



# What to do when...

## What To Do When You Are Threatened By Wildfire

If you have followed the advance preparation steps previously outlined, you have created a **FireWise** home that has a better chance of surviving a wildfire. But when a wildfire is immediately threatening your area, there are additional steps you can take.

- If you see a fire approaching your home, report it immediately by dialing 9-1-1. Stay on the phone to answer additional questions the emergency dispatcher may ask.
- Dress properly to prevent burns and lifelong scars. Wear long pants, cotton or wool long-sleeve shirts or jackets. Gloves and a damp cloth provide added protection. Do not wear short sleeve shirts or clothing made of synthetic fabrics.

## Emergency Wildfire Survival Checklist

If there is time before the fire arrives, take the following actions:

### Preparing to Evacuate

- Park your car in the garage, heading out with windows closed and keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked; disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- Place valuable documents, family mementos and pets inside the car in the garage for quick departure, if necessary.

- If you do evacuate, use your pre-planned route, away from the approaching fire front.
- Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times.
- If you are trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.
- If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation along a road, or lie in the road ditch. Cover any exposed skin with a jacket or blanket. Avoid canyons that can concentrate and channel fire.
- Place garden hoses with nozzles so they can reach any area of your house.
- After a fire passes, check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.

### Outside Your Home

- Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage (if it catches fire while outside, the added heat could ignite your house).
- Cover windows, attic openings, eave vents and sub-floor vents with fire resistive material such as 1/2-inch or thicker plywood. This will eliminate the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house.
- Close window shutters if they are fire resistive.

- ❑ Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- ❑ Fill trash cans and buckets with water and locate them where firefighters can find them.
- ❑ If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location and make sure it is ready to operate.
- ❑ Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire to help firefighters in rapidly getting onto your roof.

### **Inside Your Home**

- ❑ Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- ❑ Close all doors inside the house to slow down fire spread from room to room.
- ❑ Turn on a light in each room of your house, on the porch and in the yard. This will make the house more visible in heavy smoke or darkness.
- ❑ Shut off liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas valves.
- ❑ Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep it from igniting

from the heat of fire radiating through windows.

- ❑ Remove your curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.

### **If You Stay in Your Home When a Fire Approaches**

- ❑ Stay inside your house, away from outside walls.
- ❑ Close all doors, but leave them unlocked.
- ❑ Keep your entire family together and remain calm. Remember: if it gets hot in the house, it is many times hotter and more dangerous outside.

### **After the Fire Passes**

- ❑ Check the roof immediately, extinguishing all sparks and embers. If you must climb onto the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.
- ❑ Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- ❑ Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.
- ❑ Keep the doors and windows closed.
- ❑ Continue rechecking your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours.