

# EL CERRITO & KENSINGTON RESIDENTS GUIDE

to

# WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS & EVACUATION

HOW TO  
GET READY  
STAY INFORMED  
EVACUATE  
RECOVER



## Message from the Chiefs

In the last five years, California has experienced an increase in the destruction caused by wildfires. In particular, the most destructive fires have struck in communities with a wildland-urban interface area. The risks of wildfires to our communities appears to be on the rise. It is time for us all to act to protect our communities.

The information in this booklet is designed to help you protect your family, home and neighborhoods as we approach wildland fire season. If we act now, we will all be better prepared to respond when the conditions are right for a catastrophic fire.

Please review the information in this packet and commit to improving your ability to withstand a wildfire. If you have not already done so, take a moment to register your cell phone with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System. It may very well save your life in an emergency. Talk to your neighbors and encourage them to do the same.

Your police and fire departments are committed to keeping our community safe. You can help by preparing your family, home and neighborhood for the fire seasons ahead.

**Chief Paul Keith**, El Cerrito Police Department

**Chief Michael Pigoni**, El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department

**Chief Rickey Hull**, Kensington Police Department

## Message from CERT

Thank you for preparing yourself, your family and property for the threats we face in our community.

CERT is a volunteer organization with training provided by the El Cerrito Fire Department. We are busy people with lives and families, who invest in our community's resilience through training and organization.

Whether it is being prepared to evacuate efficiently or sheltering in place, your safety and that of those around you could depend on the preparation you do now.

Regardless of the type of emergency, in a major disaster first responders will initially be overwhelmed. In those situations you are the help until help arrives. Will you and your neighbors be prepared?

Learn more about CERT and register for upcoming training: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/CERT>

El Cerrito CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Program your cell with your city's dispatch number, El Cerrito (510) 237-3233, Kensington (510) 525-7573 and fire dispatch number (925) 941-3330. Don't rely on 911 from a cell phone.

**All web pages listed in this document (and many more) can be found at [www.el-cerrito.org/wildfirepreparedness](http://www.el-cerrito.org/wildfirepreparedness)**

# Warnings

A fast-moving wildland fire that occurs late in the fire season and is pushed by high winds presents a unique threat to our communities. The information included here is intended to provide El Cerrito and Kensington residents with an overview of the steps that should be taken to prepare for an evacuation if one becomes necessary. The best plans are always practiced and reviewed. Residents should use this information to create and practice their individual and family evacuation plans.

## SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

It is important to know what is going on around you. During wildfire season, this means paying attention to information from public safety agencies and being on the alert for changing weather conditions.

## PRE-EVACUATION WARNINGS

Law enforcement agencies managing an evacuation may issue a “pre-evacuation warning.” These warnings mean that the need to evacuate is highly likely. Residents should prepare to evacuate with little or no notice. Individuals that may need additional time to leave when an evacuation order is initiated should consider evacuating when the pre-evacuation warning is issued.



## EVACUATION ORDER

An evacuation order is a mandatory order by law enforcement to leave the area and provides for restricting access under California Penal Code, section 409.5. Law enforcement coordinates all evacuation actions with the fire service. The police will maintain the security of the evacuated area and will facilitate the re-entry and repopulation of residents as soon as it is deemed safe for people to return.

## FIRE WEATHER WATCH

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when fire weather conditions could exist in the next 12-72 hours. This type of alert is issued when fire danger is high. During a Fire Weather Watch climate pattern, areas may encounter low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of lightning strikes, or a combination of these factors.

## RED FLAG WARNING

A Red Flag Warning is issued for weather events that may result in extreme fire behavior which will occur within 24 hours. A Red Flag Warning is the highest alert. During these times all residents must use extreme caution because a simple spark could cause a major wildfire.

Many fire stations fly a red flag in front of the station on Red Flag Warning days. If there is a Red Flag Warning, pay close attention to your surroundings. Consider having your car loaded with necessities in the event of an evacuation. Make sure that your vehicle has a full tank of gas and is ready to go.

**Individuals with access and functional needs and the disabled** need to arrange beforehand for not one, but several “guardian angels” to help get them out should evacuation become necessary. It is important for everyone to know their neighbors and their emergency needs.

To see the daily fire weather forecasts and any Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings, go to: [www.weather.gov/fire](http://www.weather.gov/fire).

