



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

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# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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Prepared by the Grove Street Fire Safe Council, Inc. of Sonoma in partnership with:  
CAL FIRE, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office,  
and the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management

Many thanks to Ed and Debbie Cooper for contributing their marvelous photographs



**Dear Grove Street Fire Safe Council, Inc. (GSFSC) Community:**

The GSFSC Board has analyzed the natural threats that may affect our community. The goal is to provide property owners and residents with recommendations for mitigation and protection. Those primary threats are:

- Wildfires
- Earthquakes

The following information provides steps you can take to prepare if our community confronts one of these natural threats. We are establishing a robust set of plans and training for coordinated community-wide actions if an emergency occurs.

Emergency services may be overtaxed in many scenarios, and it may take days to resolve all challenges we could face. In other words, our advice to you and your families is to prepare. In addition to all the steps that communities, fire departments and first responders are now taking to learn from the recent fires, the experiences and lessons are the same - individual responsibility for intelligent preparation, emergency communication options, and evacuation strategies are vital. Start your planning now for the possible emergencies we could face while living in this beautiful mountain community!

The Residential Preparedness Program is divided into the following sections:

- PREPARING: Annual Pre-Emergency Planning
- EVACUATING: Guidelines
- RETURNING: What to Expect

We strongly encourage you to review this program in its entirety and consider all steps carefully. Your preparedness today can make a significant difference for you, your families and your community should the Grove Street area be faced with an emergency that requires immediate and coordinated action.

**Respectfully,**  
**Grove Street Fire Safe Council, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors**



<https://grovestreetfsc.org/>



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# HELPFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

<b>Emergency</b> .....	911
Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center.....	(707) 565-2121
Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Sonoma Valley Substation.....	(707) 996-9495
Sonoma Valley Fire District.....	(707) 996-2102
CAL FIRE LNU Headquarters .....	(707) 967-1400
CAL FIRE Glen Ellen Station .....	(707) 996-6900
California Highway Patrol .....	(707) 588-1400
Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management .....	(707) 565-1152
Sonoma County Emergency Operations Hot Line.....	(800) 325-9604 211 (Mobile)

## Medical Care Information

California Poison Control .....	(800) 222-1222
Sonoma Valley Hospital.....	(707) 935-5000
Sonoma County Public Health Info .....	(707) 565-4477
Sonoma Valley Community Health Center .....	(707) 939.6070

## Other Useful Numbers

PG&E Public Service Power Shutoff .....	(800) 743-5002 Text: 976-33
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**Note:** The contact numbers provided above are current at the publication date (May 2026). They may change without notice, so we strongly advise you check and update them periodically.



# PREPARING

## ANNUAL PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING

For additional information, visit CAL FIRE's website:  
[Readyforwildfire.org](http://Readyforwildfire.org)



## BE PREPARED – START NOW!



1. Create a family disaster plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans, and practice it regularly. Even if this is your second home, this plan can be vital if an emergency occurs while you are here. The American Red Cross Family Disaster Plan is included on pages 6-10, to be filled out by you and your family members.



2. Build a disaster Go-Bag and think about additional items you may want to take with you in an evacuation. A list of recommended items for a Go-Bag is included on pages 12-13.



3. Build or buy emergency supply and first aid kits. A list of websites where kits can be purchased is included on page 13.



4. Defensible space initiatives have proven to be highly effective in residence protection. See stories on pages 14-15 with more information about defensible space strategies in action.



5. Use the enclosed Annual Disaster Planning guide on pages 18-19 for additional steps for preparation and protection. Keep in a safe and easily accessible place, one that is known to all family members.



Time you spend  
planning is  
valuable time saved  
in an emergency.

# RED CROSS FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

**Family Last Name(s):**

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**Household Address:**

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Member/Household Contact Info:**

Name	Cell Phone	Email
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Pet(s) Info:**

Name	Breed	Color	Registration No.
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Plan of Action:**

1. The disasters most likely to affect our household are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the escape routes from our home? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If separated during an emergency, what is our meeting place near our home?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. If we cannot return home or are asked to evacuate, what is our meeting place outside of our neighborhood?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is our route to get there and an alternate route, if the first route is impassable?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. If our household is separated or unable to communicate with each other, our emergency contacts outside of our immediate area are:**

Name	Cell Phone	Email
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**7. If at school/daycare, our child(ren) will be evacuated to:**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Site (address and contact info): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Site (address and contact info): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Site (address and contact info): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Site (address and contact info): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Our plan for people in our household with a disability or special needs is:**

Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan: (disability, equipment needed for evacuation, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan: \_\_\_\_\_







\_\_\_\_\_

**Congratulations on completing your family disaster plan!**

Please tell others: "We've made a family disaster plan and you can, too, with help from the American Red Cross."

Get more information about what you should do if an emergency or disaster occurs at <https://redcross.org/get-help>

## FAMILY MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER

Task	Description	Family Member Responsible
 Disaster Go-Bag	Every household member should have a disaster Go-Bag and take it if evacuation is necessary. Include items you may want at an evacuation shelter, including medical devices, medications and eyeglasses.	
 Be Informed	Maintain access to NOAA and local radio, TV, email or text alerts for important, add "Watch Duty" app, "AlertCalifornia" and current information about disasters.	
 Family Medical Information	Make sure to take all family medical information if evacuation is necessary.	
 Financial Information	Obtain copies of bank statements and cash in the event ATMs and credit cards do not work due to power outages. Bring copies of utility bills as proof of residence when applying for assistance.	
 Information, Food & Meds	Evacuate pet(s), keep a phone list of pet-friendly motels and animal shelters, and assemble and take the pet disaster kit.	
 Share and Maintain the Plan	Share the completed plan with those who need to know. Meet with household members every six months or as needs change to update household plan.	



**After a disaster, let your friends  
and family know you are okay  
by registering with "SafeandWell" at:  
[safeandwell.communityos.org/cms](https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms)**

**You may also call (800) 733-2767**

**Or give friends and family a call,  
send a quick text or update on  
social networking sites.**

## WHAT DO YOU NEED IN A DISASTER GO-BAG?

At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below:



Water\*



Food\*



Flashlight and  
multipurpose tool



Battery-powered  
or hand-crank  
radio



Extra batteries



First aid kit and  
N95 or surgical  
masks



Medications  
(7-day supply)  
and medical items



Sanitation  
and personal  
hygiene items



Copies of  
important personal  
documents



Cell phone  
with charger



Family and  
emergency contact  
information



Extra cash



Emergency  
blanket



Map(s) of  
the area and  
evacuation routes



Portable fire  
extinguishers

\*Water: 12 oz/day for "go-to" bag or one gallon for Shelter in Place per person, per day  
(three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)

\*Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items  
(three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)



## DEFENSIBLE SPACE MATTERS

Defensible space only works if a whole community buys into the idea. Much like herd immunity and vaccines, the group can help save individuals.

### ReadyForWildfire.org

Visit CAL FIRE's website  
for more information  
about preparing  
for wildfire.

**"How they survived: Owners of the few homes left standing around Paradise, California, took critical steps to ward off wildfires."**

Washington Post  
Sarah Kaplan and Frances Stead Sellers  
November 30, 2018

Many fire-prevention measures can be cheaply addressed by homeowners: Clear leaves and other flammable debris from roofs, rain gutters, decks and yards. Avoid stacking firewood directly against a house. Border the home with bare-soil flower gardens, rather than bark mulch. Replace wooden fences with materials that don't burn. Install mesh screens over vents to prevent smoldering material from getting inside. Surround homes with fire-resistant hardwood trees, like oaks, which can form a heat shield and wind damper during a conflagration.

"It's the little things that are igniting our communities," said Jack Cohen, a former firefighter and longtime fire behavior expert for the Forest Service.

## “How to protect your home from indoor and outdoor fires”

Los Angeles Times  
November 15, 2018

Wildland-urban interface refers to places, such as Paradise, California, where human communities bump into unoccupied, untamed land. Housing development in such areas has boomed in the United States, growing from 31 million to 43 million houses from 1990 to 2010, an increase of 41%.

Many burned forests in the American West are being replaced by fire-prone shrubs and grasses, which grow back faster than trees.

The Camp Fire started in an area just outside Paradise where a major fire occurred in 2008, and the vegetation had already grown back thick enough to cause another wildfire.

To stymie the spread of fires to populated environments, Pam Leschak, the U.S. Forest Service’s national program manager for wildland-urban interface and fire-adapted communities, recommends the use of defensible space programs which involve creating buffer zones around a home, business or community where flammable material is removed.

Multiple studies show that defensible space can save a community.

