

READY! SET! GO!

Wildland Fire Action Plan

Saving Lives and Property through Advance Planning



Highway 32 East-Forest Ranch
Photo courtesy of Dan Duart

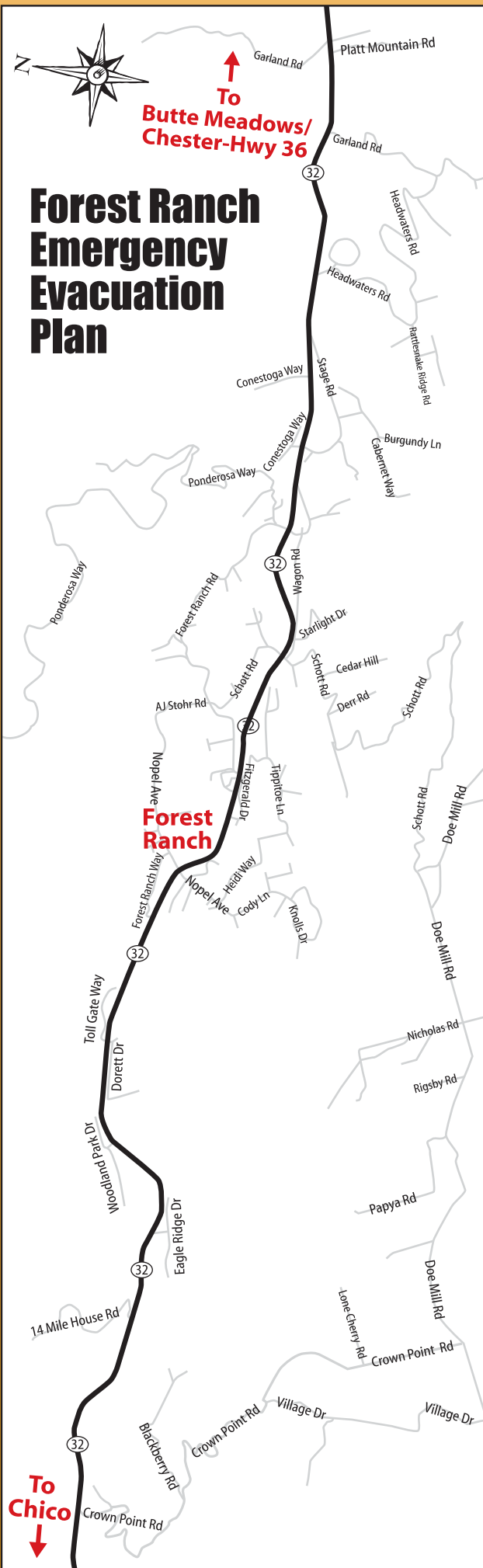
Important phone numbers/web sites for fire information:



- Butte County Fire Safe Council: (530) 877-0984
- Butte County Public Safety Scanner: www.thenet411.net (will provide you with emergency communications)



- Butte County Website: www.buttecounty.net
- Burn Day Status: (530) 896-2537
- CAL FIRE/Butte County: (530) 538-7111
- CAL FIRE Website: www.fire.cal.gov
- Chipper Service: (530) 877-0984
- North Valley Animal Disaster Group: (530) 895-0000 www.animaldisaster.org
- Red Cross: (530) 891-0885



Forest Ranch Emergency Evacuation Plan

**Forest
Ranch**

CAL FIRE, Sheriff, BCFS, FRFS, etc.
logos will go here.

Get READY Early

November to May is the best time to get your property ready and fire safe-these are lower risk fire season months. **Prepare TODAY!**

Property Access _____ Create 100 Feet of Defensible Space Around Your Home _____

- Make sure firefighters can find your house. Your house address should be posted with reflective 3-inch numbers. If you can enter your property from two directions, consider having two signs. For an address sign order form, call: (530) 521-3148.
- A fire engine should be able to easily drive to your house. The driveway and access roads need to be free of obstructions; at least 12 feet wide and with a 14-foot overhead clearance.
- A fire engine should be able to turn around on your property/street.

ZONE 1-The area 30 feet out from your home, structures, decks, etc.

- Creating a "lean, clean and green" zone of 30-feet immediately surrounding your home is critical.
- Clear pine needles and leaves from gutters and roof.
- Trim back overhanging branches at least 10 feet from chimney.
- Trim back branches hanging under roof eaves.
- Dry grass, needles, leaves and brush are 10 feet away from structure(s) and propane tank.
- Keep decks and areas around and under them clear of leaves and debris.
- Stack firewood away at least 30 feet from structures and not under roof eaves.
- Remove or prune vegetation near windows
- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Remove "ladder fuels"- low-level vegetation that allows fire to spread from the ground to tree canopy. Create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches.

