



## North County Fire Authority

*Serving the Cities of  
Brisbane, Daly City, Pacifica*

# OPERATION WILDFIRE

## Community of Brisbane

*How close is too close?*



*In case of wildfire, do you and  
your family know how to survive?*

### Decisions must be made quickly!

When disaster strikes, it is usually without warning. Rapid mobilization of all resources necessary to counteract and respond to the event is essential for maximum protection of life and property.

The North County Fire Authority Incident Commanders must decide where to strategically deploy resources ahead of the fire front, and if necessary, immediately initiate appropriate evacuation procedures.

The City of Brisbane Police Department must notify residents who are in immediate danger, and alert them to determine a safe exit, and assist them in doing so.

The City Of Brisbane Police Department and California Highway Patrol must decide what traffic controls are necessary to keep roads accessible. This ensures that disaster-assisting vehicles can respond while residents safely exit the area.

The Peninsula Humane Society will be informed about the danger and begin strategically providing assistance for animals in the immediate vicinity to be evacuated.

**The decision regarding when to leave is critical.** Time spent on home preparation before a wildland fire is important to reduce property loss. Every fire is different. If and when an evacuation is ordered, the North County Fire Authority's directive is for residents to leave immediately. **Your life and safety is the North County Fire Authority's primary goal.** Quick compliance to an evacuation order is critical.

This brochure is intended to inform and assist each and every resident. Learn how you can help yourself (and those trained to help you) save your life and property. It's your responsibility, as well as emergency services, to be familiar with the evacuation procedures contained within this pamphlet. Keep it handy. Check it out.

**Ron D. Myers**  
Fire Chief



## BEING PREPARED FOR WILDFIRES

- Remove flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 30 ft. of any structures.
- Single trees, ornamental shrubbery and ground cover may be permitted provided they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to structures.
- Landscape with plants that are drought tolerant and fire resistant. Maintain plants!
- Space trees and shrubs a minimum of 15 ft. apart or three times their diameter from other shrubs.
- Trees should be spaced to allow a minimum of 30 ft. between canopies at maturity.
- For trees taller than 18 ft., prune lower branches to within 6 ft. of the ground.
- For trees and shrubs of less than 18 ft. prune lower branches to one-third of their height.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches and leaves.
- Remove all stacks of combustible materials.
- Stack wood at least 30 ft. from structures. Remove flammable vegetation within 10 ft. of woodpiles.
- Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 ft. from any structure and maintain 10 ft. clearance.

## EVACUATION PLAN

### Do you have one?

Being prepared for an emergency is a must for anyone who lives or works in a wildland interface area. A major part of your preparedness is to develop a logical and thorough evacuation plan. A good evacuation plan includes the following:

- ✓ Predetermined travel routes based on which direction the fire is moving
- ✓ Identify at least two (2) exit routes from your neighborhood.
- ✓ Know the designated residential assembly point within your local area (see listing).
- ✓ Know local emergency contacts.
- ✓ Plan, review, and practice with family and neighbors.

#### PREPARATION AHEAD OF THE FIRE

- Back your car in the garage heading out (windows closed and keys in the ignition)
- Close the garage door, leave it unlocked, disconnect the automatic garage opener in case of a power failure.
- Place important documents, photo albums, prescription medications, pets, and other valuables inside your car in case you need to evacuate.
- Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times and stay tuned to your local news station.

## RESIDENTIAL ASSEMBLY POINT

### Do you know where it is?

An evacuation area for the City of Brisbane has been established in the event of a major wildfire hazard. This area should be utilized as an evacuation and meeting area. Information about the wildfire and housing shelters will be provided as soon as possible.

The residential assembly point is:

The Brisbane Marina  
400 Marina

## DURING EVACUATION

If you become trapped by fire in your car while evacuating, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.

If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation or a ditch and lay face down.



## EMERGENCY WILDFIRE HOME PROTECTION

- ✓ Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage.
- ✓ Cover windows, attic openings, eaves and vents with fire resistive materials such as ½ inch or thicker plywood. Close window shutters and blinds if they are fire resistive.
- ✓ Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach all areas of your house.
- ✓ Fill all sinks, bathtubs, trashcans, and buckets with water. Place portable containers around your house for easy access.
- ✓ If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location, test, and be ready to operate it.
- ✓ Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire for access to the roof.
- ✓ Close all windows and doors around your home to prevent sparks from blowing inside.

- ✓ Turn a light on in all rooms of your house, on the porch and in the yard. Your home will be more visible through the smoke or darkness.
- ✓ Shut off liquefied petroleum gas or natural gas valves.
- ✓ Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to avoid ignition from the fire's radiant heat.
- ✓ Remove curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistive window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.

## IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE WHEN A FIRE APPROACHES

- Stay inside your house away from outside walls.
- Keep all doors closed but leave them unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and REMAIN CALM. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, it is four to five times hotter and more dangerous outside.

## AFTER THE FIRE PASSES

- ✓ Check the house exterior and roof immediately, extinguish all sparks and embers. If you must climb on the roof – **use caution**.
- ✓ Check inside the attic for hidden, burning embers.
- ✓ Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.

## FOR ADDITIONAL WILDFIRE SAFETY INFORMATION CONTACT

**North County Fire Authority**  
Prevention Services Bureau  
10 Wembley Drive  
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(415) 467-8617