



Ventura County Fire Department

Office of Community Education

165 Durley Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010

(805) 389-9748, Fax (805) 383-4766

Fire & Life Safety Information *“Wildland Safety”*

- Make a preplan
- Build or re-roof your home with fire resistive roofing materials
- Clear pine needles, leaves or other debris from your roof and gutters
- Remove any dead branches overhanging your roof
- Remove any tree branches within 10 feet of your chimney
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a non flammable screen of ½ inch or smaller mesh
- Build or re-model your home with fire resistive materials, such as brick or stucco
- Enclose the underside of balconies or ground decks with fire resistive materials
- Limit the number of windows that face large areas of vegetation. Install double or triple-paned windows to reduce the potential of breakage in a fire
- When a brush fire threatens place a lawn sprinkler or garden hose on the roof. Do not turn the water on until you see flying brands falling on the roof
- When a brush fire threatens place all ladders against the street side of your home, so anyone who stops to help can see them
- Create a “defensible space” by removing all dry grass, brush, and dead leaves at least 100 feet from your home. Use ornamental landscaping plants that are fire resistive
- Trees taller than 18 feet can be pruned to keep the ground fires from spreading to the tree tops by pruning the lower branches within 6 feet of the ground
- Stack firewood and scrap wood piles at least 30 feet away from structures and clear flammable vegetation that is within 10 feet of these wood piles
- Locate LPG tanks (butane and Propane) away from any combustibles
- Turn off gas at the meter or turn off the LPG tank before you evacuate
- Defensible space must be regularly maintained to be effective
- Clearly mark all emergency water sources and maintain easy firefighter access to these water sources
- If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during power failure
- You should know at least two exit routes from your neighborhood in case of emergency evacuation
- Make sure that any road leading up to your house allows two-way traffic, is not too steep and does not have curves too sharp to accommodate large emergency vehicles
- Driveways and bridges must be strong enough to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas that are wide enough for emergency vehicles

- Your house address and street name should be printed in numbers and letters that are at least four inches tall, on a contrasting color background. They should be visible from all directions or travel from at least 150 feet
- Be sure that your street name and house number are not duplicated elsewhere in the county
- If your house is set back from your street or road, post your address at the entrance of your driveway
- Store at least a three-day supply of drinking water and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking, include food and water for any pet as well
- Store first aid supplies, portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries
- Prepare a list of valuables to take with you in case of evacuation; if possible, store these valuables together to save time
- Prepare a list of valuables to take with you in case of evacuation
- Pre-plan an escape route from your home and neighborhood. Designate an emergency meeting place for the reunion of your family members in separate vehicles and establish a contact point to communicate with concerned relatives
- Practice your home escape plan regularly
- Nail plywood covers over windows and vents when a brush fire threatens your home
- Move the lawn furniture indoors and keep combustible furniture away from the windows
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage and yard so firefighters can find your home
- Park your car in the garage headed out for a quick get-away if needed
- Leave keys in the ignition
- Close all house doors, windows and garage door but leave them unlocked
- Remove light weight curtains and close heavy drapes and blinds before leaving the home
- If you lack a garage space, park vehicles in the direction of escape
- Don't forget the family pets
- Close all windows so that airborne sparks and embers cannot enter and ignite the upholstery of the vehicle

* Also see Home Fire Safety

* Also see Fire Safe Landscaping

* Also see Smoke Detectors

* Also see Fire Extinguishers

* Also see Hazardous Materials

* Also see Fire Sprinklers In The Home