

READY, SET, GO!

YOUR PERSONAL WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN



READY, SET, GO!

Wildfire Action Plan

Saving Lives and Property
through Advance Planning



Wildfires are now a year-round reality in Ventura County. This means that both firefighters and residents have to be prepared against the threat from brush fires at all times.

Firefighters train hard and make countless preparations to be ready for a wildfire. Residents need to do the same. Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property.

The Ventura County Fire Department takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from a wildfire. But the reality is, during a major wildfire, there will simply not be enough fire engines or firefighters to defend every home, especially during the first hours of a major wildfire, so you must become part of the solution.

If your home borders a natural area, what firefighters call the Wildland Urban Interface, you are directly at risk from a wildfire. And, if you live within one mile of a natural area, you live in the Ember Zone. Homes in the Ember Zone are at risk from wind-driven embers from a wildfire. Recent fires have resulted in entire neighborhoods being destroyed by fires started by embers, not the wildfire itself.

This publication will help guide you through the process of making your home resistant to wildfires, and your family ready to leave early and safely. We call this process, "Ready, Set, Go!"

You will learn about the Ember Zone and how to retrofit your home with features that protect it from embers. We'll show you the importance of having defensible space around your home and the preparations you need to make so you can leave early, evacuating before the fire reaches you.

Fire is, and always has been, a natural part of the beautiful area where we've chosen to live. Wildfires, fueled by a build-up of dry vegetation and driven by hot, dry winds, are extremely dangerous and almost impossible to control. Many residents have built their homes and landscaped without fully understanding the impact a fire could have on them. This publication will help you prepare your home so you can leave early, confident that you've done everything you can reasonably do to protect your home.

It's not a question of if, but when, the next wildfire will occur. That's why the most important person protecting your life and property is not a firefighter, but you. With advance planning and preparation, you can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your property.

I hope you'll find the information on the next pages helpful as you prepare your home and family for a wildfire. Remember: Ready, Set, Go!

Mark Lorenzen
Ventura County Fire Chief

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Living in the Wildland Urban Interface and the Ember Zone

Ready, Set, Go! begins with a house that firefighters can defend.

Defensible Space Works!

If you live next to a natural area, the Wildland Urban Interface, you must provide firefighters with the defensible space they need to protect your home. The buffer zone you create by removing weeds, brush and other vegetation helps to keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risks from flying embers.



A home within one mile of a natural area is in the Ember Zone. Wind-driven embers can attack your home. You and your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Ember fires can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual flame front of the wildfire.



What is Defensible Space?



Defensible space is the required clearance between a structure and natural vegetation that provides firefighters with the room they need to defend the structure. Under normal conditions, defensible space creates a sufficient buffer to slow the spread of a wildfire. It reduces the amount of direct flame and radiant heat from the fire-front and gives firefighters an advantage in protecting the structure.

ZONE 1

Zone One extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 15 feet from structures and other trees, and 10 feet from chimneys.
- Remove leaf litter (dry leaves/pine needles) from yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Relocate woodpiles or other combustible materials into Zone Two.
- Remove combustible material and vegetation from around and under decks.
- Remove or prune vegetation near windows.
- Remove "ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.

ZONE 2

Zone Two extends 30 to 100 feet out from buildings, structures and decks. You can minimize the chance of fire jumping from plant to plant by removing dead material and removing and/or thinning vegetation. The minimum spacing between vegetation is three times the diameter of the plant.

- Remove "ladder fuels."
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.



What is a Hardened Home?

A hardened home is one where the use of fire-safe construction materials and the quality of the defensible space around it give the home a good chance of surviving a wildfire even if unattended. Windborne embers often pose the biggest threat to homes, so a properly hardened home resists both flames and embers. There are many measures you can take to help safeguard your home from a wildfire. While you may not be able to accomplish everything listed below, any one of them will help increase your home's, and possibly your family's, safety and survival during a wildfire.



ROOFS

Roofs are the most vulnerable surface on a home. They offer a large area for embers to land and, because roof valleys often collect leaf debris, they are particularly susceptible to ember fires. In addition to roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles and rain gutters are also common points of origin for ember fires.

EAVES

Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

VENTS

Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. Screen vents with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch metal mesh.

WALLS

Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite.

WINDOWS and DOORS

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames.

BALCONIES and DECKS

Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or the undersides of decks and balconies, ignite the material and enter the home through walls or windows.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your home with a residential fire sprinkler system. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also protects you and your family year-round from any fire that may start in your home.



Tour a Wildfire Ready Home

Home Site and Yard: Ensure you have at least a 100-foot radius of defensible space (cleared vegetation) around your home. Note that even more clearance may be needed for homes in severe hazard areas. This means looking past what you own to determine the impact a common slope or neighbor's yard will have on your property during a wildfire.

