

LOS ALTOS HILLS EVACUATION GUIDELINES

It is the responsibility of every individual in Los Altos Hills to have an evacuation plan for family and animals. Calling 9-1-1 for help is not a plan, it's a last resort.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT IN-PROGRESS EVACUATIONS

- Town Website <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/>
- Put Foothill College's [KFJC Radio](#) on Pandora/Stations (Live at KFJC 89.7FM Radio) OR Download KFJC phone app to live stream (On the Hour and Half Hour)
- Social Media (Town [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [NextDoor.com](#))
- Town Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Amateur Radio volunteers (with proper ID)
- AlertSCC – be sure you are registered!
- Nixle Alerts - be sure you are registered!
 - <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov>
 - Click “In Case of Emergency” and “Emergency-Alerts---Register” to add cell phone, home phone and email
 - Add the Alert Systems to your contacts and edit the settings so that alerts will be received even in “Do Not Disturb” mode.
 - For text only, text your zip code to 888777

Town Website Safety Resources Library has a complete list of [Trusted Information Sources](#).

Emergency Alerts

You may receive an AlertSCC or Nixle Alert or see information on social media advising of a potential for evacuation and advising you to prepare to go when advised. **Evacuation Warning** = Prepare to go. **Evacuation Order** = Leave now.

People with sensitivities to air quality, those who will take extra time to evacuate and people who need to move horses/livestock should leave town when a Warning is issued and monitor the activity from a safe location.

Watch social media trusted sources and listen to local radio or television stations for updated emergency information. Go outside to look at the location of the fire from time to time. Follow the instructions of local officials/trusted sources. Wildland fires can change direction and speed suddenly.

If you believe the fire is too close to your location, evacuate immediately. The fire may move too fast for officials to issue evacuation notifications.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Roads will be clogged with cars. The more people/pets you can fit in one car, the faster everyone can get out safely.
- Thick black smoke you can't see through.
- Many first responders with lights and sirens.
- Fallen trees/poles/wires. Do not drive over downed wires.

PREPARING TO EVACUATE – *When you see fire* ***Based on the lessons learned from real evacuees***

You can leave any time that you feel unsafe. You do not need to wait for an evacuation warning or evacuation order. It's much easier and less stressful to leave early and watch from a distance.

Car to be used for evacuation

- Fill gas tank.
- Park it in the garage facing the street.
- Start packing the car.
- Close car windows but **DO NOT LOCK CAR** and leave the keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked (disconnect automatic garage door opener).
- Plan your route. Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts, they may be blocked.
- *Take only one car, if possible, to reduce road congestion.*

Coordinate Family

- If some family members are not home, **TEXT** them and come up with a meeting location.
- Text or email your out-of-area contact and tell them where you are going.
- Only make phone calls for life threatening situations so the phones are not overloaded. (Texting is okay).
- Arrange temporary housing at a friend's or relative's home outside the threatened area. You will be more comfortable in someone's home than in a public shelter.
- Call Town Hall or other published number to let them know where you are.
- Keep pets nearby and confined for rapid evacuation.

Turn off Gas and Propane - *If you are sure you have time*

- Shut off gas at the meter only if advised to do so by local officials. (use wrench to turn the valve crosswise to the pipe).

- Disconnect propane tanks and turn valves off.

Prepare the outside of your home

- Close or cover outside shutters, attic and air vents and other openings close to the ground.
- Connect the garden hose to an outside faucet.
- Move combustible/flammable/explosive items to one spot away from the house - lawn furniture, umbrellas, tarp coverings, firewood, lawnmower gas, ammunition, chemicals, propane tanks.
- Place a ladder against the side of the house on the side opposite the approaching fire.
- Turn on exterior lights.
- Make any available equipment obvious for the firefighters to use (hoses, spigots, hoes, chain saws, ladders).
- Leave an information note on the front door detailing name, destination, cell phone.
- Place sprinklers up to 50 feet (15 meters) away from the structures to raise the moisture level of nearby vegetation.

Prepare the inside of your home

- Turn off appliances, thermostats, fireplaces (OPEN damper, CLOSE screen).
- Leave ONE LIGHT on in each general area of the house so firefighters can see your house in the dark and smoke.
- Close fire resistant window & skylight coverings, heavy drapes and venetian blinds.
 - REMOVE lace, nylon or light material drapes/curtains.
- Move combustible furniture into the center of the home away from windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and buckets with water.
- Soak burlap sacks, small rugs or large rags in the buckets or sink.
- Close doors and windows to prevent draft.
- Secure your home as you normally would but leave sliding glass doors UNLOCKED.
- Place valuables that will not be damaged by water in a pool or pond.

Livestock

- Load into trailers for evacuation or release into an open area (If Town recommends).

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED

- Do not put wet clothing or bandanas over your nose or mouth. Moist air causes more damage to airways than dry air at the same temperature.
- Crouch in a pond, stream, or pool.
- If there is no body of water, look for shelter in a cleared area or among a bed of rocks. Lie flat, face down, and cover your body with soil. Breathe the air close to the ground to avoid scorching your lungs or inhaling smoke.
- You cannot outrun a fire. Wildland fires move very fast and create their own wind, helping them to move even faster and burn even hotter.

NO TRANSPORTATION

If you do not have a car or cannot drive, make a plan with neighbors to assist you. As a last resort, call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are; however, this is NOT a guarantee that responders will have the time or the resources to rescue you.

PACKING TO EVACUATE - REALLY IMPORTANT

The only thing that can't be replaced is YOU.

Don't delay evacuation collecting "Stuff"

- **Documents (scanned on a flash drive or in "the cloud")**
 - Photographs of all family members (in case someone is missing)
 - Important family photographs
 - Health, Home and Car Insurance, Birth Certificate, Driver's License
 - House deed
 - Marriage License/Divorce Papers
 - Tax returns
- **Personal Needs**
 - Cell phone & Charger, Computer if it's important to you
 - Cash, checkbook, credit cards
 - Eyeglasses, Dentures, Hearing Aids, Walkers, CPAP machines, etc.
 - Baby Formula, Diapers, toys
 - Prescription Medications & copies of prescriptions
 - Special diet items
 - Snacks, Water
- **Pets**
 - Pet ID tags, medications, leashes, crates, litter boxes, vaccination records, food, water
 - Pet first aid kit

- Put pets in one room until you are ready to leave
- If you have many or large animals, evacuate sooner

WHAT TO TAKE - IMPORTANT *IF YOU HAVE TIME AND SPACE*

- Toiletries - Shaving, Sanitary, Toothbrush/Paste
- Wear sturdy shoes, 100% cotton long pants, long-sleeved 100% cotton shirt, and gloves to protect your skin from embers. Consider cap & goggles also.
- Bring a handkerchief to protect your face
- Irreplaceable keepsakes (jewelry, baby shoes, paintings, family Bible)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Reading material/games
- Blankets
- N95 respirator masks (protection from breathing smoke)
- First Aid kit

Questions?

Marsha Hovey marshahovey@mac.com

Los Altos Hills Emergency Manager

408-722-1210