



# EL DORADO COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS HANDBOOK

**YOUR GUIDE TO PREPAREDNESS, SAFETY, AND RESILIENCE**



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY LEADERS

Preparedness is a shared responsibility. As leaders entrusted with the safety and well being of El Dorado County’s residents, visitors, and communities, we are committed to ensuring that everyone has clear, reliable information to help prepare for the natural hazards that affect our region.

El Dorado County encompasses diverse landscapes, from the West Slope to the Tahoe Basin, and each area faces its own unique challenges. Whether the threat comes from wildfires, winter storms, extreme heat, earthquakes, or public health emergencies, readiness begins long before an incident occurs. This handbook brings together trusted resources, countywide guidance, and practical steps to help you protect yourself, your family, and your neighborhood.

Our Office of Emergency Services, operating within the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office, works year round with local, state, federal, and community partners to strengthen preparedness and improve our collective resilience. But the most effective emergency response starts with informed residents who have the tools and plans they need.

We encourage you to take time to review this handbook, discuss your family’s emergency plan, and stay connected to the official information sources outlined in these pages. Together, we can build a safer, more resilient El Dorado County.

Thank you for your commitment to preparedness and community resilience.



**Supervisor Brooke Laine**  
**Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors**



**Sheriff Jeff Leikauf**  
**El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office**



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## YOUR TRUSTED RESOURCES

The resources below come from trusted, official sources that El Dorado County residents can rely on during emergencies and in everyday situations, providing accurate and timely information before, during, and after an incident.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

#### California Highway Patrol - Placerville

3031 Lo Hi Way Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 748-2450  
[chp.ca.gov](http://chp.ca.gov)

#### California Highway Patrol - South Lake Tahoe

2063 Hopi Ave South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 539-9500  
[chp.ca.gov](http://chp.ca.gov)

#### El Dorado County Sheriff - Office of Emergency Services

200 Industrial Dr Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-5895  
[ready.edso.org](http://ready.edso.org)

#### El Dorado County Sheriff - Placerville

200 Industrial Dr Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-5655 (office) / (530) 621-6600 (non-emergency)  
[tinyurl.com/edc-sheriff](http://tinyurl.com/edc-sheriff)

#### El Dorado County Sheriff - South Lake Tahoe

1360 Johnson Blvd #100 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 573-3000 (office) / (530) 621-6600 (non-emergency)  
[tinyurl.com/edc-sheriff](http://tinyurl.com/edc-sheriff)

#### Placerville Police Department

730 Main St Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 642-5210 (office) / (530) 642-5280 (non-emergency)  
[cityofplacerville.org/police](http://cityofplacerville.org/police)

#### South Lake Tahoe Police Department

1352 Johnson Blvd South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 542-6100  
[cityofslt.gov/302/Police-Department](http://cityofslt.gov/302/Police-Department)

### FIRE AGENCIES

#### CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit

2840 Mt Danaher Rd Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2345  
[fire.ca.gov](http://fire.ca.gov)

#### Cameron Park Fire Department

3200 Country Club Dr Cameron Park, CA 95682  
(530) 677-6190  
[cameronpark.org/fire-emergency](http://cameronpark.org/fire-emergency)

#### El Dorado County Fire Protection District

4040 Carson Rd Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-9630  
[eldoradocountyfire.com](http://eldoradocountyfire.com)

#### El Dorado Hills Fire Department

1050 Wilson Blvd El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
(916) 933-6623  
[edhfire.com](http://edhfire.com)

#### Garden Valley Fire Protection District

4860 Marshall Rd Garden Valley, CA 95633  
(530) 333-1240  
[gardenvalley.org](http://gardenvalley.org)

#### Georgetown Fire Protection District

6281 Main St Georgetown, CA 95634  
(530) 333-4111  
[geofire.org](http://geofire.org)

#### Lake Valley Fire Protection District

2211 Keetak St South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 577-3737  
[lakevalleyfire.org](http://lakevalleyfire.org)

#### Mosquito Fire Protection District

2840 Mt Danaher Rd Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2345  
[mfpd.us](http://mfpd.us)

#### North Tahoe Fire Protection District

222 Fairway Dr Tahoe City, CA 96145  
(530) 583-6911  
[ntfire.net](http://ntfire.net)

#### Pioneer Fire Protection District

7061 Mt Aukum Rd Somerset, CA 95684  
(530) 620-4444  
[pioneerfire.org](http://pioneerfire.org)

#### Rescue Fire Protection District

5221 Deer Valley Rd Rescue, CA 95672  
(530) 677-1868  
[rescuefiredepartment.org](http://rescuefiredepartment.org)

#### South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue

2101 Lake Tahoe Blvd South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 542-6160  
[cityofslt.gov/2521/Fire-Department](http://cityofslt.gov/2521/Fire-Department)

#### USFS Eldorado National Forest (ENF)

100 Forni Rd Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 622-5061  
[fs.usda.gov/r05/eldorado](http://fs.usda.gov/r05/eldorado)

## UTILITY AGENCIES

### Pacific Gas and Electric Company - West Slope

(877) 660-6789 (customer service)

(800) 743-5000 (emergency)

[pge.com](http://pge.com)

### Liberty - Tahoe Basin

(800) 782-2506 (customer service)

(844) 245-6868 (emergency)

[libertyutilities.com](http://libertyutilities.com)

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### EDC Air Quality Management District

330 Fair Ln, Bldg. A, Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 621-7501

[tinyurl.com/EDC-AQMD](http://tinyurl.com/EDC-AQMD)

### EDC Health and Human Services - Public Health

(530) 621-6100 (West Slope)

(530) 573-3155 (Tahoe)

[tinyurl.com/EDC-HHSA](http://tinyurl.com/EDC-HHSA)

### El Dorado County Animal Services - South Lake Tahoe

1120 Shakori Dr South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 573-7925

[eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Services/Animal-Services](http://eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Services/Animal-Services)

### EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience

360 Fair Ln, Bldg. B, Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 621-5569

[eldoradocounty.ca.gov/OWPR](http://eldoradocounty.ca.gov/OWPR)

### El Dorado County Animal Services - West Slope

6435 Capitol Ave Diamond Springs, CA 95619

(530) 621-5795

[eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Services/Animal-Services](http://eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Services/Animal-Services)

### El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts

100 Forni Rd, Ste. A, Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 295-0120

[eldoradorcd.org](http://eldoradorcd.org)

### El Dorado County Department of Transportation

2850 Fairlane Ct, Bldg. C, Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 621-5900

[eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Land-Use/Transportation](http://eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Land-Use/Transportation)

### El Dorado Water Agency

1107 Investment Blvd, Ste. 240, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

(530) 621-5392

[edwateragency.org/Home](http://edwateragency.org/Home)

### El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

(530) 647-1700 (office)

(530) 957-6270 (assistance programs)

[edcfiresafe.org](http://edcfiresafe.org)

### Tahoe Resource Conservation District

870 Emerald Bay Rd, Ste. 108, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 543-1501

[tahoercd.specialdistrict.org](http://tahoercd.specialdistrict.org)

## SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

### CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit

Facebook: [facebook.com/CALFIREAEU](https://www.facebook.com/CALFIREAEU)

Instagram: @calfire\_aeu

X: @CALFIREAEU

### EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience

Facebook: [facebook.com/EDCOWPR](https://www.facebook.com/EDCOWPR)

Instagram: @edc\_owpr

### California Highway Patrol - Placerville

Facebook: [facebook.com/CHPPlacerville](https://www.facebook.com/CHPPlacerville)

Instagram: @chp\_placerville

X: @CHPPlacerville

### El Dorado County Sheriff

Facebook: [facebook.com/eldoradosheriff](https://www.facebook.com/eldoradosheriff)

Instagram: @eldoradosheriff

X: @EIDoradoSheriff

### California Highway Patrol - South Lake Tahoe

Facebook: [facebook.com/CHPSouthLake](https://www.facebook.com/CHPSouthLake)

Instagram: @chpsouthlaketahoe

X: @CHPSouthLake

### El Dorado & Georgetown RCDs

Facebook: [facebook.com/eldoradogeorgetowndividercd](https://www.facebook.com/eldoradogeorgetowndividercd)

Instagram: @eldoradogeorgetownrcd

### El Dorado County

Facebook: [facebook.com/EIDoradoCountyNews](https://www.facebook.com/EIDoradoCountyNews)

X: @CountyEIDorado

### Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team

Facebook: [tinyurl.com/fb-tfft](https://www.facebook.com/tahofireandfuelsteam)

Instagram: @tahofireandfuelsteam

### El Dorado County Fire Protection District

Facebook: [facebook.com/eldofire](https://www.facebook.com/eldofire)

Instagram: @eldofire

X: @ELDO\_Co\_Fire

### Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tahoercd>

Instagram: @tahoercd

X: @TahoeRCD

### El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

Facebook: [facebook.com/edcfiresafe](https://www.facebook.com/edcfiresafe)

Instagram: @edcfiresafecouncil

### USFS Eldorado National Forest

Facebook: [facebook.com/eldoradonf](https://www.facebook.com/eldoradonf)

## COUNTY EMERGENCY INFORMATION

### EL DORADO COUNTY EMERGENCY ALERTS

EMERGENCY



#### EL DORADO COUNTY

# EMERGENCY ALERTS

### RAVE - Your Alert System for All Emergencies

When a disaster occurs, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services sends alerts by text, phone call, and email to registered residents. While third-party apps like Watch Duty can be helpful, they don't provide direct, real-time alerts.



## SIGN UP TODAY!

Scan the QR Code or go to [ready.edso.org](http://ready.edso.org)



### ALERTS COVER

- Fires
- Flooding
- Weather Alerts
- Environmental Alerts
- Crime Incidents
- Guidance in a Disaster

**For more information:**

**(530) 621-5895**

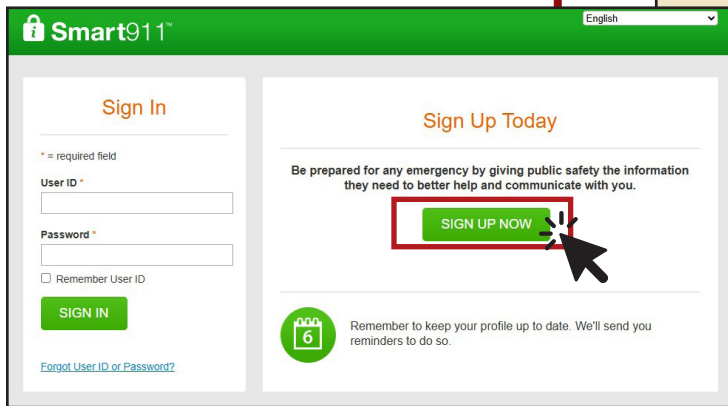
**[emergencyinfo@eldoradosheriff.gov](mailto:emergencyinfo@eldoradosheriff.gov)**

## HOW TO SIGN UP

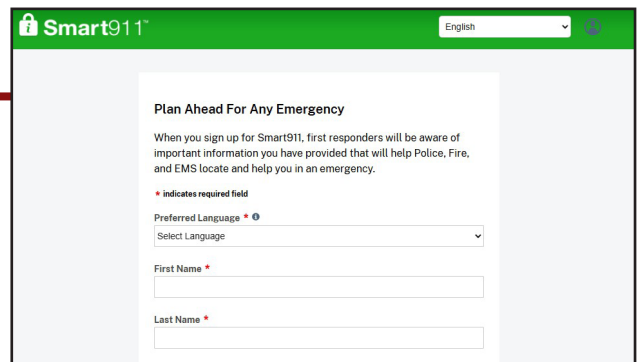
**1.** Start by visiting [ready.edso.org](http://ready.edso.org). Click on **“SIGN UP FOR ALERTS”**. You will be redirected to [smart911.com](http://smart911.com).



