

First-Hand Lessons from a Paradise Fire Survivor

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Long before the fire:

1. Make a copy of your insurance policy & review if it is adequate.
2. Create excel spreadsheet itemizing everything you own, when it was purchased, how much you paid, condition of item.
3. You will not do this because it is a lot of work. Take a video of EVERYTHING you own, inside & outside the home and store it off premises.
4. Prioritize which irreplaceable items are the most important. You will not have time or space to take everything.
5. Take photos of all your important documents. You may not have time to grab them in a fire.
6. Create a go backpack with a sturdy pair of shoes, & a couple changes of clothes. Include hepa masks, goggles, toiletries.
7. Create a pet go bag with sturdy leashes.
8. Decide which vehicle you will flee in, & ALWAYS keep it at least half full with fuel. Only take one vehicle.

Before the fire:

- Be vigilant.
- Don't assume. Investigate. Don't be complacent. Be Prepared.
- Have a plan.
 1. Checklist of everything you want to remember to grab, & where it is located. Don't forget medications.
 2. Don't delay evacuation to pack your vehicle; Prep your home if there is time (See checklist for that)
 3. Pets-Go Bag.

If you EVACUATE:

4. Leave sooner rather than later.
5. Notify friends/ neighbors/family of fire. Don't assume they know about it!
6. Notify family where you are evacuating before you lose communication-establish meet-up time/place.

7. Follow a Checklist. Bring Meds, iPad/tablet, Laptop & Chargers, purse, wallet.
8. Supplies in vehicle: Jug of water. Bolt cutters, 2-wa6 radios, portable emergency scanner. Flashlights, sturdy shoes & clothing. Retardant Blanket? Hepa Masks, Goggles?

AFTER the Fire:

- Take care of your health (mental and physical)/
- FEMA and all its resources
- Unemployment
- Enlist a company to help you itemize losses.
United Policy Holders

<p>United Policyholders <u>917 Irving Street</u> <u>Suite 4</u> <u>San Francisco, CA 9412</u></p>
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During A Wildfire (How to prep your home)

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Take your disaster supply kit, lock your home and choose a route away from the fire hazard. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke. Tell someone when you left and where you are going.

If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

If you are not ordered to evacuate and have time to prepare your home, FEMA recommends you take the following actions:

Arrange temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area in case you need to evacuate.

Wear protective clothing when outside — sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothes, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.

Gather fire tools such as a rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket and shovel.

Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains.

Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.

Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft.

Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.

Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.

Connect garden hoses to outdoor water faucet and fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.

Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near above-ground fuel tanks, and leave the sprinklers on, dowsing these structures as long as possible.

If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.

If ordered to evacuate...

Place a ladder against the house in clear view to aid firefighters.

Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out, and close all garage doors.

Place valuable papers, mementos and anything "you can't live without" inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure.

Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.

Place valuables that will not be damaged by water in a pool or pond.

Move flammable furniture into the center of the residence away from the windows and sliding-glass doors.

Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.