

The Sea Ranch & FIRE

HOW YOU CAN HELP US HELP YOU

Advice from *CALFIRE* and *The Sea Ranch Fire Department*

The 2008 Fire Season has started with some serious concerns. The lack of rain this spring coupled with little fog and more wind has dried fuels out much faster than normal. Fuel moistures are more like September/October than June/July. We have observed this in the fire behavior exhibited in the Santa Cruz Mountain fires in May and June. This is a year not to wait on doing the fuel management around your home, we may not formally inspect your home until later this year but we hope that you will maintain a defensible space as soon as possible. It is important to understand that we have the potential to experience larger and more difficult fires to control earlier in the season than in the past years.

Pre-Fire preparation:

- Create a defensible space around your home per Public Resources Code 4291 and The Sea Ranch Inspection Program.
- Call *CALFIRE* @ 785-2648 with any questions or clarifications regarding PRC 4291, the inspection program or to request an inspection.
- Know every possible evacuation route from your home. Likely routes will be to Hwy 1 and then head North or South depending on the direction the fire is traveling or direction given by law enforcement or Fire Personnel. An alternate safety zone may be Annapolis Rd to the clearing created by the Fire Station, Airport and Verdant View.
- Have a checklist of those things that you would *NEED* to grab if your evacuation was immediate. (Example: medications, pets & pet care, important paperwork, drinking water, flashlight etc..)
- Have a checklist of those things that you would *WANT* to grab if you had time to prepare for your evacuation. (Example: all the above plus: Valuables, photos, Clothes etc...)

If a Wildfire is approaching the general area:

- Park your vehicle facing out, pack your vehicle according to your checklist and keep keys, cell phone and flashlight easily accessible.
- Secure your pets, prepare them for transport.
- Close all windows, heavy drapes, blinds and shutters if present.
- Remove any sheer window coverings.
- Place a ladder against the house on side away from oncoming fire, this will provide easy access to the roof for firefighters.
- Move any combustible yard furniture into garage or away from home.
- Leave garden hoses (hooked up) and full buckets of water around home.
- Leave electricity *ON* and turn on porch light and some interior lights.
- Dress in long pants, long sleeved shirt, goggles or glasses, a bandana to cover face and a baseball cap. Wear 100% cotton if possible.
- Use phones (cell and house) only when necessary, circuits can become overwhelmed potentially causing emergency calls not to go through.

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During Evacuation:

- Leave a door of your home unlocked. If firefighters make a stand at your home they will need to gain access for their own safety in the case of an unexpected fire blow up.
- If you have prepared a Fire Department Info Tag place on door (see below)
- Drive slowly and safely; turn headlights and flashers on.
- Be aware that emergency vehicles are likely on their way in.
- If you are trapped by fire, park as close to the inside of the road as possible without driving off the road and disabling your vehicle, stay inside your vehicle and keep engine running, close vents, cover yourself with a blanket and get down as low as possible. Call 911 and let dispatcher know that you are evacuating from a fire on the Sea Ranch and you have become trapped. (Give as exact of a location as possible)

Fire approaches too quickly for a safe evacuation:

- Stay inside your home away from the outside walls.
- Keep doors closed but unlocked.
- Call 911 and let dispatcher know that you are trapped in your home.
- It will be very hot inside the house but potentially deadly outside.

After the fire passes

- Check the exterior and roof immediately, extinguish all sparks and embers.
- Check area around home for any burning material and extinguish if safe.

How will community members be notified?

Life threat is immediate

- Sheriff, Fire and Security (if safe) will notify through their PA system and/or door to door.
- The TSRA will activate their 3N emergency notification system for the area that is threatened. You will receive an email and/or phone call with information and instructions (evacuate immediately), it will require your acknowledgment.
- The county reverse 911 system will be activated.

Evacuation is possible but fire has not reached an area of immediate threat

- The TSRA will activate their 3N emergency notification system for the area that is threatened. You will receive an email and/or phone call with information and instructions (prepare for an evacuation), it will require your acknowledgment.
- Fire and Law Enforcement will constantly evaluate the need to evacuate.

Fire Department Info Tag

Front Side:

● ●

Name:

Address:

Time of Evacuation:

Contact phone number:

Water sources around home or any special info:

Back side:

● ●

Checklists: (sample)	What to do:
What to take:	<input type="checkbox"/> Park car facing out
<input type="checkbox"/> Medications	<input type="checkbox"/> Secure pets
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Close all windows, drapes and/or blinds
<input type="checkbox"/> Important documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove any sheer curtains
<input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and water bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Place a ladder against house.
<input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/> Move yard furniture inside
<input type="checkbox"/> Wallet/purse	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave garden hoses out and full buckets of water around house.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Turn porch light and interior lights on.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hang this tag on your front door