Cut dry weeds and grass before noon when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chance of sparking a fire.

Landscape with fire-resistant plants that have a high moisture content and are low-growing.

Keep woodpiles, propane tanks and combustible materials away from your home and other structures such as garages, barns and sheds.

Ensure that trees are far away from power lines.

Inside: Keep working fire extinguishers on hand. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and near bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.

Roof: Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from wind-blown embers. Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.

Build your roof or re-roof with fire-resistant materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion.

Clear pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof and gutters.

Cut any tree branches within 15 feet of your roof.

Vents: Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers.

All vent openings should be covered with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch or smaller metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.

Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled or otherwise protected to prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

Windows: Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.

Install dual-paned windows with the exterior pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.

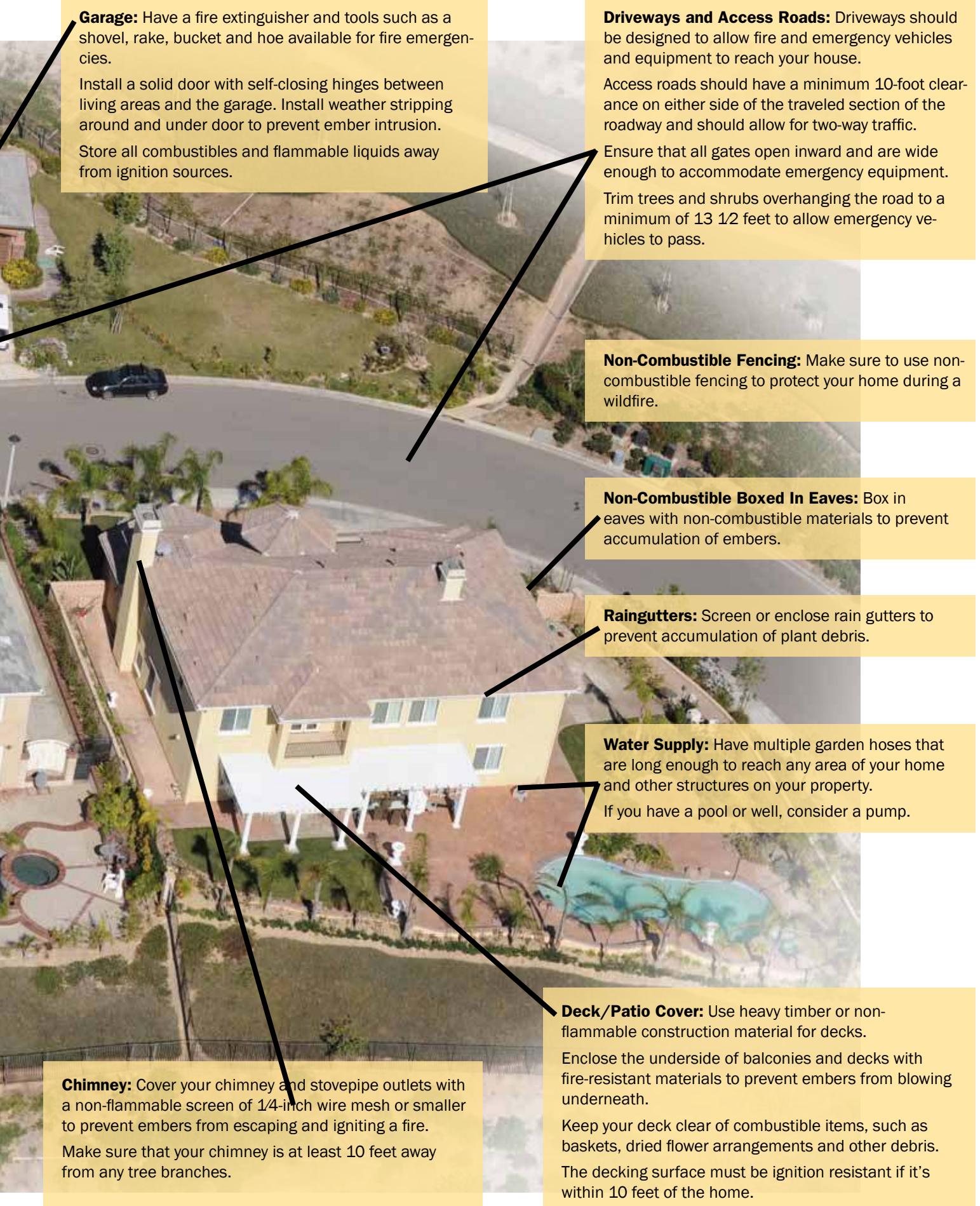
Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.



Walls: Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles, are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.

Build or remodel with fire-resistant building materials, such as brick, cement, masonry or stucco.

Be sure to extend materials from foundation to roof.



READY, SET, GO!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

Now that you've done everything you can to protect your house, it's time to prepare your family. Your **Wildfire Action Plan** must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you prepare your Wildfire Action Plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation.

Once you finish your plan, rehearse it regularly with your family and keep it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.

GET READY

Prepare Your Family

- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- Register your phone number(s) at www.vcalert.org so you can receive emergency messages.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.



GET SET

As the Fire Approaches

- Alert family and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department Website.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

INSIDE CHECKLIST

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades, lightweight curtains and close metal shutters.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.



OUTSIDE CHECKLIST

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers don't destroy them.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.
- If there are fires that you can not extinguish with a small amount of water or in a short period of time, call 9-1-1.

Go! | Early!

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help fire-fighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

WHEN TO LEAVE

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

WHERE TO GO

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

HOW TO GET THERE

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family's and pet's necessary items.



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildfire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies, visit the American Red Cross Web site at www.redcross.org.

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day).
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply).
- First aid kit.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- Important family documents and contact numbers.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Prescriptions or special medications.
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items.
- Easily carried valuables.
- Personal computers (information on hard drives and disks).
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

Complete your Wildfire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your family can see it. Rehearse it with your family.

My Personal Wildfire Action Plan

During **High Fire Danger** days in your area, monitor your local media for information on brush fires and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildfire.

Important Phone Numbers:

Emergency: Call 911

Family: _____

School: _____

Work: _____

Animal Shelter: _____

Other: _____

Evacuation Routes: _____

Meeting Location(s): _____

Location of Emergency Supply Kit: _____

What to Take:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Supply Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keys/Cash/Credit Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Important Documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photos | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Disks | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Notes: _____



Ventura County Fire
 @VCFD
VCFD.org
(805) 389-9769



For more information:
VCReadySetGo.org



ReadyVenturaCounty.org

READY, SET, GO!

Residential Safety Checklist Tips To Improve Family and Property Survival During A Wildfire

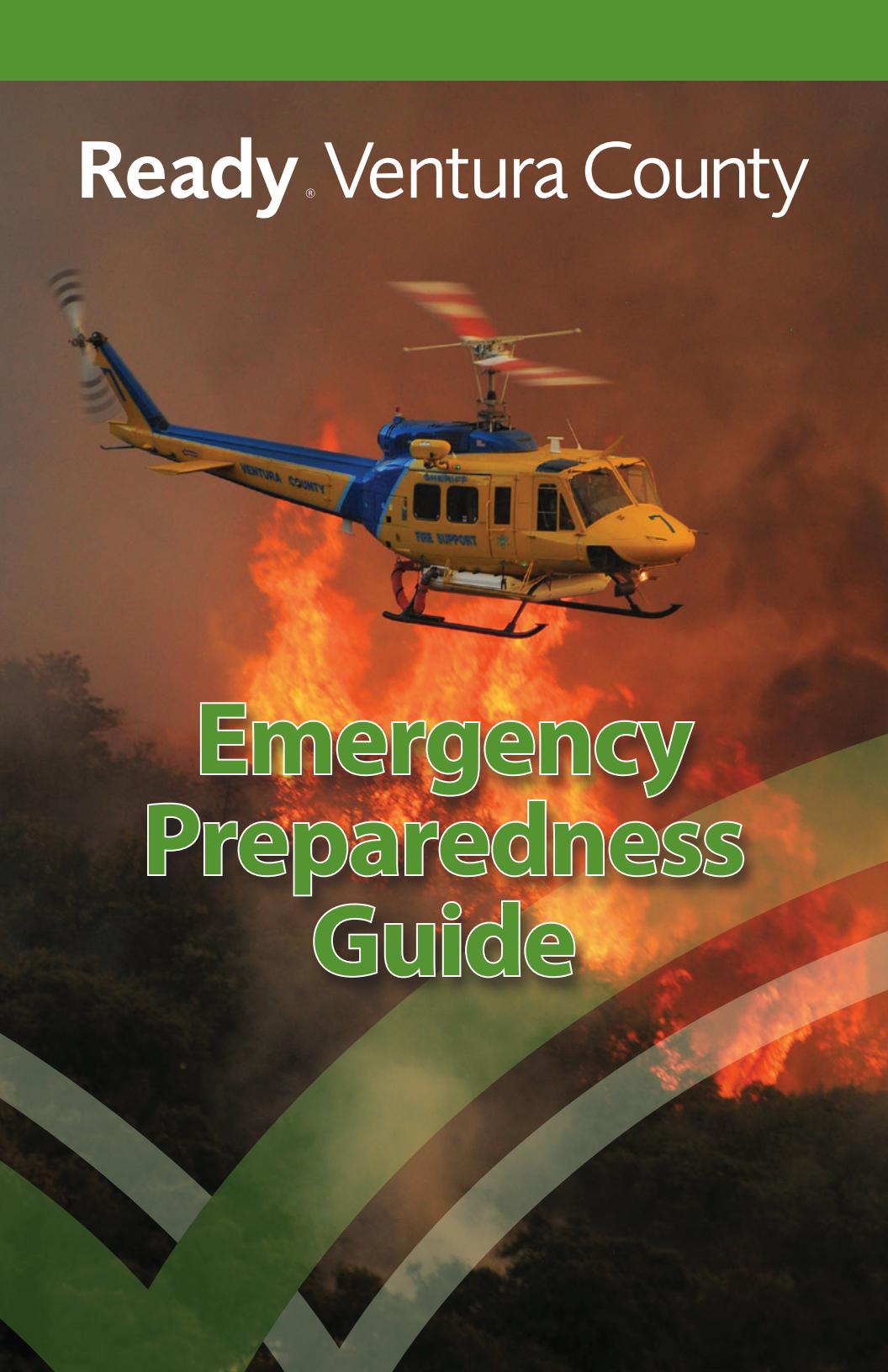
Home	Yes	No
1. Does your home have a metal, composition, or tile (or other non-combustible) roof with capped ends and covered fascia?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the rain gutters and roof free of leaves, needles and branches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are all vent openings screened with $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (or smaller) mesh metal screen?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are approved spark arrestors on chimneys?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Does the house have non-combustible siding material?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the eaves "boxed in" and the decks enclosed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the windows made of at least double-paned or tempered glass?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are the decks, porches and other similar areas made of non-combustible material and free of easily combustible material (e.g. plastic furniture)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is all firewood at least 30 feet from the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Defensible Space	Yes	No
1. Is dead vegetation cleared to the recommended defensible space area? (Consider adding distance due to slope of property.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is there separation between shrubs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are ladder fuels removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is there a clean and green area extending at least 30 feet from the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there a non-combustible area within five feet of the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is there separation between trees and crowns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emergency Access	Yes	No
1. Is the home address visible at night?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Is the home address made of fire-resistant materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are street signs present at every intersection leading to the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If a water supply is present, is it clearly marked for firefighters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the driveway cleared and are overhanging obstructions removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. If a long driveway is present, does it have a suitable turnaround area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Ready® Ventura County

A yellow and blue Sheriff's Fire Support helicopter is shown flying over a large wildfire. The helicopter has "VENTURA COUNTY" and "SHERIFF FIRE SUPPORT" written on its side. The background is filled with intense orange and red flames and smoke.

Emergency Preparedness Guide

Cover photo: Skip Robinson/Vertical Magazine

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**In Case of an Emergency
Dial 9-1-1**

Disaster Information

Ventura County Emergency Operations Center

Sheriff's Office & Fire Protection District

Joint Incident Information Line: (805) 465-6650

Disaster Information Website (activated only for emergencies):

www.vcemergency.com

Police

Ventura County Sheriff's Office:

www.venturasheriff.org

Camarillo Patrol Station

3701 East Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 388-5100 Reception

Headquarters Patrol Station

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2890 Reception

East County/Thousand Oaks Patrol Station

2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 494-8200 Reception

Lockwood Valley Patrol Station

15021 Lockwood Valley Road
Lockwood Valley, CA 93932
(661) 245-3511 Emergency
(661) 245-3829 Reception

Fillmore Patrol Station

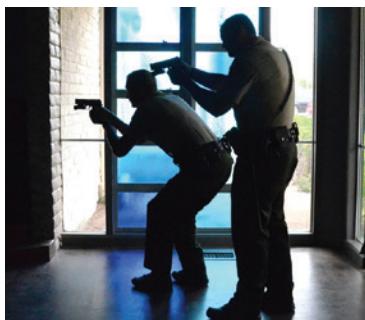
524 Sespe Avenue
Fillmore, CA 93015
(805) 524-2233 Reception

Moorpark Patrol Station

610 Spring Road
Moorpark, CA 93021
(805) 532-2700 Reception

Ojai Patrol Station

402 South Ventura Street
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-1414 Reception



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Oxnard Police Department

www.oxnardpd.org/
251 South "C" Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 385-7600
After Hours, non-emergency:
(805) 385-7740

Port Hueneme Police Department

www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us
250 North Ventura Road
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
(805) 986-6530

Santa Paula Police Department

www.ci.santa-paula.ca.us
970 Ventura Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060
(805) 525-4478

Simi Valley Police Department

www.simivalley.org
3901 Alamo Street
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 583-6950

Ventura Police Department

www.cityofventura.ca.gov
1425 Dowell Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 339-4400
After Hours, non-emergency:
(805) 650-8010

Fire

Ventura County Fire Department

<http://vcfd.org>
165 Durley Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 389-9710

Oxnard Fire Department

www.oxnardfire.org
360 W. Second Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 385-7722

Ventura County Fire Department

Fire Stations
(805) 371-1111
When prompted, enter the station # you
want to reach (i.e. "50")

Ventura Fire Department

www.cityofventura.ca.gov
1425 Dowell Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 339-4300

Fillmore Fire Department

www.fillmorefire.com
250 Central Avenue
Fillmore, CA 93015
(805) 524-0586
After Hours, non-emergency:
(805) 384-1500

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Medical

Ventura County Emergency Medical Services

www.vchca.org/ems
2220 E. Gonzales Road, Suite 130
Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 981-5301

Ventura County Public Health

www.vchca.org/public-health
2240 E. Gonzales Road
Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 981-5101
After hours, non-emergency: (805) 656-9432

Emergency Management Offices

Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services

www.venturasheriff.org
(805) 654-2551

City of Camarillo

www.cityofcamarillo.org
(805) 388-5300

City of Fillmore

www.fillmorefire.com/disaster_prep.htm
(805) 524-0586

City of Moorpark

www.moorparkca.gov
(805) 517-6200

City of Ojai

www.ojaicity.org
(805) 646-5581

City of Oxnard

www.oxnardfire.org
(805) 385-7717

City of Port Hueneme

www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us/
(805) 986-6530

City of Santa Paula

www.readysantapaula.com
(805) 525-4478 ext. 241

City of Simi Valley

www.simivalley.org
(805) 583-6982

City of Thousand Oaks

www.toaks.org
(805) 449-2100

City of Ventura

www.cityofventura.ca.gov
(805) 339-4300



VENTURA COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

VC ALERT

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



VC Alert is an emergency notification system for Ventura County residents that may be used to alert you if there is an emergency in your community. Register your home or business address, landline, cell phone, email, and TTY device to receive emergency alerts. Alerts will be sent in both English and Spanish.

HOW IT WORKS



For more information and to register, please visit www.vcalert.org or contact us at (805) 648-9283 or via email at vc.alert@ventura.org.



Emergency Alert System

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) includes every radio and TV station as well as all cable companies in Ventura County. They are networked together to provide emergency related information in times of severe weather or other disaster.

The following are the primary local EAS stations:

KVTA 1590 AM

KHAY 100.7 FM

KMLA 103.7 FM (Spanish)

VENTURA COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

National Weather Service

HAZARD DEFINITIONS

Watch (12 to 48 hours in advance)

- ✓ Life and/or property threatening weather or hydrologic hazard possible. Conditions are favorable, but there is some uncertainty. Can be upgraded to a warning or advisory.

Advisory (minutes to hours in advance)

- ✓ Nuisance-level weather or hydrologic hazard is imminent or occurring. A non-life threatening event, but may cause problems if precautions are not taken.

Warning (minutes to hours in advance)

- ✓ Life and/or property threatening weather or hydrologic hazard is imminent or occurring. Take immediate action!

All warnings issued in Ventura County are rebroadcasted via the Emergency Alert System on local TV and Radio.

For more information visit National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard:
www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/



EVACUATION/ SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Voluntary Evacuation

Proactive measures should be taken to prevent harm and to prepare personal belongings, including pets and livestock, for evacuation (i.e., Prepare to leave).

Mandatory Evacuation

An emergency poses imminent danger to life and property (i.e., Time to Leave).

Shelter-in-Place

When advised to shelter in place, follow these measures:

- ✓ Immediately go indoors.
- ✓ Shut off heaters and air conditioning.
- ✓ Seal doors and windows with duct tape and wet towels.
- ✓ If you smell the hazardous material, cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth.
- ✓ Do not call 9-1-1 for information. Call 9-1-1 for emergencies only.
- ✓ Listen to news radio stations KVTA 1590 AM, KHAY 100.7 FM or KMLA 103.7 FM (Spanish).
- ✓ Wait for an “All Clear” notification from a news radio station, Police or Fire personnel.



GET A KIT

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. Local officials and relief workers will be on scene after a disaster, but they may not be able to reach everyone immediately. Help may arrive in a few hours or it might take days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be interrupted for days, weeks, or even longer.



Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- ✓ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ✓ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries, or a hand crank flashlight
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Whistle to signal for help
- ✓ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ✓ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ✓ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ✓ Local maps
- ✓ Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ✓ Prescription medications and glasses
- ✓ Infant formula and diapers
- ✓ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ✓ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ✓ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ✓ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ✓ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes
- ✓ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- ✓ Fire Extinguisher
- ✓ Matches in a waterproof container
- ✓ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ✓ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ✓ Paper and pencil
- ✓ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT		
Top 12 Recommended Items		
Consider stocking up on these supplies to keep you and your family stay safe during a disaster		
		
1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days	At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food	Battery-powered or hand crank radio with extra batteries
		
Flashlight & extra batteries	First Aid Kit	Whistle to signal for help
		
Dust mask, plastic sheeting, and duct tape	Moist towelettes, garbage bags & plastic ties for personal sanitation	Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
		
Can opener for canned food	Local maps	Cell phone & chargers

ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Individuals with Disabilities or Access & Functional Needs

If you have a disability or an access and functional need, you may need to take additional steps to prepare for emergencies.

