Wildfire Emergency Evacuation Checklist

If you see a wildfire, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

Before the Fire Approaches Your House

___ Evacuate:
   Evacuate your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the young and the elderly should be evacuated immediately.

___ Wear Protective Clothing

___ Remove Combustibles:
   Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.

___ Close/Protect Openings:
   Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.

___ Close Inside Doors/Open Damper:
   Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.

___ Shut Off Gas:
   Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.

___ Water:
   Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.

___ Pumps:
   If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.

___ Ladder:
   Place a ladder against the house in clear view.

___ Car:
   Back your car into the driveway and roll up the windows. Leave car doors unlocked (DO NOT LOCK THE DOORS) and key in the ignition. Ensure you have enough fuel in vehicle gas tank to evacuate (1/2 tank or more). If fire is in area and you have time fill tank.

___ Garage Doors:
   Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.

___ Valuables:
   Place valuable papers, mementos and anything "you can't live without" inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.

___ Release any livestock from barns to pastures in the area.

Preparing to Leave Your House

___ Turn on exterior lights

___ Secure your home appropriately:
   Law enforcement will be in the area patrolling.
WHAT TO DO NOW TO PREPARE

___ Clear debris from roof and gutters
___ Clear driveway to at least 20 feet wide with 15 feet vertical clearance (for emergency vehicles)
___ Clear vegetation from within 3 feet of hydrants
___ Clear weeds and cut grass within 30 feet of structures, propane tanks, utility boxes
___ Develop outdoor water supply with hoses to reach entire house, nozzle, and pump
___ Document an annotated list of all belongings
___ Have fire tools, ladder, and fire extinguishers available
___ Install chimney screen or spark arrestor
___ Install enclosed sides on stilt foundations and decks
___ Install only non-combustible roof material
___ Install screens on foundation and eave vents
___ Install shutters, fire curtains, or heavy drapes on windows
___ Install smoke detectors and test quarterly
___ Make a video of all belongings, talking about each
___ Post load limits on access bridges
___ Post name/address signs clearly visible from street or road
___ Practice family fire drill and evacuation plans
___ Practice STOP, DROP, and ROLL (should clothes catch on fire)
___ Prepare a list of valuables to take with you (store together, if possible)
___ Remove branches that overhang within 15 feet of roof and chimney
___ Remove trash and debris accumulations
___ Remove trees growing through porch, deck, or roof
___ Stack firewood uphill or on a contour at least 30 feet away from house
___ Take still pictures of all belongings as a backup
___ Thin and prune your trees and brush