



# Feather Falls & Forbestown Ridge Wildland Fire & Evacuation Plan

*Details inside on  
these seven steps  
you can take now:*

- Get ready early.
- Preparing for embers.
- Evacuation advisories to be prepared for.
- An evacuation checklist.
- If a wildfire approaches...
- What if you become trapped?
- Your safety plan.



**There's only one way out!**  
***Are you prepared?***



**American  
Red Cross**

**Keep a copy of this plan in your car and home.**

# 1. Get ready early.

November to February is the best time to get ready—these are lower fire season risk months.

## Property Access

- Firefighters can find my house. My address is posted with reflective 3-inch numbers.
- A fire engine can drive to my house. The driveway and access roads are free of obstructions; at least 12 feet wide and with a 14-foot overhead clearance.
- A fire engine can turn around on my property/ street.

## Vegetation Around My Home—Defensible Space

- Dry grass, needles, leaves and brush are 10 feet away from structure(s).
- My property has a 30-foot zone of reduced fuel continuity.
- Firewood is stacked away from structure(s).
- Trees around structure(s) have been cleared of ladder fuels.
- Fuel is reduced at least 100 feet from structure(s).
- Tree limbs are at least 10 feet from chimney/ stovepipe.
- Dry grass and brush is cleared 10 feet around and under the propane tank(s).

# 2. Ember awareness checklist.

Used with permission of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension from its publication, *Be Ember Aware!* FS-09-05

1

### Wood Roof

Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire-resistant types such as composition, metal and tile.

2

### Roof Openings

Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.

3

### Roof Debris

Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof.

4

### Skylights

Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double-pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.

5

### Spark Arrester

Install an approved spark arrester on chimneys.

6

### Windows

Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multiple-pane, tempered-glass types. Close all windows if wildfire is threatening.

7

### Vents

Cover attic, eave and foundation vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh or install new vent types designed to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.

8

### Rain Gutters

Keep rain gutters free of plant debris during fire season. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.

9

### Siding

Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with a good quality caulk and replace poor condition building materials.

10

### Woodpiles

Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings.

11

### Patio Furniture

Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounges, tables and hammocks, inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.

12

### Deck Boards

Replace deck boards that are less than one inch thick or that are in poor condition with thicker, good condition boards. Use metal flashing between the deck and the house.

13

### Deck Debris

Remove plant debris from the gaps between deck boards, the gap between the deck and house, and lying on top of the deck.

14

### Porch and Deck Accessories

If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the porch and deck including newspapers, wicker baskets, door mats, pine cones and dried flower arrangements, and place BBQ propane tanks indoors.

15

### Under the Deck

Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials from under decks. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8-inch wire mesh to reduce maintenance and deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks.

16

### Flowerboxes

Remove wooden flowerboxes from beneath windows if wildfire is threatening.

17

### Eaves

Cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints or other intricate joint types and don't use butt joints.

18

### Flowerbeds

Replace wood mulches with noncombustible types and remove plant debris, including dried grass and flowers, dead leaves and dead branches from flowerbeds next to the house, other buildings and next to wooden fences. Replace ornamental junipers with low-growing deciduous shrubs or flowers under irrigation.

19

### Vehicles

Close vehicle windows. Back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house.

20

### Garage Door

Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight a fit as possible with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.

21

### Garbage Cans and Recycling Bins

Use garbage cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other buildings. Move newspaper recycling bins indoors.

22

### Wooden Fences

Maintain wooden fences in good condition and create a noncombustible fence section or gate next to the house for at least five feet.



This house was ignited by burning embers landing on vulnerable spots. Notice the adjacent forest is not burning.



### 3. Evacuation advisories to be prepared for:

**Immediate Evacuation Order:** Requires the immediate movement of people out of an affected area due to an imminent threat to life. Choosing to stay could result in loss of life. Staying may also impede the work of emergency personnel. Due to the changing nature of the emergency, this Immediate Evacuation Order may be the only warning that people in the affected area (s) receive.

**Evacuation Warning:** Alerts people in an affected area(s) of potential threat to life and property. People who need additional time should consider evacuating at this time. An Evacuation Warning considers the probability that an area will be affected and prepares people for a potential Immediate Evacuation Order.

**Shelter in Place:** Advises people to stay secure at their current location by remaining in place as evacuation will cause a higher potential for loss of life.

**Rescue:** Emergency actions taken within the affected area to recover and help injured or trapped citizens leave the area. Entry into this area is restricted to rescue workers only.

#### Lifting of Evacuation Advisories

Evacuation advisories may stay in effect for several days. After the threat is mitigated, access will be limited to residents with identification.

#### Traffic Closures

Level 1: Open to emergency responders, critical responders (e.g. public works, PG&E, animal rescue) and residents only. Level 2: Closed to all traffic except emergency responders and critical resources. Level 3: Closed to all traffic except emergency responders. Level 4: Closed to all traffic due to potential hazard to life.



### 4. Evacuation checklist. What will you take?

<b>EVACUATION ORDER</b> <i>5 minutes to evacuate</i>	<b>EVACUATION ORDER</b> <i>15–30 minutes to evacuate</i>	<b>EVACUATION WARNING</b> <i>2+ hours to evacuate</i>	<b>PRE-FIRE SEASON ANNUAL PREPARATION</b> <i>November to May</i>
Purse, credit cards, check-book, cash. Keys: vehicle, RV, boat, safe deposit.	Photo albums. Family videos and loose photos.	Clean up little things which are flammable on deck (leaves, twigs).	List items to be removed during evacuation, including precautionary and immediate threat instances.
Pets, pet crates, pet leashes, pet food.	Items from safe. Passports & insurance paperwork.	Irreplaceable arts & crafts, including family quilts and heirlooms.	Make copies of important papers for storage in firesafe box/safe deposit box.
Medication and prescriptions.	Computer files on CDs.	Computers.	Create financial binder.
Glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids.	Digital camera with extra batteries and charger.	Recipes, recipe book, family recipes.	Take photos of each room for insurance purposes.
Cell phones, PDAs, chargers.	Important papers: financial binder, birth certificate, social security card, vehicle registration, insurance policies.	Hook up boat or trailer. Move extra vehicles to firesafe areas (church parking lot).	Store CDs and electronic media at a non-home location.
Multiple days of clothing, including sturdy walking shoes or boots.	Remove flammable materials from deck/porch. Includes mats, plastic furniture, flags, shade items.	High priority hobby items (sewing machine, quilting tools, paints, drawing supplies, musical instruments).	Develop a virtual meeting place where all family members can make contact in an emergency.
Planning calendar, phone/address/Christmas lists, bills, payment coupons.	High-value items such as jewelry, priceless antiques.	High priority memorabilia.	Create defensible space.
Laptop computer.		Tools.	Check building for places where embers or heat will threaten your home.

**5. If a wildfire approaches, take these steps:**

- Locate your Evacuation Checklist and place the items in your vehicle.
- Park your vehicle facing outward; carry your vehicle keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the outside of the house.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover up. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, a cap and have a dry bandanna for a face cover or use goggles or glasses. Clothing which is 100% cotton is best.
- Leave lights on in the house. Unlock the doors.
- Leave windows closed, but not locked; turn air conditioning off.

**6. If you become trapped by a quickly-approaching wildfire:**

**While in a Vehicle:**

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with a wool blanket or jacket.
- Lie on the vehicle's floor.
- Alert officials by calling 911 from your cell phone.

**While on Foot:**

- Stay calm.
- Got to an area clear of vegetation; if possible, a ditch or depression.
- Lie face down; cover up.
- Alert officials by calling 911 from your cell phone.

**While in Your Home:**

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



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**Feather Falls/Forbestown Fire Safe Councils**  
*A partner of Butte County Fire Safe Council*  
767 Birch Street  
Paradise, CA 95969

\*\*\*\*\* ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
Residential Customer

**7. Our household safety plan**  
*(complete before a wildfire emergency):*

- Our address \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- In the event of a wildfire evacuation, we will meet at \_\_\_\_\_
  - Animals: North Valley Animals Disaster Group  
Hotline: 530/895-0000. During a wildfire, we'll take our animals to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Local contact (neighbor/relative): In the event that roads are closed, our local contact to care for children and pets is (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_
  - Out of area contact/phone \_\_\_\_\_
  - School phone \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other important contacts \_\_\_\_\_
  - We know these neighbors who may need help (elderly or disabled) \_\_\_\_\_