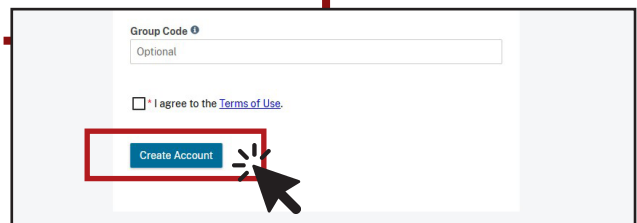
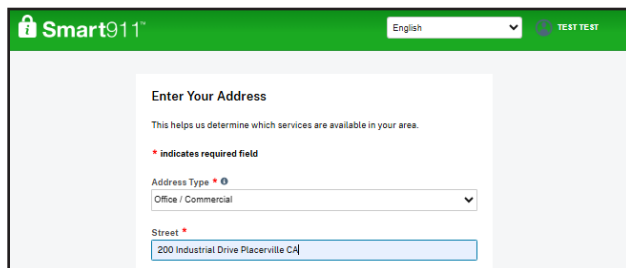
**2.** Once redirected to [smart911.com](http://smart911.com) Click on **“SIGN UP NOW”**.



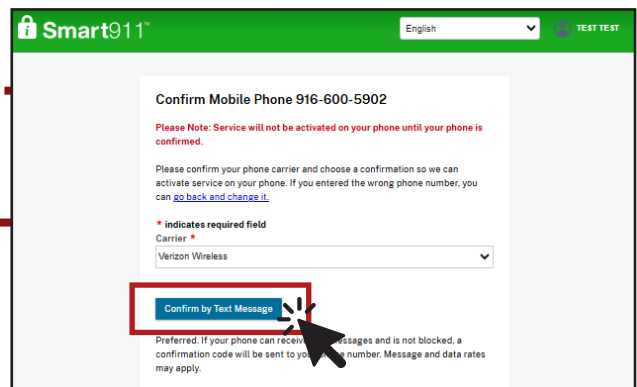
**3.** Create a username and password. Click on **“CREATE ACCOUNT”**.



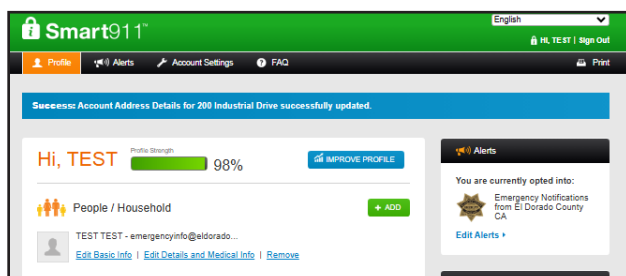
**4.** Provide your home address. Click on **“CONTINUE”**.



**5.** Confirm your number by text message or phone call.



**6.** You are now **SIGNED UP!** No additional profile information is required.



## EVACUATION ZONES & ROUTES



PERIMETER

EMERGENCY

EL DORADO COUNTY

## EVACUATION ZONES & ROUTES



Stay informed during disasters. Get live updates on your evacuation zone, road closures, and more!

## HOW TO USE PERIMETER

1

GO TO

[perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty](https://perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty)

Or Scan the QR Code

2

ENABLE YOUR LOCATION

Or Enter Your Address into the Search Bar

3

CLICK ON THE ZONE

At Your Location for the Evacuation Status



For more information:

(530) 621-5895

[emergencyinfo@eldoradosheriff.gov](mailto:emergencyinfo@eldoradosheriff.gov)

[ready.edso.org](http://ready.edso.org)

## KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ZONE

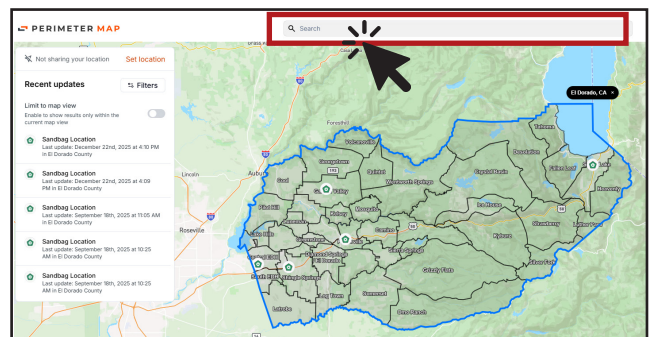
El Dorado County is divided into designated zones to ensure effective evacuations during emergencies. Knowing your zone helps you stay informed and prepared when evacuation orders are issued.



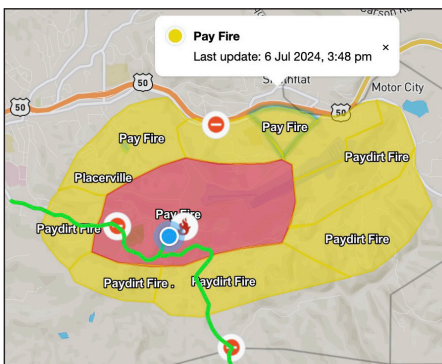
EMERGENCY

## HOW TO CHECK YOUR EVACUATION STATUS

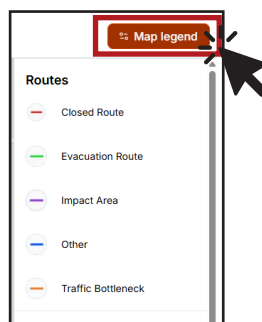
**1.** Start by visiting [perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty](https://perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty). Locate the **SEARCH BAR** and enter your home address. A list of address options will appear. Click on the option that best matches your address.









**2.** The map will zoom into your location, which will appear as a **BLUE DOT**.



**3.** Review the **MAP LEGEND** to check if your home is in an evacuation zone and to identify your designated evacuation route.



Main legend items to look for:

-  Evacuation Warning
-  Evacuation Order
-  Evacuation Route
-  Road Closure
-  Shelter
-  Medical

# EVACUATION WARNINGS VS EVACUATION ORDERS

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

### WARNING

Issued when there is potential threat to life or property. While evacuation is not yet mandatory, this is your chance to prepare to leave safely and early.

**What to do:**

- Start preparing immediately by having your emergency supply kit by your door or in your car.
- Stay informed by monitoring trusted sources and social media channels.
- Fuel your vehicle and check your evacuation routes in case roads close or conditions change.
- Communicate your evacuation plan with your family and friends and decide where you'll go if an order is issued.
- Leave early if you feel unsafe.

### ORDER

Issued when there is an immediate threat to life and property. This is mandatory and you must leave immediately. First responders may not be able to assist you if you choose to stay.

**What to do:**

- Leave immediately. Do not wait to pack more belongings or finish tasks as time is critical.
- Go to [perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty](http://perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty) to follow official evacuation routes.
- Do not delay as emergency conditions can change quickly and cut off access.
- Help others if you can.
- Continue to stay informed by monitoring trusted sources and social media channels.



*Refusing to leave during an order puts your life and the lives of first responders at risk. Emergency personnel may not return to assist once an order is issued.*

## WHEN AN EVACUATION ORDER IS ISSUED

When an evacuation order is issued, you will need a place to go until law enforcement allows repopulation. Consider your needs and what will be available for you at the time of an emergency.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Arrange your evacuation lodging in advance (second home, friend, or relative).
- Be aware that local hotels may fill up quickly. Plan for options outside your area.
- Make your evacuation plan now to avoid stress during an emergency.
- Choose a trusted out-of-area contact to share your evacuation plan with, and ask them to keep others informed if communication is limited during an emergency.
- If you have no alternative place to stay, El Dorado County may provide temporary evacuation points or overnight shelters.



## EVACUATION POINTS & SHELTERS

### TEMPORARY EVACUATION POINT (TEP)

A safe, temporary refuge and meeting location away from the evacuation zone established to assess needs of impacted evacuees and determine shelter needs.

#### Services May Include:

- Current information about the incident
- Initial assistance with basic medical needs
- Shelter assessment
- Snacks and drinks
- Short-term needs assistance (12-24 hours)



EMERGENCY

### EVACUATION SHELTER

During larger incidents or disasters, shelters may be activated to provide a safe, overnight location where displaced individuals can stay until evacuation orders are lifted. These shelters are operated by El Dorado County and partner agencies, such as the American Red Cross, and offer more longer-term resources than TEPs.

#### Services May Include:

- Cot and blanket
- Comfort kit with essential hygiene items
- Meals and drinks
- Shower facilities
- Connections to available support programs and resources



### SHELTER IN PLACE

When evacuating is unsafe or no longer possible during a disaster, local authorities may instruct you to remain in your home.

#### How to Shelter in Place:

- Go indoors immediately; close all windows, doors, and vents.
- Monitor emergency alerts for updates.
- Move to an interior room, away from windows.
- Keep your emergency supply kit within reach.
- If warned of air contamination, seal windows and doors.

### RESOURCES

**During an emergency, established shelters will be posted:**



[perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty](https://perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty)

**For more information:**



[ready.eldoradosheriff.gov/shelter/](https://ready.eldoradosheriff.gov/shelter/)

## EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

### PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT BEFORE A DISASTER OCCURS

Your emergency supply kit should be kept in a location that is easy to access and simple to carry so it can be taken quickly if evacuation becomes necessary. Store the kit somewhere you can reach with ease, ensuring it is always ready to go at a moment's notice. Your kit should be prepared with the expectation that you may be away from home for an extended period.

EMERGENCY

#### Your Bag Should Include:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and drinking water for each person
- Map marked with two evacuation routes
- Medications and prescriptions
- Change of clothing, sturdy shoes, and extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance, etc.)
- Phone chargers and power banks
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries
- If time allows: easily carried valuables, irreplaceable family items, important digital files, and extra electronics



### MAINTAINING YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Make sure to keep your kit in good condition each year so it's always ready when you need it:

- Store canned food in a cool, dry location
- Keep boxed foods in tightly sealed plastic or metal containers
- Check expiration dates regularly and replace items as needed
- Review your kit each year and update it to reflect any changes in your family's needs

### RESOURCES



**OWPR  
Emergency Supply Kit**



[tinyurl.com/OWPR-Resources](https://tinyurl.com/OWPR-Resources)



**CAL FIRE  
Go Bags**



[tinyurl.com/cal-fire-gobags](https://tinyurl.com/cal-fire-gobags)

## ANIMAL EVACUATIONS

### DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR PETS AND LIVESTOCK

Our pets and livestock rely on us for their safety, especially during emergencies. By taking time to plan ahead, you can keep them safe and comfortable during a stressful situation.

#### PETS

##### Your Pet's Bag Should Include:

- Three-day supply of pet food and drinking water
- Secure collar with an up-to-date ID tag that includes the owner's name and phone number
- Leash, carrier, or secured cage for safe transport
- Litter box, litter, poop bags, and basic bedding supplies
- Current photos of your pet (printed or saved on your phone)
- Medications and basic medical supplies



##### Pet Evacuation Reminders:

- Plan ahead so you know where your pets will go and arrange a safe place for them to stay.
- Ask a neighbor to check on or transport your pets if you're not home.
- Keep in mind that pets may not be allowed in emergency shelters.