# Diablo Winds

WARNINGS

Diablo Winds are offshore winds that flow north-easterly over Northern California's Coastal Ranges, often creating extreme fire danger for the San Francisco Bay Area. The Diablo Winds are similar to the Santa Ana Winds in Southern California and bring warm dry air and low humidity to our region.

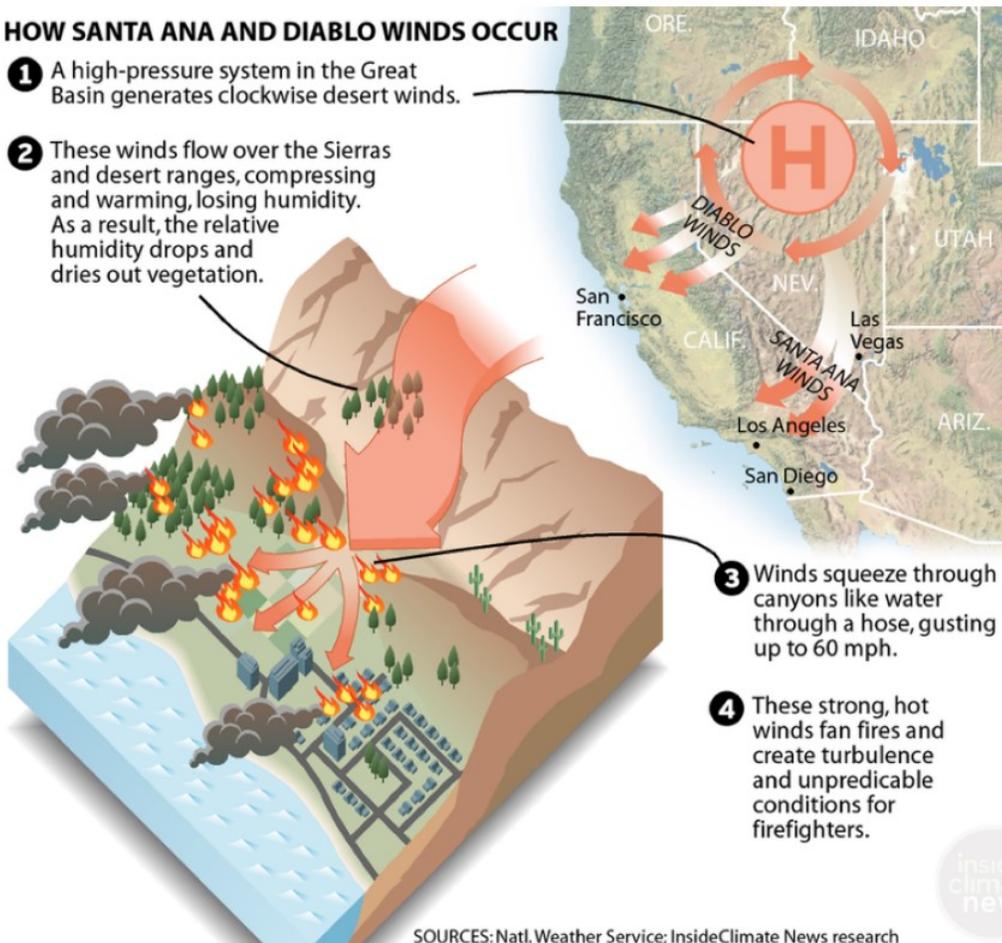
Many of California's most destructive fires, including the recent Wine Country Fires and the 1991 Tunnel Fire in Oakland, were driven by these extreme winds.

*These winds do not occur often, but when they do its time to prepare your "Go-Bag" and be ready to leave at a moment's notice!*



## HOW SANTA ANA AND DIABLO WINDS OCCUR

- 1 A high-pressure system in the Great Basin generates clockwise desert winds.
- 2 These winds flow over the Sierras and desert ranges, compressing and warming, losing humidity. As a result, the relative humidity drops and dries out vegetation.



