



FireSmart: When Wildfire Approaches

If a wildland fire is immediately threatening your home, remain calm. The key is not to panic. We have provided some useful steps and tips to ensure you and your family's safety:

- Report the fire immediately by dialing the FireWatch number at 1-800-667-9660, your
- local fire department or 911 where available.
- Activate whatever alert signal is used by your community disaster warning system.
- Dress properly to reduce risk of burn injuries (long pants and shirt of cotton or wool and sturdy footwear).
- Have firefighting tools and ladders propped against the house in a visible place.

Should a house be threatened by wildfire, the occupants may be advised to evacuate by a fire or law enforcement official. If this happens, follow these guidelines:

- Evacuate all family members, as well as pets.
- Contact a friend or relative and relay your plans.
- Make sure family members are aware of the prearranged meeting place.
- Advise your local authority that you have evacuated and how you can be reached.
- Tune into 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 applicable, disconnect the electric garage door opener so that 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 metre.
- Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover face, water to drink and goggles.
- Close all exterior vents.
- Make sure all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach a nozzle set on "spray".

More Things You Can Do

- 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. Remember that the water tank and heater are 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 lightweight and non-fire resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around the windows.
- If available, close fire resistant drapes, shutters, or venetian blinds. Attach pre-cut plywood panels to the exterior side of windows and glass doors.
- Move overstuffed furniture to center of the room.
- Keep wood shake or shingle roofs moist with spraying water. Do not waste water. Consider placing a lawn sprinkler on roof.
- Continually check the roof and attic for embers, smoke, or fire.