#### LIVESTOCK

##### Your Livestock Bag Should Include:

- Three-day supply of hay, feed, and water
- Current list of all animals, including location and records of feeding, vaccinations, and photos
- Basic first aid kit
- Supplies for temporary identification, such as plastic neckbands
- Handling equipment, buckets, tools, and sanitation supplies



##### Livestock Evacuation Reminders:

- Contact your local fairgrounds, equestrian centers, friends, etc. about their policies and ability to take livestock temporarily in an emergency.
- Learn evacuation routes well in advance and arrange safe transportation suitable for your livestock.
- Bring all necessary supplies or confirm they are available at the evacuation site.
- Evacuate livestock as soon as an evacuation warning or order is issued.

**For emergency animal evacuations,  
call Animal Services:  
(530) 621-5795**

**For more information:  
[tinyurl.com/animal-evac](https://tinyurl.com/animal-evac)**



## UTILITY POWER OUTAGES

### PLANNED OUTAGES

Utility companies may need to turn off power for several safety reasons:

- Maintenance on powerlines and equipment
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) as a last resort to prevent wildfire during severe weather events
- Rotating outages during heatwaves to avoid strain on the electric grid

### UNPLANNED OUTAGES

Weather and other factors may impact your service at any time, including:

- Damage to equipment from wildfires, earthquakes, storms, or car accidents
- Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings that shut off power when a hazard is detected
- Safety requests from first responders

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Before and during outages, utility companies will notify customers by phone, text or email with important status updates of their area.

**Learn more at:**




[tinyurl.com/PGE-Outages](https://tinyurl.com/PGE-Outages)

**Learn more at:**




[tinyurl.com/LIB-outages](https://tinyurl.com/LIB-outages)

### HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A POWER OUTAGE



**KEEP FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS CLOSED.**  
The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.



**TURN OFF OR DISCONNECT APPLIANCES, EQUIPMENT OR ELECTRONICS.** Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that may cause damage.



**USE ALTERNATE PLANS FOR REFRIGERATING MEDICINES OR POWER-DEPENDENT MEDICAL DEVICES.**



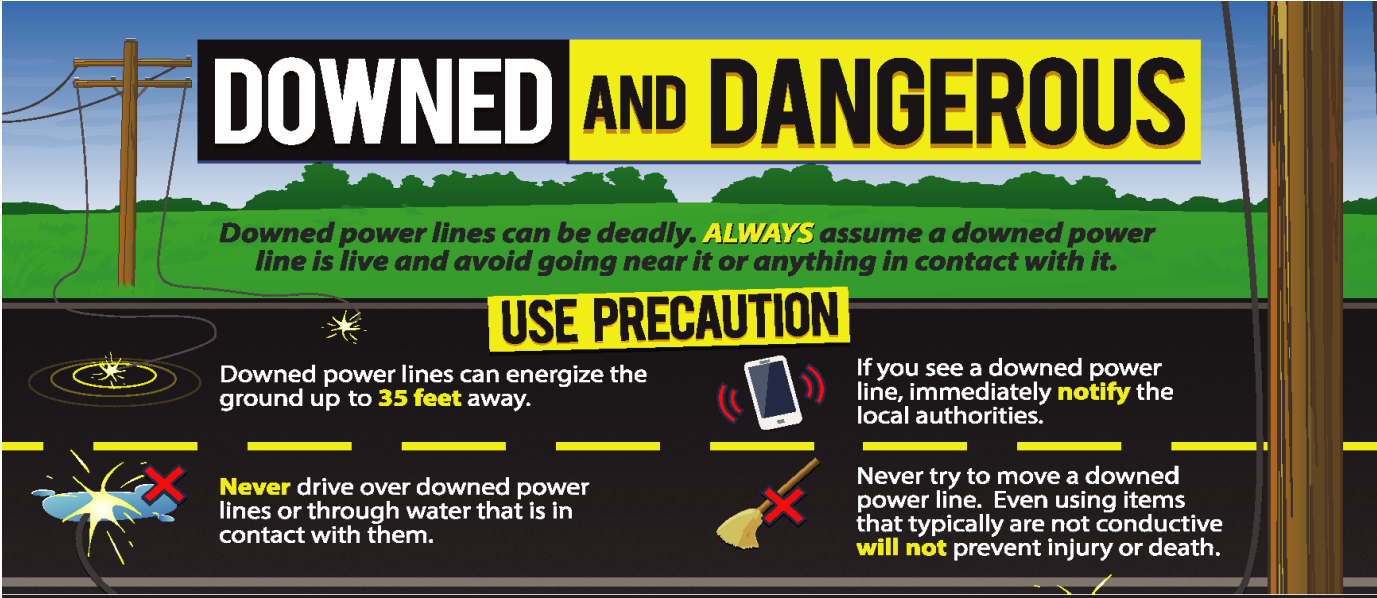
**USE FOOD SUPPLIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION.**



**GO TO A COMMUNITY LOCATION WITH POWER WHEN HEAT OR COLD IS EXTREME (IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO).**




## DOWNED POWERLINES





DOWNED AND DANGEROUS


*Downed power lines can be deadly. **ALWAYS** assume a downed power line is live and avoid going near it or anything in contact with it.*

USE PRECAUTION

 Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away.

 **Never** drive over downed power lines or through water that is in contact with them.

 If you see a downed power line, immediately **notify** the local authorities.

 Never try to move a downed power line. Even using items that typically are not conductive **will not** prevent injury or death.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWERLINE

# 1.

**Leave the Area Immediately**

# 2.

**Call 9-1-1**

# 3.

**Call PG&E at  
1-877-660-6789**

**Call Liberty at  
1-844-245-6868**

## DOWNED TREES

**1. SAFETY**  
Stay clear of downed trees and check for injuries

**2. ASSESS**  
Did the tree damage a home or car?  
Is the tree blocking a road?  
Did your tree fall on your neighbor's property?

**3. CONTACT**  
Property Damage  
Take photos and contact your insurance provider

### Non-Life-Threatening Emergencies

Contact the Sheriff's Office at (530) 621-6600

### Tree Blocking Roadway

County-maintained roads, call County DOT:

- (530) 642-4909

Roads within City Limits, call:

- City of Placerville (530) 642-5250
- City of South Lake Tahoe (530) 542-6030

Private-maintained road/private property:

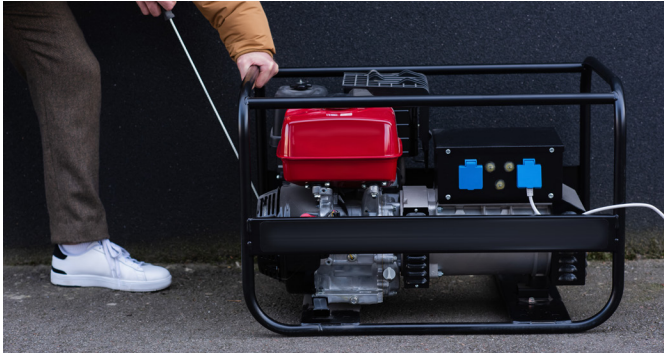
- Coordinate with neighbors to organize cleanup



### TIPS

- Never remove large trees or branches yourself. Hire a professional.
- Review your insurance policy ahead of storms.
- Keep emergency numbers saved and accessible.

## PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY REMINDERS



A portable generator can supply electricity for appliances, lighting, and other essential devices during a power outage. Always follow proper safety precautions when using a generator to help prevent accidents and ensure safe operation.



For more generator safety tips:  
[tinyurl.com/NFPA-Generator](https://tinyurl.com/NFPA-Generator)

### DO'S

- Keep the generator on a dry surface.
- Turn the generator off and let cool down before refueling.
- Always inspect powercords for damage prior to use.
- Keep the generator at least 20 ft. away from your home and have 3-4 ft. of clear space above and on all sides.

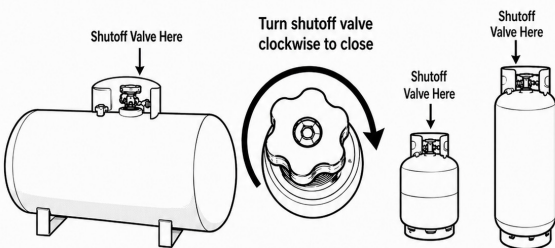
### DONT'S

- Do not use in wet conditions.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Never operate a generator inside a home, garage, or any other enclosed area.
- Do not plug a generator directly into your home. Connect items to the generator.

## GAS EMERGENCIES

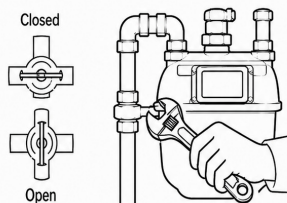
Gas meters and propane tanks have shutoff valves to stop gas during a leak or emergency. Locate your valves and keep the proper tool handy. Only shut off gas when necessary as restoration may require your provider. If you suspect a leak, leave immediately, avoid flames/sparks, call 9-1-1, and notify your utility.

### HOW TO SHUT OFF GAS SUPPLY VALVES ON TANKS



### HOW TO SHUT OFF GAS SUPPLY VALVES ON METERS

1. The main shut-off valve is located next to your meter on the inlet pipe.
2. Use a crescent or pipe wrench and give the valve a quarter turn in either direction. The valve will now run crosswise on the pipe. The line is closed.



## SCHOOL CLOSURES

School closures can occur for a variety of reasons, including severe weather conditions, natural disasters, or public safety concerns. Because these situations can develop quickly, it is important for students, parents, and staff to stay informed about possible school closure days.



EL DORADO COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

For real-time official school  
closure notifications:



[tinyurl.com/EDCOE-Closures](https://tinyurl.com/EDCOE-Closures)

## EL DORADO COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD RADIO WATCH



**Have a backup communication plan?**

**We have the tools for you!**

**Learn how to receive important information and to better survive emergencies.**

**POWERED by CERA**  
(The non-profit Community Emergency Radio Association)

[www.cerfund.org](http://www.cerfund.org)

EMERGENCY

## Join CERA's Neighborhood Radio Watch Program today.

CERA's radio network and services provide the community with verified information during emergencies, even when power and cellular networks are down.

These services are **free to the public**, including training, radio needs assessments, and access to low-cost radios with set-up assistance.

