.
- Essential valuables.
- Pet and livestock transport, limited amount of pet food.
- Change of clothing, toiletries.
- Cell phone.
- Critical papers and effects in a fire-proof safe.
- An Evacuation Route Map with at least two routes.\*
- Drive your planned route of escape before an actual emergency.\*

\*During an evacuation, law enforcement/ emergency personnel may determine your route.

## If Evacuation is a Possibility

- Locate your *Evacuation Checklist* and place the items in your vehicle.
- Park your vehicle facing outward and carry your car keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the house.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover-up. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
- Leave lights on in the house - door unlocked.
- Leave windows closed - air conditioning off.

## **The Evacuation Process**

Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the situation.

Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order.

**Follow their directions promptly.**

You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.

You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

## **Returning Home**

Fire and/or Law Enforcement officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility

When you return home:

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