



START PREPARING NOW!








Painted Cave Wildfire Evacuation Guide

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Get Ready Today!

Living in a high fire danger zone requires planning and preparation before an incident occurs. **Below are some of the things you can do right now to be ready ahead of time.** Regularly performing fire safety measures inside and outside of your home frees up precious time for taking care of the final preparations before a wildfire evacuation is ordered.

In Your Home

-  **Fill out the MET Emergency Evacuation List** at the back of this brochure—include everything you need to take. Post it in a handy place such as by your front door or refrigerator. This will be especially helpful in the event you are not home during an emergency and must rely on a neighbor, house sitter, or guest to grab your belongings.
 -  **Create a list of friends/family to notify** of your evacuation and of your safety—include phone numbers. Share with your household.
 -  **Decide on a location to regroup** with loved ones if you become separated during the evacuation.
 -  **Designate a few possible places to stay** such as with friends, a hotel, or an evacuation center. It's advisable to have more than one planned destination since the location of the fire could prevent you from going to your primary destination.
 -  **Children:** Prepare a kit of extra diapers, formula, medicine, school supplies, special items such as toys, books, or blankets.
 -  **Pets:** Have carriers and/or cages ready to go. If your pets can't stay where you're going, identify emergency shelters or make other arrangements. Have current tags on them with their name and your phone number. Make up a box containing several day's supply of food and medications.
 -  **Collect important papers in one place** such as deeds, insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, social security cards, vehicle title(s) and insurance policy(s). Store in a labeled, grab-and-go file or storage box. Make digital copies as a back-up.
 -  **Identify any valuables** you don't want to live without such as irreplaceable photo albums, jewelry, paintings, precious objects, etc.
 -  **Keep a current list of critical medical supplies** such as prescription medications, supplements, medical aids, equipment and personal hygiene items that are must haves.
 -  **Assemble an Evacuation Kit** as described on page 3.
-  **Sign up for Painted Cave Emergency Alerts on the In•Telligent App.** Download the app on your smart phone and stay informed on what's impacting our immediate area.

In Your Yard

Firefighters will not enter a property that they deem unsafe due to extreme vegetation or debris surrounding your home. Make your property fire-ready by doing the following property maintenance on a weekly/monthly schedule—it can be the difference between having a home to return to or not.

- ✓ **Clear gutters and roof of leaf debris.** Install gutter guards to keep debris off and reduce monthly maintenance.
- ✓ **Clear vegetation and other flammable items** from around the outer base/foundation of the house.
- ✓ **Store your woodpile** a safe distance from structures.
- ✓ **Clear underneath decks** of leaf litter and stored items.
- ✓ **Clear the nooks of your property that collect leaf litter,** there's a good chance embers will also blow into those locations.
- ✓ **Regularly trim back** tree branches and bushes on your property.
- ✓ **Install fine mesh metal screening** over attic or ground vents.
- ✓ **Remove unused hazardous/explosive material** (paint cans, fertilizers, etc.) from around your property.
- ✓ **Keep pathways/walkways clear** of debris and tripping hazards.



Evacuation Kit

This kit could/should be kept in your car in case of an **immediate evacuation**. Store in a backpack so you can move around easily with it.

- ✓ **COVID supplies:** face mask and hand sanitizer/disinfectant wipes
- ✓ **N95 or dust mask,** or a non-synthetic scarf or handkerchief to filter smoke
- ✓ **Flashlights** and batteries
- ✓ **Multi-tool** such as a Leatherman or Swiss Army Knife
- ✓ **Wrench or pliers** to turn off propane tank, or free frozen water nozzles
- ✓ **Leather/heavy-duty gloves** to protect your hands
- ✓ **Cash**
- ✓ **First aid kit**
- ✓ **Fresh water**—a gallon of drinking water per person. Include a spray bottle of water to damp nose/mouth cloth covers
- ✓ **Wool blanket(s)** for protective cover, large enough to cover completely if crouched or lying down. **Only** 100% wool is fire resistant. **DO NOT** use synthetic or fleece

When Evacuations Are Issued

These instructions apply when receiving an **Evacuation Warning** notification, which means you have some time to gather your things but must leave as soon as possible. Once you evacuate you will most likely be locked out of the area, unable to return for any reason, for a considerable period of time. Be sure to get everything you will need while you can.

