



Lessons Learned: Life Safety and Evacuation

During intense wildfire activity in late-2017, our Wildfire Protection Unit® witnessed the devastation firsthand while working tirelessly to protect our policyholders. They also came away from the experience with many tips and recommendations on what you can do to enhance your home's resiliency, and most importantly, keep your family safe.

As part of our Lessons Learned series, the following points relate to life safety and evacuation:

- Heed evacuation warnings immediately. It may seem like you have time, but conditions can change in an instant making evacuation more difficult. In addition, leaving when ordered clears the roads so firefighters can get necessary equipment in place to fight the fire.
- Devise a detailed plan of action for when an evacuation is ordered. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - A list of essential items that need to be taken with you.
 - Crucial supplies to carry you through should you be away from home for an extended period of time.
 - "Go-bags" for all family members with essential supplies packed in advance.
 - Documentation of a designated meeting place for family members.
 - Maps of two evacuation routes in case one of the routes is blocked.
- Review your evacuation plan regularly and make updates as needed.



FROM THE FRONT LINE

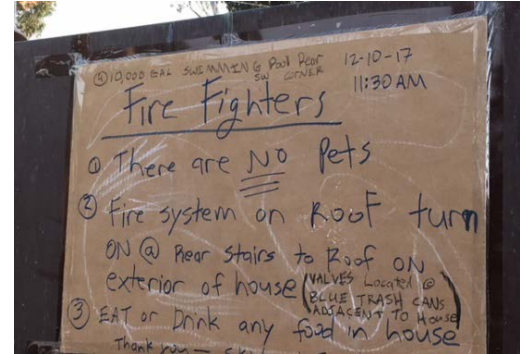
"After talking with people during and after the fire, one common theme emerged: many of those in the affected areas were not prepared to leave their homes. They had no idea that they would have to move so quickly—some only had minutes to leave. This doesn't allow for any time to think about what important things to take with you, what essentials need to be packed for survival or what route is the best to take to get out of danger. If I could stress one thing it would be get organized ahead of time so when it comes down to it, you are ready to leave at a moment's notice."

- James Rappuhn, Wildfire Protection Unit Director



WILDFIRE PROTECTION UNIT

- When evacuating, prepare yourself for exposure to heat and embers. Wear 100% cotton long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, heavy boots or shoes, a dry bandanna for face cover and goggles or glasses to protect your eyes.
- Locate your pets and take them with you as well as a supply of extra food and water.
- To stay up-to-date on the latest conditions, consider installing an app on your mobile device that provides notifications when wildfires, flooding, etc. are in your area.
- If time permits, consider posting a message to firefighters in a visible location near the entrance to your property (see photo at right). This note could include helpful information such as when you evacuated, if there are animals on the property, access points to the home, suppression system or hydrant locations, etc.
- Do not attempt to put out flames on your own or ask your private staff members to do so. Our first and foremost concern is your safety, and it is extremely dangerous to try to extinguish wildfires without the proper equipment and expertise. Please leave this task to the professionals.



For additional resources on evacuating safely, please view the resources below:

- [Evacuating yourself and your family](#)
- [Tips for a safe evacuation](#)

To learn more about preparation for wildfires, visit www.firewise.org or view the other topics in our **Lessons Learned** series:

- [Smart Landscaping](#)
- [Home Design](#)
- [General Property Maintenance](#)

If you would like more information about our Wildfire Protection Unit, please contact your independent insurance advisor or visit www.aig.com/pcg to enroll.



AIG is the marketing name for the worldwide property-casualty, life and retirement, and general insurance operations of American International Group, Inc. For additional information, please visit our website at www.aig.com. Products and services are written or provided by subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. Not all products and services are available in every jurisdiction, and insurance coverage is governed by actual policy language. Certain products and services may be provided by independent third parties. Insurance products may be distributed through affiliated or unaffiliated entities. Certain property-casualty coverages may be provided by a surplus lines insurer. Surplus lines insurers do not generally participate in state guaranty funds and insureds are therefore not protected by such funds.