

## **THE LAW**

California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409.5)

## **EVACUATION ORDERS**

The terms “Voluntary” and “Mandatory” are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as “Precautionary” and “Immediate Threat.” These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

## **LONG BEFORE A FIRE THREATENS**

Prepare an Evacuation Checklist and Organize:

- Critical medications.
- Important personal papers, photos.
- Essential valuables.
- Pet and livestock transport, limited amount of pet food.
- Change of clothing, toiletries.
- Cell phone.
- Critical papers and effects in a fire-proof safe.
- An Evacuation Route Map with at least two routes.\*
- Drive your planned route of escape before an actual emergency.

*\*\*During an evacuation, law enforcement/ emergency personnel may determine your route.*

## **IF EVACUATION IS A POSSIBILITY**

- Locate your Evacuation Checklist and place the items in your vehicle.
- Park your vehicle facing outward and carry your car keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the house.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover up. Wear long pants, long-sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandana for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
- Leave lights on in the house and the door unlocked.
- Leave windows closed and the air-conditioning off.

## **THE EVACUATION PROCESS**

1. Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
2. Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
3. You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
4. You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

### **IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED**

#### **While in your vehicle:**

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket.
- Lie on the vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials – Call 911.

#### **While on foot:**

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression if possible.
- Lie face down, cover up.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials - Call 911.

#### **While in your home:**

- Stay calm, keep your family together.
- Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.

*\* Note – it will get hot in the house, but it is much hotter, and more dangerous, outside.*

### **AFTER THE FIRE PASSES, AND IF IT IS SAFE, CHECK THE FOLLOWING AREAS FOR FIRE:**

- The roof and house exterior.
- Under decks and inside your attic.
- Your yard for burning trees, woodpiles, etc.

## **RETURNING HOME**

Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

### **When you return home:**

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.