Indoor Checklist: Button Up Your House

- ✓ **Locate your “MET Evacuation List”** and start collecting items you previously identified to take with you.
- ✓ **Close all windows!** Close skylights!
- ✓ **Shut garage and outbuilding** doors and windows.
- ✓ **Turn on interior and exterior lights** so firefighters can find your home in dark or smoky conditions.
- ✓ **Move all easily flammable materials** away from your windows such as bedding, pillows, or paper so they don't ignite should windows break and embers get inside.
- ✓ **Remove flammable blinds or curtains.** They can combust just from the heat outside.
- ✓ **Close—but do not lock—interior doors** to prevent fire from traveling through your home.
- ✓ **Make sure outer doors are shut tight** but leave them unlocked so firefighters can enter if your home (or garage) has ignited from within or if they need to seek refuge from danger.

Know the Different Terminology

Evacuation Warning

Evacuate as soon as possible. A short delay to gather valuables and prepare your home may be OK. Leave if you feel unsafe. **Evacuation Warnings** may become **Evacuation Orders** if conditions change.



Evacuation Order

This means leave now. Follow your evacuation plan and evacuate immediately. Do not delay gathering your belongings or preparing your home. Pay attention to specific instructions that will be contained in the evacuation order.

Outdoor Checklist: Ready Your Property



Attach all garden hoses to spigots

and lay out so they're visible to firefighters and can reach most areas of your home.



Remove all flammable material near the exterior of your home

such as deck chairs, cushions/pillows, umbrellas, children's toys, BBQ propane tanks and doormats. Store them inside, away from ember fall, or stack them in a pile a safe distance away from your home.



If you haven't moved your woodpile,

cover it with a tarp.



Place ladder(s) against your roof

in a visible location.



Seal off any attic or ground vents

with plywood, aluminum foil or commercial sealants.



SHUT OFF propane/gas valves.



Disconnect/disarm motors on automatic gates.



Unlock and leave yard fence gates open.



Clear pathways/walkways for

firefighters. Firefighters need to be able to move safely around your residence to provide protection during day or night.

Leaving!

Driving through a wildfire or other emergency can be a scary and stressful situation. **STAY CALM!** Most accidents happen because some people may panic and block roadways, preventing others from evacuating safely. Move slowly and deliberately and follow the directions of our County emergency responders.



If You Become Trapped when Driving

In almost every situation, your best chance of survival is to stay in the car, where you have an air supply and protection from direct flames. Exceptions are only if your car has gone off the road into the brush, or the fire is still a good distance away and you can make it to a safe area quickly. **Do not ever try to outrun a fast moving fire on foot.** Double check to make sure all vents, windows and roof openings are closed. Stay low and use your wool blanket or wet cloth to protect yourself from radiant heat. As temperatures increase, take short shallow breaths, through a wet cloth if you have one. Cover your pet cages with a wool blanket if you are driving through smoke, flame or heat.

Pack Up

- ✓ **Put on protective clothing**—cotton/wool long sleeve shirt and pants, or Nomex (if available) and boots. **Avoid synthetics, they can melt!**
- ✓ **Get out the wool blanket, face covering, and water** from your Emergency Kit and have them quickly accessible in the car.
- ✓ **Back your car into your driveway**—facing out—leave keys in ignition while you're loading.
- ✓ **Stay calm.** Prepare your family or roommates to evacuate. Know where everyone is if not at home and let them know where to meet you.
- ✓ **Contact your neighbors** to inform them of the situation.
- ✓ **Get pets into carriers** and ready them for placement in the car. If you have pets you cannot take, secure them indoors if possible and leave a note describing the pet and its location on your door.
- ✓ **Leave a visible note taped on a window** with your contact information and where you all will be staying.