We work closely with community leaders, local agencies, and Fire Safe Councils. CERA maintains an extensive radio network covering the West Slope of El Dorado County.



email: [contact@cerfund.org](mailto:contact@cerfund.org)



# PREVENT WILDFIRE

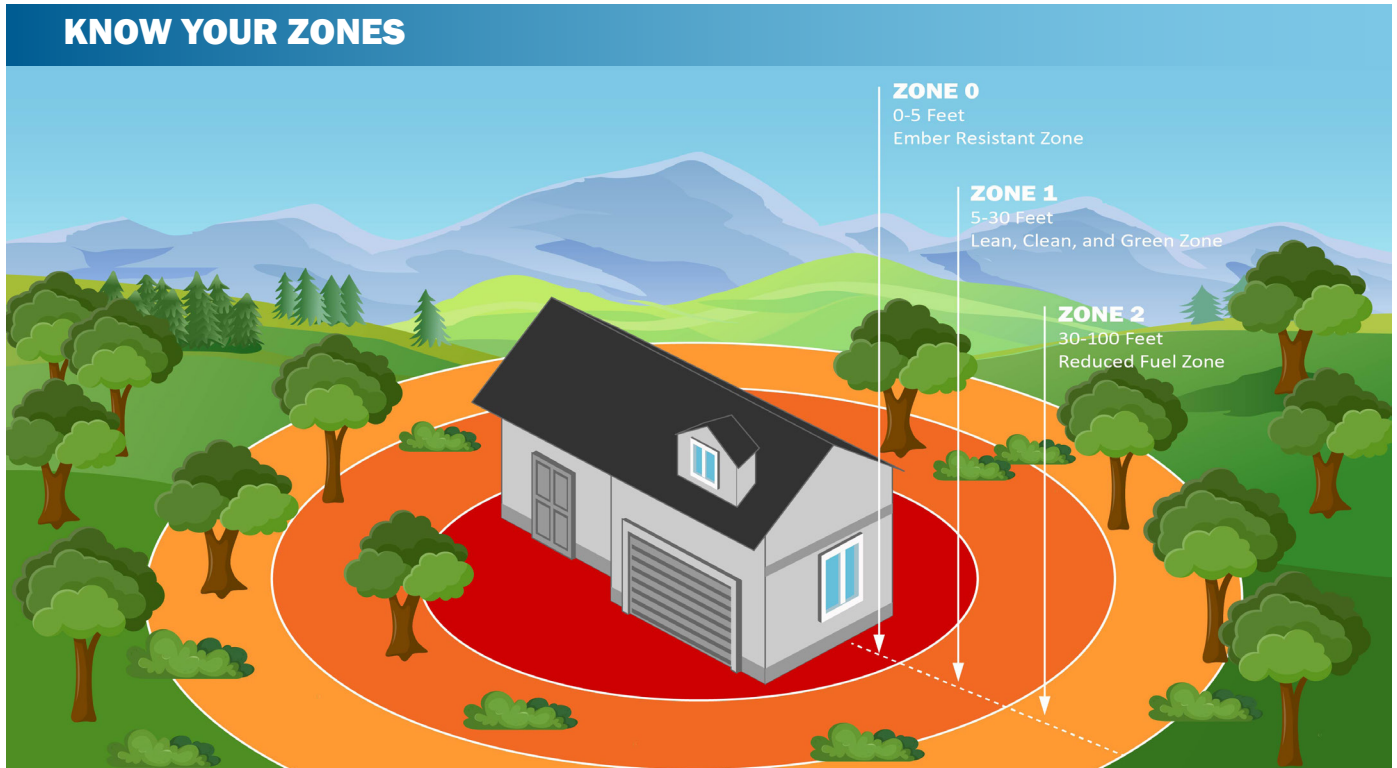
## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

### WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible space is the buffer zone that you create between your home and the plants, brush, trees, or other items surrounding your home that could ignite in the event of a fire. The establishment and maintenance of proper defensible space helps to protect your property and community from the risk and spread of wildfire.

WILDFIRE

### KNOW YOUR ZONES



#### Zone 0 - Ember Resistant Zone

##### 0 - 5 Feet

- Create a 5 ft. noncombustible border around your home using gravel or pavers.
- Remove all dead and dying vegetation. Check your roofs, gutters, decks/porches, and stairways.
- Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, plants, etc.) on decks/porches.

#### Zone 1 - Lean, Clean, and Green Zone

##### 5 - 30 Feet

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds.
- Clear dead leaves and pine needles from your yard, structures, rain gutters, and roofs.
- Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs.
- Remove all branches within 10 ft. of chimneys/stove pipes.

#### Zone 2 - Reduced Fuel Zone

##### 30 - 100 Feet

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 in.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Clear lower vegetation that could lead to a fire climbing into the tree canopy.

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE EXAMPLES

### Zone 0 - Ember Resistant Zone



WILDFIRE

### Zone 1 - Lean, Clean, and Green Zone



### Zone 2 - Reduced Fuel Zone



## STATE LAW AND LOCAL ORDINANCES

California State Law (PRC 4291) and local ordinances in the unincorporated El Dorado County, City of Placerville, and City of South Lake Tahoe require property owners to maintain defensible space by reducing flammable vegetation and clearing debris around structures. Local agencies enforce these standards to reduce wildfire risk, support emergency response, and protect community safety.

WILDFIRE



### El Dorado County Chapter 8.09



[tinyurl.com/EDC-Ordinance](https://tinyurl.com/EDC-Ordinance)



### City of Placerville Ordinance 1698



[tinyurl.com/Pville-Ordinance](https://tinyurl.com/Pville-Ordinance)



### CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE City of South Lake Tahoe Chapter 5.30



[tinyurl.com/SLT-Ordinance](https://tinyurl.com/SLT-Ordinance)

## PROACTIVE INSPECTIONS

Each year, the Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR), CAL FIRE, and local fire districts identify areas for proactive defensible space inspections across El Dorado County. These inspections provide homeowners with guidance on meeting defensible space requirements and improving wildfire resilience. Areas are prioritized based on limited access, high or very high fire hazard severity zones (FHSZ), and properties that have not been previously inspected.

## REAL ESTATE INSPECTIONS

For homes located in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, sellers must provide documentation before the close of escrow confirming the property complies with all state and local defensible space requirements.

## STEPS TO REQUEST YOUR INSPECTION

1

### Step 1: Determine if an inspection is required

Visit CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer to determine whether your home is located in a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and whether it falls within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

### Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer:



[tinyurl.com/FHSZ-Viewer](https://tinyurl.com/FHSZ-Viewer)

2

### Step 2: Request your inspection

If your home is located in SRA, go to CAL FIRE's inspection request form. If your home is located in LRA, contact your local fire agency in your jurisdiction.

### For more information:



[tinyurl.com/OWPR-RE](https://tinyurl.com/OWPR-RE)

## WEST SLOPE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



# FREE DEFENSIBLE SPACE & HOME HARDENING ASSESSMENTS

Are you unsure where to begin when it comes to making your home safe/safer from wildfire? The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council has trained assessors who offer free, voluntary evaluations, education, and recommendations for improving defensible space and home hardening.

### Schedule Your Assessment Today!



[edcfiresafe.org/home-assessment-program](http://edcfiresafe.org/home-assessment-program)

### The Benefits

-  **Free, Easy, & Voluntary**
-  **Understand Your Wildfire Risks**
-  **Local Expert Recommendations**
-  **Specific to Your Property**

### How to Schedule

Contact your local  
Fire Safe Council

Or Contact the El Dorado  
County Fire Safe Council at  
(530) 647-1700

[clerk@edcfiresafe.org](mailto:clerk@edcfiresafe.org)

WILDFIRE

## TAHOE EDUCATIONAL DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS

Lake Valley Fire and North Tahoe Fire offer free defensible space inspections at certain times of the year for homeowners who want guidance on improving their property's defensible space.



**SOUTH SHORE RESIDENTS**  
[tinyurl.com/lvf-dspace](http://tinyurl.com/lvf-dspace)  
(530) 725-9499



**NORTH SHORE RESIDENTS**  
[ntfire.net/defensible-space-program](http://ntfire.net/defensible-space-program)  
(530) 583-6911

## WEST SLOPE DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC) offers three grant-funded Assistance Programs to homeowners on the Western Slope to assist in reducing the spread of wildfire and improving the safety of their property and community.



### Chipping

Prepare your piles and the EDCFSC will come out and chip them for you for free. All residents, including renters, are eligible for two free services per year and up to six hours of chipping on each visit.

### Defensible Space

EDCFSC will help create defensible space around the primary homes of veterans, seniors, low-income, and disabled residents. Participation in this program is voluntary and at no cost to the applicant. Qualifying homeowners are entitled to one free service per year.

### Hazardous Tree Removal

A cost share program between the EDCFSC and applicant to help with the costs of removing hazardous trees within 100 ft. of the primary residence. The cost share fee is waived for low-income residents.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**(530) 957-6270**  
**grantadmin@edcfiresafe.org**



Learn more at:



**edcfiresafe.org**

## TAHOE CHIPPING PROGRAM

The South Shore Wildfire Resiliency Division and North Tahoe Fire provide free curbside chipping for Tahoe residents during the summer. The service is limited to tree limbs and trunks that are less than 6 inches in diameter.



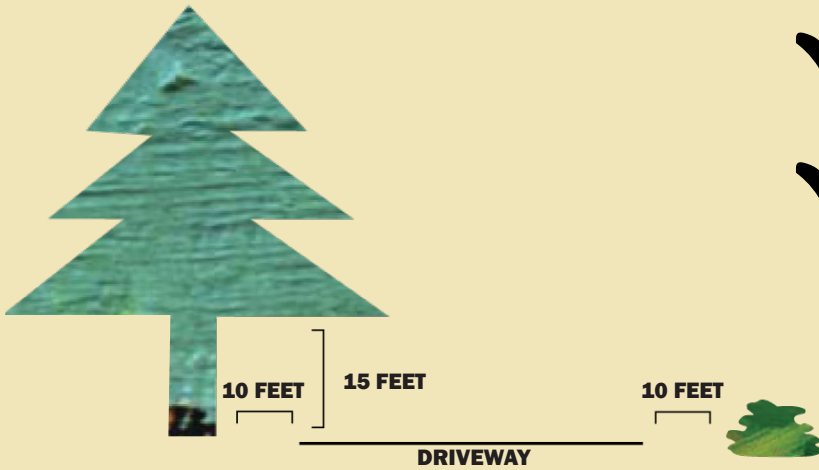
**For more information, and to sign up:**

**SOUTH SHORE RESIDENTS**  
**chipperday.com/southlaketahoe**  
**(530) 725-9499**

**NORTH SHORE RESIDENTS**  
**chipperday.com/northtahoe**  
**(530) 584-2322**

### DRIVEWAY CLEARANCE

Help yourself get out and emergency vehicles get in by clearing your driveway to a minimum of:



- ✓ **10-ft horizontally from edge of driveway**
- ✓ **15-ft vertically above the driveway**

Learn more at:



[tinyurl.com/EDC-Ordinance](https://tinyurl.com/EDC-Ordinance)

### REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

In an emergency, every second counts. Installing a reflective address sign helps first responders quickly locate your home during medical calls, wildfire events, and other natural disasters.

#### Requirements



4" Number Height

Sign Size: 6" x 18"  
Aluminum Covered  
Green Reflective Vinyl

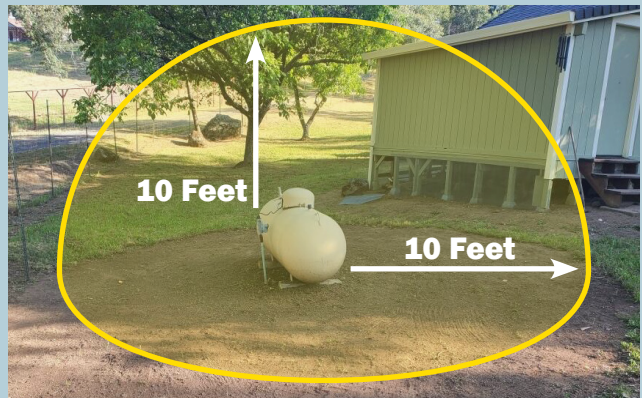
For a list of Associate Fire Safe Councils and local fire districts that sell signs, please visit:



[edcfiresafe.org/reflective-address-sign-list](https://edcfiresafe.org/reflective-address-sign-list)

### PROPANE TANK CLEARANCE

Your liquid propane gas (LPG) storage tanks should be maintained with a minimum of 10 feet clearance in all directions. Clearance should consist of bare mineral soil and must be kept completely free of flammable vegetation, debris, or combustible materials.



