If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Complete the Family Communication Plan on the opposite side for each family member and keep in your “Go Kit(s).”

WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

Learn more at www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness/evacuation

EVACUATION ORDER: Leave now! Evacuate

If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter inside a car, building, or an open area; park in an outside turn if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.

WHEN YOU LEAVE

☐ Leave immediately if ordered.
☐ Don’t wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe or conditions change; leave early if unsure.
☐ Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
☐ Carpool to reduce traffic.
☐ Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
☐ The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest paved route to a valley floor, away from the fire if possible. Avoid fire roads.
☐ Evacuate on foot only as a last resort.
☐ You are better protected inside a vehicle or building.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

☐ Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them unlocked.
☐ Remove combustible window shades and lightweight curtains; close metal shutters.
☐ Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
☐ Leave indoor and outdoor lights on for firefighters.
☐ Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

☐ Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or move 30’ from structures (optional: place in a pool).
☐ Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15’ away from combustibles.
☐ Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Attach squeeze-grip nozzles if you have them.
☐ Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
☐ Don’t leave sprinklers on or water running - they are ineffective and can reduce critical water pressure needed by firefighters.
☐ Hosing your roof down is dangerous and ineffective. Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house instead (only if time allows).
☐ Back your car into driveway, loaded, with doors and windows closed.

PETS & ANIMALS

☐ Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You won’t be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
☐ Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
☐ Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
☐ Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

PET & ANIMAL CHECKLIST

☐ Place animal carriers in your “Go Kit(s).”
☐ rope the carrier(s) to a tree so they can be used as a life raft.
☐ make sure you have enough water for the journey.

ON YOUR PERSON

☐ Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
☐ Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, head protection.
☐ Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator.
☐ Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day).
☐ Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.
☐ Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.
☐ Put “Go Kit” (pg. 2) in your vehicle.

COMUNICATIONS

☐ Ensure your cell phone is fully charged.
☐ Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status. Update regularly.
☐ Leave a note with your contact info and out-of-area contact taped to refrigerator or inside front window.
☐ Check on or call neighbors to alert them to prepare.

EVACUATION NOTIFICATIONS & INFORMATION

Register for Alert Marin and Nixle to receive evacuation and fire information notices!

ALERT MARIN www.alertmarin.org
Used when emergency action is needed at a specific address: wildfires, imminent flooding, and evacuations with life safety implications, or other public safety incidents where lives may be at risk; critical information about evacuation routes, shelters, & transportation.

NIXLE www.nixle.com
Used to provide incident information for a specific zip code: road closures, general updates, issues affecting larger areas; post-disaster information about shelters, transportation, or supplies; police activity and general public safety information.

SOCIAL MEDIA, RADIO, TV
Used to provide less critical and low level frequent updates intended for larger populations: traffic updates, road closures, incident updates, and contact information; safety announcement, power outages, minor issues; disaster recovery resources.

EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

Evacuation notices will include these terms, with specific instructions in the message.

EVACUATION WARNING: Evacuate as soon as possible. A short delay to gather your Go Kit and prepare your home may be OK. Leave if you feel unsafe or conditions change.

SHELTER IN PLACE: Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area. May be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.
WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY "GO KIT"

Put together an emergency supply kit in advance for each family member and keep it easily accessible. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have their own Go Kit. Store kits in backpacks.

☐ Map marked with two evacuation routes (if possible)
☐ Prescription medications
☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
☐ First aid kit
☐ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
☐ Copies of important docs (birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, etc.)
☐ Pet food and water, leashes, pet supplies and medications

☐ Water bottles and food
☐ Sanitation supplies
☐ Change of clothing
☐ Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Items to take only if time allows:
☐ Easily carried valuables
☐ Family photos, small heirlooms, and other irreplaceable items
☐ Personal computer data and digital information backups on hard drives and/or disks

FIRESafe MARIN | www.firesafemarin.org