ZONE 2-Extends 30-100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove "ladder fuels."
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4".
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Space plants and shrubs to prevent fire from spreading (3 times the dimension of the plant).

Note: Greater distances for defensible space clearance may be required on sloped properties.

Have a Plan for Your Pets/Animals _____

- Plan to take your pets with you. If you must evacuate, do NOT leave your pet behind. Once roadblocks go up, you may not be allowed back to your home. If it isn't safe for you to stay, it isn't safe for your pets and animals.
- Have means of transporting animals safely.
- Be prepared to have identification, food, water and medicine for all pets.
- Have your pet microchipped for easy identification.
- Make a list of friends or relatives who could care for your pet for an extended period of time if needed.
- The North Valley Animal Disaster Group is trained to assist fire personnel with animal evacuation. They are also trained to set up sheltering for large and small animals. See their web site for more information: www.NVADG.org.

Other Helpful Information _____

Wonder If Your Property Is Fire Safe?

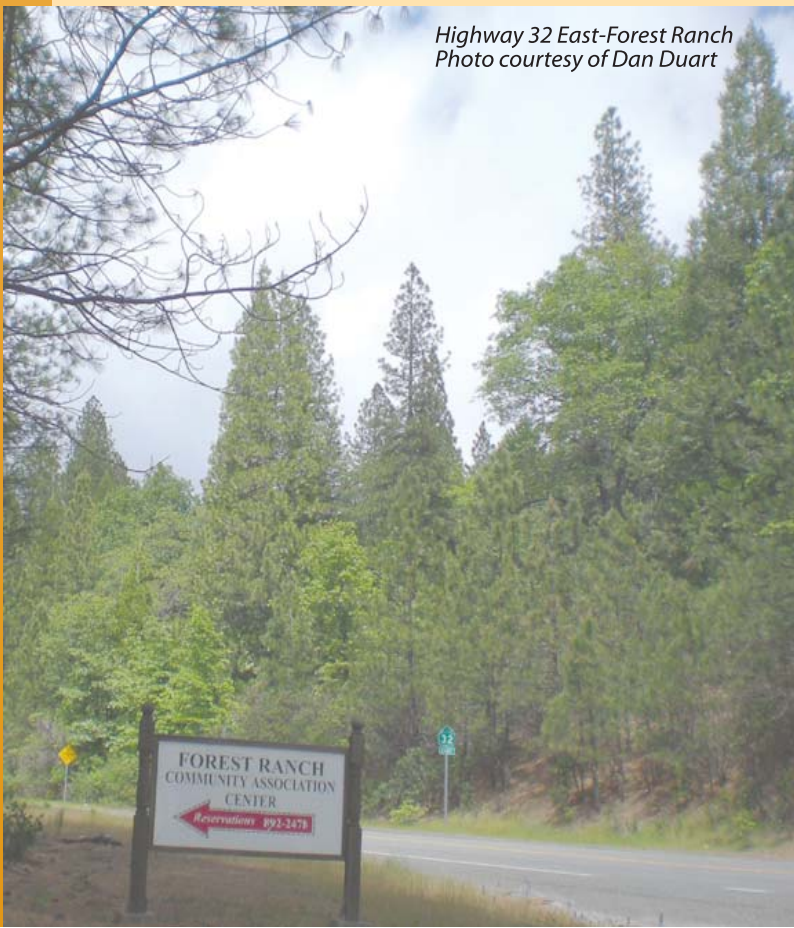


- Schedule a no-cost, informational home-site readiness evaluation. The goal is to give you one-on-one information on wildfire prevention an preparedness tailored specifically to your property. To schedule evaluation by local Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council members, contact Andrew Logan at 893-8334 or forestrancher@netzero.net.

Ember Safety Checklist

- **Vents & Eaves** - Cover attic, eave and foundation vents with 1/8" wire mesh or install new vent types designed to prevent ember entry. If fire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.
- **Under the Deck** - Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials from under decks. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8-inch wide mesh to reduce maintenance an deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks.
- **Porch and Deck Accessories** - If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the porch and deck including patio furniture, cushions, flags, wicker baskets, door mats, BBQ propane tank, and place in home or garage.

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Photo courtesy of Dan Duart



Get SET - Prepare Your Family



- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communications plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in the plan the evacuation of pets and large animals such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family on how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your propane, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan your escape route.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Keep vehicle gas tanks full.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on conditions. Keep a fresh set of batteries separate from the radio.
- Have a **"Go-Bag"** assembled to keep going for at least three days: sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, shoes, socks, packaged food, power bars, water, sanitation supplies, toiletries, feminine supplies, hygiene items, flashlight, first aid kit, hammer, work gloves, extra pet leashes, mask filter, bandana. Keep this bag in your car and there will be one last thing to pack if there is an emergency.
- Power is out! Make sure family members know how to open your electric garage door to get your car out and how to relock it.
- Do you have a phone that does not require electricity? During emergencies, cell phone usage will be limited and loss of power will restrict call from most new cordless house phones.
- Keep some cash in your home safe or other safe place in your home. ATM machines may be out of order or out of cash.
- Keep maps of your area in all vehicles and RVs
- Follow all directions of fire, sheriff, and safety personnel. Trust their professionalism and expertise in dangerous fire situations.
- **LEAVE EARLY** enough to avoid being caught by 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!**

How You'll Be Notified of Evacuations



- Fire personnel
- Door-to-door contact by Sheriff's Department or their volunteers (STARS, VIPS)
- Emergency Alert System on radio and TV
- Local radio stations-tune to them for the latest fire information:
KPAY-1290 AM
KCHO-91.7 FM
KZFR-90.1 FM
- Chico Enterprise Record web site: www.chicoer.com

Get SET - Family Disaster Plan

Fill this out and keep in a handy place where all family members can access easily.

Complete before a wildfire emergency

- Our address: _____ Phone: _____
- In the event of a wildfire evacuation, we will meet at: _____
- Animal evacuation: North Valley Animal Disaster Group Hotline: (530) 895-0000
- During a wildfire, we'll take our animals to: _____
- Local contact (neighbor/relative): In the event that roads are closed, our local contact to care for children and pets is:
Name: _____ Phone: _____
- Out of area contact/phone: _____ School Phone: _____
- Other important contacts: _____
- We know these neighbors who may need help (elderly, disabled or no vehicle): _____
- What valuables we will take with us: _____

Go EARLY

In leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear, enabling them to move freely and do their job.

Immediate Threat Evacuation: 5 Minutes To Evacuate

Purse, wallet, credit cards, checkbook/cash/all car, boat & RV keys/safe deposit keys

Pets, pet crates, pet leashes, pet food & medications

Medication and prescriptions

Eye & reading glasses/hearing aids

Cell phone, Blackberry, Palm Pilot (PDA) battery and cell phone chargers

Multiple day of clothing including sturdy walking shoes or boots

Planning calendar, phone & christmas lists, address book, bills/payment coupons

Laptop

Immediate Threat Evacuation: 15 to 30 Minutes to Evacuate

All photo albums family photos/videos

Items from safe, passports/insurance

Computer files on CD's

Digital camera with extra batteries and charge unit

Important papers, financial binders, birth certificates, social security card, insurance paper, car registration

Take flammable items off porches i.e. mats, cushions, plastic furniture, shade items, flags, & place inside house

High value items such as jewelry, priceless art/vase, collections

Children's favorite toy

Precautionary Evacuation: 2 or More Hours to Evacuate

Clean up little things i.e. leaves by structure, flammable material on deck

Irreplaceable art & craft work i.e. quilts, heirlooms, wedding dress

Computers

Recipes/recipe book, grandma & mom's recipes

Hook up boat trailer, move extra cars/boats/RV's to safe areas

High priority hobby items, sewing machine, quilting material, tools

High priority memorabilia

Tools

Pre-Fire Season Annual Preparation: November to May

List items to be removed during different types of evacuations

Make copies of important papers for storage in safe deposit box/fire safe box

Create financial binder

Take pictures of each room for insurance purposes

Store CD's and other electronic media at a location away from home

Develop a virtual meeting place where all family members can make contact

Create 100 feet or more of defensible space

Check building construction for places where embers, heat or flames will threaten your home

Go SAFELY

If a Wildfire Approaches, Take These Steps:



- Locate your Family Disaster Plan and place in vehicle.
- Park your vehicle facing outward. Put your valuables in your car. Carry your vehicle keys with you so they aren't misplaced.
- Secure pets preparing them to be transported. Do NOT wait to move your animals; get them out immediately.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the outside of the house.
- Don't leave sprinkler on or water running; they can waste critical water pressure.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover up. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, heavy shoes/boots, a cap, and have a dry bandana for a face cover or use goggles or glasses. 100% cotton clothing is best.
- Leave lights on in the house so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions. Unlock doors.
- Leave windows closed but not locked; turn air conditioning system off. Close all blinds and heavy curtains.
- Turn off the main valve to the propane in your home.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Place ladder outside for roof access.
- If time permits, clean out gutters, plug up downspouts and fill gutters with water.

If You Are Trapped - Survival Tips:



- Stay calm; keep your family together
- Call 911 and alert authorities of your location
- Stay inside your home
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water
- Keep doors and windows closed by unlocked
- Stay away from outside wall and windows
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of 100% cotton
- Stay hydrated
- Ensure that you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember: if it is hot inside the house it is four to five times hotter outside)
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires