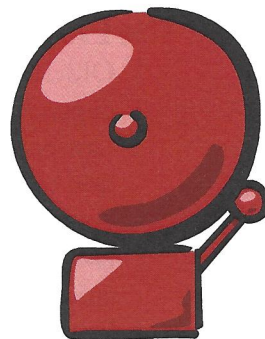




# Evacuation Tips

## Evacuation Tips



Evacuations save lives and allow responding personnel to focus on the emergency at hand.  
**Please evacuate promptly when requested!**

### The Law

California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409.5)

### Evacuation Orders

The terms *Voluntary* and *Mandatory* are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as *Precautionary* and *Immediate Threat*. These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. **All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.**

### Long Before a Fire Threatens

Prepare an *Evacuation Checklist* and Organize:

- Critical medications.
- Important personal papers, photos.
- Essential valuables.
- Pet and livestock transport, limited amount of pet food.
- Change of clothing, toiletries.
- Cell phone.
- Critical papers and effects in a fire-proof safe.
- An Evacuation Route Map with at least two routes.\*
- Drive your planned route of escape before an actual emergency.\*

\*During an evacuation, law enforcement/ emergency personnel may determine your route.

### If Evacuation is a Possibility

- Locate your *Evacuation Checklist* and place the items in your vehicle.
- Park your vehicle facing outward and carry your car keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the house.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover-up. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
- Leave lights on in the house - door unlocked.
- Leave windows closed - air conditioning off.

# Evacuation Tips



## The Evacuation Process

1. Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
2. Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. **Follow their directions promptly.**
3. You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
4. You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

## If You Become Trapped

While in your vehicle:

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket.
- Lie on vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials – Call 911.

While on foot:

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression if possible.
- Lie face down, cover up.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials - Call 911.

While in your home:

- Stay calm, keep your family together.
- Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.

*\* Note – it will get hot in the house, but it is much hotter, and more dangerous outside.*

After the fire passes, and if it is safe, check the following areas for fire:

- The roof and house exterior.
- Under decks and inside your attic.
- Your yard for burning trees, woodpiles, etc.

## 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 considering safety and accessibility.

When you 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.



## EVACUATION & AREA CLOSURE GUIDELINES FOR FRESNO COUNTY RESIDENTS

### Types of Evacuations

In Fresno County, there are two (2) types of evacuations notifications. Implementation of one or the other is dependent upon the actual or potential danger to the affected population as determined by the Emergency Incident Commander (IC).

The two (2) types of evacuation notifications are:

**Evacuation Warning** – Alerting of community members in a defined area of a potential threat to life and property from an emergency incident. An Evacuation Warning may be issued when the potential or actual threat to civilian life is more than 2 hours away.

**Evacuation Order** – Movement of community members out of a defined area due to an immediate threat to life and property from an emergency incident. An Evacuation Order should be used when there is potential or actual threat to civilian life within 1 to 2 hours or when the IC deems it necessary to protect civilians.

### Types of Area Closures

In Fresno County, there are four (4) levels of area closure. An Area Closure is described as:

*A closure prohibits the usage or occupancy of a defined area such as a park, beach, or road due to a potential or actual threat to public health and/or safety. Media is allowed under all closure levels unless prohibited under PC 409.5*

The four (4) levels of area closure are:

**Level 1 Closure / Color Code Green** – Area closed to all traffic except local residents; may require escorts.

**Level 2 Closure / Color Code Yellow** – Area closed to all traffic except FD, LE, and critical incident resources. (i.e. utility companies, Caltrans, County Roads, etc.)

**Level 3 Closure / Color Code Orange** – Area closed to all traffic except FD and LE.

**Level 4 Closure / Color Code Red** – Area closed to all traffic including FD and LE.

### Evacuation and Closure Information

During an emergency situation, there are several places where you can find information regarding the status of the emergency, evacuations, closures, and shelters. One of the places you can get current information about an emergency is through local media outlets such as radio and television stations. The following are primary stations for Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts:

KMJ 580 radio  
Channel 30 or Cable Channel 3 Television  
Channel 24 or Cable Channel 4 Television

### Other Sources of Information

For periodic updates on the emergency, evacuation orders, and related information people can contact the following phone numbers to hear a recorded message. People can also turn to several social media sites for similar but very brief updates. Social media sites should never be used to report an emergency situation or as an attempt to request help from public service agencies. Those sites are not constantly monitored and should be used as a source of information NOT communication.

CAL FIRE Fresno Kings Unit Emergency Update Information Line 559-493-4398  
CAL FIRE/Fresno County Fire Unit Twitter account @FresnoCoFire  
Fresno County Sheriff's Office Twitter account @FresnoSheriff  
Fresno County Sheriff's Office (Law Enforcement) Facebook  
Caltrans Highway Signs



## Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

☐ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

☐ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both

☐ Flashlight and extra batteries

☐ First aid kit

☐ Whistle to signal for help

☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

☐ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)

☐ Local maps

**Through its Ready Campaign,** the U.S. Department of Homeland Security educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. **Ready** asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

All Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Following is a listing of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. However, it is important that individuals review this list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their family in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.



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### Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ☐ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



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# Emergency Supply List



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[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)