SOURCES: Natl. Weather Service; InsideClimate News research

# Notifications

## DO THIS NOW!

### Increase Your Chances of Being Notified in an Emergency

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services maintains our **Community Warning System (CWS)**. CWS is generally used only for life-threatening incidents. The CWS can call every traditional landline in the county in just a few seconds. It can also call VoIP phones (Voice over Internet, such as Comcast, Vonage, Magic Jack, or others that rely on the internet) and cell phones, but **ONLY** if they are registered with the system. If you have a cell or VoIP phone, *you **must** register with the Community Warning System* for them to be able to alert you. Your information will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purposes. To register Cell phones, VoIP phones or to subscribe to text messages and emails go to: <http://cococws.com/>.

NOTIFICATIONS

The Community Warning System can also send messages via **NOAA Weather Alert Radios**. The radio needs to be equipped with "Specific Area Message Encoding" (S.A.M.E.) technology. Once the radio is set for our county, it will sound an alarm when activated by CWS. The alarm is quite loud so put the radio in a location where it will wake you if the emergency occurs during sleeping hours.

### Increase your **Situational Awareness** by subscribing to these other services:

**Nixle** — The El Cerrito Police Department and Kensington Police Department each host a Nixle site that is routinely used to transmit public safety messages to area residents. Nixle might be the first method first responders use to notify residents of a small fire near their community. Find out more information at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) or sign up by texting your area code to 888777.

**Pulse Point** — Pulse Point is a free application that runs on your smart device (either IOS or Android). The application can be set up to follow your local fire service / first responders and will alert you when they are dispatched. The application also has the ability to monitor radio traffic and provide first-hand information from the emergency scene.

Evacuation Messages can be delivered in many ways including CWS, Nixle, radio and television. **If you feel that you are in danger, you should never wait for an "official" evacuation order.** Leaving early can reduce the possibility of being stuck in a traffic jam or not being able to get out of the area.

# El Cerrito/Kensington C.E.R.T



Help fund emergency preparedness in your area!

Simply point your phone's camera at the QR graphic below,  
then follow the link



Or in your browser: <https://qrco.de/bbB6G3>

Our online tool can help you:  
Sign up for CWS (County Warning System) Notifications  
Get involved in organizing your own neighborhood  
Get Information About Earthquake and Wildfire  
Preparation & Training

# Evacuation Tips

You live in an area where an evacuation may be necessary due to wildfire, earthquake or other threat. Here are some tips to make your evacuation go more smoothly:

## DO NOW: Go-Bag

1. Have a Go-Bag for each member of the household stored near your vehicle with at least:
  - A. Sturdy, closed toe shoes
  - B. Socks and underwear (2 pair each)
  - C. Long pants
  - D. Long sleeve shirt
  - E. Jacket & Hat
  - F. N95 Masks (4-8)
  - G. Flashlight
  - H. Toiletry kit including medications for a week
  - I. Spare eyeglasses and sunglasses
2. Keep your electronics (cell phone, tablet, laptop with chargers) plugged in but all together and ready to grab and go.

## DO NOW: Documents

1. Store in the cloud and/or have a memory stick or CD in your Go-Bags with .jpg or .pdf of the following:



- A. House documents including title, mortgage papers, insurance policies
- B. Personal ID including driver's license, passport, social security, DD 214
- C. Health documents including insurance policy, medical record, medicare card, name and phone number of primary care physician, name and phone number of pharmacy, list of current medications with dosages, list of allergies and existing conditions
- D. Keepsake photos
- E. Photo or video record of each room in the house showing all valuable items

- F. List of all valuable items including purchase date, cost, model and serial numbers

2. See the Document Worksheet for documents that are needed to rebuild your life if your house is gone.

## DO NOW: Preparedness Actions

1. Register your cell or VoIP phone(s) with your county's Community Warning System.
2. Register your cell with your local Nixle. To opt-in for Nixle, text your zip code to 888777.
3. Set Nixle and CWS as Do Not Disturb available contacts on your cell phone.
4. Have a battery operated radio, flashlight, pocket knife, shoes, socks, underwear, long pants, long sleeve shirt in a bag tied to the head of your bed. (In an earthquake you'll be able to find it.) This is part of your Go-Bag.
5. Learn how to open your garage door when the power is out. If you are unable to pull the cord and open it now, you will not be able to do it in an emergency.
6. Install an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for your cable modem and your portable phone base station to keep your home network and phones available when power is out.