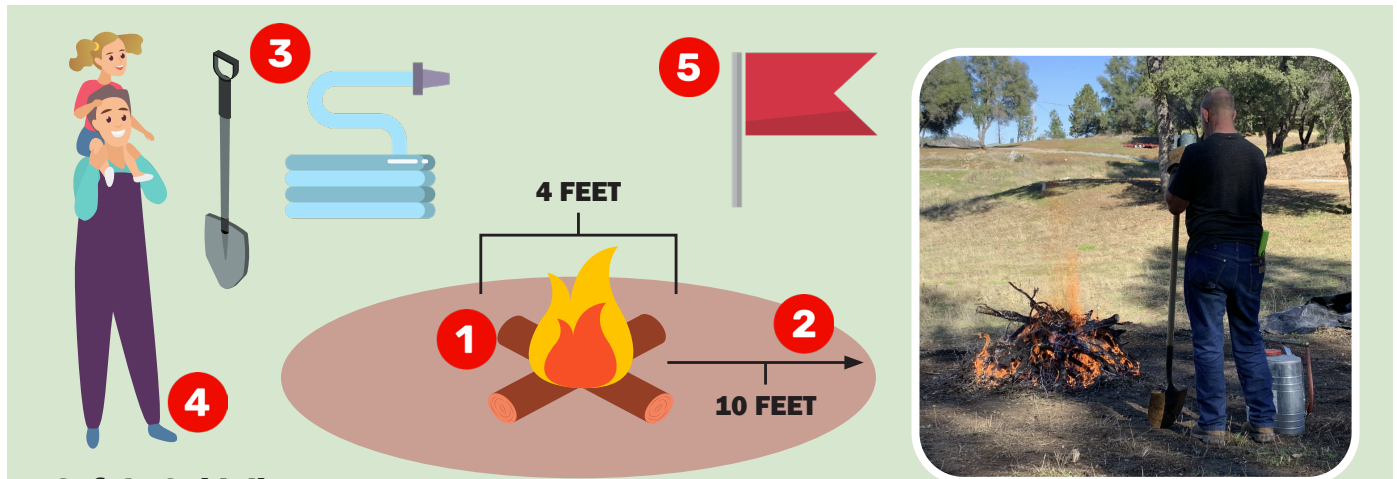
Learn more at:



[tinyurl.com/EDC-Ordinance](https://tinyurl.com/EDC-Ordinance)

### SAFE DEBRIS BURNING

Burning yard debris can help reduce vegetation and wildfire fuels, but it must be done carefully to prevent fires from escaping. Following these safety guidelines will help keep your burn safe and compliant with local regulations.



**Safety Guidelines:**

1. Keep debris piles small to no larger than 4 feet by 4 feet.
2. Create a 10 foot clearance around the pile down to bare mineral soil to prevent the fire from spreading.
3. Keep a shovel and a water hose within reach at all times.
4. An adult must remain present until the pile is completely extinguished and cold.
5. Burn only in safe conditions. Never burn during windy, dry conditions especially during red flag events.

**Before Starting**  
 Always check with the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDC AQMD):  
**West Slope: (530) 621-7501**  
**Tahoe: (530) 621-5842**

[tinyurl.com/AQMD-BurnDay](https://tinyurl.com/AQMD-BurnDay)

**Large Piles**  
 For piles larger than 4 feet in diameter, an EDC AQMD permit is required and can be obtained at:

[tinyurl.com/AQMD-Burn-Permit](https://tinyurl.com/AQMD-Burn-Permit)

**CAL FIRE Permit**  
 Certain times of the year, a CAL FIRE burn permit is required and can be obtained at:

[burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/](https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/)

**CAMPFIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- Campfire permits are required.
- Only build fires in designated fire rings.
- Clear a 10 foot radius around your campfire, down to bare soil.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Drown your campfire.

**For more information:**  
[tinyurl.com/USFS-Safety](https://tinyurl.com/USFS-Safety)

## EQUIPMENT USE SAFETY — DON'T BE THE ONE TO START A WILDFIRE!

About 95% of wildfires are caused by people. Equipment like mowers, weed eaters, chainsaws, grinders, welders, tractors, and trimmers can all ignite fires. Always use equipment responsibly and keep fire suppression tools nearby.

### Mow Smart



- Complete yard work before 10 a.m., avoiding hot and windy conditions.
- Never use lawn mowers in dry vegetation, use a weed trimmer instead.
- Remove rocks from the work area before operating equipment.
- Ensure equipment is in good working condition with required spark arresters.
- Keep water, a shovel, or a fire extinguisher nearby and always have a phone on you in case of emergency.

### OTHER USEFUL REMINDERS:

### Tow Smart



- Secure all trailer chains to prevent contact with the road.
- Use appropriate safety pins and hitch balls to secure chains.
- Ensure no cables or straps are loose or hanging.

### Park Smart



- Never park on dry grass, as exhaust systems stay hot.
- Avoid idling in areas with tall grass or brush.
- Be aware of fire risk conditions before parking off-road.

### BE EQUIPPED. BE PREPARED

A single spark from something as small as a tool, a chain dragging on the road, or even a hot exhaust pipe can ignite dry grass and lead to a wildfire. Always carry a fire extinguisher in case of an emergency. Being ready can make all the difference.



Learn more at [ReadyforWildfire.org](https://www.ReadyforWildfire.org)

### GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

When creating defensible space, green waste disposal can be a safer, effective alternative to burning. There are several free disposal options available across the West Slope and Tahoe Basin.

#### El Dorado Disposal Green Waste Pickup

Each year, El Dorado Disposal offers free green waste pickup vouchers to customers. Pick-up is by appointment only and includes organics in paper compostable bags, as well as small branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length.



Call (530) 626-4141  
or visit [tinyurl.com/eldoradodisposal](http://tinyurl.com/eldoradodisposal)



#### West Slope Green Waste Pickup Days

Throughout the year, many associate Fire Safe Councils on the West Slope of the county offer Green Waste Days. During these events, dumpsters are placed in central locations of the neighborhood so residents can drop off leaves, brush, and other yard debris.



To learn more:  
Contact your Associate Fire Safe Council  
or Call EDCFSC (530) 647-1700

#### South Tahoe Refuse Green Waste Drop Off

Green waste drop-off is free for residential customers of South Tahoe Refuse. Vouchers are no longer needed, but customers must provide their residential service address. Accepted materials include vegetation such as pine needles, pine cones, weeds, leaves, and branches, which can be dropped off at the Resource Recovery Facility at 2121 Eloise Avenue in South Lake Tahoe.



Call (530) 541-5105  
or visit [tinyurl.com/st-refuse](http://tinyurl.com/st-refuse)



#### Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Green Waste Drop Off

Eligible residents of El Dorado County may receive free green waste coupons each year to support defensible space and wildfire prevention efforts. These coupons allow residents to dispose of up to 3 cubic yards of green waste at the ERL Facility at no cost.



Call (530) 583-7800  
or visit [tinyurl.com/ttsd-green](http://tinyurl.com/ttsd-green)



## HOME HARDENING

### WHAT IS HOME HARDENING?

Home hardening helps prepare homes for wildfire, through altering or replacing building components. It is required now for new construction, but can also be effective as a retrofit to existing homes.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Home hardening is just as critical as defensible space when it comes to protecting your home. Wind-blown embers from wildfire often pose the greatest threat to homes, as they can accumulate on roofs, decks, or porches, igniting nearby plants, mulch, leaves, fencing, or outdoor furniture. They can also be forced into gaps in the home (e.g., attic vents or a broken window) and burn the home from the inside out. About 60-90% of homes lost during wildfire events are ignited by embers rather than direct flames. Upgrading your home's exterior with fire-resistant materials can significantly improve its chances of surviving a wildfire.

### HOME HARDENING EXAMPLES



Noncombustible gate within 5 feet helps prevent fire from spreading to the structure



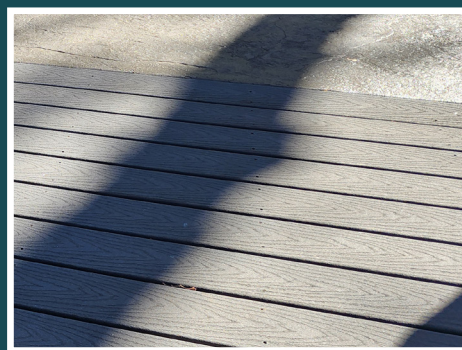
6 inch noncombustible base of exterior walls helps prevent flames or embers from igniting the structure



Gutter guards keep debris from accumulating near roof edge

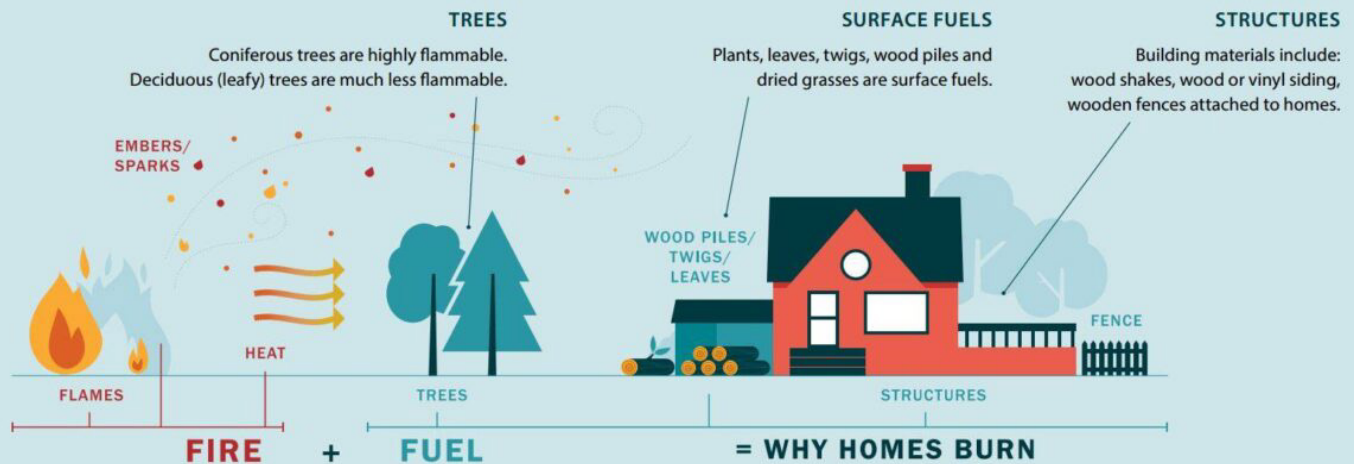


1/8 inch mesh vents help keep embers out of the structure



Noncombustible deck reduces the chance of flames or embers igniting the structure

## HOW HOMES CATCH FIRE



### Ember Storm

Embers are small pieces of burning material that can travel more than a mile ahead of a wildfire. They can arrive by the thousands and create spot fires when they land on combustible materials, such as leaves in your gutters or plants next to your house and under your windows. Combustible materials should be at least 5 ft. from structures.

### Radiant Heat

Radiant heat generated from burning structures or plants can be hot enough to ignite a house without direct flame contact. This is particularly challenging in densely populated areas, where the heat from one burning home can ignite the next.

### Direct Flame

Depending on time and exposure, direct flame contact can ignite your home. The flaming front of a wildfire is often not hot enough to ignite a house, but plants around your house and under your windows can ignite combustible siding, or break glass allowing the fire to enter the house.

## IBHS EMBER STORM TEST

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety’s Research Center conducts wildfire tests to demonstrate vulnerabilities of a typical home during an ember storm.



Learn more at:  
[tinyurl.com/IBHS-EmberTest](https://tinyurl.com/IBHS-EmberTest)

## HOME HARDENING CHECKLIST

The California Building Code (Chapter 7A), which took effect in 2008, requires specific fire-resistant features for buildings in designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones. These requirements apply to new residential and commercial construction and address exterior elements such as roof coverings, vents, exterior walls, and decks.

An analysis of homes in the path of the 2018 Camp Fire highlighted the effectiveness of these standards: only 18 percent of homes built before 2008 were left undamaged, compared to 51 percent of homes built after 2008.

