

★ Emergency Preparedness ★

Wildfire



Don't Be Scared ★ Be Prepared

★ Hello and Welcome

Here are some things you can do to keep safe if you're in a **wildfire** area.

As the dry, hot months approach, you'll want to make sure you have a **source for local news** handy, whether it be on your vehicle radio or cell phone—and remember to keep that cell phone charged. You can also put **Monterey County A!ert** or another similar app on your phone to monitor local fire conditions.



Be Prepared to Leave the Area

If there's a wildfire in the area, know the direction in which the fire is moving. Fire direction is often dictated by winds. Having no control over which way the wind blows, you'll want to **have your vehicle in the best shape possible** in case you need to leave the area. Anytime you drive, make sure **nothing is dragging** on the underside of your vehicle. This could cause **sparks**, which could then start a **fire**. If your brakes are worn, metal-to-metal contact could cause a fire.

★ Prepare Your Vehicle

- » Your **tires are inflated** to the proper pressure.
- » **Dispose** of cigarettes, matches, and flammable chemicals you may store in your vehicle.
- » **Replace the air filters** in your vehicle regularly, including any passenger air filters.

Ahead of time, learn where the **exit roads** are **in your area**. Use a map or drive around to get to know these roads.

Prepare Your Vehicle

- » A **mask**, bandana, or scarf to cover your mouth and nose.
- » Drinking **water**.
- » A **fire-retardant blanket** for each passenger.
- » A set of **jumper cables**.

Never drive or park on dry grass or brush. **Never** enter a wildfire zone—but if you must, be sure you **have enough fuel in your vehicle to make it through**.

★ Use Your Head and Your Headlights

During **daytime** smoke and fire conditions, drive with the headlights on. During **nighttime** smoke and fire conditions, drive with your headlights on low. Turn on fog lights if you have them. Obey **CAL FIRE & CHP** directives about evacuations and detours. Visibility might be difficult, so **drive and park in ways that other drivers can predict**. If you pull over, **watch** for parked vehicles and **avoid** all dry brush, debris, or other flammable materials. **Keep your engine running** to make sure you can drive away without stalling.

★ Slow Down and Watch Out for...

If you're driving through heavy smoke, slow down.

As you approach curves or bends in the road, tap your horn to warn drivers and **animals**. Watch out for animals, such as horses, and their **owners**. Yield the right of way to **emergency vehicles**. Move past parked emergency vehicles carefully, watching for **workers on the road**.

★ Avoid Smoke Inhalation

To avoid smoke inhalation, close your windows and air vents, even if the air outside looks clear. Use the recirculation  setting on the heater or air conditioner except for a short break to let in a little fresh air ... *IF it is fresh*. Wear your mask, bandana, or scarf over your nose and mouth **if smoke is getting into your vehicle**. Dampen your mask to help block more smoke. If you don't know whether your heater or air conditioner filters the air moving through it, leave it turned off.

Trapped Near a Wildfire

If you're trapped near a wildfire, **stay calm.**

- » **Move** to a place with little or no vegetation.
- » **Check** that your vents and windows are closed.
- » **Throw** a wool or fire-retardant blanket over yourself.
- » **Breathe** through a mask or damp cloth.

If the air in your vehicle is bad, find the **lowest point** in your vehicle where the air quality is the best to breathe. Regularly **monitor conditions** on your phone or radio. **If you're injured** and have a phone, **call 911.**

After A Fire

Have **your cabin and engine air filters checked** and cleaned or replaced. **Throw away and replace** any used masks or material you used over your nose and mouth. **Replace** water and other **supplies you used**. Now you know how to stay safe in a wildfire area.

Acknowledgements

This training is made possible by grant funds provided by Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) Monterey California (<https://www.cerv501c3.org>).

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