Leave

- ✓ **Shut car vents and windows** so circulation is internal and to reduce likelihood of embers and smoke coming into the car.
- ✓ **Follow directions from CHP, the Sheriff's Department (or CERT)** regarding which road to use. Depending on the situation the evacuation route may change at any given time, so be alert and be prepared to be re-routed. If traffic is backed up or blocked, consider going to Laurel Springs Ranch's outdoor safety zone as a last resort. **See Safety Zone Map on next page.**
- ✓ **Be prepared ahead of time** by familiarizing yourself with places along the road where you may have to take shelter if fire flares up and you are forced to stop and cannot turn around.
- ✓ **If you must pull over,** stop your car as far from burning brush as possible and don't block the roadway. If you can make it to a clearing with 30 ft between you and the burning brush, do so. Radiant heat kills—stay as far from it as possible.



Downed power lines: Never attempt to move a **downed wire.** All power lines can be energized even if they do not hum or spark. Anything in contact with a wire can also be charged including the ground. **Stay clear!**

If You Cannot Evacuate or Have Decided to Shelter-in-Place

- ✓ **Know where the designated “Wildfire Safety Zone” is at Laurel Springs Ranch,**
2720 Painted Cave Rd,
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

- ✓ **Let someone** (a friend or relative) **know where you are. Call 911 if you are in danger.**
Keep your cell phone with you. Drink water. Put on wool or heavy cotton clothing or Nomex (if available). Avoid synthetics!

- ✓ **If home, position fire extinguishers for quick access.** Fill tubs and buckets with water to have extra water within the home for putting out spot fires and in case of water shortage after fire passes over your home.

- ✓ **Stay indoors until the fire front passes.** Choose a room furthest from the approaching fire/heat front, but close to an exit from the house. If possible, stay in a room with no perimeter walls or simply stay as far as possible from a perimeter wall within the room where you are sheltering. Have water in the room. Have a wool blanket in the room and a cloth to cover your nose.

- ✓ **If the interior of your home catches fire and you cannot extinguish flames with water or a fire extinguisher,** go to the safest nearby building (wear a smoke mask or wet cloth over your face).

- ✓ **Once the fire front has passed, check for embers and smoke** in all rooms, the attic, ceiling or crawl space and check your roof. Let someone know you are safe and what you are doing.



Shelter-in-Place

Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or fire safe area where you can be at least 30' away from combustibles. This type of direction may be required when evacuation is not necessary or is too dangerous.



Emergency Evacuation List

Mark your household's evacuation list of everything you will need to take. Post it in a handy place such as by your front door or refrigerator to use as a quick reference during a wildfire. Update often!

Emergency Contacts (Name/Phone):

Family/Household Regroup Location(s):

Health and Medicine

- ☐ Medical Rx, Supplements, and Equipment
- ☐ Personal Hygiene Items
- ☐ Masks, Gloves, Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Eyeglasses, Contacts

✓

✓

✓

Food and Water, First Aid

- ☐ 1 Gallon of Water per Person, per Day
- ☐ Food, Snacks
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Flashlight, Extra Batteries
- ☐ Wool Blankets & Smoke Masks

Children

- ☐ Diapers, Infant Formula
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ School Supplies, Backpack
- ☐ Special Items (Toys, Books, or Blankets)

✓

✓

Pets

- ☐ Pet Carriers, Kennels, Beds
- ☐ Food, Bowls, Waste Bags, Medications

✓

✓

Important Documents

- ☐ Property Title & Deed, Insurance Policy(s)
- ☐ Rental/Lease Agreement
- ☐ Birth Certificates, Passports, SS Cards
- ☐ Vehicle Title(s), Insurance Policy(s)

✓

✓

Valuables

- ☐ Photo Albums, Keepsakes
- ☐ Jewelry, Art, Paintings, Precious Objects

✓

✓

✓

✓

Personal Items

- ☐ Clothing/Shoes for Each Family Member
- ☐ Computers, Hard Drives, Chargers/Cables
- ☐ Cell Phones, Chargers
- ☐ Keys, Wallet, Purse, Credit Cards, Cash

✓

✓



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