

Fire Safety Checklist

Ventura County Fire Department

READY - Prepare all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire

- Create an Action Plan that includes creating defensible space around your home, home hardening, evacuation routes, post evacuation meet up locations and communication plans - rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of all pets and large animals, which may include horses and livestock, in your plan.
- Assemble your “Go Kit” including food, water, first aid kit, prescriptions for people and pets, important papers, personal electronic devices and chargers, athletic shoes, flashlight, battery powered radio and extra batteries, an extra set of car keys, credit cards and cash.
- Register your phone number(s) at www.vcalert.org so you can receive emergency messages.

SET - Prepare and be aware

- Alert the household and neighbors to monitor fire weather conditions and fire status. Check your local fire department or emergency management websites and social media accounts for wildland fire information. Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, including Red Flag Warnings in your area.
- Leave doors unlocked, turn on lights for firefighters to see, turn off sprinkles to preserve water pressure and patrol your property and extinguish small fires, if you can do so safely, until you leave.
- Dress in natural fiber clothing, work boots or athletic shoes, account for all household members and pets, load your “Go Kit” into the car and back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure.

GO - Act early

- Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!
- Go to a predetermined, low-risk area such as a relative’s house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, hotel, etc. and choose the safest route away from the fire to get there.
- Be sure to follow the direction of your local authorities.

Ventura County Animal Services Disaster Preparedness Tips

Build an Emergency Pet Go-Bag:

Prepare a dedicated emergency kit for each of your pets.

Include the following items:

- Pet medications
- Vaccination records
- Microchip information
- A recent photograph of each pet
- A copy of each pet's license
- Collapsible food and water bowls
- Extra leashes and collars
- Familiar toys and blankets

Complete a Pet Emergency Card:

Fill out a Pet Emergency card with your name, your pets’ names, and the name and contact information of an emergency caregiver. Keep this card in your wallet. In the event of an emergency, this lets responders know that pets are at home and need care.

Post a “Please Save Our Pets!” Window Card:

Place this card in a visible window of your home listing the number and names of pets inside. This helps first responders locate and rescue your animals if evacuation orders are issued and you're not home.

Resources:

Visit www.AnimalServices.VenturaCounty.gov/Disaster to download the materials listed above and learn more about preparing for emergencies with pets.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services

Stay Informed

- Learn about wildfire risks in Ventura County and what you can do to prepare at ready.venturacounty.gov/wildfire.
- Know the different ways alerts may be issued and what they mean. Register to receive alerts from the VCAlert emergency notification system.
- Go to VCEmergency.com for trusted, real-time incident information and resources during a wildfire event.

Make a Plan

- Having a plan before disaster strikes can help you save precious time and money, and minimize stress. Assess your risks and needs! What challenges do you need to plan for - pets, kids, mobility issues, medications, backup power considerations?
- Talk with family or household members about where you will go if told to evacuate. Create a communication plan, and establish designated meeting points. Download a planning template at ready.gov/plan-form.
- Don't go it alone! Build a support network of family, friends, and neighbors to help lighten the load.

Build a Kit

- Pack for at least three days' worth of essential supplies (like non-perishable food, water, a first-aid kit, and a hand-crank radio) to sustain you during an emergency. Download an emergency kit checklist ready.venturacounty.gov/prepare.
- You don't have to break the bank to be prepared - everyday, low-cost items can be gathered over time and recycling/thrifting supplies can stretch your dollar.
- Tailor your kit to your needs (kids, parents, access and functional needs, pets). You are the person that knows your everyday needs best!

Simi Valley Office of Emergency Services

- Family Wildfire Readiness: Create a household emergency plan, identify evacuation routes and family meeting places, build an emergency support network, and sign up for VC Alert.
- Evacuation Go-Kit and Ready, Set, Go: Prepare go-kits for family members and pets, keep medications and important documents accessible, and know when and how to leave early during wildfire threats.
- CERT and DSWV: Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Explain how CERT training helps residents prepare themselves, assist neighbors, communicate during disasters, and support community response efforts through Simi Valley's Disaster Service Worker Volunteer program.

Southern California Edison

- If SCE is sending you messages about the electric Power being turned off, Please remove your cars out of the garage beforehand, so it's easier to evacuate or leave the property. Many people said the hardest part was getting the garage door open to leave their property.
- It doesn't hurt to unplug some of your appliances in your home before you leave or when the power is turned off.
- Have your emergency phone numbers on your refrigerator. If anyone was unconscious in the home, the fire department will look there first to see if there's contact information or any allergies, or any vital information about those living in the household.

100.7 KHAY

- Local air over stations are the best way to get information and direct listeners to the correct websites in evacuation situations

Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council

- **Ready:** Walk around the house and create "Defensible space" by clearing combustibles 0-5 feet around your home. This may include patio furniture, construction tools, wooden decor, children's toys, sheds, etc.
- **Set:** Put together your "Go" bag (An emergency kit in a backpack) that includes important documents, medications for people and pets, water, battery packs, etc.
- **Go:** Have a practiced evacuation location planned out with your family and friends. Stick to the plan and evacuate when the time comes!

Ventura County Amateur Radio Society (VCARS)

- During an emergency, members of the "Ventura County Amateur Radio Society" (VCARS) monitor radio frequencies, and (URL) web-sites to stay up to date on the current status of the emergency (e.g., "situation awareness").
- We (and many other Amateur Radio Operators from other organizations) in this region (and around the U.S.) also prepare our portable radio equipment, in case we get "activated" to man shelters, or support the emergency in some other way.
- In many cases, we also keep our local neighbors informed, and help them be ready for potential evacuation, if appropriate. At this year's Fire Safety Day, we will be helping visitors understand how they can "communicate" with their neighbors in preparing for and following a "Ready, Set, Go!" action plan.
- Visitors interested in learning more about Amateur Radio and emergency communications are invited to experience it first-hand at the 'American Radio Relay League (ARRL) - Field Day' event, held at the Reagan Presidential Library. Licensed Amateur Radio operators will be making actual radio contacts starting 11 am Saturday, June 27, for a (continuous) 24-hour period, ending 11 am Sunday, June 28th, in a simulated emergency response. Visit reaganfoundation.org/events/american-radio-relay-league-arrl-field-day for more info.

American Red Cross

- **Understand the Risks:** Southern California is prone to various natural disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and landslides. Knowing the specific risks in your area helps you prepare effectively.
- **Create a Disaster Plan:** Develop a comprehensive plan that includes evacuation routes, communication strategies, and emergency contacts. Make sure all family members are familiar with the plan and practice it regularly.
- **Build an Emergency Kit:** Assemble a kit with essential supplies like water, non-perishable food, first aid items, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. Ensure you have enough supplies to last at least three days.
- **Stay Informed and Ready:** Keep updated on local emergency alerts and weather forecasts. Have a plan for post-disaster recovery, including how to file insurance claims and access community resources.



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VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF
Emergency Services

