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## Fire Safe Occidental September 25, 2020 Newsletter



### Preparing for Evacuation

No one wants to be evacuated, but if recent history from the past few years continues, all of us need to be prepared to do so. Fire Safe Occidental has prepared an easy checklist below to help you be as quick and thorough as possible. Here is a link to the [checklists](#) on our website for you to print and post on your refrigerator or place in your go-bag.

In addition, if your neighborhood does not have a 2nd evacuation route, NOW is the time to find one. Even if you don't want to meet in person, please gather on a zoom call to discuss your options. Find

gather on a zoom call to discuss your options. Find a solution, practice driving it, and put up reflective markers so you can find it in the dark. Taylor Lane, Joy Ridge, Dupont and others have successfully found alternative routes by working together.

With COVID many residents are questioning where they might go in an evacuation. We recommend you have multiple alternatives. Consider finding places further away and having camping gear in case you need to camp. Some ideas are:

- California State Parks (Reservations required @ [California State Parks Reservations](#))
- Sonoma County Regional Parks (Reservations required @ [SoCo Parks Reservations](#))

**NOTE:** Regional Parks on the Coast allow dogs, State Parks do NOT

- Make arrangements with family and friends to evacuate to a non-WUI area (WUI=Wildlife Urban Interface)
- If a fire erupts and you don't have an evacuation plan and don't want to camp – immediately call to reserve a hotel room at a safe location away from WUI areas

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## **What to do when leaving home – no matter how much time you have:**

1. If you feel threatened don't wait for an evacuation order – LEAVE NOW! Don't try to grab more stuff, because stuff can be replaced but lives

cannot.

2. Shut windows and doors but leave unlocked
3. Leave gates open
4. Leave lights on inside and out for firefighters
5. Hang evacuation signs on exterior doors (These can be purchased at Occidental Hardware.)
6. Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft
7. Turn off propane
8. Take ONE car to reduce traffic jams whenever possible

## **PETS**

1. Locate your pets and place them in carriers NOW or as soon as you know you will be evacuating. You may not be able to catch them as the fire gets nearer and you get more anxious as they pick-up on your energy
2. Be sure your pets their have collars with tags on
3. Pack fresh water, bowls, pet food, and leashes for animals
4. Pack kitty litter tray for cats (NOTE: You can get travel litter trays at the pet store)
5. Use a pheromone cat spray to calm anxious

cats

6. Prepare horses and large animals for transport. (In future consider moving them to a safe location before evacuation is ordered)

### **Five-Minute Plan: (ADD THESE THINGS)**

1. Use the 6 P's: PEOPLE, PETS, PLASTIC (and cash), PRESCRIPTIONS, PRICELESS ITEMS, and Important PAPERS.
2. Grab Go-Bag, Purse, Computer, Cell Phone and charging cords
3. Dress all family members in long sleeve (or layers) and long pants – heavy cotton and wool is preferable no matter how hot it is
4. Have access to leather gloves, head and eye protection – full coverage eye goggles are best
5. Cover your face with dry bandanna or scarf OVER an N-95 mask or respirator

### **REMINDERS:**

- 1 Carry wallet (ID), keys on your person – have 2nd set of keys packed in your “go bag”
- 2 Drink lots of water and stay hydrated – have electrolyte replacements drinks in your “go bag”
- 3 Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day) with spare batteries, or have them in your “go bag”

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4 Carry maps with at least 2 evacuation routes mapped in your “go bag”

5 Stay Calm

### **1-Hour Plan: (ADD THESE THINGS)**

1. Listen to alert information, especially: Nixle; KSRO @ 1350 AM or 103.5 FM; NOAA weather radio Channel 4 (WZ2504) @ 162.475 MHz
2. Prepare box with food and water for 72 hrs.
3. Pack car if not already packed– remember sleeping bag and pillow.
4. Gather combustible items outside home (furniture cushions, etc.) and store away from residence or inside residence, or even put in pool if you have one.
5. Turn-off air conditioning and house fans
6. Place non-combustible ladder so that firemen can access roof of house
7. Set garage door to “manual operation”
8. Review items you are taking with you and modify as needed

### **Two-Hour Plan: (ADD THESE THINGS)**

1. Call/text out-of-area person and leave contact

information

2. Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation
3. Pull down exterior non-flammable window covers
4. Move BBQ propane tanks away from structures
5. Gather fire-safe clothing, helmets, lights, crowbars, etc., to have at the ready
6. Connect garden hoses to outside spigots for use by fire-fighters (attach squeeze-grip nozzles if you have them) and lay hoses out so that they will not tangle if pulled
7. Identify alternate large water sources for fire-fighters with signage (if you haven't already)
8. Place full water buckets around the outside of your house especially near decks or fences
9. Don't leave lawn sprinklers on or water running – they are ineffective and reduce critical water pressure for the entire neighborhood
10. Unlock and prop open fences and side-gates
11. Place non-combustible ladder(s) at the corner(s) of other structures and against water-tanks for firefighters
12. If space allows, Pack camping gear, tent, stove, lantern, propane
13. If time permits, check in with elderly and/or

13. If time permits, check in with elderly and/or disabled neighbors – help them prepare for evacuation if possible
14. Prepare car for ready evacuation facing roadway. NOTE: “Go Bags” should already be in the car for every person and your animals
15. If time permits, use fire resistant spray foam (works good on glass to keep windows from exploding in heat) and temporary non-flammable wraps if you have them

***REMEMBER, BE SAFE***

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**Two Reminders**

1. You can get a FREE property assessment from Fire Safe Sonoma to get good tips on the most effective ways to keep your home from igniting in a fire. Many Occidental residents have given FSO positive feedback from these. Contact [Firesafe.sonoma.org@gmail.com](mailto:Firesafe.sonoma.org@gmail.com) to apply.

2. Continue improving your defensible space! Sonoma County will be back in our area for FREE chipping at the end of September/beginning of October. Learn more at [PERMIT SONOMA - Chipper Program Guidelines](#). Once you have submitted the address of your piles to the county, please send your info to [carolynsell@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsell@gmail.com) so we can ensure that everyone’s piles get chipped.

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**Make sure you sign up for these important**

## NOTIFICATION SERVICES:



[SoCo Alert Signup](#)



[NIXLE Signup](#)

### Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) - No registration required

Urgent alerts sent as text-like messages to your mobile phone based on your location (you will only receive notification if you are in the area of the emergency). WEAs have three alert categories-- Imminent Threat, AMBER, Presidential. This system of the Federal Communications Commission works exclusively by sending a text message to your cell phone, much like an Amber Alert. A WEA message is accompanied by a special warning tone. To activate this alert, make sure your cell phone settings are set up to accept these emergency and public safety alerts.

[WEA FCC Information](#)



**Our recommended NOAA Weather Radio**

[Download PDF](#)

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