



Greenhorn 1990

US Forest Service



Portola Fire 1988

US Forest Service

WILDLAND FIRE PREPARATION & EVACUATION PLAN PLUMAS COUNTY



This project is part of the Plumas County and the US Forest Service Grant No. 01-DG-11051150-022. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Forest Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601 not, PL 101-624), as part of the National Fire Plan.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To File a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Will you be ready for Wildland Fire?

Have you done all you can to protect your home before wildfire strikes? Do you know what to do if fire is approaching? Do you know what to do when evacuating and where to go? Do you know what to do if wildfire strikes your community? IF NOT, THIS BROCHURE MAY BE OF HELP TO YOU.

Plumas County Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 1225

Quincy, CA 95971

**BULK
RATE
PERMIT
NO. 42
Quincy, CA
95971**



Please retain this plan!
Review it yearly with your family!

Personal Safety is Priority over Property

Pre-Fire Preparation

- Have adequate clearance around structures and propane tanks of all flammable material. Minimum of 30 feet. Greater distance may be required depending slope, aspect and surrounding vegetation.
- Have wood piles at least 30 feet from the house.
- Clear pine needles and leaves from gutters and roof. Trim back overhanging branches at least 10 feet from chimney. Space trees at least 10 feet apart and limb trees up at least 10 feet.
- Replace roofing and siding with nonflammable or other fire resistant materials.
- Screen eaves, attic and floor vent openings, with steel screening, to prevent embers from entering.
- Reduce or remove flammable vegetation, including landscape plants, and replace with less flammable plants.
- Have means of transporting pets and livestock readily available.
- Clearly mark all driveway entrances with name and address so they are visible from the street or road.
- Consider a backup generator, **installed by a licensed electrician**, if you have a well.
- Support community efforts to reduce hazardous fuels.
- Prepare your own personal evacuation checklist:
 - Critical medications, glasses and special needs for infants, elderly or disabled
 - Essential valuables, checkbook and credit cards
 - Pets and a limited amount of pet food
 - A change of clothing, toiletry kit, first aid kit and drinking water
 - Telephone numbers for relatives
- Important papers to take with you or place in a secure location:
 - Driver's license, Social Security cards or personal identification
 - Proof of residence (deed or lease), and Insurance policies
 - Birth and marriage certificates
 - Stocks, bonds, and other negotiable certificates
 - Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns
 - Photographs
- Preplan, and know your travel routes. Agree on a place where you and your family will meet in the event you are not at home together.
- Review this plan with your family and neighbors at least yearly in the spring.
- Contact your local Fire Department for more fire preparedness information.

Public agencies will carry out duties and functional responsibilities to the best of their ability considering the extent of the emergency and available resources.

What to do if a Wildfire is Approaching

- Park your vehicle facing out. Put valuables in the vehicle. Place the keys in the vehicle ignition. If you park in the garage, disconnect the automatic garage door opener.
- Secure pets and livestock and prepare them to be transported.
- Remove all flammable materials such as firewood, lawn chairs, and propane BBQ's from next to your house.
- Turn off gas appliances and your propane at the tank.
- Close all interior and exterior doors, windows, heavy drapes, shutters and vents.
- Leave your electricity on and some inside lights on.
- Place garden hoses and buckets full of water with wet rags around the house. Fill sinks and tubs.
- Place a ladder outside for roof access.
- Listen to your local radio station.
- Cover up by wearing, boots, long pants, long sleeved shirt, goggles or glasses, a cap and bandana for your face. 100% cotton or wool clothing is preferable.
- Follow the instructions of the Law Enforcement or Fire Agency.

The Evacuation Process

- Fire officials in conjunction with law enforcement will determine areas to be evacuated and the routes to be used, depending on the location of the fire and it's behavior. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Affected residents will be advised of potential evacuation requirements as soon as possible.
- Plumas County Sheriffs Department is responsible for carrying out the evacuation. Residents should follow their instructions and routes of travel. They may be assisted by other law enforcement or fire agencies.
- Evacuees may be directed to assembly areas that will usually be those locations on the evacuation plan map included with this plan.
- When heavy smoke causes visibility concerns, movement may be limited to escorted convoys. Routes will be selected based on best available knowledge of the fire and other adverse concerns for public safety (such as downed power lines and incoming emergency personnel).

How will citizens be notified?

- Fire personnel
- Law Enforcement (Sheriff & CHP)
- Sources of Information
 - Local fire or ranger station
 - Radio Stations:
 - KPCO (1370 AM)
 - KKOH (780 AM)
 - KBNF (98.9 FM)
 - KNLF (102 FM)
 - KJDX (93.3 & 94.3 FM)
 - KHWG (100.3 FM)

During Evacuation

- Be familiar with the primary travel routes to the pre-designated locations.
- Be prepared to be directed by law enforcement personnel. Follow their directions!
- Be patient and stay with the flow of traffic. Speeding or passing may lead to an accident with emergency personnel focused on fire activity.
- Be alert for downed power lines, loose animals, incoming emergency personnel, rocks and other roadway hazards.
- **Drive carefully with your headlights on.**
- **DO NOT PANIC!**

Returning Home

- Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible.
- When you return home, be alert for downed power lines and burned trees ready to fall over.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, lines and make sure all appliances have been turned off before turning gas back on. You may want to consult your gas company prior to lighting gas appliances.

If Things go Badly

- If you are in an isolated location with no clear direction from authorities on where to go, you should evacuate early to ensure that you have a clear route to safety.
- If you find your evacuation route blocked, you should refer to your evacuation plan map for an alternate evacuation route.
- If you become trapped by the fire during evacuation, park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation. Close all windows and vents, then cover yourself with a blanket and lie on the floorboard.
- If you are trapped by the fire while on foot, select an area clear of vegetation and lie face down. Look for pools of water, rock outcrops, or depressions in the ground.

-
- If you are unable to evacuate:
 - Seek shelter in your residence.
 - Call **911** and notify authorities of your location.
 - Close windows, heavy drapes or shutters.
 - Keep all doors closed.
 - Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
 - Keep your entire family together and remain calm. Remember it's four to five times hotter and more dangerous outside.
 - Keep pets in one room.

After the Fire Passes

- Check the house exterior, roof, and attic. Immediately extinguish sparks and embers if you feel safe in doing so.
- Check inside the attic and under decks for burning embers and small fires.
- Check for burned trees or power poles that are ready to fall and downed power lines.
- Check the rest of your yard for burning woodpiles, and burning vegetation that may further threaten your property.