# Evacuation Tips

## DO NOW: Access and Functional Needs (AFN) individuals



1. AFN persons include anyone with mobility, developmental, cognitive, hearing or language issues. Frequently older but may be of any age.
2. Take special precautions so that AFN persons will know about evacuation orders at any time of day or night, even if power fails.
3. Pre-determine who will help any AFN person evacuate and have a backup. Family, friends and neighbors who live *very close by*!
4. Prepare to take durable medical goods, oxygen and any other special needs.
5. If you are the AFN individual, be proactive and find redundant, responsible people to evacuate you.
6. Do not rely on first responders to evacuate you. They may be overwhelmed.

## DO NOW: Communications

1. Predesignate an **Out-of-State Contact (OoSC)** and program the contact's cell number into each family member's cell phone.
2. The Out-of-State-Contact (OoSC) will be the clearinghouse for your family's calls. This prevents too many calls into and out of the local area.
3. My **Out of State Contact** is:



## DO NOW: Neighborhood

1. Know who in your neighborhood will need help to evacuate.
2. Know your neighbors and their schedules, including vacation plans.
3. Redundantly coordinate responsibilities for children, AFN individuals and animals.
4. Select a Neighborhood Block Captain to organize the neighborhood and get every neighbor onboard with a plan for checking on everyone's safety.

## DO NOW: Animals

Have pet food in a Pet Go-Bag with leashes, poop-bags, water dish, medications, etc.

Keep your dogs and other animals confined indoors if there is smoke outside.

Have kennels for your dogs in case they have to go to a shelter.

Keep a collar on cats and keep them confined to a single room so you can get them easily. Keep a kennel for cats in the same room.

Make sure all of your animals are microchipped.

Have photos on your cellphone with your animals and you together to prove ownership.

For larger animals, have a pre-designated place for them out of the area and a way of transporting them. Contact your local horsemen's association, etc.

If you must leave and you don't have all of your animals controlled, leave gates and a downwind window open. Animals will frequently escape and survive.

Try to take your pets with you but don't become a fatality while trying to save your animals.



# Evacuation Tips

## DO AT RED FLAG WARNING: Vehicle



1. **Take only a single vehicle to help reduce traffic jams!**
2. Make sure that you have at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  full tank of fuel.
3. Park your vehicle:
  - A. In a driveway facing the street, not in a garage. If you have a driveway gate, leave it open. *OR*
  - B. On the street in the direction of departure.
4. Keep vehicle keys in your pocket.
5. Keep plenty of drinking water in your vehicle.
6. Load time-sensitive medications into vehicle. Unopened insulin can be stored at room temperature for up to 28 days.
7. Keep an emergency kit and a first aid kit in your vehicle.
8. Pre-load your vehicle with Go-Bags, keepsake items and small toys for your children.
9. Plan to evacuate before mandatory order is issued.

## DO WHEN FIRE IS NEAR:



### Actions

1. If you feel you are in danger, consider evacuating early, before the Mandatory Evacuation Order is given. Traffic will be lighter and you can get out safely.
2. Evacuating early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion, and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire they may not have time to knock on every door.
3. ***If there is any possibility that the fire might reach you, consider sleeping in shifts so that one responsible person is awake at all times to monitor fire status.***

4. If smoke is heavy, wear an **N95 mask** and use the air conditioner if you can set it to recirculate fan only. Do not open windows.
5. Turn off any propane tanks and move any stored fuel (lawnmower gas, etc.), propane tanks and other flammable items away from your house including furniture, etc.
6. Place ladder to the roof near driveway to aid firefighters.
7. Fully open or remove thin, flammable drapes.
8. Close heavy drapes.
9. Cover up your body by putting on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and a baseball cap or bandana to cover your face. Do not wear polyester or nylon, they will melt in high temperatures. Try to wear 100% cotton or wool.
10. Do not pre-wet any clothing to avoid steam burns.

## DO AT TIME OF EVACUATION:

### Communicate

## Text. Don't Call.

1. Use **TEXT** messages with no photos and no voice phone calls.
2. Send a text message to your Out-of-State-Contact (OoSC) when evacuating, indicating destination.
3. Send another text message to your OoSC when arriving at destination.
4. Register on the Red Cross "Safe and Well" website (see page 8).
5. Report any missing family members to county sheriff's office.
6. Report any found persons who were previously reported missing.
7. Keep your OoSC up to date on status of all family members.

