

Some things to know if you get caught in a wildfire!

If You Become Trapped – Stay Calm!

Survival in a Vehicle:

- This is dangerous and should only be done in an emergency, but you can survive the firestorm if you stay in your car. It is much less dangerous than trying to run from a fire on foot.
- Roll up windows and close air vents. Drive slowly with headlights on. Watch for other vehicles and pedestrians. Do not drive through heavy smoke.
- If you have to stop, park away from the heaviest trees and brush. Turn headlights on and ignition off. Keep windows rolled up and air vents closed.
- Get on the floor and cover up with a wool or 100% cotton blanket or coat.
- Stay in the vehicle until the main fire passes. **Do not run!**
- Air currents may rock the car.
- Some smoke and sparks may enter the vehicle.
- Temperature inside will increase.
- Metal gas tanks rarely explode.
- Engine may not restart.
- Use your cell phone to call 9-1-1 and notify officials of your situation and location.

While on foot:

- The best temporary shelter is in an area with little to no flammable materials such as dried leaves or branches. On a steep mountainside, the backside is safer. Avoid canyons, natural "chimneys" and saddles.
- If a road is nearby, lie face down along the road cut or in the ditch on the uphill side. Cover yourself with anything that will shield you from the fire.
- Seek a depression without underbrush, leaves, or thick weeds and then lie face down in the depression and cover yourself with NATURAL FIBER (cotton, wool) jackets, blankets, etc. Stay down until after the fire passes!
- Cover mouth and nose and cover up your body with NATURAL FIBER clothing or a blanket.
- Use your cell phone to call 9-1-1 and notify officials of your situation and location.

While at home:

- Keep your family together.
- Call 9-1-1 to notify officials of your situation and 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.
- If your house catches fire, move to the far end of the house and close windows and inside doors to restrict the spread of the fire. When it is safe to do so, exit your house and move to a "blackened" area of your property or neighborhood that has already burned. It is safer to be in an area that has already burned than an area not yet burned.

It will get hot in the house, but this is much safer than being outside and exposed to flames & dangerous fire gases.

After the fire passes:

- Check your family and neighbors.
- Check roof and exterior of house for fire.
- Check under decks and inside attic for fire.
- Check your yard for burning trees, woodpiles (between pieces of firewood), etc.
- Extinguish embers and sparks. The water you put into your pool or hot tub and other containers will come in handy now. If the power is out, try connecting a hose to the outlet on your water heater.
- Continue to check for fires, embers and sparks for at least 12 to 24 hours after the fire has passed