Drawing on Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, along with recommendations from CAL FIRE and other fire prevention experts, the following measures can help you harden your home against wildfire. Use the next pages to evaluate your home and identify opportunities for improvement.

### START FROM THE TOP

#### ROOF

Is your roof covering made of Class A material to prevent ignition? If not, replace wood shake or shingle roofs with non-flammable materials like asphalt, clay, metal, or slate.

#### RIDGE VENT

Add a metal baffle to minimize embers with enough energy to cause ignition. Replace plastic ridge vents with metal and metal flashing.

#### SOLAR PANELS

Minimize debris accumulation under and next to solar panels.

#### VENTS

Install noncombustible screens with openings no greater than 1/8 inch on the foundation, eave, and gable vents. Upgrading to fire-resistant vents provides an additional level of protection.

#### SKYLIGHTS

Replace plastic skylights with multi-paned glass and a tempered glass outer pane. If the skylight opens, install a metal interior screen. If an existing screen is not metal, replace it with a metal one. Screens are only required for skylights that open.

#### GUTTERS

Limit accumulation of ignitable debris in gutters by installing a noncombustible gutter cover. Add metal flashing if the fascia does not cover the roof sheathing. This will prevent the accumulation of embers at the vulnerable sheathing intersection under the roofing.

# WORK YOUR WAY OUT AND AROUND

## EXTERIOR WALLS/SIDING



Walls and siding made from combustible material or that have gaps, holes, and rot are highly vulnerable to embers and direct flame. Consider upgrading to a noncombustible or ignition-resistant material like fiber cement or stucco. If full replacement isn't feasible, ensure the bottom 6 inches is noncombustible, as embers commonly accumulate at the base, and repair or seal any gaps, holes, or rot.

## EAVES



Eaves are vulnerable to ember intrusion, especially where gaps allow access to the attic. Seal all gaps greater than 1/8 inch with exterior-grade caulk, or for better protection, enclose eaves with noncombustible materials to create soffits and block ember entry.

## FENCES



Replace with a noncombustible option for at least the first 5 feet from the primary structure to prevent ignition of the combustible fence and spread of fire to the home.

## AWNINGS



Introduce a noncombustible barrier/section between the combustible attachment and the primary structure or replace it with noncombustible material to limit the spread of fire to the house. Remove vegetation and have a 2 feet open space separate from the primary structure.

## DECKS



Replace walking surface deck boards with noncombustible deck boards for the first 12 inches away from the residence to prevent ignition of the deck and limit the spread of fire to the primary structure. Replace the entire deck with a noncombustible option if possible.

## PATIO FURNITURE



Replace patio furniture with noncombustible framing material or move it away 5 feet to prevent flames from igniting the residence. Place cushions inside the residence during red flag days and evacuations.



NIST's WUI Fire Group researches ways to reduce wildfire risk in communities by developing risk metrics, modeling fire spread, testing building performance, and creating fire-safe codes and standards.

The Home Hardening Check List is adapted from NIST Technical Note 2205 - WUI Structure/Parcel/Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology.

**Download a copy:**

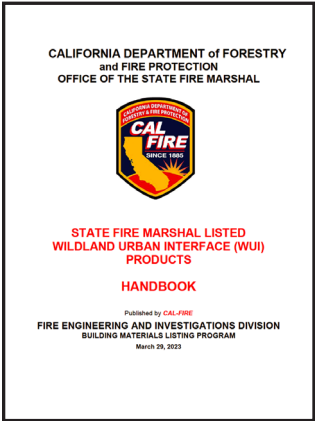


**[tinyurl.com/NIST-Technical-Note](https://tinyurl.com/NIST-Technical-Note)**

## HOME HARDENING RESOURCES

The following resources help homeowners protect their homes from wildfire. Developed by fire safety experts, they provide practical guidance, recommendations, and strategies for hardening homes in wildfire-prone areas, with a focus on California’s Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), including tips on materials, retrofits, and improving overall resilience.

WILDFIRE



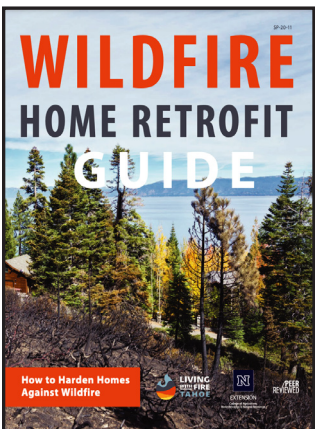
### OSFM WUI Products Handbook

CAL FIRE has published a handbook listing products that meet Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, which homeowners can use when choosing building materials.

**Download a copy:**



[tinyurl.com/OSFM-WUI-Products](https://tinyurl.com/OSFM-WUI-Products)



### Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide

The Living with Fire Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide offers recommendations for upgrading home components to better withstand wildfire, explaining vulnerabilities and showing best practices to reduce risk.

**Download a copy:**



[tinyurl.com/Retrofit-Guide](https://tinyurl.com/Retrofit-Guide)

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Wildfire Prepared Home program is a voluntary, science-based designation to help homeowners reduce wildfire risk. It provides a clear, actionable checklist targeting the most vulnerable areas of a home to prevent ember ignition.

**Learn more at:**

[wildfireprepared.org](https://wildfireprepared.org)

## PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE

### RED FLAG DAYS

#### WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

A red flag warning is the highest alert issued by the National Weather Service when a combination of conditions that day create an increased risk of fire danger.

#### CONDITIONS CONSIDERED



**Strong Winds**



**High Temperatures**



**Possibility of Dry Lightning Strikes**



**Low Humidity Levels**



**Dry Fuels**

WILDFIRE

#### WHAT TO DO DURING A RED FLAG DAY?

- Do not burn yard waste or mow your grass/weeds
- Prepare for a possible public safety power shutoff
- Have emergency supply kit ready, keep pets/children nearby, have a plan for large animal evacuation
- Move combustible items away from home and off decks/porches
- Close all windows, vents, and doors and unlock your gates
- Fuel your vehicle and park it towards the roadway

### PRIVATE WATER SOURCES

In areas without hydrants, private water sources can help firefighters protect property. They must be accessible, reliable, and maintained year-round. Contact your local fire district before installation or modification of a private water supply to confirm current standards and connection requirements.

#### MARKING PRIVATE WATER TANKS

Clearly mark private tanks intended for firefighting use so responding crews can locate them quickly:

- Reflective address numbers visible from the roadway
- “FIRE WATER” or “FIRE SUPPLY” signage
- Capacity listed in gallons
- Clearly identified tank outlet/fire department connection
- Directional signs if tank is not visible from the road



#### REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTER USE

To be useable during an emergency, private water sources should have:

- All-weather vehicle access roads and turnaround space for fire apparatus
- Approved fittings, valves, or dry hydrants compatible with fire department hose connections
- Sufficient water volume and equipment maintained in operable condition
- Keep access clear of vegetation, gates, snow, vehicles, and fencing
- Inspect tanks, valves, and access routes regularly

## PRE-EVACUATION CHECKLIST

# Be Ready for Fire Season

Wildfire season is here—are you ready?

The El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services urges all residents and visitors to take simple, life-saving steps **now** to protect yourself and your family during emergencies.



### Sign Up for Alerts - [Ready.edso.org](https://www.ready.edso.org)

Get evacuation orders, warnings, and critical updates fast.



### Know your Zone - [Perimetermap.com](https://www.perimetermap.com)

Save the site and learn your zone today. In an emergency, go directly to [PerimeterMap.com](https://www.PerimeterMap.com) for zone status and evacuation warnings or orders.



### Know Evacuation Routes

Fires move fast. Know the routes out of your neighborhood.



### Prepare a Go Bag

Include essentials like medications, clothing, food & water, chargers, etc. Full list: [www.ready.edso.org/prepare/](https://www.ready.edso.org/prepare/)



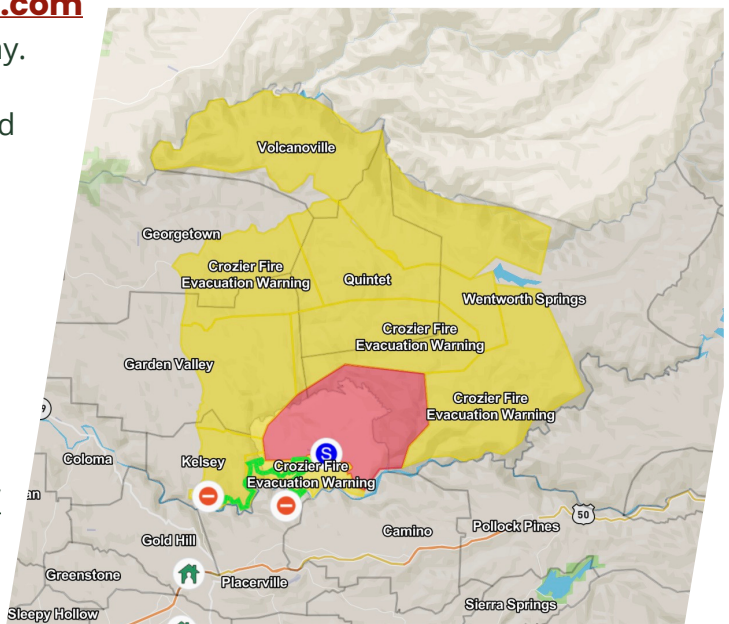
### Download the Watch Duty App

Free in the app store - alerts you of nearby wildfires and firefighting efforts. [www.watchduty.org](https://www.watchduty.org)



### Trusted Sources for Updates

For accurate information, visit *official* social media channels like:  
[EDSO Facebook](#)  
[CALFIRE AEU Facebook](#)



[www.ready.edso.org](https://www.ready.edso.org)

# RESPOND TO WILDFIRE

## YOU'VE RECEIVED AN EVACUATION ALERT. NOW WHAT?

### EVACUATION WARNING CHECK LIST

**Inside Your Home:**

- Close all windows and doors, but leave them unlocked.
- Move all flammable items away from windows by removing window treatments and placing items in the center of the rooms.
- Turn off pilot lights, gas at the meter, and air conditioning.
- Leave interior lights on for firefighters to see your house.

**Outside Your Home:**

- Shut off propane tanks and move grills and other propane appliances away from home.
- Bring in flammable items from outside, like patio furniture, toys, and trash bins. Alternatively, place them in your pool if you have one.
- Attach garden hoses to outside taps and keep a ladder handy for firefighters to use. Don't leave sprinklers on or water running as it can lower critical water pressure.
- Seal attic and ground vents with plywood or commercial seals.
- Keep exterior lights on to make your home visible during smokey, dark conditions.
- Keep an eye on the fire situation and don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel at risk. Check with neighbors to ensure they're also prepared.

**Get Your Family Ready to Evacuate:**

- Put each family member's emergency kit in your car, including pets emergency kit.
- Park your car in the driveway, facing outwards, loaded and ready, with all doors and windows shut.
- Dress to protect yourself in a wildfire, such as long pants and tough shoes.
- Account for your pets and children and keep them close by.

### EVACUATION ORDER CHECK LIST

- Check [Perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty](https://Perimetermap.com/eldoradocounty) for the safest evacuation route in your area.
- Go to a safe location outside the evacuation area, such as a relative's or friend's home, a hotel, or a designated evacuation shelter.
- Stay informed through social media and news channels on the latest updates of wildfire conditions.
- Don't return home until officials notify you that it is safe to do so.