# Evacuation Tips

## DO AT TIME OF

### EVACUATION: Actions

1. Leave outside lights on for first responders.
2. Close and lock all doors, windows and vents. This will prevent drafts and could help save your house.
3. Turn off main gas line.
3. Leave any driveway gates open.
4. Drive safely and cautiously out of the area.
5. Drive with headlights on even during daytime.
6. Be alert for downed power lines and emergency personnel.
7. Never touch a downed wire. Consider all down lines as live high-voltage lines.
8. If you can go directly out of the area to a safe shelter area, do so, then register on the Safe and Well website.



## IF YOU GET TRAPPED AND ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE:

1. Shelter - In - Place. See <https://www.ready.gov/shelter> for more information.
2. Keep your family together.
3. Stay inside your home and keep all doors and windows closed, but keep them unlocked.
4. Leave inside and outside lights on.
5. Fill sinks and tubs with water.
6. Put a large “HELP” sign in a front window.
7. Keep calm. Remember that if it gets hot inside, it is four to five times hotter outside.

**All residents who are out of town during an evacuation period are asked to register, as soon as possible, on the Red Cross “Safe and Well” website:**

[www.safeandwell.org](http://www.safeandwell.org)

By registering on the Safe and Well website, you are telling people that you are OK. Family and friends will not worry about you and Sheriff’s deputies will not spend valuable hours searching for you.

### DURING EVACUATION:

1. If you are trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor. If you have a windshield and/or rear window shade, deploy it to minimize the heat transfer through the windshield or rear window.
2. If you are trapped while evacuating by foot, your first place of refuge should be a defensible building or swimming pool. If you cannot reach a structure, select an area clear of vegetation. Do not seek refuge in low-lying areas such as drainage ditches as many times these geographic features will act as a “chimney” and will burn much hotter than other areas.
3. If you cannot get out of the area, go to the Temporary Refuge Area (TRA) in your area. If one has not been planned, spontaneously find a large area with few trees and shelter in the center of an open area, such as a school playfield or golf course.

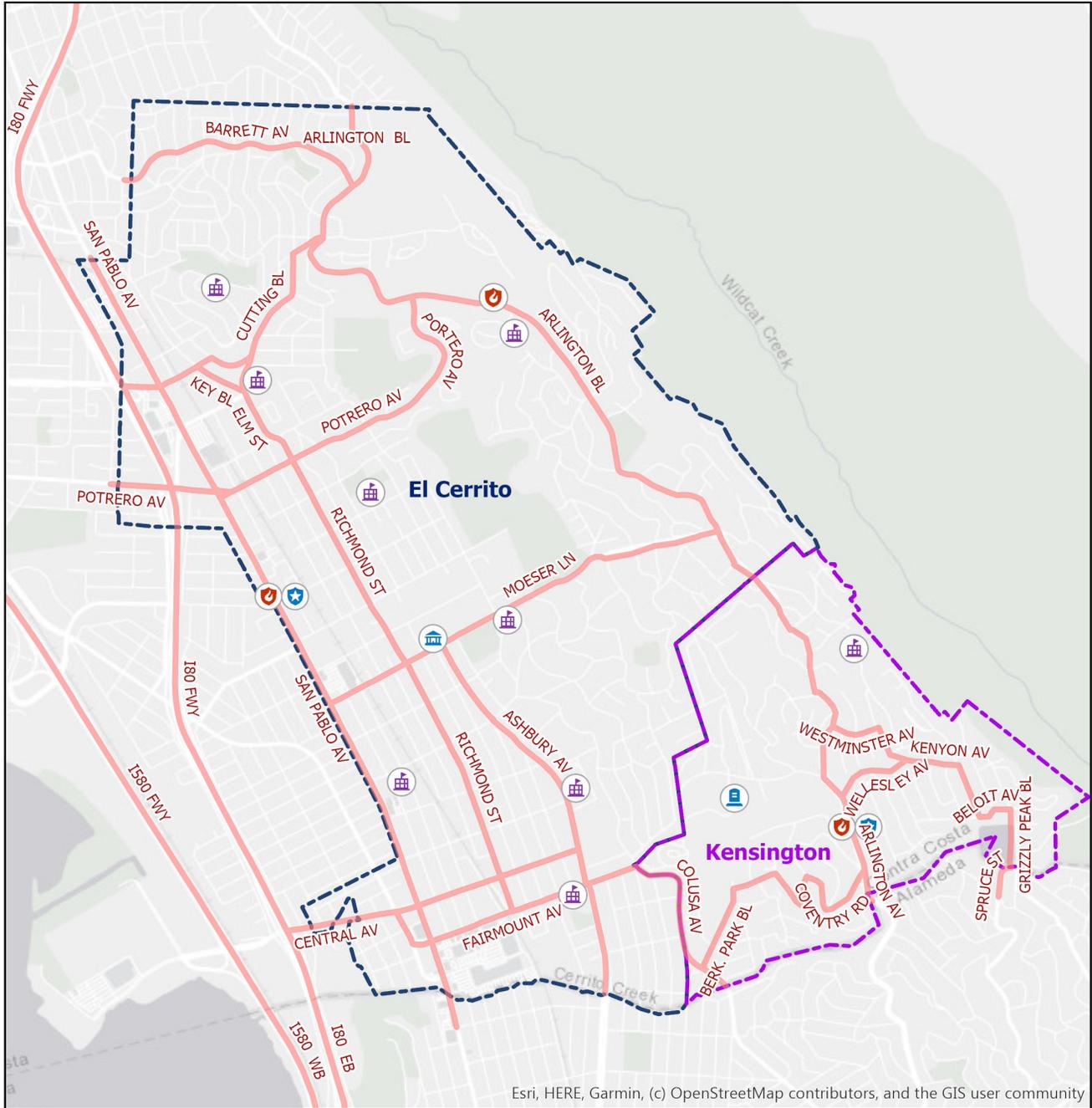
For information about current fires, **do NOT call 911.**

