

Emergency Preparedness Checklists — **Wildfire**

Before a Wildfire

- Put Monterey County Alert app on my phone to monitor wildfire conditions.
- Keep my cell phone charged and have a charging cable or external charger.
- Monitor my radio or phone for wildfire alerts when planning to visit an area.
- Obey Cal Fire and CHP directives about evacuations and detours.
- Review exit routes detours on a map I take with me before driving to areas with wildfire cautions.
- Respond immediately as directed by officials due to wildfire hazards.
- Don't drive while dragging chains or damaged parts on the underside of my car.
- Maintain proper air pressure in my tires.
- Never park on dry grass or brush.
- Never drive on or through dry grass or brush.
- Never drive with worn brakes causing metal-to-metal contact.
- Replace any passenger air filter my car may have as regularly as possible.
- Keep a mask, bandana, or other wrap in my car to reduce inhalation of smoke.
- Dispose of all cigarettes or matches carefully.
- Keep drinking water in my car to stay hydrated.
- Don't enter a wildfire zone unless I already have enough fuel in my car to leave.
- Keep jumper cables in my car.
- Remove any potentially flammable chemicals from my car.
- Have fire retardant blankets for each passenger.

During a Wildfire

- Leave immediately. Don't wait to see if a fire is heading my direction.
- Close all vents and roll up my windows even if the air looks clear.
- If smoke is present in the car, wear a mask or make a mask with a scarf or other damp cloth.
- Turn off my car's heater or air conditioner while I drive though fire conditions.
- If available, use the "recirculation" setting on the heater or air conditioner, except when taking breaks to let in fresh air for a few minutes.
- Slow down when driving through heavy smoke.
- Don't use the car's hazard lights while driving through smoke and fire.
- Drive and park in ways that other drivers can predict.

- Watch for cars parked on the side of the road.
- If pulling over to the side of the road, avoid all dry brush, debris, or other flammable materials.
- If pulling over to the side of the road, keep the engine running to make sure I can drive away without stalling.
- If visibility is severely limited while approaching curves or bends, tap the car horn lightly to warn drivers and animals.
- Drive with the headlights on during daytime smoke and fire conditions.
- Drive with my headlights on low during nighttime smoke and fire (and turn on fog lights if I have them)
- Watch for wildlife, livestock, pets, and pet owners while driving to evacuate an area.
- Watch for emergency vehicles and yield the right of way to them.
- Move past parked emergency vehicles carefully, watching for safety personnel on the road.
- If I and my car are trapped near a wildfire,
 - Stay calm.
 - Move my car to a location with the least vegetation, then park.
 - Make sure all vents and windows are closed.
 - Pull a wool or fire-retardant blanket over me.
 - Breathe through a mask or dampened cloth.
 - Find the lowest point in my car where the air quality is best to breathe.
 - Use my cell phone to call 911.

After a Wildfire

- Have my cabin air filter checked or replaced if possible.
- Replace used masks or scarves.
- Replace water or other supplies used.
- Check my tires for any damage.