

Are you ready if we have to evacuate?

An Evacuation Checklist

1. Transfer important document and photograph computer files (e.g., real estate and insurance files) to an external hard drive or thumb drive. If you have to leave your house, be sure to grab it. If you have items that can't be stored as a computer file (e.g., your passport), have them easily accessible in a single location so that they can be grabbed and loaded into a car quickly.
2. Pack suitcases with enough clothes to last you for several days.
3. Have all prescription medications in one spot so that you can grab them quickly to take with you.
4. Keep your car full of gasoline during fire danger days.
5. Keep a case of water and some snack foods handy so you can take them with you in the event you get stuck in traffic for a long time.
6. If you have pets, make sure you have everything you need to take them with you. (Collars, leashes, food, and car carriers, especially for cats)
7. Keep some cash with you, because if power goes out, stores will not be able to do electronic sales.
8. Have a driving plan for the quickest route to the freeway.
9. Close all windows and doors so that embers cannot get into the house.
10. Close all blinds and shut heavy curtains to help keep heat out of the house. (Note that light curtains do not effectively block heat.)
11. If you have propane, know how to shut off the supply line or tank before you leave.
12. When you leave, attach your "We have evacuated" sticker to your mail delivery box so that emergency personnel know your house is good and does not need to be searched.
13. **Create your own individualized checklist of all the things mentioned above so that you don't forget anything. Keep it handy, such as on the refrigerator or near the door.**
14. If told to evacuate, try to do so as quickly as possible. Pay attention to Watch Duty.
15. Even if you haven't been told to evacuate, but you feel uncomfortable, consider going into town, even for just a shopping trip or a meal out.
16. Unless life safety is an issue, do not turn around and head back home because you forgot something, as you may cause a traffic jam with people trying to escape.
17. Have a predetermined meeting spot in the event other family members are not home. For example, "we will all meet at Stone Brewing on Citracado Parkway in Escondido."
18. The fire may determine whether you go north or south on the freeway, so have a plan for each direction.
19. Try to use one car to evacuate. This will help alleviate traffic congestion and help you from getting separated from family members.
20. If you have a landline, you are already a part of the Sheriff's Department reverse 911 systems, and will be called if there is a significant emergency event in your area. The Deer Springs Fire Safe Council has a similar alert system you can sign up for as well as an automated information hotline. Also, sign up your cell phone with AlertSanDiego (reverse 911 for cell phones) at <http://www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/>.
21. Keep a car charger for your cell phones in your glove box so you don't lose communications during an evacuation.
22. If you would need assistance while evacuating, talk to your neighbors beforehand to see if anyone would be able to assist you, since fire and law enforcement personnel might not be available during an actual emergency.

Adapted by Greg Lorton (Space 346) , Champagne Village Emergency Planning Committee, from a list prepared by Captain Terry Heidmann of the Deer Springs Fire Protection District.

Emergency Planning and Awareness Information Websites

Deer Springs Fire Safe Council <http://www.dsfscc.com/>

Deer Springs Fire Protection District <http://www.deerspringsfire.org/>

National Weather Service Wildfire Safety <http://www.weather.gov/safety/wildfire/>

Watch Duty <https://app.watchduty.org>

AlertSanDiego (register cell phones for reverse 911) <http://www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/>