



PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE

PRE-EVACUATION PREPARATION STEPS

When a pre-evacuation notice is given, follow these steps to give your home the best chance of surviving a Wildland Fire:

Home Evacuation Check List:

Inside the house

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked
- Remove flammable window shades, curtains and close metal shutters
- Remove lightweight curtains
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors
- Shut off the gas meter; turn off pilot lights
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions
- Shut off the air conditioning
- Review your evacuation plan with your family
- Review your communications plan with your family and your designated contact person out of the area
- Make sure you are signed up for the emergency notification system at the Sheriff's Office.

Outside the house

- Gather up flammable items
- from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trashcans, etc.)
- Turn off propane tanks
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures
- Connect garden hose to outside water source for use by the firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house
- Don't leave sprinklers or water on. This can have an effect on critical water pressure
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness.
- Put your **Emergency Supply Kit (see below for more information)** in your vehicle
- Back your vehicle into the driveway with it loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your keys with you while walking around your home.
- Have a non-flammable ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals

- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened. (Remember embers from a fire can travel miles and start spot fires)
- Check on neighbors and make sure they are prepared to leave.
- Assist your functional needs and elderly neighbors.

Animals

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby
- Prepare to transport your large animals to a safe location
- Keep additional medicine and food/feed near

Mandatory Evacuation

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION WHEN WILDFIRE STRIKES

When Mandatory Evacuations are ordered follow these steps to get out.

- Quickly review your Evacuation Plan again
- Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle
- Cover-up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts, heavy shoes/boots, cap dry bandana for face cover or a dust mask, goggles or glasses
- Locate your pets and take them with you.

WHEN TO EVACUATE

Leave as soon as evacuations are ordered by the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office or Fire Officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Evacuating the forest fire area early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire they will not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate. Your life could depend on it.

Remember you may not get a pre-evacuation notice or a mandatory evacuation notification. Be aware of your surroundings and take immediate action if needed.

Do not return to your home until advised to by the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office have determined it to be safe. Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

WHEN YOU RETURN HOME:

- Be alert for downed powerlines and other hazards
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning on the gas
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers and smoldering fires

ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Put together your emergency supply kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs and keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have a readily accessible emergency supply kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except food and water) and are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light enough to be able to lift it into your car.



EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person.
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.) Your thumb drive of important documents and phone numbers
- Don't forget pet food, medications and water!
- Toys or games to keep children busy
- A copy of your Emergency Evacuation Plan
- Supplies for infants (diapers, formula, breast feeding equipment and supplies)

Items to take if time allows:

- Easily carried valuables
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- Personal computer information on hard drives and disks
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

For more information on emergency supplies, visit <http://www.ready.gov/>