

# **Household Wildfire Evacuation Plan**

Adapted from FEMA and American Red Cross  
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**“In an emergency you don’t rise to the occasion, you sink to the level of your training and preparation.”**

**What are the five most important things to grab when evacuating?  
People, pets, prescriptions, papers, photographs**

## **Preparation-**

1. **Sign up** for emergency alerts via text or email at <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/> (Be aware that the Sheriff’s department may not have time knock on your door!)
2. **“Like” on Facebook** the Chelan County Emergency Management, KPQ, KOHO, Douglas and Chelan County Sheriffs Dept., Chelan County Fire , Wenatchee World, etc. for updates on wildfire in your area.
3. **Pre pack “Go Bags”** for family and pets and keep near the door you will exit from. Can use a suitcase, duffle bag, backpack, large reusable grocery bag, big box, etc.
  1. Family- clothing for 3 days, 1 pair sneakers/shoes, toiletry kit with a minimum of a 2 week supply of meds, cell phone charger cable, external electronics battery charger, rain/wind jacket, several N-95 masks
  2. Dog items- kibble, leash, crate (if you use one), poop bags.
  3. Cat items- carrier, pillowcase, (a pillowcase can make it easier to catch your cat), cat food, kitty litter, and litter box
4. **Make a list of extra items** to add for each family member and leave it in their “Go Bag.” Leave room in your bags for extra items such as computers, laptops, tablets, jewelry, etc. that you use regularly or keep an extra empty “Go Bag,” and leave it near your pre packed “Go Bags.” Then, if a family member is not home, the others will know what they want added.
5. **Create a “Grab and Go” File- keep it in your “Go Bag”**
  1. In case of emergency, such as a natural disaster or a serious medical event, having all your important papers, spare keys, etc. in one place will save you precious time. This includes having some extra cash, as ATMs and banks may be inaccessible due to power outages during a natural disaster
  2. Have a designated contact person and be sure they know where this file is stored (and if stored in a safe, how to open it)
  3. Update annually.
  4. Materials: Loose leaf binder with sheet protectors, a large, expandable file, or a small box labeled "Emergency File"
    1. Optional- Use a safe deposit box for the important papers and make copies to keep at home
  5. Examples of what to have in your emergency file
    1. Emergency instruction sheet- how to turn off plumbing, electricity, propane/ gas, close chimney flue, etc.
    2. Hard copy of contacts list- update regularly (you could lose your online contacts list if you get hacked.)
    3. Hard copy of all contents of wallet- front and back- credit cards, driver's license, health insurance card, car insurance card, ATM/ debit cards, rewards cards, Costco

card, library card, AARP card, etc. (if your wallet gets stolen or lost, you will be glad you did this!)

4. Password list- can use an address book or store online
  5. Extra cash- small bills
  6. Spare car and house keys
  7. Copies and/or list of safe deposit box contents; safe deposit box keys
  8. Bank(s)/ credit union(s)/ financial advisors- name and account number(s) and passwords
  9. Birth/Death certificate(s)
  10. Marriage license(s)/divorce decree(s)
  11. Insurance policies- Homeowners/tenants, health, auto, life, liability, etc.
  12. Healthcare provider's name and phone number
  13. Medication/ supplement/ medication allergy lists
  14. Passport
  15. Property assessment
  16. Auto title(s)
  17. Professional license(s)
  18. Social Security card
  19. Mortgage/ deed
  20. Will, General Durable Power of Attorney, Healthcare Power of Attorney, Living Will, Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information, etc.
  21. Recent income tax form
  22. Pet info- name, meds, current vaccination record, special needs, recent photo, with you, if possible, to prove pet is yours if lost
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6. **Take pictures or a video** of the interior and exterior of your home, including contents of closets and drawers, garage, and property. Do every spring. This will give you invaluable information for insurance purposes if you lose your home.
  7. **Photograph** family photos and memorabilia and store on the Cloud, on a flash drive or CD kept off the premises, such as at work or in a safe deposit box
  8. **Keep** at least 1/2 tank of gas in car at all times. Gas stations may not be able to pump gas if there are widespread power outages.
  9. **Practice** opening garage door manually in case power is out
  10. **Microchip** all your pets, even indoor house cats. If they escape during the rush to leave, they will be able to be scanned and identified as your pets

**\*PRACTICE A 10 MINUTE TIMED EVACUATION WITH YOUR FAMILY EVERY SPRING\***

**That will be the only way you know how much you can realistically do in 10 minutes and you can tweak your plan accordingly. (It took me three tries with lots of tweaking before I could do this efficiently)**

**Packed and ready to go!**



# The Levels of Evacuation

## Level One- Be aware! 🤖

Monitor local news/Facebook for updates on wildfire in your area. A good opportunity to make a practice run with your family, with a special treat for everyone who can get out in less than ten minutes with everything they need!

## Level 2- Get ready! 😬

- Park car facing out in driveway
- Pack car- be sure to allow room for children and pets
- Roll out the hoses, watch for spot fires from embers
- Frequently hose down bark, wood porch and fences, wood piles, and house siding
- Place buckets of water outside around the house to douse small ember fires
- Bring patio cushions, patio umbrellas, dog beds, wooden furniture, outside door mats, and other flammables into garage
- Fill bathtubs with water- Water may be turned off
- Gas grill/propane tank to garage or turn off grill's propane tank
- Notify friends/family you may be evacuating and you (and pets) may need a place to stay.

Once the car is packed, allowing space for children and pets, and if there is still room in the car, pack pre-designated memorabilia, and again, have a list.

\*Check with neighbors to be sure they are aware of the situation and see if they need help\*

## Level 3- Leave immediately! 😬

**Grab, in this order! (You may not have time to get to the end of this list)**

1. **First and foremost! Get children/pets into the car and then open garage door. (Dog owners- keep an extra dog leash in car so you are not scrambling trying to find one)**
  1. If your car is parked outside, be sure pets are leashed or crated before opening the door.  
Even the best trained dog may bolt during a crisis.
2. House/car keys
3. Wallet
4. Cellphone
5. Pre-packed suitcase
6. Computer/laptop/tablet and charging cords

### **If you have time...**

Lock windows and doors

Turn on outside lights

Leave a note on the front door that you, your family, and pets have evacuated- date and time.

**Keep this “Levels of Evacuation” list on refrigerator so it will be easily accessible. Be sure the entire family knows where it is. Use it during an evacuation so you will not forget any important steps.**

**Congratulations!**

**You have prepared, practiced, and you are ready! 👍**