



Fire Safety

WEEK 13: 17 AUGUST, 2020

WILDFIRE SAFETY TIPS

Wildfires are a real threat to us here in California. Here are some steps you can take to keep you and your loved ones safe during fire season.

Prepare NOW

- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Know your community's evacuation plans and find several ways to leave the area. Have a plan for pets and livestock.
- Gather emergency supplies, including N95 respirator masks that filter out particles in the air you breathe. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.
- Keep important documents in a fireproof, safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.

- Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.

Survive DURING

- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.
- If trapped, then call 911 and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help rescuers find you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use an N95 masks to keep harmful particles out of the air you breathe.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.

Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities to find out when it is safe to return.



- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock.
- Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.
- Wear a NIOSH certified-respirator dust mask and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.

SMOKE IS THE REAL KILLER

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath.



The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape. Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- ◆ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- ◆ It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ◆ Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- ◆ Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.

- ◆ Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- ◆ A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- ◆ People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- ◆ Replace batteries annually, and change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detector at the same time
- ◆ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

If your smoke alarm ever "chirps," replace the battery immediately. Most smoke alarm failures occur because of a missing or disconnected battery or a dead battery.

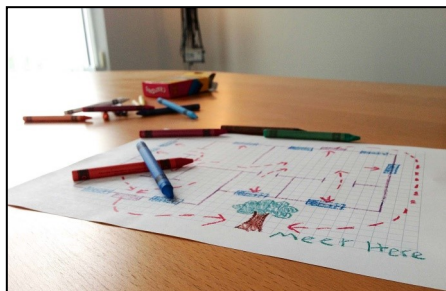
FIRE DRILLS - BE PREPARED!

If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. Even young children (3 and older) can begin to learn what to do in case of a fire.

PLAN AHEAD!

Have an escape plan and practice it with your family. This will help you and your family reach safety when it counts. When a fire occurs, there will be no time for planning an escape.

Draw a floor plan of your home. Discuss with your family 2 ways to exit every room. Make sure everyone knows how to get out and that doors and windows can be easily opened to permit escape. If you live in an apartment building, never use an elevator during a fire. Use the stairs!



Agree on a meeting place. Choose a spot outside your home near a tree, street corner, or fence where everyone can meet after escaping. Teach your children that the sound of a smoke alarm means to go outside right away to the chosen place.

Know how to call the fire department. The fire department should be called from outside using a portable phone or from a neighbor's home. Whether the number is 911 or a regular phone number, everyone in the family should know it by heart. Make sure your children know your home address, too. Teach your children that firefighters are friends and never to hide from them.

Practice, practice, practice. Practice your exit drill at least twice a year. Remember that fire drills are not a race. Get out quickly, but calmly and carefully. Try practicing realistic situations. Pretend that some exits or doorways are blocked or that the lights are out. The more prepared your family is, the better your chances of surviving a fire.



Note: Parents of very young children or children with special needs should have a safety plan that fits their child's needs and abilities. Parents with children younger than 5 years must plan on an adult rescuing them in the case of a house fire; they are too young to be able to reliably rescue themselves.

KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A FIRE

Test any closed doors with the back of your hand for heat. Do not open the door if you feel heat or see smoke. Close all doors as you leave each room to keep the fire from spreading.



Crawl low under smoke. Choose the safest exit. If you must escape through a smoky area, remember that cleaner air is always near the floor. Teach your child to crawl on her hands and knees, keeping her head less than 2 feet above the floor, as she makes her way to the nearest exit.

Don't stop. Don't go back. In case of fire, do not try to rescue pets or possessions. Once you are out, do not go back in for any reason. Firefighters have the best chance of rescuing people who are trapped. Let firefighters know right away if anyone is missing.

Stop, drop, and roll! Cool and call. Make sure your child knows what to do if his clothes catch fire.

Stop! - Do not run.

Drop! - Drop to the ground right where you are.

Roll! - Roll over and over to put out the flames. Cover your face with your hands.

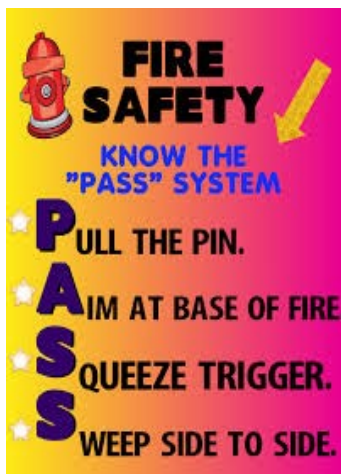
Cool - Cool the burned area with water.

Call - Call for help.

FOR YOUR SITTERS

When you are away from home and someone else cares for your children, make sure that your children and the sitter will be just as safe as when you are there.

- Let your sitter know about your family's escape plan.
- Remind sitters never to leave the children alone.
- Remind sitters that you do not allow smoking in or around your home.
- Leave emergency information near the phone. Include the local fire department phone number, your full home address and phone number, and a neighbor's name and phone number.



CAMP PENDLETON SAFETY CENTER

The Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton Safety Center's mission is to promote the combat readiness of operating forces by providing safety support services. Our goals are to train all Marine Corps Base commands and organizations in occupational safety and health; mishap reduction and Federal Employees' Compensation Act costs through an aggressive safety program, and to exceed the reduction goals set by the Secretary of Defense, and Headquarters Marine Corps Safety Division. Our customers are Base personnel, the operating forces, extended Marine Families, tenant commands, and occasional Reserve components.

Have a question? Email us at: Cpen_safety_help@usmc.mil

Commanding General's Safety Hotline: 760.763.7233