

Evacuation Planning

Making an evacuation plan is one of the most important things you can do to prepare your family for wildfire. Whether your kids are home from school, your spouse is teleworking, or family members are social distancing, you can use this time inside to gather and discuss a wildfire evacuation plan.

Step 1. Sign up for emergency notifications

Register online for notifications that come straight to your phone. All information is strictly confidential.

- Register for St. Louis County emergency notifications
<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085616005/login>
- Register for Lake County emergency notifications at:
<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085619442/login>

Step 2. Prepare home and family for evacuation

It's important to explain wildfire risks to family members, including small children, and ensure they understand the importance of being prepared.

- Discuss and print out a family evacuation plan. Establish and practice exit routes out of your home and neighborhood. Access to evacuation routes may be limited depending on the location of the fire, so familiarity is crucial for making on-the-fly decisions. Identify at least two ways out of your neighborhood. Mark your potential evacuation routes clearly on a map and then practice them with your family.
- Have a designated meeting point outside of the hazard area. Make sure everyone in the family knows your safe meeting place, then let your friends and family know your plans.
- Ask an out-of-town friend or relative to serve as a point of contact for your family.
- Know how, and if time allows, turn off the water, gas, and electricity before leaving your home. Check with your local utilities provider on how to properly do this. Shut all windows and doors.
- Have a plan to assist seniors and disabled members of your family.

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Learn more at:
<https://minnesotafac.org/>



Here are some great links for developing your family evacuation checklist.

- American Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Wildfire/Wildfire.pdf
- Ready, Set, Go : <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/go-evacuation-guide/>
- Living with Fire Evacuation Check list: <https://www.livingwithfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Wildfire-Evac-Checklist-Bifold-FS0607.pdf>

Step 3. Have a Go-Bag ready for each member of your family.

Be sure to include water, food, any necessary medications, a change of clothes, spare chargers, important documents and an extra set of credit cards, cash, or checks. A go-bag checklist can be found here: <https://mwgjlaw.com/wildfires/grab-and-go-checklists/>

Step 4. Prepare a plan for pets and large animals

If you have house pets, include them in your evacuation preparation. Practice evacuating with them, ensuring that your family can safely get them in the vehicle and to your agreed upon meeting point. Pack food for your pet(s) in your go-bags and include any medications they are taking. Ensure you have a plan in place for outdoor animals or livestock. Evacuation plan for pets and livestock links:

<https://www.ready.gov/pets> & <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/make-disaster-plan-your-pets>

Local contact Mesabi Humane Society for more information:

<https://www.mesabihumanesociety.org/> or info@mesabihumanesociety.org

Phone: 218-741-7425

Remember, your biggest defense in evacuating safely is to have a plan, be ready to go, leave early, stay calm, and follow the directions of emergency personnel.