When developing an emergency supply kit, consider adding the following items:

- ✓ Durable medical equipment
- ✓ Assistive technology and extra batteries
- ✓ Food for special diets
- ✓ Prescription medicines
- ✓ Diabetic supplies
- ✓ Hearing aids and batteries
- ✓ Teletypewriter (TTY)
- ✓ Manual wheelchair
- ✓ Supplies for a service animal
- ✓ With all the advances in technology, make sure to have alternate ways of charging/maintaining your communication and assistive technology devices before disaster strikes.

Helpful website:

www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs

www.caloes.ca.gov/Cal-OES-Divisions/Access-Functional-Needs



FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.



Family Emergency Plan

- ✓ Identify an out-of town contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to make local calls.
- ✓ Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact.
- ✓ Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or Short Message Service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.

Planning to Stay or Go

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay where you are or to evacuate. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. You should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available.

Emergency Plans

You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency.



STAY INFORMED

Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

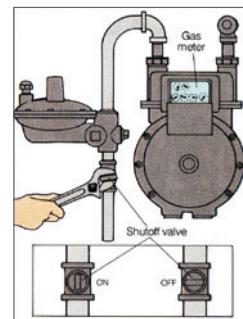


Utilities Shut Off and Safety

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas leaks may cause explosions which are responsible for fires following disasters. It is important to know how to shut off natural gas. Because there are different gas meter configurations, it is important to contact your local gas company for guidance on preparations and response regarding gas appliances and gas service to your home.

If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve, if possible, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

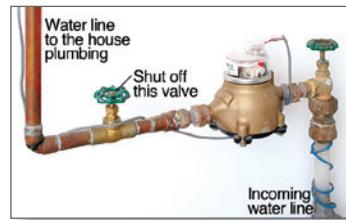


CAUTION: If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

www.socalgas.com/safety/
www.ready.gov/safety-skills

WATER

Water is a precious resource following many disasters. It is important to learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve. Before an emergency happens, locate the shut-off valve for the water line that enters your house and label this valve with a tag for easy identification. Make sure all members of your household know where it is located. Make sure this valve can be completely shut off.



STAY INFORMED

Cracked lines may pollute the water supply to your house. It is wise to shut off your water until you hear from authorities that the water is safe to drink.
www.ready.gov/safety-skills

ELECTRICITY

Electrical sparks have the potential to ignite natural gas if leaking. It is wise to teach all responsible household members where and how to shut off the electricity. Locate your electrical circuit box. For your safety, always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit.

www.sce.com

www.ready.gov/safety-skills

Know Your Hazards

EARTHQUAKE

Before an Earthquake

1. Check for Hazards in the Home
 - ✓ Fasten shelves securely to walls.
 - ✓ Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves
2. Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors
 - ✓ Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
 - ✓ Against an inside wall.
3. Educate Yourself and Family Members
 - ✓ Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, Police, or Fire Department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
 - ✓ Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.



STAY INFORMED

During an Earthquake

If indoors...

- ✓ DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- ✓ Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- ✓ Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside.



If outdoors...

- ✓ Stay there.
- ✓ Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- ✓ Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is not the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass and falling objects.

More information on earthquakes can found at:

www.earthquakecountry.org

www.shakeout.org

www.usgs.gov

FLOOD

During A Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- ✓ Listen to the radio or television for information.
- ✓ Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- ✓ Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

STAY INFORMED

- ✓ If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:
 - Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
 - Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- ✓ If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:
 - Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
 - Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely.

Driving Flood Facts:

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- ✓ Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- ✓ A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- ✓ Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

More information can be found at:

www.vcwatershed.net/fws/

www.vcfloodinfo.com/

www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program



STAY INFORMED

TERRORISM

Terrorism is defined as the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion or ransom.

Terrorists often use threats to:

- ✓ Create fear among the public.
- ✓ Try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism.
- ✓ Get immediate publicity for their causes.

Acts of terrorism include: Threats of terrorism, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings, bomb scares and bombings, cyber-attacks (computer-based), and the use of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons.

If you see something suspicious taking place then report that behavior or activity to local law enforcement or in the case of emergency call 9-1-1. Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin or religious affiliation alone are

not suspicious. For that reason, the public should report only suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack in a public place or someone trying to break into a restricted area) rather than beliefs, thoughts, ideas, expressions, associations or speech unrelated to terrorism or other criminal activity. Only reports that document behavior reasonably indicative of criminal activity related to terrorism will be shared with federal partners.

