



## Anchorage Fire Department • Wildfire Mitigation Office

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[www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire)



# SAFE EVACUATION

## Plan Ahead for Emergencies

- If you see a fire approaching your home, report it immediately by dialing **911**. Remember to stay on the phone long enough to answer all questions the emergency dispatcher may ask.
- Create and maintain a defensible space around your home.
- Learn the evacuation plan for your children in school or daycare, and family in assisted living facilities.
- Designate a relative or friend as an out-of-area contact through whom family members can relay information.
- Identify and learn alternate ways out of your neighborhood in case the usual way becomes blocked.
- Prepare an Evacuation Checklist. Include the 5 P's: people, pets, pills, photos, important papers.
- Prepare an Emergency Kit for each household member.
- Keep your vehicle's fuel tank at least half full during wildfire season.
- Plan how you will transport your pets. Do not leave them behind.
- Make arrangements in advance for persons and/or pets that will be home when you are not.

## Prepare to Evacuate

- Locate your Evacuation Checklist & Emergency Kit, put items in your vehicle.
- Keep a flashlight, portable radio, and fresh batteries with you at all times.
- Park your vehicle facing out, with the windows closed and carry your car keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep nearby. Prepare large animals for transport.
- Wear sturdy shoes, long-sleeved shirt and pants, hat, handkerchief and a flashlight.
- Leave lights on in the house – door unlocked. Leave windows closed.

## The Evacuation Process

- Do not wait to be told to evacuate. If you feel threatened, leave. In some cases there is not time for formal evacuation notification due to quickly changing conditions.
- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, wind, terrain, etc.
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. **You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to a local radio station or Municipal Channel 10 and listen for evacuation updates.**
- Obey evacuation orders of the Anchorage Police and Fire Departments. They understand the risk and are acting on current fire information.
- Listen to the emergency instructions regarding evacuation routes. Your normal route out of your neighborhood may not be the safest.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked; disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- As you leave, post a visible form of notification at the end of your driveway, identifying that you have evacuated on white sheets or towels. This will save valuable time for emergency personnel conducting last minute evacuations.
- You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.
- Drive carefully with your headlights on. Pay special attention to fire trucks.
- Do not block access to roadways. Do not abandon vehicles on the roadway.
- 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 jacket or wool blanket, 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 wool blanket.

## Returning Home

- Fire Officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home.
- When you do return home: Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.