An aerial study of San Diego County from 2001 to 2010 found homes that used defensible space were half as likely to burn during a fire.

Crystal A. Kolden, an associate professor in the Forest Rangeland and Fire Sciences department in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho, has witnessed even stronger protection in a report released in October about Montecito, a town that mostly survived last year’s Thomas Fire, the second largest fire in California history. “Montecito had done a fantastic job of reducing fuel vegetation around all the houses that were right up against the wildland areas. The Thomas Fire made a run at that community last December with the same type of really strong, dry winds that we’re seeing now with the Woolsey and Camp Fires, and yet Montecito only lost seven homes. If they hadn’t taken those precautions, Montecito could have lost 400 to 500 homes under a worst-case scenario like the Thomas Fire,” she said.

But defensible space only works if a whole community buys into the idea. Much like herd immunity and vaccines, the group can help save individuals.

## Zones make up the 100' of Defensible Space required



Email the Grove Street Fire Safe Council  
for a defensible space assessment at:  
[info@grovestreetfsc.org](mailto:info@grovestreetfsc.org)

# DEFENSIBLE SPACE GUIDELINES

**Defensible space** is a term used to describe the careful selection, location and maintenance of vegetation and other combustible materials on the property. The purpose of defensible space is to:

1. **Minimize the pathways** of wildfire to burn directly to the home
2. **Reduce radiant heat exposures** to the home and structures
3. Reduce the potential for **embers to ignite vegetation** adjacent to the home
4. Provide a **safe place for fire personnel** to defend the home and allow for safe routes for evacuation. The priority is to **start at the house and work outwards**, giving the greatest effort to eliminating combustible vegetation and other materials within five feet of the house and any attached decks.

**Zone 0:** In the first five feet surrounding any structure and attached deck, avoid anything combustible. This includes woody plants, mulch, woodpiles, combustible trellises, and stored items. Zone Zero is an excellent location for walkways, or hardscaping with pavers, rock mulch, or pea gravel. Zone 0 should be coupled with a six-inch noncombustible zone between the ground and the start of the building's exterior siding.

**Zone 1:** 5-30 feet from the structure should be "lean and clean." The goal is to eliminate connectivity between islands of vegetation by increasing the spacing between trees, removing lower branches of trees and shrubs, and creating areas of irrigated and mowed grass or hardscape between lush vegetation islands. Plants should be properly irrigated and maintained to remove dead/dry material.

**Zone 2:** 31-100+ feet out to the property line. The goal is to moderate potential fire behavior by reducing the density of the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants or grasses to slow fire spread and reduce flame heights. Shrubs and trees should be well spaced and pruned to eliminate fuel ladders, where fire can climb from a ground fire to the tops of the vegetation.

**If you don't own a 100-ft zone or more around the house:** prioritize implementing the recommended actions under Zone 0 and 1. After completing these actions, work with neighbors to support each others' efforts.

**If the property is large:** As the size of the property expands so do the opportunities for strategic fire defense. It is a good practice to thin and prune trees, mow grass, and cut back shrubs along any road systems to allow for safe emergency access to and evacuation from the property. Strategic fuel breaks may be an option, especially along ridgelines or other critical control points that the local fire department can help identify. Broadscale fuel ladder reduction will be of benefit for tree survival. Water storage and installation of easy to access pipe fittings for fire personnel is also recommended.

## **STEPS TO CONSIDER IN ANNUAL DISASTER PLANNING (Do in May of Each Year)**

- Initiate and annually update defensible space.
- Check and restock emergency supplies.
- Identify important files and personal documents for evacuation such as wills, insurance policies, stocks and bonds, passports, social security cards, immunization records, family photos, bank account numbers, or irreplaceable heirlooms.
- For insurance, annually update coverages and household inventory with a video/ photograph of house/personal effects.
- Copy important computer files to the cloud or memory stick and store a copy in a safety deposit box or with a friend (or store in the Cloud).
- Check flashlights and replace batteries regularly.
- Check fire extinguishers.
- During fire season, maintain vehicles with more than half of a tank of gas.
- Agree in advance what family members should do if they are away from home when an emergency strikes. Establish a meeting place away from your neighborhood to reconnect.
- If underage children will be in residence without access to transportation, create an emergency exit strategy and arrange for a trusted neighbor to care for them.
- Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your family contact. During a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Family members should be instructed to call this person with their location.
- Plan how you will care for your pets.
- Replace stored water and food at least every six months.
- Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and replace batteries every six months if standard ones, or every 10 years if new ones.
- Hold a family meeting to review your emergency plan on an annual basis.
- Keep vehicle fuel tanks full during red flag days.
- Face vehicles toward street for quick exit during red flag days.
- Know how to operate your garage door and gates in absence of electricity. Consider installing systems with battery backup.



## Annual Disaster Planning:

- Defensible space around the home
- Garden hoses stored near faucets
- Address signage posted and visible

# EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Evacuation protocols will be similar should an earthquake occur. However, various challenges will be unique. Below is a list of actions to follow should the community experience this type of emergency. Add "MyShake" app to your smart phone as an early warning system.

## Self-Preservation

Self-preservation will take precedence over all other activities during and immediately after an earthquake. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary to know what to do to assure personal safety when an earthquake occurs.

### Indoors



**DROP** where you are onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if necessary.



**COVER** your head and neck with one arm and hand:

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath for shelter.
- If no shelter is near by, crawl next to and interior wall (away from windows)
- Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs.



**HOLD ON** until shaking stops:

- Under shelter: hold on to your shelter with one hand; be ready to move with it if it shifts.
- No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

### Outdoors

- **Remain outdoors.** Move away from buildings, streetlights, utility poles, wires and large trees.

### In a Car

- Pull off to the right of the roadway, stop and stay in the car until the shaking stops. Avoid stopping on bridges, on or under overpasses, or near any structures that may fall. In parking garages or under overpasses, it is safer to kneel next to your car than to stay in it.
- Check for fire, gas leaks or other imminent hazards and take appropriate actions to mitigate the hazards.
- Tune radio to local stations for emergency alert notifications.



- **DUCK, COVER and HOLD onto something sturdy**
  - **Following the earthquake, evacuate if you feel unsafe or the building integrity is compromised.**
  - **DO NOT RE-ENTER STRUCTURE UNTIL IT HAS BEEN DEEMED SAFE!**
- See page 35 to 37 for instructions before you enter your home.**





GROVE STREET  
**FireSafe**  
COUNCIL



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

# EVACUATING

EVACUATING

## HESITATING:

Hesitation is the act of pausing or waiting before responding when an emergency evacuation notice is given. This behavior has produced tragic consequences in recent California fires. Be prepared and don't delay when the order is given. GO!

If you are nervous or anxious before an evacuation notice is given, go whenever you choose. Leaving early can actually help first responders and spread the flow of traffic.



# COMMUNICATION

## Introduction

When wildfire threatens, it is important to seek reliable information (maintain situational awareness) to help you plan your protective strategies based on your risk tolerance. It is an individual responsibility, and one that cannot be left to the authorities to mandate or decide, except when an order to evacuate is issued.

### Then you must leave.

Have a radio that has **Public Alert** or **S.A.M.E** on the face. This will also provide emergency alerts.

Staying informed during wildfire season starts with weather forecasts, particularly the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts for fire weather (high temperatures, low humidity, winds greater than 15 mph and dry fuel conditions.) These forecasts can escalate to Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings as conditions deteriorate. Consider getting a NOAA weather alert radio that will receive alerts from NOAA, using NOAA radio frequency 162.475 local to lower Sonoma County. Or alternatively tune into local radio stations (such KSVY Sonoma 91.3 FM or KCBS 106.9 FM) and Bay Area TV stations such as KTVU (channel 2,) KRON (channel 4,) KPIX (channel 5) and/or KGO (channel 7.) Consider "Watch Duty" app as well.

## Risk Tolerance

Each household should decide on their own individual "risk tolerance" for when you are uncomfortable staying at home and it is time to evacuate and leave the area if fire weather threatens, or an actual wildfire is approaching. Consider such factors such as how much time you need to pack and go, are there challenges to mobility or medical issues in leaving, availability of transportation and time to get to a safe area or evacuation destination, having pets to gather and move, speed and direction of spread of the wildfire, etc.

## Alerts—Sonoma County

Situational awareness is very important, particularly through various alert systems the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management uses to warn residents. We recommend that you register for SoCoAlert at <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/signup/socoalert/>

Sonoma County will issue two levels of evacuation alerts: Warning and Order.

- **An Evacuation Warning** means potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock, should leave now.
- **An Evacuation Order** means immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. This area is lawfully closed to public access.

To receive these alerts, sign up for SoCoAlert. Upon signing up, you can choose to be alerted through a landline call, mobile phone text message or pre-recorded verbal messages and email.

Nixle is another system, mostly used by the Sheriff's Department. Sign up by texting your zip code (95476) to 888777 to opt-in. Or you can sign up online at <https://local.nixle.com/register> and receive email, text and voice messages with alerts and advisories.

Sonoma County issues evacuation warnings and mandatory evacuation orders based on a map grid system for the unincorporated county areas. The grid divides the county into zones using numbers and sub-zones using letters and numbers. So, for example, if you live between Madrone Road to the north of Felder Creek Road to the south and west of Arnold Drive to the top of Sonoma Mountain, including the communities of Diamond A, George Ranch and lower Grove Street, your evacuation zone is 6D1. To see if we are under a warning or order, go to this link: [socoemergency.org](http://socoemergency.org).

## **Alerts–Federal**

The Federal Government also uses two alert systems: either (1) through mobile phone service providers (such as AT&T and Verizon) through a system called Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) System or (2) emergency messages broadcast by local radio and television through Emergency Alert System (EAS). Neither of these requires subscriptions or sign ups; they are designed to push out alerts on mobile devices or radio/TV broadcasters by NOAA or government authorities.

## **Evacuation**

If a Mandatory Evacuation Order is issued, and if time and conditions safely permit, Sheriff's Deputies will announce the evacuation by driving through the community with a distinctive high-low siren on their vehicles. If you hear this sound on your street, it is time to go! You should evacuate and go immediately.

We only have one evacuation route which is down Grove Street to the Valley floor. Therefore, if you feel unsafe, you should leave early, even before an Evacuation Warning is issued. Allow extra time for traffic that will also be leaving the Valley. Staying behind will not help the situation, and will take public resources away from their primary focus of fighting fires and preserving lives and property.





## **WHAT TO EXPECT FROM FIRST RESPONDERS AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**

During a critical incident when residents will be evacuated, the first responders on scene will be Deputy Sheriffs working alongside local Fire Agencies.

Responding deputies will coordinate with Fire Agency personnel to determine the critical areas that need to be evacuated. Once these areas are identified, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for the evacuation.

The Evacuation route is shown on the enclosed Evacuation Map.

When the order to evacuate is given, deputies will report to their assigned areas and utilize their vehicles' public address systems or high-low siren to announce the evacuation.

During large-scale emergencies, the Sheriff's Office may utilize mutual aid resources, which are available from other law enforcement agencies.

Enclosed in the back pocket of this booklet is a Sonoma Sheriff Evacuated tag to be placed on your **front door** (not on a gate) when you have evacuated. This assists first responders.

# PREPARING TO EVACUATE

## Inside the House, as Time Permits

- Shut all windows and doors, both interior and exterior, leaving them unlocked for access by firefighters.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains, and close metal shutters if you have them.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioner and ceiling fans or the furnace.
- Take your Disaster Go-Bag with you.

## Outside the House, as Time Permits

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) or place them a distance from your house.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running as they can affect water pressure for the community.
- Shut off propane tanks & other fuel supplies.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- Put your Disaster Go-Bag and emergency items in your vehicle.
- Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.
- Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave if you have time.
- As you leave, place the enclosed door tag on the front door to notify firefighters that you have evacuated.

# PETS

Plan ahead. Know where you will take them or if you will leave your pets with someone. In case you are not home when disaster strikes, arrange in advance for a neighbor to check on or transport your pets. Make sure your neighbors have your contact numbers (cell phone, work, home, etc.). In the event of evacuation, pets may not be allowed inside human emergency shelters - have an alternate prearranged location to take your animals.

Make sure your pets are always wearing properly fitted collars with identification, rabies and license tags.

Each animal should have its own pet carrier. Birds, rodents and reptiles should be transported in cages. Cover cages with a light sheet or cloth to minimize their fear.

Store vaccination/medical records, veterinary contact information, proof of ownership, a current photo and a Pet Disaster Preparedness Kit in one location.

## **Pet Disaster Preparedness Kit**

- Pet carrier for each pet
- Two-week supply of food and water
- Non-spill food and water bowls
- Pet first-aid kit
- Medications and dosing instructions
- Cat litter box and litter
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Paper towels
- Disinfectants
- Leashes/collars/harnesses
- Blankets
- Toys and treats
- Newspaper

## **If You Must Leave Your Pet**

If you must leave your pets, bring them indoors. Never leave pets chained outdoors!

Use a room with no windows and adequate ventilation, such as a utility room, garage, bathroom or other area that can be easily cleaned. Do not tie pets up!

Leave only dry foods and fresh water in non-spill containers. If possible, open a faucet to let water drip into a large container or partially fill a bathtub with water.



**Grove Street FSC  
Evacuation Route**

- Legend**
- Grove Street
  - Primary Evacuation Route
  - County Streets
  - Building Footprints
  - Grove Street CIPSS Boundary (1,001 ac)
  - Patrols

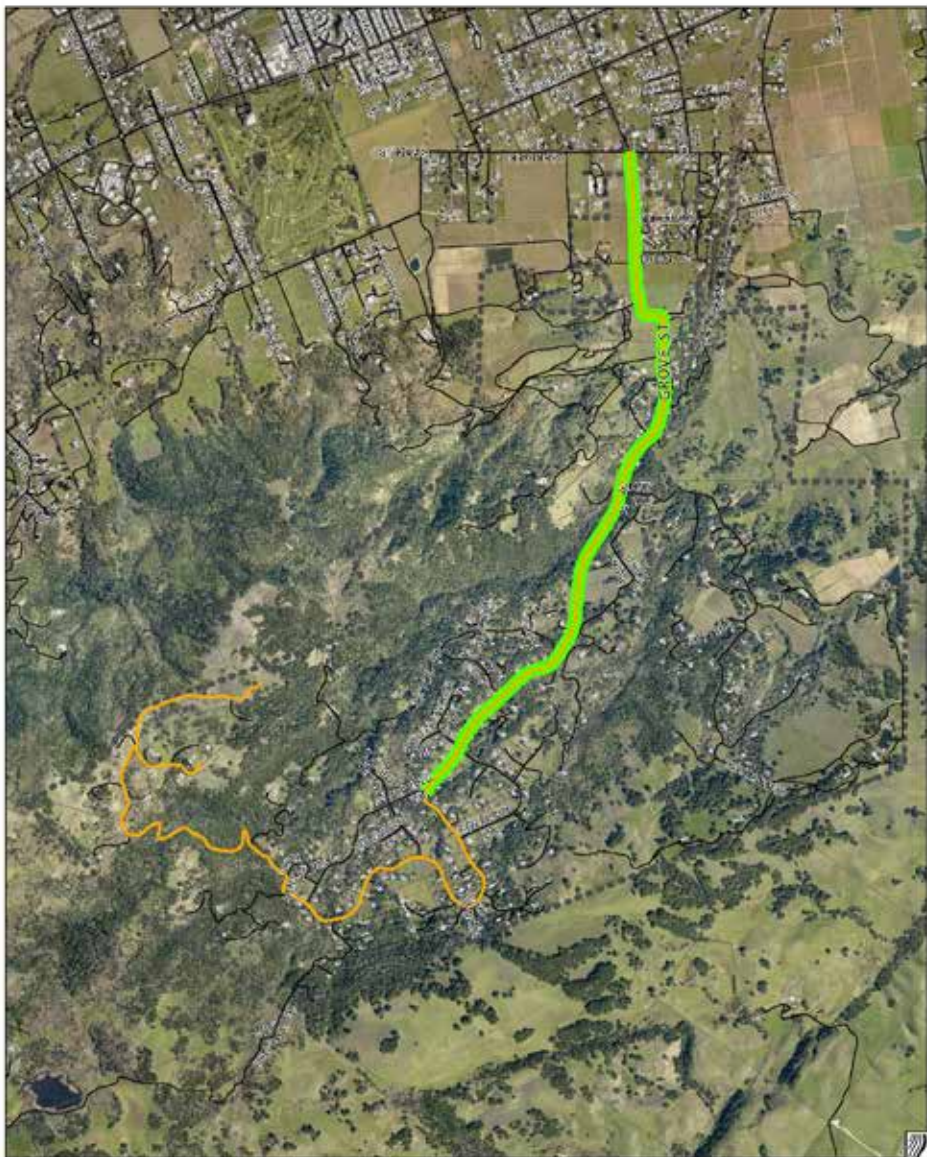


0 1,000 Feet  
Scale 1:21,000 (1 in = 1,750 ft)



**Notes and Data Sources:**

Road and parcel data from Sonoma County, California GIS database, accessed in May 2019. 2015 USGS boundary derived from Sonoma County parcel layer and determined by the Grove Street FSC map committee members on 2/13/2020. Base Imagery from the Sonoma County High Resolution Imagery (2015).





## **COMMUNITY EVACUATION MAP**

Evacuation routes are decided upon at the time of the critical incident and designated by law enforcement based on the nature and location of the incident.

During a community evacuation, it is likely that you will need to exit via Grove Street and either head north or south on Arnold Drive depending upon actual fire conditions and where officials direct you.

During an evacuation, be aware that emergency vehicles may be on the roadways and may be entering the community at various access points. Some of these access points may be prohibited for use by private vehicles unless law enforcement personnel deem them necessary.

**A Community Evacuation Map  
is also included in the back  
pocket of this emergency  
manual.**

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED IN A WILDFIRE

## While in Your Vehicle

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

## While on Foot

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression on level ground if possible.
- Lie face down and cover up your body.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials by calling 911.

## While in Your Home

- Stay calm and 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.

## SHELTER IN PLACE

Shelter-in-place means to seek immediate shelter and remain there until it is safe to relocate. While evacuation is usually preferable, if your roads are already impassible, you should have a Shelter-in-Place Plan.

Your Shelter-in-Place Plan and strategy should incorporate these ideas:

- A building should be your first choice for shelter. Your home is probably your first choice.
- If you have time to do so safely, move vehicles or equipment away from structures.
- Shut off natural gas and propane.
- Connect water hoses and lay them out for best use where they will not get burned while the fire front passes.
- Assume you will lose power. Store water by filling sinks and tubs along with buckets, pots, and pans inside your house to put out burning embers or small fires.
- Safely disconnect any automatic garage door openers and operate the door manually. Become familiar with manual door operation BEFORE fire season.
- Leave exterior and interior lights on as long as you have power. This helps firefighters find your house through dense smoke.
- Place your fire extinguishers in convenient locations.
- Close metal Venetian blinds and remove light curtains and other easily combustible materials from windows or draw them well past the perimeter of the window. This may prevent radiant heat from igniting the window coverings.
- If you have time to do so safely, put livestock and horses where fuels have been removed or in an irrigated pasture.
- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to prevent radiant heat from igniting the furniture.
- Shut off all attic fans, whole-house fans, swamp coolers, and interior fans to keep smoke and ash from being drawn into the house.
- Shelter in a room at the opposite end of your home from where the fire is approaching, making sure you have two possible exit routes.
- Close all doors and windows and leave them unlocked.
- Keep car keys, cell phone, ID, and flashlight with you.
- Gather all family members and pets (in carriers) and lie down near the front door. If it becomes smoky or hot, protect your airway by breathing near the floor.
- Monitor the fire and be observant. Watch for small (spot) fires.
- Call 9-1-1. Let them know your location and situation.
- Leave the house only if it becomes too hot or smoky inside or when it's obviously safer outside. **Until then, remember that it may be bad inside, but may be a lot worse outside.**

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Long before an emergency, store enough supplies for at least 72 hours and a maximum of 14 days. Keep a well-stocked emergency kit or "Stay Box" available at home and in the car to meet all contingencies. For a detailed list of supplies, consult <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.





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# **RETURNING**

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## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

**Your property may require a safety inspection prior to return. Local authorities will communicate information to evacuees about access to their property for recovery of personal items or permission to return permanently.**



# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU RETURN FROM AN EVACUATION

**If your home is close to or within a wildfire area, you may ONLY return to it after the evacuation order has been lifted. Here is a checklist of things to consider:**

- Expect disruptions to your daily life.
- Let family and friends know before you leave and when you arrive.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power outages continue.
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines; they might be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- Only use generators away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect one to your home's electrical systems unless you have a transfer switch installed.
- Your property may require a safety inspection prior to return. Local authorities will communicate about access to your property for recovery of personal items or permission to return permanently.

## **FEMA Checklist of What to Bring/Wear:**

- Sturdy shoes (steel toes and shanks recommended)
- Heavy-duty mask (N95)
- Heavy-duty gloves
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirt
- Five-gallon bucket for any possessions
- Battery-powered radio for emergency updates and news
- Battery-powered flashlight to inspect a damaged home

## **General Tips**

- Do not use your water if you suspect or have been told it is contaminated.
- Keep hands clean during an emergency to help prevent the spread of germs.
- If your tap water is not safe to use, wash your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected or use a large water jug that contains clean water.
- Foods exposed to fire can be compromised (including canned goods.)
- Clean and sanitize your household after an emergency to help prevent the spread of illness and disease.
- Hazardous chemicals and conditions may be present.
- Inspect propane tanks for visible damage before turning on. Make sure pilot lights are lighted as appropriate.
- Be aware of slip, trip, fall and puncture hazards.
- Watch out for wildlife and stray animals.
- Stay off the streets. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads and sidewalks.

## **Before You Enter Your Home**

Take care around the outside and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

### **DO NOT ENTER IF:**

- **You smell gas**
- **Your home was damaged by fire and authorities have not declared it safe**
- **Water from flooding remains around the home**

## **Going Inside Your Home**

When you go inside your home, there are certain things you should and should not do. Enter the home carefully and check for damage. Be aware of loose boards and slippery floors. The following items are other things to check inside your home:

- Propane gas
- Sparks, broken or frayed wires
- Roof, foundation and chimney cracks
- Appliances
- Water and sewage system
- Food and other supplies
- Basement
- Open cabinets
- Household chemical spills
- Re-light pilot lights (if applicable) if gas was turned off. Get help from your fuel provider if need be.

## **Additional Insurance, Health and Safety Tips**

- Call your insurance agent. Take pictures of damage. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.
- Unless an insurance company adjuster has special training and conducts appropriate testing, he/she is not qualified to determine whether there are harmful particulates or hydrocarbons in your home or whether your home is habitable.
- Heavy smoke, nearby flames and extreme heat can impact a home's air quality and create health hazards that you may not be able to detect.
- Qualified health and environmental safety experts can help you determine whether it is safe to move back into your home after a wildfire.
- Indoor air quality and home environment health standards vary. There does not appear to be one official, clear and established set of guidelines for smoke, soot and ash contamination, and proper cleaning methods.
- If there are members of your household who have chemical sensitivities, a history of respiratory illness or are immuno-suppressed, notify your insurer and consult with a physician before moving back in.
- A reputable and qualified Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) can inspect and test the air, surfaces and "soft goods" (furniture, rugs, curtains, etc.) in your home. If you are hiring one yourself, check qualifications and references carefully. If you are reviewing a report prepared by an expert hired by your insurer, do the same. Communicate with your insurer in writing if you believe your home is not safe to live in and provide them with supporting documentation. Request that they cover the cost of appropriate inspection, testing and remediation and additional living expenses for the time period required to complete those three tasks. Be prepared to enforce your rights if an adjuster or insurer rejects your request to cover necessary costs.





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## **THANK YOU FOR PLANNING AHEAD AND BEING PREPARED!**

**Additional helpful documents are included in the pocket facing this page:**

- **Defensible Space Guidelines**
- **Community Evacuation Map**
- **“Sonoma County Evacuated Tag”**

Thanks to Ed and Debbie Cooper, local residents, for generously providing their stunning photographs for this document.

And a special thanks goes to Harold N. Marsh, III and Joe Lieber who developed this for our communities and deserve special recognition for their contribution.



## RESOURCE LIST for the Grove Street Fire Safe Council "FireWiseUSA" Community



If it is an immediate **emergency, call 911**

### Other useful numbers

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center	(707) 565-2121
Sonoma Valley Fire District	(707) 996-2102
CAL Fire LNU Headquarters	(707) 967-1400
California Highway Patrol	(707) 588-1400
Sonoma County Emergency Operations Hot Line	(707) 565-3856 or 211 (mobile)

### On your smartphone

Register for Sonoma County's alert system SoCoAlerts at  
<https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/sign-up/>

Put the **Watch Duty** and **MyShake** apps on your smartphone, from the App Store for Apple devices or Google Play Store for Android devices

### Useful websites

County of Sonoma Emergency Management  
<https://socoemergency.org/>

Sonoma Valley Fire District  
<https://www.sonomavalleyfire.org/>

CAL FIRE  
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/>

Grove Street Fire Safe Council  
<https://grovestreetfsc.org/>

### In the event of an evacuation

#### **Our evacuation zone is 6D1**

And pay attention to evacuation warnings and orders from the County's SoCoAlert system