

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Supplies to Have at Home Before Disaster Strikes

In the event of a widespread disaster, officials estimate it may take 72 hours for help to arrive.

Compiled by the San Diego Union-Tribune, here are some items emergency officials suggest including in a three-day stock of essential home supplies. For storage, it is recommended to use a new, covered trash receptacle or a large duffel bag.

FOOD



Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables and juices



Baby Food



Vitamins



Staples, salt, sugar & spices



Comfort foods such as crackers & candy

SANITATION



Bleach, detergent, and disinfectant



Personal hygiene products, wipes & soap

Feminine Supplies



Plastic garbage bags & ties for personal sanitation uses



Plastic bucket with tight lid

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ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Put together your Emergency Supply Kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs and keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have a readily accessible Emergency Supply Kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except food and water) and are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light enough to be able to lift into your vehicle.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Three day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- ☐ Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- ☐ Prescriptions or special medications
- ☐ Change of clothing
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- ☐ Don't forget pet food and water!

ITEMS TO TAKE IF TIME ALLOWS

- ☐ Easily carried valuables
- ☐ Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- ☐ Personal computer information on hard drives and disks
- ☐ Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

For more information, visit: www.ready.gov

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ADVANCED PREPARATION

Complete this checklist **before** the threat!

- ☐ 1) Update your homeowner's insurance.
- ☐ 2) Create a home inventory.
- ☐ 3) Prepare a defensible space for firefighters.
- ☐ 4) Trim flammable vegetation away from wood structures.
- ☐ 5) Remove flammable litter from your roof and gutters.
- ☐ 6) Test your smoke alarms and change batteries.
- ☐ 7) Make sure your fire extinguishers are updated and you know how to use them.
- ☐ 8) Protect your vents and eaves from embers.
- ☐ 9) Shake and pre-position your Fire Prevention Gel.
- ☐ 10) Register ALL phones for emergency alerts.
- ☐ 11) Prepare a list of daily essentials including prescriptions.
- ☐ 12) Pack Grab-and-Go Bags for each family member.
- ☐ 13) Make copies (paper or electronic) of your important papers.
- ☐ 14) Learn your children's school Disaster Plan.
- ☐ 15) Prepare travel cases and a plan for your pets.
- ☐ 16) Study the Evacuation Map and routes for your neighborhood.
- ☐ 17) Know your evacuation destination and establish a family meeting place
- ☐ 18) Plan for evacuation assistance, if necessary.
- ☐ 19) Become familiar with "2-1-1 California" services HTTPS://WWW.211CALIFORNIA.ORG/
- ☐ 20) Pre-select a room with no windows for shelter in place, if necessary.
- ☐ 21) Purchase plastic sheeting, cut to fit openings and store it along with duct tape to secure in place, if necessary.
- ☐ 22) Purchase face dust masks (9# rated) to protect from smoke.
- ☐ 23) Become familiar with neighbors who may need assistance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE SUBJECTS, GO TO **HTTPS://READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/PREPARE-FOR-WILDFIRE**

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DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Important Considerations

IMPORTANT NOTE: Check to make sure refrigerators don't defrost and leak onto floors that can be damaged in your home or vacant property.

QUICK TIPS:

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to best maintain internal temperature.
- Check the area for any cords, shoes or other tripping hazards that may havebeen left out.
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows. Be aware of thedangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics such as microwaves, televisions andcomputers to avoid damage from electrical surges. Wait a few minutesbefore turning these items back on once power is restored in order toreduce demand on the power supplier's electrical system.
- Check on neighbors. (If you don't have one already, build a neighborhooddirectory in advance.)
- When power is restored, consider waiting to reset one digital clock toreference how long power has been on in order to estimate when electricwater heaters will have hot water. Or set a timer.
- If you haven't unplugged stereo equipment, ensure that volumes have beenturned down in case power is restored during sleeping hours.

PREPARATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependentmedical devices.
- Ensure you have a stock of batteries, water, ice packs and fuel (if you arerunning a generator) available.
- Check to be sure you have flashlights and lanterns (battery or propane)nearby. Having a head lamp available for each person in your household isalso handy.
- Have a land line phone available that does not require power.
- Have battery packs available (that are charged up) to provide additionalcharges for mobile devices.

