



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Get Set, Create Your Family Disaster Plan Now!

Southern California is one of the most beautiful and unique places to live. However, while San Bernardino County residents may have easy access to mountains, deserts and the coastline, we also have the constant threat of wildfires. **May 3-9 is Wildfire Awareness Week.** Are you Set to go if asked to evacuate your home?

The San Bernardino County Fire Department has put together a Ready, Set, Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan to give you the tips and tools to successfully prepare for a wildfire. It will give you guidance on retrofitting your home with fire-resistive features, and show you how you create the necessary defensible space around your home. This plan will help you prepare your home, yourself, and your family so that you can leave early, well ahead of a fast-approaching wildfire.

Get Ready! Get Set! Now Go!

It's not a question of *if* but *when* the next major wildfire will occur in our county. You can be prepared for an emergency situation by creating a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans, and rehearsing it regularly. If you have pets, including large animals such as horses, be prepared for their evacuation and shelter as well.

Everybody in your home needs to be prepared to go on short notice. Have a meeting site already established outside of the fire area. Maybe a restaurant or a campground, somewhere that everybody knows and can easily get to if you're separated.

Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. You can find a list of supplies at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare>. Keep an extra kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire. Have a portable radio or scanner so that you can stay updated on the fire.

Pets are as much a part of the family as anyone else, have their evacuation plans Set too. Know where you can take them if you are forced to evacuate. Many shelters will not take in animals, so have a plan ready on where you can go with pets or where they can be boarded during an emergency.

Once you have a pet shelter location established, make sure you have a "Grab 'n Go" kit prepared in order to cut down on delays when it is time to flee. Grab 'n Go kits should include:

- Food, water and bowls (non-spillable)
- Collar, leash, muzzle
- ID tag should always be on pets; be sure to have an extra set of ID tags also
- Treats, toys
- Name, address and phone number of veterinarian
- Vaccination and medical records, allergy or other special instructions
- People to contact to take care of the animal

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Most animal shelters are not equipped for larger animals. Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation. Make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses if needed. Create an equine emergency evacuation kit. Gather the items appropriate for your situation and place them in a single container that you can grab easily: a large plastic trash can, for instance, has plenty of storage space and can also be used to hold water if need be.

To receive emergency alerts to your phone please visit www.sbcfire.org. Thanks to the partnership with San Bernardino County's 2-1-1 Social Services Hotline, residents who do not have internet access may register by dialing 211 or 1-888-435-7565 to sign up. You can also tune to your local EAS radio broadcast station; 93.3 FM KBHR Big Bear Valley, 95.1 FM KFRG High Desert/Valley, 98.9 FM KHWY High Desert, 102.3 FM KZXY Victor Valley, 107.7 FM KCDZ Yucca Valley/Joshua Tree, 1620 AM CalTrans Information Station.

San Bernardino County Fire encourages residents to be prepared for a wildland fire and know what to do when asked to evacuate. The READY! SET! GO! program provides important preparation information. The goal of this program is to educate and engage residents in reducing the risk in their communities, which will help save lives and property. To learn more on how you can be prepared for a wildfire and create your own Ready! Set! Go! plan, visit www.sbcfire.org.

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