## OTHER SOURCES TO STAY INFORMED



### Watch Duty

Real-time wildfire tracking and alert app



[app.watchduty.org](https://app.watchduty.org)



### CAL FIRE Active Incidents

Official source for up-to-date information on major wildfires



[fire.ca.gov/incidents](https://fire.ca.gov/incidents)



### ALERTCalifornia

Network of cameras that detect, confirm, and monitor wildfires



[alertcalifornia.org](https://alertcalifornia.org)

WILDFIRE

## WILDFIRE SMOKE & YOUR HEALTH

During wildfire season, smoke can lower air quality by releasing fine particles that can harm health, especially for children, older adults, and those with heart or respiratory conditions.

### PRECAUTIONS WHEN SMOKE IS PRESENT

- Limit or avoid strenuous outdoor activity, including children, older adults, those with health conditions, pets, and livestock. If you must go outside, wear a well-fitted N95 or higher mask.
- Keep windows and doors closed and ensure they seal properly.
- Use the recirculate setting on air conditioners in your home and vehicle. HEPA-filter purifiers can significantly reduce fine particles in indoor air.
- Stay hydrated and use moist air (e.g., a warm, damp cloth) to help ease throat and airway dryness.
- Remain alert as wildfire behavior may be more active or behave unusually in smoky conditions.
- Smoke exposure can cause symptoms such as coughing, irritated eyes, and difficulty breathing. Seek medical advice if symptoms are severe or persistent.



### AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)

AQI measures air pollution and its impact on health and the environment. Higher AQI values mean more pollution. It helps you decide whether it's safe to be outdoors or better to stay inside. The AQI has six categories, and a Spare the Air alert is issued when ozone levels are forecast to reach 126 or higher.

#### AIR QUALITY INDEX - PARTICULATE MATTER

301+	HAZARDOUS
201-300	VERY UNHEALTHY
151-200	UNHEALTHY
101-150	UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS
51-100	MODERATE
0-50	GOOD

For the latest AQI information:



[sparetheair.com/el-dorado-county](https://sparetheair.com/el-dorado-county)

# OTHER WILDFIRE RESOURCES

## EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

### MISSION

To protect the people of El Dorado County and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire through education, cooperation and assistance programs.



**BE INFORMED, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE SAFE, BE PROACTIVE!**

Wildfire does not recognize property lines or boundaries — we're all in this together!

### YOUR ASSOCIATE FIRE SAFE COUNCILS' TOP PRIORITIES ARE:

- Educating residents on the risks of living in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Expanding access to fire safety education and outreach events.
- Strengthening preparedness through free home assessments.
- Providing assistance with chipping, green waste days, defensible space, and hazard tree removal.
- Encouraging residents to maintain their properties to protect their homes and community's safety.
- Engaging neighborhood volunteers to help their communities access fire safe resources.

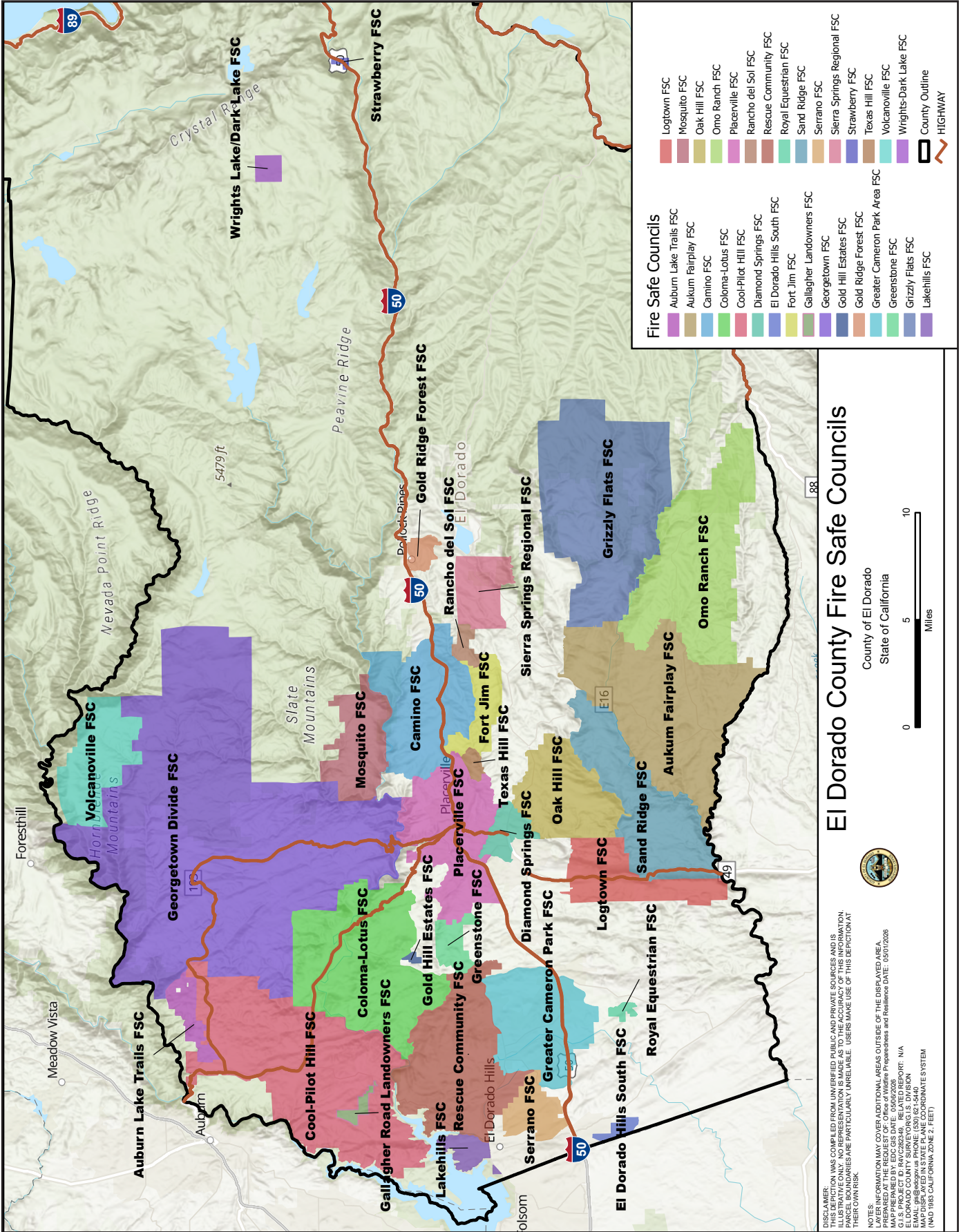
**Use the map on the following page to help locate the council in your area**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auburn Lake Trails</li> <li>• Aukum Fairplay</li> <li>• Camino</li> <li>• Coloma-Lotus</li> <li>• Cool-Pilot Hill</li> <li>• Diamond Springs</li> <li>• El Dorado Hills South</li> <li>• Fort Jim</li> <li>• Gallagher Road Landowners Assoc.</li> <li>• Georgetown Divide</li> <li>• Gold Hill Estates</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold Ridge Forest</li> <li>• Greater Cameron Park</li> <li>• Greenstone Country</li> <li>• Grizzly Flats</li> <li>• Lakehills</li> <li>• Logtown</li> <li>• Mosquito</li> <li>• Oak Hill Area</li> <li>• Omo Ranch</li> <li>• Placerville</li> <li>• Rancho del Sol</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rescue Community</li> <li>• Royal Equestrian Estates</li> <li>• Sand Ridge</li> <li>• Serrano</li> <li>• Sierra Springs Regional</li> <li>• Strawberry</li> <li>• Texas Hill Estates</li> <li>• Volcanoville</li> <li>• Wrights Lake/Dark Lake</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|



**Learn how to join your community's Fire Safe Council:**

(530) 647-1700  
[clerk@edcfiresafe.org](mailto:clerk@edcfiresafe.org)  
[edcfiresafe.org](http://edcfiresafe.org)



**WILDFIRE**

# FIREWISE USA

WILDFIRE



## 3 EASY STEPS

### 1 ORGANIZE IT

Create a committee of volunteers to represent your community. Define your community and the number of individual single family homes. Your community size can be between 8 and 2,500 dwelling units.

### 2 PLAN IT

Work with your Regional Coordinator to complete a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment. Use the Risk Assessment to create a Three-Year Action Plan to identify and prioritize actions to reduce ignition risk to homes.

### 3 DO IT

Annually, complete the educational and risk reduction actions identified in the Three-Year Action Plan. Track your efforts to meet your community's annual reporting requirements.

## Become a FIREWISE COMMUNITY

### WHAT IS FIREWISE?

Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program that provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to decrease the risk of wildfires within their community.

### PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Learn About Wildfire
- Get Prepared
- Community-Building
- Access to Funding and Assistance
- Possible Insurance Discounts



LEARN MORE AT:  
[tinyurl.com/OWPRFirewise](https://tinyurl.com/OWPRFirewise)

## YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATORS

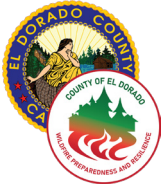
**El Dorado County West Slope:**  
Tanya Harlow, [tanya.harlow@edcgov.us](mailto:tanya.harlow@edcgov.us)

**Tahoe Basin:**  
Jason Brand, [fire@tahoercd.org](mailto:fire@tahoercd.org)



**CONTACT US**  
County of El Dorado  
Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience  
360 Fair Lane Placerville, CA  
(530) 621-5569  
[wildfireready@edcgov.us](mailto:wildfireready@edcgov.us)

# EL DORADO COUNTY OFFICE OF WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE



In response to the Caldor Fire, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors established the Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR) to prioritize and accelerate countywide wildfire preparedness. Adopted in 2023, the County of El Dorado Wildfire Strategy serves as the foundation for the County’s efforts, and provides a detailed plan for coordinated actions to strengthen wildfire resilience and reduce risks across the County.

WILDFIRE

## WILDFIRE RESILIENCE COORDINATION GROUP

OWPR serves as a vital liaison for the Wildfire Resilience Coordination Group, a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies collectively working towards wildfire prevention and preparedness.

### Key Partners Include:

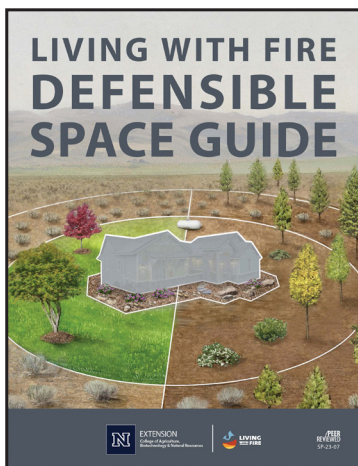
- El Dorado County - OWPR
- CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit
- Eldorado National Forest
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
- El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officers
- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services
- El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team
- El Dorado Water Agency
- PG&E



*Creating a fire adapted and resilient El Dorado County through collaboration and coordination*

## LIVING WITH FIRE DEFENSIBLE SPACE GUIDE

The University of Nevada, Reno published the *Living with Fire Defensible Space Guide* to provide homeowners with information about creating and maintaining defensible space around their properties.



**Download a copy:**



[tinyurl.com/Living-With-Fire-DSpace](https://tinyurl.com/Living-With-Fire-DSpace)

# WINTER STORMS

Winter storms can create dangerous conditions with little warning. Preparing in advance is essential to keep yourself safe when a storm strikes.

## HOW TO PREPARE



### Floods

- Know your flood zone.
- Clean drains and gutters around your home and nearby streets.
- Fill and place sandbags as needed.
- Maintain slopes with proper coverage and drainage.
- Remain alert for mudslides.
- Stay away from rivers and creeks during storms.
- Never drive or walk through floodwaters.
- Do not return to a flood-damaged home until officials declare it safe.



### Snow/Winter Freeze

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall.
- Stock up on firewood or prepare a safe backup heat source.
- Ensure carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.
- Avoid unnecessary travel and driving in severe conditions.
- Gather snow removal tools (shovels, blowers, plows).
- Clear heavy snow buildup on your roof to prevent collapse.
- Keep snow chains and other winter car supplies readily available.
- Do not park on streets needed for snow plow access.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

## SANDBAG LOCATIONS

Ahead of significant storm events, the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office, CAL FIRE, and local fire districts will share sandbag pickup locations on social media and [ready.edso.org](http://ready.edso.org).

**Prior to major storms,  
find the latest sandbag locations at:**

**[ready.edso.org](http://ready.edso.org)  
or call (530) 621-6600**



## REMINDERS

- Sign up for emergency alerts before a storm.
- Keep your emergency supply kit available.
- Report hazards to local authorities.
- Check on your neighbors.
- Stay indoors until the storm passes.
- Prepare for possible power outages.
- Inspect damage cautiously after the storm.

## RESOURCES

**For more information:  
[tinyurl.com/edc-preparedness](http://tinyurl.com/edc-preparedness)**



**Follow the  
National Weather Service:  
[weather.gov/sto](http://weather.gov/sto)**



## EXTREME HEAT

Extreme heat is when temperatures rise far above normal, worsening drought, wildfires, and tree loss, and sometimes leading to power shutoffs to reduce fire risk. It can also cause serious health issues like heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, making preparation important.

### TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF



#### Stay Cool

- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing. If you must be outside, wear a hat.
- Stay in air-conditioned spaces during peak heat hours, such as libraries, or a friend's home.
- Limit sun exposure and avoid physical activity during the hottest parts of the day.



#### Stay Hydrated

- Drink water or sports drinks frequently; avoid caffeine and alcohol.



#### Know the Signs of Heat-Related Illnesses

- Be familiar with symptoms of heat exhaustion (e.g., dizziness, heavy sweating, nausea) and heatstroke (e.g., confusion, hot, dry skin, rapid pulse).



#### Look After Each Other

- Check in on your neighbors, friends, and family, especially those who are vulnerable.
- Ensure pets and livestock have fresh water and shade, and avoid walking pets outside.



#### Prepare for Power Outages

- Consider investing in a portable back-up generator.
- Unplug unnecessary devices to reduce the strain on the power grid.



#### Stay Informed

- Check your local weather forecasts and look out for extreme heat alerts.
- Sign up for emergency alerts.

### COOLING CENTERS

During periods of extreme heat, cooling centers may be opened throughout El Dorado County, depending on staffing and facility availability. These locations may include libraries and community centers and are activated when conditions meet established criteria, such as heat risk levels and elevated overnight temperatures.



For more information:  
[ready.eldoradosheriff.gov/extreme-heat](https://ready.eldoradosheriff.gov/extreme-heat)

# EARTHQUAKES

EARTHQUAKES

## EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

- **Ground Shaking:** This is the primary hazard during an earthquake, causing buildings to collapse and debris to fall.
- **Surface Rupture:** Earthquakes can cause cracks or ruptures in the Earth’s surface, damaging roads, railways, and buildings.
- **Tsunamis:** When an earthquake occurs beneath a large body of water, it can trigger massive waves that may lead to widespread flooding along shorelines.
- **Landslides:** The shaking of the ground can trigger landslides, especially in hilly or mountainous regions.



## EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

### Before

- Secure your home by fastening heavy items and installing cabinet latches.
- Keep your emergency supply kit available.
- Create a family plan.
- Practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drills.

### During

#### Indoors:

- Drop to your hands and knees and take cover under furniture.
- Protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Hold on until shaking stops.
- Stay away from windows and exterior walls.

#### Outdoors:

- Move to an open space.

#### Vehicle:

- Pull over to the side of the road, away from overpasses, bridges, trees, and powerlines.

### After

- Check for injuries.
- Be ready for aftershocks.
- Inspect your home.
- Listen to authorities.



**EARTHQUAKE  
WARNING  
CALIFORNIA**

Earthquake Warning California is a statewide warning system that gives residents crucial seconds to take cover before shaking occurs.

**Learn more at: [earthquake.ca.gov](http://earthquake.ca.gov)**

**For more information:**



**[ready.eldoradosheriff.gov/earthquakes](http://ready.eldoradosheriff.gov/earthquakes)**

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

A public health emergency is any natural or human caused event that poses a health risk to the community.

### WHAT TO DO IN A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

- Stay informed through reliable news sources, local alerts, and official public health updates. Visit the El Dorado County Public Health website for current information and helpful resources.
- Review guidance from public health and emergency professionals as part of keeping yourself, your family, and your community safe.
- Prevent the spread of illness by washing your hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when you're sick.
- Keep basic emergency supplies on hand, including needed medications.
- Check on family members, neighbors, and others who may need assistance.



### HOW EL DORADO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTS RESIDENTS

- Monitoring health-related trends to identify early signs of illness or unusual patterns.
- Investigating disease cases to determine causes, track symptoms, and identify others who may be affected.
- Maintaining preparedness plans, trained staff, and access to necessary resources.
- Educating the community on how to prepare for and respond during public health emergencies.



**HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY**  
**EL DORADO COUNTY**  
*Transforming Lives and Improving Futures*



**For guidance, resources, or updates about  
public health emergencies:  
[tinyurl.com/EDC-PublicHealth](https://tinyurl.com/EDC-PublicHealth)**

## AFTER THE EMERGENCY

### RETURNING HOME AFTER A DISASTER

If you have been evacuated from your home during a natural disaster, it is important to take extra care when returning. Once the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services has officially given the all-clear to return, proceed with caution. Even though authorities have deemed it safe to re-enter the area, hazards may still be present in and around your home. Carefully follow the precautions outlined below to help ensure your safety as you begin the recovery process.

AFTER

#### WILDFIRE



##### DRIVING TO YOUR PROPERTY

**Check for:**

- Trees, brush, and rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire.
- Debris or damage on roads and driveways.
- Utility poles weakened by fire.



##### AT YOUR PROPERTY

**Check for:**

- Embers that may have accumulated in gutters, on roofs, beneath overhangs and decks, inside crawl spaces, and among wood/debris piles and lawns.
- Well/pump house is in working order.



##### IF SERVICES ARE OFF

**Check for:**

- Damage to the gas/electric meter, gas lines, propane tank, electric wires on ground.
- If damage exists, contact your local utility immediately.



##### CHECK INSIDE YOUR HOME

**Check for:**

- Embers in the attic.
- Phone, security system, and alarms are working.
- Before turning on electricity, make sure all appliances are off and there is no damage to meters.



##### USE CAUTION OUTSIDE

**Check for:**

- Trees and poles that are charred or still smoking.
- Smoldering holes in the ground.
- Any white ash may be evidence of hot material.



##### IF YOU FIND ANY HAZARDS

- Stay away and call 9-1-1.
- Report electrical and gas problems and damage to your local utility immediately.

## WINTER STORMS



### DRIVING TO YOUR PROPERTY

#### Check for:

- Debris or damage on roads and driveways.
- Road closure signs and cones.
- Black ice and other ice hazards.
- New potholes.
- Damaged utility poles and fallen power lines.



### AT YOUR PROPERTY

#### Check for:

- Potential carbon monoxide poisoning from generator.
- Water is safe to use with your local water company.
- Restoration of electricity or gas services with your utility company.
- Report electrical and gas problems and damage to your local utility immediately.

AFTER

## EARTHQUAKES



### DRIVING TO YOUR PROPERTY

#### Check for:

- Debris or damage on roads and driveways.
- Road closure signs and cones.
- New potholes.
- Damaged utility poles and fallen power lines.



### AT YOUR PROPERTY

#### Check for:

- Any fires and extinguish them immediately.
- Spilled hazardous chemicals.
- Report electrical and gas problems and damage to your local utility immediately.
- Structural damage to your home.
- Open cabinets and closet doors cautiously.

## IF A DISASTER DAMAGES YOUR HOME

### STEP 1: DOCUMENT AND REPORT

Take photos and videos of damage and create a detailed list of all lost and damaged items.

### STEP 2: FILE A CLAIM WITH YOUR INSURANCE

Report all damage to your insurance agent to begin the claims process. You may be asked to complete a claim form. Keep a record of all communication with your insurance company.

### STEP 3: APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Government assistance may be available to you through organizations like Red Cross and FEMA. You are encouraged to review and determine which programs are applicable to your specific circumstances.

#### For more information:



[tinyurl.com/CA-Insurance-Info](https://tinyurl.com/CA-Insurance-Info)

#### Other disaster resources:



[tinyurl.com/Disaster-Res](https://tinyurl.com/Disaster-Res)

# EMERGENCY FAMILY PLAN

Use the form below to complete your Emergency Family Plan

**HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS:**

**DATE:**

---

PLAN

**FAMILY MEMBER/HOUSEHOLD CONTACT INFO:**

**Name:**

**Primary Phone:**

**Email:**

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**PETS INFO:**

**Name:**

**Type:**

**Color:**

**Registration #:**

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**NEIGHBORS CONTACT INFO:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Primary Phone:**

**Email:**

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**PLAN OF ACTION:**

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

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**2. What are the escape routes from our home?**

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**3. If separated during an emergency, what is our meeting place?**

---

---

**4. In the event our household is separated during an emergency, our contact is:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Primary Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Plan:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. In the event we have to shelter in place, what safe room will we go to?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Family Member Responsibilities During an Emergency:**

<b>Task:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Family Member Responsible:</b>
Emergency Supply Kit	Store in easy to access place, such as by the door or in the car.	
Stay Informed	Keep watch of emergency alerts, Perimetermap.com, Local Radio/TV.	
Sharing and Maintaining the Plan	Share evacuation plan with family and friends.	
Gather All Household and Pets	In the event of an evacuation order, account for everyone and ensure they are safely in the car.	

**RESOURCES**

**Family Emergency Community Plan**



[ready.gov/plan-form](https://ready.gov/plan-form)

**Disaster Preparedness Plan**



[tinyurl.com/redcross-plan](https://tinyurl.com/redcross-plan)

**Wildfire Action Plan**



[tinyurl.com/calfire-actionplan](https://tinyurl.com/calfire-actionplan)



**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**



This handbook represents a unified effort to strengthen emergency preparedness and resilience throughout El Dorado County. Facilitated by the Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, its creation is the result of deep collaboration among many dedicated partners who share a common commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities.

The El Dorado County Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Coordination Group, led by El Dorado County alongside leadership from the El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Prevention Officers, the El Dorado County Office of Emergency Services, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE, the Eldorado National Forest, the Resource Conservation District, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, and PG&E, has been central to this effort. Their collective expertise, coordination, and long-standing commitment reflect the strength that comes from working together across disciplines, jurisdictions, and landscapes.

We are also grateful to the many additional contributors featured in this handbook. Each organization plays an essential role in building a safer, more resilient El Dorado County. Preparedness is not the work of a single office. It is the product of a unified network of agencies, partners, and community members who are committed to supporting one another before, during, and after emergencies.

Thank you for taking the time to use this handbook and for being an active part of our county’s resilience. I encourage you to stay informed, stay connected to official sources, and take the preparedness steps outlined in these pages. Your actions strengthen the safety of your family, your neighborhood, and our entire county.

Tanya Harlow  
 Wildfire Resilience Officer  
 El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience

*Photo Credits: Courtesy of CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit*