

# WHEN WILDFIRE APPROACHES

In the event of a wildfire, evacuation may become necessary. A homeowner may choose to remain on the property. Homeowners are permitted to remain on the property, provided that individuals do not hinder firefighting efforts. If residents are unable to evacuate or elect not to evacuate, the following checklist will assist in protecting property and maintaining the safety of all family members.

- Evacuate, if possible, all family members not essential to protecting the house, as well as pets.
- Contact a friend or relative and relay your plans.
- Make sure family members are aware of a pre-arranged meeting place.
- Tune to a local radio station and listen for instructions.
- Place vehicles in the garage, have them pointing out and roll up windows.
- Place valuable papers and mementos in the car.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. If electric, release the garage door from the center track so the door can be opened manually.
- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage.
- Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter.
- Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Proper attire should include long pants, long sleeved shirt or jacket and boots. Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover face, water to drink and goggles.
- Close all exterior vents.
- Prop a ladder against the house so firefighters have easy access to the roof.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach a nozzle set on "spray."
- Soak rags, towels, or small rugs with water to use in beating out embers or small fires.
- Inside, fill bathtubs, sinks and other containers with water. Outside, do the same with garbage cans and buckets. The water heater and toilet tank are also available sources of water.
- Close all exterior doors and windows.
- Close all interior doors.
- Open the fireplace damper, but place the screen over the hearth to prevent sparks and embers from entering the house.
- Leave a light on in each room.
- Remove curtains and other combustible materials from around windows.
- If installed, close fire resistant drapes, shutters or venetian blinds. Attach pre-cut plywood panels to the exterior side of windows and glass doors.
- Turn off all pilot lights.
- Move overstuffed furniture (e.g. couches, easy chairs, etc.) to the center of the room.
- Keep wood shake or shingle roofs moist by spraying water. Do not waste water. Consider placing a lawn sprinkler on the roof if water pressure is adequate. Do not turn on until burning embers begin to fall on the roof.
- Continually check the roof and attic for embers, smoke or fire.



The American Red Cross provides 24-hour emergency assistance to disaster victims and may provide counseling and support, temporary housing, food, medicine, eyeglasses, clothing and other essential items to those in need. To learn more about the services offered by American Red Cross, visit [www.santaclaravalley.redcross.org](http://www.santaclaravalley.redcross.org) or call the local Santa Clara Valley Red Cross Chapter at (408) 577-1000.