In times of challenge, it is so important that we look out for each other. We want to be sure our clients and their property are as safe as possible during the ongoing power outages. Several of our clients in escrow have reported that ice from freezers has melted into puddles causing damage to flooring. Please be sure to check refrigerators at your vacant (and current) properties to ensure your floors are protected.

Leave one light on so you know when power is restored.
Additional tips? Please let us know & we'll pass them on.

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WILDFIRE DEFENSE TO HELP YOUR HOME

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Keep your property lean and green to help protect your family and home!

Defensible space, coupled with home hardening, is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. **Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds it.** This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire - either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat. Proper defensible space also provides firefighters a safe area to work in, to defend your home.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES

Zones 1 and 2 currently make up the 100 feet of defensible space required by law. Assembly Bill 3074, passed into law in 2020, requires a third zone for defensible space. This law requires the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop the regulation for a new ember-resistant zone (Zone 0) within 0 to 5 feet of the home by January 1, 2023. The intensity of wildfire fuel management varies within the 100-foot perimeter of the home, with more intense fuels' reduction occurring closer to your home. Start at the home and work your way out to 100 feet or to your property line, whichever is closer.

ZONE 0 – Ember-Resistant Zone

Zone 0 extends 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

The ember-resistant zone is currently not required by law, but science has proven it to be the most important of all the defensible space zones. This zone includes the area under and around all attached decks, and requires the most stringent wildfire fuel reduction. The ember-resistant zone is designed to keep fire or embers from igniting materials that can spread the fire to your home. The following provides guidance for this zone, which may change based on the regulation developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

- Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other noncombustible mulch materials. No combustible bark or mulch.
- Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.); Check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- Limit plants in this area to low growing, nonwoody, properly watered and maintained plants.
- Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks.
- Relocate firewood and lumber to Zone 2.
- Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.
- Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers outside this zone.
- Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles and other combustible items outside this zone.

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WILDFIRE DEFENSE TO HELP YOUR HOME

ZONE 1 – Lean, Clean and Green Zone

Zone 1 extends 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Relocate wood piles to Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks, balconies and stairs.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

ZONE 2 – Reduce Fuel Zone

Zone 2 extends from 30 feet to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.
- All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of 10 feet of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.

ZONE 1 & 2

"Outbuildings" and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior.

Local Ordinances

Many local government agencies have local ordinances for defensible space or weed abatement. These local ordinances will often be more stringent than the State's minimum requirements listed above (e.g., San Diego County requires 50 feet of clearance in Zone 1). Check with your local fire department or fire protection district for any additional defensible space or weed abatement ordinance requirements.

Plant and Tree Spacing

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfires. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of brush and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger vegetation requires greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

VERTICAL SPACING

- Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.
- Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the treetops like a ladder. This leads to more intense fire closer to your home.
- A good rule of thumb is to allow a minimum vertical clearance of 3X the height of a shrub to the lowest branches of a tree above it.

HORIZONTAL SPACING

Horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. For level ground and mild slopes, allow twice the distance of the width of a shrub between shrubs, and at least ten feet between trees. Moderate to steep slopes require considerably more distance between shrubs and between trees.

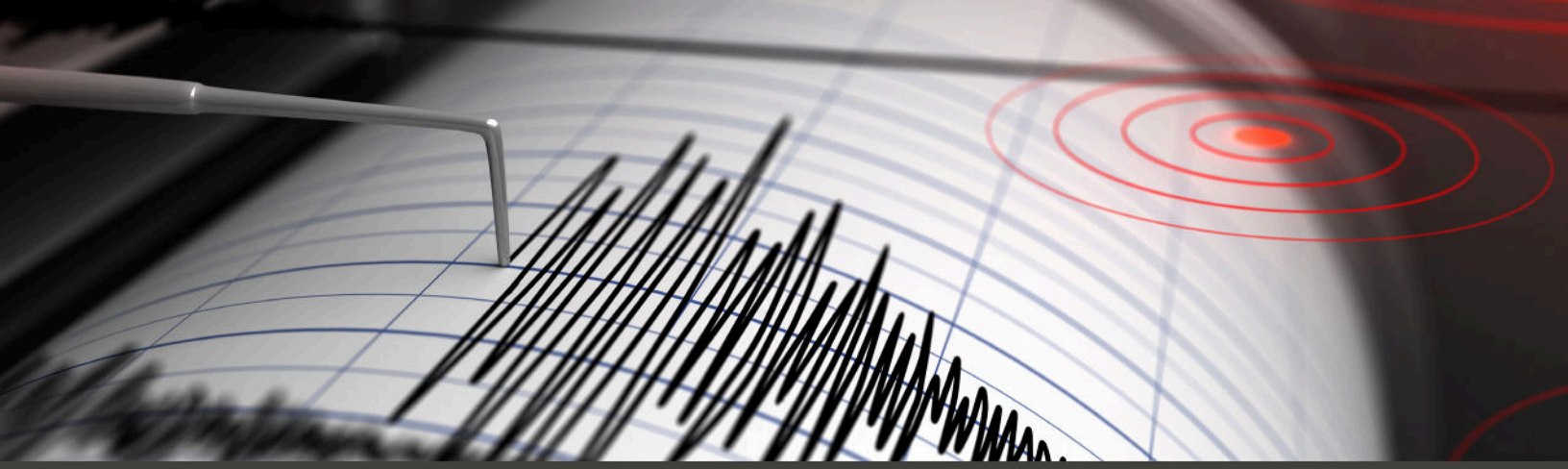
For more information please visit: https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space/

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TIPS FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

BEING PREPARED for an earthquake in Southern California is essential. Use this guide to form a better understanding of what's needed to keep you and your family safe before, during, and after a potential disaster.

PREPARE A HOME EARTHQUAKE PLAN

• Choose a safe place in every room - under a sturdy table or against an inside wall where nothing can fall on you.
• Practice DROP, COVER and HOLD ON at least twice a year. Drop under a sturdy table, hold on and protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arm. If there's no table nearby, sit on the floor against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you.
• Choose an out of town family contact. Prepare where to meet if you get separated.
• Consult a professional to find out additional ways you can protect your home, such as bolting the house to its foundation and other structural mitigation techniques.
• Take a first aid class from your local Red Cross chapter. Keep your training current.
• Get training in how to use a fire extinguisher from your local fire department.
• Inform babysitters and caregivers of your plan.
• Consider obtaining an earthquake insurance policy. Standard homeowner's insurance does not cover earthquake damage.

ELIMINATE HAZARDS, INCLUDING:

• Bolting bookcases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs.
• Installing strong latches on cupboards.
• Strapping the water heater to wall studs

PREPARE A DISASTER KIT FOR HOME & CAR

• Make a supply kit that includes enough food and water for at least three days, a flashlight, a fire extinguisher, and a whistle.
• Consider each person's specific needs, including medication.
• Do not forget the needs of pets.
• Have extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

SURVIVE DURING

• Drop, Cover, then Hold On like you practiced. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold on to any sturdy furniture until the shaking stops. Crawl only if you can reach better cover without going through an area with more debris.
• If in bed, stay there and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
• If inside, stay there until the shaking stops. DO NOT run outside.
• If in a vehicle, stop in a clear area that is away from buildings, trees, overpasses, underpasses, or utility wires.
• If you are in a high-rise building, expect fire alarms and sprinklers to go off. Do not use elevators.
• If near slopes, cliffs, or mountains, be alert for falling rocks and landslides.

BE SAFE AFTER

• Expect aftershocks to follow the largest shock of an earthquake.
• Check yourself for injury and provide assistance to others if you have training.
• If in a damaged building, go outside and quickly move away from the building.
• Do not enter damaged buildings.
• If you are trapped, cover your mouth. Send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting so that rescuers can locate you.
• If you are in an area that may experience tsunamis, go inland or to higher ground immediately after the shaking stops.
• Save phone calls for emergencies.
• Once safe, monitor local news reports via battery operated radio, TV, social media, and cell phone text alerts for emergency information and instructions.
• Use extreme caution during post-disaster clean-up of buildings and around debris. Do not attempt to remove heavy debris by yourself. Wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves, and sturdy, thick-soled shoes during clean-up.

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