Helpful websites:

<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>

The image consists of two parts. On the left, there is a photograph showing the lower half of several people's bodies as they walk through what appears to be a subway or train station platform. On the right, there is a graphic with text and logos. At the top, it says "if you SEE something SAY something™". Below that is a logo for "NTAS" (National Terrorism Advisory System) featuring the U.S. Department of Homeland Security seal. The text "NTAS: National Terrorism Advisory System" and the website "www.DHS.gov/alerts" are displayed. At the bottom right, there is a call to action: "Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 9-1-1 in case of emergency."

TSUNAMI

Tsunamis (pronounced *soo-ná-meess*), also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called “tidal waves”), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption or meteorite. A tsunami can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and smash into land with waves as high as 100 feet or more.

All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike. A tsunami can strike anywhere along most of the U.S. coastline. The most destructive tsunamis have occurred along the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.



The following are guidelines for what you should do if a tsunami is likely in your area:

- ✓ Turn on your radio to learn if there is a tsunami warning if an earthquake occurs and you are in a coastal area. Move inland to higher ground immediately and stay there.
- ✓ Stay away from the beach. Never go down to the beach to watch a tsunami come in. If you can see the wave you are too close to escape it.

CAUTION - If there is noticeable recession in water away from the shoreline this is nature's tsunami warning and it should be heeded. You should move away immediately.

Helpful websites:

www.weather.gov/TsunamiReady/

nws.weather.gov/nthmp/

ntwc.ncep.noaa.gov/

STAY INFORMED

WILDFIRES

Wildfires are now a year-round reality in Ventura County. This means that both firefighters and residents have to be on heightened alert for the threat of wildfire at all times.

Firefighters train hard and make countless preparations to be ready for a wildfire.

Residents need to do the same. Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property.



You must do all you can to make your home resistant to wildfires and prepare your family to leave early and safely. We call this process, “Ready, Set, Go!”

GET READY:

- ✓ Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- ✓ Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- ✓ Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- ✓ Plan several different evacuation routes.
- ✓ Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- ✓ Assemble an emergency supply kit, and an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of a fire.
- ✓ Have a communication plan with emergency contact numbers of family and an out-of-area contact person.
- ✓ Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

STAY INFORMED

GET SET:

Inside Checklist:

- ✓ Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- ✓ Remove flammable window shades, lightweight curtains and close metal shutters.
- ✓ Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- ✓ Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- ✓ Shut off the air conditioning.

Outside Checklist:

- ✓ Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- ✓ Don't leave sprinklers on or water running – they can waste critical water pressure.
- ✓ Leave exterior lights on.
- ✓ Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- ✓ Have a ladder available.
- ✓ Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- ✓ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

You Are Trapped: Survival Tips

- ✓ Shelter away from outside walls.
- ✓ Bring garden hoses inside house so embers don't destroy them.
- ✓ Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- ✓ Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- ✓ Stay hydrated.
- ✓ Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- ✓ Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- ✓ Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.

STAY INFORMED

- ✓ After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers.
- ✓ Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
- ✓ Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.
- ✓ If there are fires that you can not extinguish with a small amount of water or in a short period of time, call 9-1-1.

GO:

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job.



When To Leave

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

Where To Go

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

How To Get There

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

What To Take

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family's and pet's necessary items.

More information can be found at:

www.vcfd.org

POST-WILDFIRE DEBRIS FLOW

Debris flow and flash floods may pose a threat to homes and communities adjacent to or surrounded by wild lands in recent burn areas. Wildfires dramatically alter terrain and destroy vegetation that would normally absorb rainfall, resulting in increased risk for flood and debris flows. Debris flows develop when unabsorbed water picks up soil, sediment, boulders and other debris and are carried in a stream of floodwaters. Areas affected by wildfire remain at risk until vegetation is restored, which may take up to 5 years or longer during drought periods.

Reduce Your Risk of Debris Flow Hazard

- ✓ Do not build near steep slopes, mountain edges, near or below drainage ways, or natural erosion areas.
- ✓ Consider a geologic hazard assessment of your property that includes a site visit by a professional geologist.
- ✓ Consult your insurance agent and visit FloodSmart.gov for information on flood insurance.
- ✓ Plant drought and fire-resistant ground cover on slopes.
- ✓ Build retaining walls that account for upslope drainage.
- ✓ In debris flow prone areas, build channels or walls to direct the flow around buildings.
- ✓ Stay informed of the weather including potential rainfall amounts and intensities.



STAY INFORMED

Recognize the Warning Signs

- ✓ Prolonged periods of heavy rainfall and strong wind gusts.
- ✓ Unusual sounds, such as trees cracking or a faint rumbling that intensifies.
- ✓ Changes that occur in the hillside landscape, such as patterns of arcuate cracks or soil exposure, bulging at the bottom of the slope, leaning trees, bare soil areas, water drainage from bottom of slope.
- ✓ Flowing or falling mud or debris may precede larger flows.
- ✓ Water breaks through the ground surface in new locations.
- ✓ Fences, retaining walls, utility poles, or trees fall.
- ✓ Report warning signs of debris flow to 911.

Increase Your Chance for Survival

- ✓ Stay tuned to NOAA weather reports via radio or television, and visit <https://www.vcwatershed.net/fws/gmap.html> to see real-time rainfall intensity levels.
- ✓ Evacuate for the duration and a few hours after the storm. Avoidance is your best protection.
- ✓ Proceed with caution while driving in high-risk areas.

If a Debris Flow Impacts Your Property

- ✓ Return home only when officials have declared the area safe.
- ✓ Have the home inspected for structural damage before re-entering.
- ✓ Keep power and gas off until a licensed professional has inspected your systems for safety.
- ✓ Discard food items that have been contaminated by floodwater or debris.
- ✓ Boil water for drinking and food preparation until authorities declare your water supply is safe.
- ✓ Prevent mold by removing wet contents immediately.
- ✓ Beware of wild animals or poisonous snakes that may have been swept into the area.
- ✓ Seek advice from a technical expert for evaluating potential future hazards or designing corrective techniques.

GET INVOLVED

Want to get involved in your local community?

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org/ca/ventura

As the world's leading humanitarian organization, their network of volunteers have responded to disasters, provided lifesaving education, helped families to prepare for emergencies before they occur, and kept members of our Armed Forces connected with their loved ones during times of tragedy and joy.



Auxiliary Communication Services (ACS)

www.vc-acrs.org/

Licensed Radio Amateurs use a wide range of radio bands, each one with its particular strength in overcoming the barriers to radio communications. Amateur Radio operators can also use a wide range of communication modes, whether TV, data, voice, or Morse code to exchange messages.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

<http://vcfd.org/CERT>

Phone: (805) 987-1514

Ventura County Fire Department in coordination with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) have joined together to assist residents with disaster preparedness education and training. Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for service. The local population will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life-saving and life sustaining needs. The Community Emergency Response Team is a program that focuses on that preparedness. CERT teams within each community are to be prepared, self-activated, independently organized and neighborhood oriented with support from cities and public safety agencies.

GET INVOLVED

Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) – Camarillo

<https://www.cityofcamarillo.org/Police/DART.pdf>

Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) – Thousand Oaks

<https://todart.org/>

DART members are trained in: Basic Life Support, First Aid, CPR, Urban Search and Rescue, Incident Command System (ICS), Media Relations at the Incident, Traffic and Crowd Control, Fire Suppression, Scene Survey and Damage Assessment; and Mass Casualty Management and Triage.

Simi Valley Disaster Service Worker Team

www.simivalley.org/index.aspx?page=269

The Simi Valley Disaster Service Work Team's mission is to minimize the loss of life, suffering and damage to property following disasters by training and utilizing highly motivated community members in preparedness, response and recovery activities.

Emergency Volunteer Rescue Team (EVRT)

<http://www.vcas.us/>

Emergency Volunteer Rescue Team (EVRT) members assist Ventura County Department of Animal Services during times of disasters such as wildland fires, flooding, earthquakes or any emergency incident requiring the evacuation of livestock.



GET INVOLVED

Medical Reserve Corps

<http://www.vchca.org/ventura-county-medical-reserve-corps>

Develop partnerships to educate, train and deploy citizen volunteers, including health care professionals (active and retired), in case of a large-scale local emergency.

National Weather Service

<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/spotter/becomeaspotter.php>

Anyone can become a Weather Spotter for the National Weather Service. All it takes is an hour or two of training. Our local spotter program leader conducts training sessions often throughout the area. You also now have the option of becoming certified through an online course.

United Way / Volunteer Ventura County

<http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/>

Today's United Way focuses on addressing the underlying causes of community issues and why problems exist. United Way supports programs that are not just 'stop gap' measures, but ultimately preventative ones that create real and lasting change by improving peoples' lives. Social issues are not limited to any one particular city or to one kind of family, they are everywhere. That's why United Way works throughout Ventura County to help build stronger communities.



READY VENTURA COUNTY

ABOUT US

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services in partnership with FEMA and the Ad Council localized the federal Ready campaign to assist Ventura County residents in preparing for, responding to and recovering from a local emergency or disaster within our community. Developed in 2011, Ready Ventura County aims to get the public involved and ultimately increase the level of basic preparedness throughout Ventura County. The Ready Ventura County message remains consistent with the national campaign: **Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed. Get Involved.**

For more information, please visit
www.readyventuracounty.org



For information during an emergency, please visit
www.vcemergency.com



800 S. Victoria Ave. L#3450 | Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2551 | www.venturasheriff.org