

Household Wildfire Evacuation Plan

Adapted from FEMA and American Red Cross

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“In an emergency you don’t rise to the occasion, you sink to the level of your training and preparation.”

Preparation-

- Sign up for emergency alerts via text or email at <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/>
- Create Grab and Go File- see attached list
- If on Facebook, “like” Chelan County Emergency Management, KPQ, KOHO, Douglas and Chelan County Sheriffs Dept., Chelan Fire , Wenatchee World, etc.
- Take pictures or a video of interior and exterior of home, including closets and drawers, garage and contents, and property
- Photograph family photos and memorabilia and storing on the Cloud, or on a flash drive or CD kept off the premises, such as at work or in a safe deposit box
- Pre pack suitcase and pet supplies
- Be sure there is at least 1/2 tank of gas in car at all times
- Practice opening garage door manually in case power is out

Pre-Packed Suitcase or Backpack

Examples- Clothing for 3 days, 1 pair sneakers/shoes, toiletry kit with a minimum of a 1-2 week supply of meds, cell phone charger cable, rain/wind jacket, several N-95 masks

Level 3- Leave immediately!

Grab, in this order! (You may not have time to get to the end of this list)

- 1.**First and foremost! Get children/pets into the car and then open garage door. (Dog owners- keep an extra dog leash in car so you are not scrambling trying to find one)**
2. House/car keys
3. Wallet
4. Cellphone
5. "Grab and Go" file (see handout)
6. Computer/laptop/tablet and charging cords
7. Pre-packed suitcase

If you have time...

Dog items- keep together in one easily accessible place near the car

- Spare bag of kibble
- Leash (if a spare is not already in your car)
- Crate (if you use one)

Cat items- keep together in one easily accessible place

- Carrier with a pillowcase inside. (A pillowcase can make it easier to catch your cat.)
- Spare cat food for several days
- Spare bag of kitty litter and litter box

Keep an empty backpack, empty small suitcase, or an empty large plastic storage box in a designated area- make a list ahead of time with your family of important small items you may want to grab- i.e. jewelry, checkbook, personal items, iPad, etc. Keep this list in the designated suitcase, box or backpack. Then the entire family will know what to grab and no time will be wasted in case you are not home.

Tasks

Gas grill/propane tank to garage or turn off grill's propane tank

Lock windows and doors

Turn on outside lights

Leave a note on the front door that you, your family, and pets have evacuated

Level 2- Get ready!

Park car facing out in driveway

Pack car with above items- be sure to allow room for children and pets

Do Level 3 tasks **PLUS-**

Roll out the hoses, watch for spot fires from embers

Frequently hose down bark, wood porch and fences, wood piles, and house siding

Place buckets of water outside around the house

Bring patio cushions, patio umbrellas, dog beds, wooden furniture, outside door mats, other flammables into garage

Fill bathtubs with water- Water may be turned off

Notify friends/family you may be evacuating and you (and pets) may need a place to stay.

Once the car is packed, allowing space for children and pets, and if there is still room in the car, pack pre-designated memorabilia, (again, have a list) etc.

Check with neighbor's to be sure they are aware of the situation and see if they need help

Level One- Be aware!

Monitor local news/Facebook for updates on wildfire in your area.

***PRACTICE A 10 MINUTE TIMED EVACUATION WITH YOUR FAMILY,
THIS LIST IN HAND, AT LEAST TWICE***

That will be the only way you know how much you can realistically do in 10 minutes and you can tweak your plan accordingly. (It took me three tries with lots of tweaking before I could do this efficiently)

Keep this list on refrigerator or in a designated drawer in the kitchen so it will be easily accessible. Be sure the entire family knows where it is. Use it during an evacuation so you will not forget any important steps.

Wildfire Evacuation Tips for Pets

2019

Preparation

- Be sure your pets are microchipped so they can be easily identified if lost
- Be sure your pet is licensed
- Be sure your dog's collar has an ID tag, rabies vaccination tag, and dog license tag. And that your dog actually wears the collar.
- Make a plan- identify pet friendly hotels, boarding facilities, and check with friends/ family to see if they are willing to take in you and your pets if need be.
- Check with neighbors who have pets to arrange for pet evacuation if you or they are not home
- Make an evacuation kit
 - Be sure your pet is up to date on vaccinations and have a hard copy of those records in your evacuation kit. Power may be out and online records inaccessible.
 - Have a hard copy photo of you and your pet in the kit. This could help prove the lost pet is yours if your cell phone is lost or the battery is dead.
 - First Aid Kit
 - Dog items- keep together in one easily accessible place near the car
 - Spare bag of kibble
 - Leash (if a spare is not already in your car)
 - Spare collar
 - Crate (if you use one)
 - Poop bags
 - Cat items- keep together in one easily accessible place near the car
 - Carrier with a pillowcase inside. (A pillowcase can make it easier to catch your cat.)
 - Spare cat food
 - Spare bag of kitty litter and litter box (disposable aluminum lasagna trays works well)

Evacuation Time! 😬

- Put pets into the car and secure them while the garage door is still closed, before you put any personal items in the car. Then you will be sure to have room for them!
- If your garage is not attached to the house or your car is parked outside, be sure pets are contained or on a leash before leaving the house. They will sense your panic and may want to bolt.
- Leave a note on your front door that you and your pets have evacuated

Practice evacuating with your pets several times to be sure you have it down. I do it every spring and whenever I am on a Level One alert.

"Grab and Go File"

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In case of emergency, such as a natural disaster or a serious medical event, having all your important papers, extra cash, spare keys, etc. in one place will save you precious time. This includes having some extra cash, as ATMs and banks, may be inaccessible due to power outages during a natural disaster. Electronic devices and cell phones may not work. Being prepared works!

Be sure your designated contact person knows where this is stored (and if stored in a safe, how to open it)

Update annually

Materials:

1- loose leaf binder or a large, expandable file- labeled in "Emergency File" big letters!

Sheet protectors

Optional- Safe deposit box or fire resistant box or safe with keys/combo lock (Recent wildfires have shown home safes are not effective during a big firestorm. Metal contents can melt and papers turn to ash.)

Examples

1. Emergency instruction sheet- how to turn off plumbing, electricity, propane/ gas, close chimney flue
2. Copies and/or list of safe deposit box contents; safe deposit box keys
3. Hard copy of email/contacts list- update regularly (you could lose your online contacts list if you get hacked.)
4. Password list- can use an address book
5. Spare car and house keys
6. Extra cash- small bills
7. Copy of all contents of wallet- front and back- credit cards, driver's license, health insurance card, car insurance card, ATM/ debit cards, rewards cards, Costco card, library card, AARP card, etc. (if your wallet gets stolen or lost, you will be glad you did this!)
8. Bank(s)/ credit union(s)/ financial advisors- name and account number(s) and passwords
9. Birth/Death certificate(s)
10. Marriage license(s)/divorce decree(s)
11. Insurance policies- Homeowners/tenants, health, auto, life, liability, etc.
12. Healthcare provider's name and phone number
13. Medication/ supplement/ medication allergy lists
14. Passport
15. Property assessment
16. Auto title(s)
17. Professional license(s)
18. Social Security card
19. Mortgage/ deed

20. Will, General Durable Power of Attorney, Healthcare Power of Attorney, Living Will, Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information, etc.
21. Recent income tax form
22. Pet info- name, meds, current vaccination record, special needs, recent photo, with you, if possible to prove pet is yours if lost