

Evacuation Planning and Preparation

When wildfire threatens, it is important to evacuate as quickly and efficiently as possible. Prior planning can help you leave safely with the things you need.

Step 1: Establish emergency plans with your family

1. Discuss with your family members:
 - Where would you go?
 - What if you or your family members are not home? Where would you meet?
 - Agree on an out-of-area contact.
2. Think about alternative ways to exit your house. What if your front door is blocked? Or if you are trapped in your bedroom?

Step 2: Pack “Go-Bags” for each family member (and pets)

A Go-Bag contains items that you would need to have with you should you be out of your house for several days to a week. It would include prescription medications, toiletries, shoes and warm clothing in case you must leave quickly in the middle of the night, identification, important phone numbers, pictures of family members in case you get separated, flashlight, cash, etc.

Step 3: Make lists of the most important things to save

1. Make two lists:
 - What you would take if you had 5 minutes. List by room with specifics/exact locations.
 - What you would take if you had 30 minutes.
2. Have a location near the front door or with your Go-Bag for:
 - Two copies of your lists and evacuation instructions (evacuation file)
 - Several strong nylon bags for collecting items
 - Flashlights to find the items
3. Some things you can protect with prior organization:
 - Originals of wills, deeds, trusts, and birth certificates can be kept in a safe deposit box.
 - Large collection of family photos can be scanned and saved on a flash drive also in a safe deposit box.
 - Your computer can be backed up in the cloud or on a hard drive stored off-site.
 - Other items that can be saved in the cloud or off-site include lists of bank and other accounts, passwords, and medical records.
 - It is recommended to have a flash drive with images of rooms and open cabinets, paintings, art, etc. for insurance purposes.

Step 4: Learn evacuation routes and procedures

Most important: Evacuate early. If you are thinking about evacuating, do it.

Review the evacuation routes and emergency exits from the Ranch described on the Ranch website. There are only a few ways out of Portola Valley. Know the local road roads—know which ones go through as there are many dead ends.