Refer to [www.fire.ca.gov/incidents](http://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents) for current fire status.

The City of El Cerrito and Kensington Emergency Access and Evacuation Network was developed by Public Works and Public Safety officials from El Cerrito and Kensington to show suggested evacuation routes out of both communities. The evacuation map includes primary routes, schools, community centers and police/fire stations. The map does not include all city streets. These routes could be used for any type of evacuation, but are to be predominantly used for wildfire evacuations.



# Emergency Access and Evacuation Network



**EVACUATION MAP**

- Emergency Access & Evacuation Routes
- El Cerrito City Limits
- Kensington Jurisdiction
- School
- Community Center
- Police Station
- Fire Station
- Police / Fire
- Cemetery



This map is for reference purposes only.  
Updated: 7/12/2019



# Disaster Recovery Document Worksheet

Type	Document	Issuer	Issue Date	Exp Date
Housing	Title Lease Rental Agreement			
	Mortgage			
	Insurance - Homeowners or Renters			
	Insurance - Earthquake			
	Insurance - Flood			
Personal ID	Birth Certificate			
	Passport			
	Driver's License, State ID			
	Green Card			
	Social Security			
	Military DD-214			
	Will & Trust			
Health	Insurance Policy			
	Medical Record			
	Medicare ID			
Auto	Insurance			
	Vehicle #1 Title or Loan			
	Vehicle #2 Title or Loan			
	Vehicle #3 Title or Loan			
Other				

DOCUMENTS



# Preparedness

## **Prepare your home to resist wildfires and other disasters!**

Be ready for wildfire. Create defensible space around your home. If a fire can not reach your home, your home is more likely to survive. If your home's exterior has small mesh vents, fire resistant roofing and siding, it is more likely to survive. If it is seismically retrofitted to current standards, it is more likely to withstand an earthquake. If you live on a hillside and have adequate retaining walls, it is more likely to withstand earth movement. If you have old trees or too many trees that are too close to your house, remove them and replace them with more fire-resistant varieties. Ask your fire department or local plant nursery for a list of suitable fire resistant varieties for the bay area. Find more information on fire prevention, including vegetation management and fire hazard reduction at [www.el-cerrito.org/fireprevention](http://www.el-cerrito.org/fireprevention).

## **Make certain your valuable property and investments are properly insured!**

Consider your insurance needs. Do your home and renters policies cover losses from fires and other disasters? Do you have adequate coverage for other property, such as automobiles, boats, recreational vehicles, and valuable personal property. Does your policy adequately cover the expected cost to rebuild your home? Consult with your insurance agent and check the details of each insurance policy to identify your covered risks. Most homeowner's policies cover fire but do not cover floods or earthquakes. Check your policy for the difference between water damage and flood damage.

Make certain that you are covered in the event that your home is destroyed. Insurance policies will often have provisions for temporary housing. Following a major fire, many local builders may be busy and building materials may be scarce. Housing availability may also be scarce. Make sure to take this into consideration when reviewing your policies. Another factor to consider is the age of your home. Many policies will not cover bringing the home up to modern building codes when repairing the structure. Review your policy to determine whether or not you have selected code compliance as an option.

Your home holds many items of property that may need to be replaced in the event of a fire. Check the coverage of your homeowner's or renter's policy to find out the limits of coverage and what you must do to prove that you had the items. A video tour of your home, inside and out, with narration is a great tool for proving ownership. Be sure to describe what you are photographing including where it came from, when you got it and the value. If the values are high, get an appraiser to provide an appraisal and keep a digital copy with your other documents and your video. Make sure that all policies for your personal property include all-risk coverage so you are covered for theft, fire, earthquake, flood, etc.

# Reducing your Home's Wildfire Risk

## HOME:

1. Use metal vent screens with 1/8" mesh.
2. Keep wooden fencing and patio decks away from the house. Leave a gap or install flashing so fire will not spread from fencing or decks to the house.
3. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned by professionals. A recommendation is to have your fireplace and chimney cleaned every two years if it used often.
4. MAKE SURE THERE ARE WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS IN YOUR HOME.
5. Have fire extinguishers and know how to use them.
6. Sweep your walkways, patios and decks regularly to remove leaves, needles and other combustible materials that may gather against your house.
7. Remove vegetative debris (leaves, pine needles, twigs) from your gutters and roof.
8. Remove combustible materials from under your deck.
9. Caulk any openings along the top or bottom of wall siding or around windows where gaps could allow embers to enter your home.
10. Store your deck furniture, children's toys and other combustible items inside if a wildfire threatens.

## GARDEN:

1. Remove woody, fire prone vegetation, especially within the 0-5 foot "no fire" zone around your structure. Ivy, juniper, rosemary and other mature plants tend to have new growth on top of woody stems. Replace with stone mulch and drought tolerant plants that are easy to maintain at 6" high or less.
2. While there are no "fire-proof" plants, choose drought tolerant native plants that are low to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
3. Choose fire retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe. Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.
4. Group plants by water needs. Create "islands" of plants with space in between.
5. Replace bare, weedy or unsightly patches near your home with ground cover, rock gardens, vegetable gardens and fire resistant mulches.
6. Mulch can help retain water, but be careful about the type of mulch. Mulch can be a fire hazard when it dries out. Rake it back by at least a foot from the side of your house and from combustible fencing. Consider using non-combustible mulch such as stones or gravel.
7. Remove fallen pine needles and leaves near structures to avoid fire embers igniting them. Do not allow leaves or mulch to exceed a depth of 3 inches within 30 feet of your house.
8. Create a separation between trees and shrubs – at least 10 feet on flat ground, greater on steep slope – to eliminate a "ladder" of fuels that can spread flames to tree crowns or structures.
9. Move flammable material such as stacked wood at least 30 feet from your home or other structure.
10. For both drought and wildfire prevention, remember that less is better and easier to maintain.

## WEED ABATEMENT:

1. Properties need to be maintained throughout the year. You may need to provide additional abatement throughout the season.
2. Cut as soon as practical, once annual grasses have died and turned brown (typically May or early June). Mow before 10:00 a.m. with wind speed < 5 MPH.
3. Never mow during Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings.

# HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE



## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### 1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

### 2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

## FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

### 3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

### 4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

### 5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

### 6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

## BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay – don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

**TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.**



**FIREWISE USA™**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

**VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS**

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Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)

**Keep this booklet near a front window, visible from the street.**

**Place this sign in the window if you cannot evacuate.**

**HELP**

El Cerrito Police Department  
10900 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

**CWS SAVES LIVES – register your cell phones and VoIP phones **NOW****

 **Here are the ways you can register!** 

Sign up online at: [WWW.COCOCWS.US](http://WWW.COCOCWS.US)

Email: [cws-staff@so.cccounty.us](mailto:cws-staff@so.cccounty.us)

Call: 925-313-9622

Follow CWS:

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Scan the QR code 

