

# In Case of a Disaster - What to do?

It's that time of year...when our yards are so dry; the outside temperatures are soaring; the Santa Ana's will soon be blowing and just one careless mistake; one bolt of lightning; one spark from the exhaust of a vehicle can quickly turn our neighborhoods into out-of-control, fiery infernos. Such a frightening thought but we see media footage every day (and some of our neighbors have survived past fires here) of Communities not so different from ours being ravaged by flame and burned down to ash.

There are many steps that you can take to reduce your risk and help ensure safety for you and your family - an informative and easy to understand website, <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/> provides action and evacuation plans to help you prepare so that should you have to leave your home you can do so in a safe way.

One of the steps they list to be prepared is to assemble an **Emergency Supply Kit** for everyone in your family that is easily accessible should you have to evacuate. Here are their suggestions to have in the kits:

- Face masks or coverings
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and 3 gallons of water per person
- Map marked with at least 2 evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget pet food and water

And if there's time

- Easily carried valuables
- Irreplaceable family photos
- Personal computer information on hard drives
- Chargers for cell phone, laptops, etc.

They also remind us to keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near the bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

Each family's plan will be different but it's a great idea to have a strategy to help survive a disaster.