



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Don't Wait for an Evacuation Order, Go Early! **May 3-9 is Wildfire Awareness Week.**

Your family's safety is priority number one. When the time comes to leave, don't hesitate. 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!

When law enforcement advises of evacuations, please leave early. By leaving early, you will give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

Head to your family's designated meeting site. Remember that during a natural disaster, cell towers may be overburdened with traffic, trying to contact someone about a new location can be too difficult. Going to the designated location safely outside of the fire area is the safest bet.

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items, such as cash, water, clothing, food, first aid kits, medications, and toys. Also, don't forget valuables, such as your computer, photos, and important documents. Remember, most shelters will not allow animals. If you need to take a pet to a shelter or stable, leaving early will give you enough time.

Before you leave, do one last walk through and make sure your home is fully prepared. Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, etc.) or place them in your pool. Connect garden hoses to outside taps, leave exterior lights on, and seal your attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.

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.