

WILDFIRE EVACUATION PLANNING GUIDE

**FOR THE SODA BAY
ROAD CORRIDOR**



Provided by Your Konocti Fire Safe Council



Wildfire is Coming. Are You Ready?

Life-saving Information for the Soda Bay Area

What Makes the Soda Bay Area Different?

More than 7800 residences and businesses are located in the area. For individual homes, commercial buildings, HOA developments and mobile home parks, Soda Bay Road is the only access route. During a wildfire, everyone will need to evacuate along Soda Bay Road. At the same time, emergency responders rely on Soda Bay Road for access to protect life and property during a fire.

Make a Plan for Your Soda Bay Home

It is extremely important that people who live around Soda Bay Road be prepared before wildfire strikes. By preparing your property ahead of time and knowing how and when to evacuate using Soda Bay Road and other nearby roads, you can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your home.

Wildfires are a fact of life in California, and Lake County is no exception. It's not a question of if they will occur, but when. Catastrophic wildfires are increasing throughout California, encroaching further into populated areas.

Preparation is the Best Defense

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for when wildfire strikes.

Visit the CAL FIRE website [readyforwildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org) for expert advice on creating your personalized Wildfire Action Plan.

This booklet explains preparations and precautions to make for your family and pets before an evacuation is necessary.

Give Your Home the Best Chance of Survival

The time to prepare your home for wildfire is now

There are three ways your home can be exposed to wildfire: through flying embers, direct flame contact, and radiant heat.

Embers are the main cause of homes igniting. During a wildfire, strong winds can blow burning embers up to a mile ahead of a fire. These embers can directly ignite materials near the home, causing a new fire that spreads to the home through direct flame contact or from radiant heat.

Direct flame contact to the home can be the result of nearby vegetation or combustible materials catching on fire due to embers, or from the wildfire burning unchecked directly to the building.

Radiant heat exposure occurs when there are materials, vegetation or other combustibles that are burning close to the home — or for a long enough period of time — and generate enough heat to directly ignite a combustible component of the home.

Getting ready for wildfire begins with two very important efforts: Home hardening and defensible space. Hardening your home is retrofitting it with fire-resistant materials. Defensible space is creating and maintaining a buffer between buildings and vegetation to slow wildfire. While not a guarantee that your home will survive a wildfire, these efforts give it the best chance.

Act now to prepare, prevent and minimize the damage of wildfires in California. Visit CAL FIRE's [readyforwildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org) website and conduct a self-evaluation with the free "FirePLANNER" tool.



Clearing your house and property of flammable debris greatly improves your chances in a fast-moving wildfire.

SODA BAY CORRIDOR EVACUATION GUIDE

For real-time information on
evacuation status, routes...
Genasys Protect



GET INFORMATION



Konocti
Fire Safe Council



CAL FIRE
Ready For Wildfire



National Weather Service



Lake County Sheriff
Office of Emergency Services

KNOW YOUR ZONE

<https://protect.genasys.com>

My zone is _____

TUNE IN

Local radio stations:

KNTI 99.5 FM	KPFZ 88.1 FM	KQPM 105.9 FM	KXBX 98.3 FM	KXBX 1270 AM
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SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

<https://www.lakesheriff.com/869/LakeCoAlerts>

FOLLOW OFFICIAL CHANNELS

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/lakesheriff/>

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyOES/>

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Lakecountypdw/>

Twitter at https://twitter.com/lake_sheriff

Instagram at <https://instagram.com/lakesheriffca>

RED FLAG WARNINGS

The National Weather Service (NWS) offices issue *Fire Weather Watches* and *Red Flag Warnings* for critical fire weather patterns that contribute to the extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior. The NWS Eureka office supports Lake County and issues heat advisories and extreme heat warnings based on High Risk values.

A *Fire Weather Watch* is used to alert agencies to the high potential for development of a Red Flag event in the 12-72 hour time frame. The Watch may be issued for all or selected portions of a fire weather zone.

Red Flag Warning/Fire Weather Watches informs land management agencies of the imminent or actual occurrence of Red Flag conditions. A Red Flag Warning will be issued when there is high confidence that Red Flag criteria will be met within the next 24 to 48 hours, or when those criteria are already being met or exceeded.



See full list of restrictions
during a Red Flag Warning

EVACUATION STATUS LEVELS

Evacuation Order: An immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.

Evacuation Warning: A potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.

Shelter In Place: An order to go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

Evacuation Order(s) Lifted: The term used to formally announce lifting evacuations in an area currently under evacuation.



Pre-Evacuation Steps

Prepare, Plan, Practice

When evacuation is anticipated, following the checklist below will make your preparations easier:

Outside the House

- ☐ Gather flammable items from outside and bring them indoors (patio furniture, toys, door mat, trash can, etc.).
- ☐ Turn off propane tanks.
- ☐ Move propane barbecues away from buildings.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots so firefighters can use them. Fill water buckets and place them around your house.
- ☐ Place a ladder at the corner for firefighters to use to reach your roof.
- ☐ Turn off sprinklers and running water. Leaving them on during a fire can affect critical water pressure throughout your neighborhood.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on so your house is visible to firefighters in the smoke or at night.
- ☐ Put your emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- ☐ Keep a wool or cotton blanket in your vehicle in case you need to shelter in your vehicle.
- ☐ After you load your vehicle, park it in the driveway with the windows and doors closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- ☐ Open your electric garage door so you have access if the power goes out.
- ☐ Monitor your property and the fire situation.
- ☐ Check to see if neighbors are aware of the danger and preparing to leave.



Inside the House

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors in your house, leaving them unlocked.
- ☐ Remove flammable window shades and curtains. Close metal shutters.
- ☐ Shut off gas at the meter or tank. Turn off all pilot lights in your home.
- ☐ Shut off the air conditioner or heater.

Animals

- ☐ Keep your pets and their carriers nearby.
- ☐ Put your pet evacuation supplies (food, water, medicines, etc.) in your vehicle.
- ☐ Prepare livestock for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early.

When You Must Evacuate

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

Give your household the best chance of surviving a wildfire by being ready to go and evacuating early.

Being ready to go means following pre-evacuation steps, knowing when to evacuate, preparing possible evacuation routes, and knowing what to do if you become trapped.

Evacuating early means less traffic and an easier time if you are heading to a motel or a shelter. Remember, you can always return if it is safe to go back to your neighborhood. Better to be safe than to take a chance with wildfire!

Use the checklists in this booklet to prepare yourself and your family to be ready to evacuate if wildfire strikes in your area.



Remember, you do not have to wait for an evacuation order to go to a safer area. By leaving at the first sign of trouble, you will avoid dangerous traffic jams, and you will leave the road open for first responders to protect your neighborhood. Leaving early gives you more time for essential contact among family members. Take the time to practice your evacuation plan and travel route before fire season. Practice will make your evacuation safer, less stressful and more efficient.

It is also important to learn what to expect after a wildfire, and what you should do before returning to your home. The danger is not over after the flames are put out.

Know the Law — be Ready to Evacuate!

California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident, or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor (Penal Code 409.5).

Create a Wildfire Action Plan

Plan Ahead for Your Family's Safety

Your family's Wildfire Action Plan must be carefully prepared and familiar to all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Use the checklist below to help create your plan before the need arises. Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs and situations.

Your Evacuation Plan Should Include:

- ☐ A designated emergency meeting location outside the fire area. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated the affected area.
- ☐ Knowledge of several different escape routes from your home and community. Practice these routes before a wildfire threat, so everyone in your family is familiar with them when a crisis arises. Use the form on page 11 to write down your evacuation routes.
- ☐ An evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock.
- ☐ A Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case people become separated.

Cell and internet systems may be overloaded or out of service. It is best for all family members to call or message one key contact person and let that person be responsible for reaching others, rather than try to call each person separately during the crisis.

Use the Family Communication Plan form on page 11 to identify the key contact person for your family.



Emergency Supply Kit

Get Your Go-Bag Going:

Put together your Emergency Supply Kit — also called a “go-bag”— before a wildfire occurs and keep it easily accessible. Backpacks work great for storing these items that are quick to grab.

A bin or cooler on wheels will make it easier to transport food and water. Keep the bin light enough so that you can lift it into your vehicle.

Emergency Supply Kit Contents:

- ☐ Face masks or coverings.
- ☐ Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person. Don't forget to add water for any pets you are evacuating.
- ☐ Paper map marked with at least two evacuation routes (online navigation services may be interrupted during a crisis).
- ☐ Change of clothing, including a hat, cotton long-sleeved shirt and pants.
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- ☐ An extra set of car keys, phone charger, credit cards and cash.
- ☐ First aid kit.
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries.
- ☐ Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance documents, etc.).
- ☐ Food, water and medication for pets.
- ☐ Can opener.

Items to Take if Time Allows:

- ☐ Easily carried valuables.
- ☐ Family photos and other irreplaceable items.
- ☐ Personal computer information on portable drives.
- ☐ Laptops, tablets and other devices.

Things to do Ahead of Time:

- ☐ Have fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in the family knows how to use them. Many fire extinguishers have expiration dates, so be sure to have them serviced if necessary.
- ☐ Ensure that you and your family know where the home's gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are located and how to quickly and safely shut them down in an emergency.
- ☐ Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit for each person, as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- ☐ Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit for your pets, including food, water, medications, bedding, feeding dish and a can opener.
- ☐ Keep a list of emergency numbers in your cell phone, posted near your land line, and in your Emergency Supply Kit. A printed copy is useful if internet service is interrupted during a crisis.
- ☐ Keep an extra Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle in case you cannot get to your home during an emergency.
- ☐ Have a portable radio or scanner, or follow CAL FIRE's Ready for Wildfire app so you can stay updated on wildfires. Follow local law enforcement notifications for evacuation information.
Visit incidents at fire.ca.gov/incidents or scan the QR code on page 5 to view the incident map.
- ☐ Talk to your neighbors about wildfire preparations, including Wildfire Action Plans and Emergency Supply Kits. Neighbors working together can raise awareness and help prevent loss of life and property.

Include all Family Members in Planning for Wildfire

Agree on an out-of-area phone contact and be sure all family members have the number.

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Save This Family Communication Plan

Fill out this form and place it in a location where everyone in your household can easily find it. Copy the form and keep it in your Emergency Supply Kit. This will allow all family members to have access to this key information in case you get separated.

When We Have to Evacuate, We Will Meet at this Location:

Our Out-of-Area Emergency Contact Person is:

Name _____

Home Phone No. _____

Relationship _____

Email _____

Cell Phone No. _____

Other Important Numbers:

Emergency 911 _____

Local Police _____

Local Fire Department _____

Other _____

Other _____

Other _____

Our Two Evacuation Routes are:

What To Do if You Are Trapped

While in Your Vehicle:

- ♦ Stay calm.
- ♦ Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- ♦ Close all vehicle windows and vents. If possible, cover the inside of the windows with a wool or cotton blanket to minimize radiant heat.
- ♦ Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket and lie on the vehicle floor.
- ♦ Use your cell phone to contact officials – Call 911.

While on Foot:

- ♦ Stay calm.
- ♦ Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch, or depression on level ground, if possible.
- ♦ Lie face down and cover up your body.
- ♦ If near a body of water—pool, creek, pond, lake, etc.—seek safety in the water or use it to keep distance away from the fire. Be careful not to be swept away by moving water or getting in too deep.
- ♦ Use your cell phone to contact officials—Call 911.

While in Your Home:

- ♦ Stay calm and keep your family together. Stay inside your house.
- ♦ Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
- ♦ Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- ♦ Keep doors and windows closed but unlocked. Stay away from outside walls and windows.

Temporary Refuge Areas

In a worst-case scenario where evacuation roadways are blocked, you may need to shelter in place at a “Temporary Refuge Area” (TRA) nearby. Survey your area for large open spaces that are clear of vegetation. They may be as close as a neighbor that has taken extra effort to provide vegetation clearance, or a large asphalt parking lot. TRAs can include golf courses, resort properties, schools, vineyards, etc. Locate and practice travel to your closest area. A final resort may be to escape to the lake.

Examples of a TRA that might be necessary due to congestion on Soda Bay Road include:

- Clear Lake State Park
- Konocti Harbor Inn
- Buckingham Golf Course
- Riviera Elementary School

A TRA should only be utilized until traffic congestion has cleared sufficiently to allow evacuation to a designated shelter or when the incident is abated.

Be Prepared for Power Outages

Power outages may occur before and during the threat of a wildfire. It's important to be prepared and know what actions to take when leaving your home during a power outage.

- ❑ Learn how to manually open your automatic garage doors or gates—this is extremely important.
- ❑ Be familiar with your home's utility shut-offs (electricity, water and gas).
- ❑ Keep a flashlight and shoes near your bed in case you need to evacuate during the night.
- ❑ Keep your Emergency Supply Kit easily accessible so you can find it in the dark if you have to evacuate.
- ❑ Always keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half full.
- ❑ If you have a power generator, be sure you know the safety guidelines of your model, including where to connect it, which electrical cords to use, and the electrical load rating. An improperly installed generator can electrocute you or an electric utility worker, and can also be a fire hazard.
- ❑ Keep your cell phone charged.
- ❑ Keep a supply of bottled water ready to take along when evacuating.

DURING A POWER OUTAGE

If the power goes out, follow these steps:

- ❑ Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- ❑ Shut off the gas and other combustibles such as propane tanks.
- ❑ If wildfire is within your area, stay informed with a battery-powered radio or your cell phone.
- ❑ Stay at least 10 feet away from both overhead power lines and electrical facilities, and never approach or touch overhead power lines or any person or object in contact with the lines.

Returning Home After a Fire

ALWAYS check with officials before attempting to return to your home after a wildfire. Once home, check for the following:

- ♦ Call 911 if any danger is perceived.
- ♦ Before inspecting your home, first check for the smell of gas. Turn off power until you've completed your inspection. Use a battery-powered flashlight to inspect a damaged home.
- ♦ Check the ground for hot spots, smoldering stumps and vegetation.
- ♦ Check the roof and exterior areas of your home for sparks or embers.
- ♦ Check for fire damage to your home, turn off all appliances, and make sure the meter is not damaged before turning on the main circuit breaker.
- ♦ Check your well or pump to ensure it is in working order.
- ♦ Do not drink or use water from the faucet until emergency officials say it is safe.
- ♦ Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke, or soot.
- ♦ Consult local experts on the best way to restore and plant your land with fire smart landscaping.

Be aware of the following dangers that exist in your area after a wildfire:

- ♦ Flash floods are a very real and potentially deadly hazard when rain occurs in heavily burned areas after a wildfire. Stay away from burned forests, storm channels, and natural drainages.
- ♦ Use extreme caution around trees, power poles and other tall objects or structures that may have lost stability during the fire.



Wildland Fire Preparedness Reference Material

Lake County Sheriff's Office: Sign Up for Emergency Notification and Incident Updates, follow Nixle Alerts and Social Updates. Visit their website: lakecountyca.gov/157/Sheriff

LakeCoAlerts: Register at lakecountyca.gov/869/LakeCoAlerts for critical information during emergencies, including evacuation orders and advisories, shelter-in-place orders and other incident information.

Know Your Zone: During an emergency, authorized evacuation updates will refer to the ZONE associated with your address. Visit protect.genasys.com to learn your specific evacuation zone.

Watch Duty: Get early warning alerts and stay up-to-date on fire activity in your area with the free Watch Duty app. Upload the app to your phone today at www.watchduty.org

CAL FIRE Resources: Visit readyforwildfire.org for the FirePLANNER tool, personalized Wildfire Action Plan tool, home hardening information and other resources.

Firewise USA: Click on nfpa.org for firewise-specific information and online reporting.

FIREWISE Communities: If you are interested in your neighborhood becoming a FIREWISE Community, contact the Konocti Fire Safe Council at konoctifiresafe.org

Konocti Fire Safe Council: The konoctifiresafe.org websites serves the Soda Bay Road corridor and nearby neighborhoods with area-specific information, evacuation, preparation and prevention information.

Lake County Fire Safe Council: Visit firesafelake.org for County-wide wildfire resources and project updates.

Fire Safe Marin: The firesafemarin.org website provides excellent videos on getting prepared, home hardening, fire safe landscaping and community programs.



The Konocti Fire Safe Council, a 501c(3) non-profit corporation established with the aim of enhancing wildfire resilience in Lake County's Soda Bay Road corridor, which is home to approximately 7,800 residents. The Council's dedicated efforts are concentrated on preparedness, mitigation, education, and evacuation across the eight evacuation zones within their service area. These objectives are achieved through resource development and collaborative efforts with other agencies, homeowner associations and the Firewise communities in the region.



For additional information and interactive forms that are fillable and printable, visit CAL FIRE's readyforwildfire.org website.

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Konocti Fire Safe Council

konoctifiresafe.org

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Evacuation Information for the Soda Bay Road Corridor

This booklet contains essential information specifically for the Soda Bay area, including:

- **Pre-evacuation planning**
- **Evacuation packing checklist**
- **How to prepare your home**
- **Family communications during a crisis**
- **When to use Temporary Refuge Areas**
- **List of helpful local websites**
- **Evacuation status levels, and much more**

Use these resources to prepare your property and create an evacuation plan that is tailored to your family's needs.



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