


# Household Fire Weather Planning Tool

This Berkeley Ready **Household Fire Weather Planning Tool** will help residents make important decisions about how your household will stay safe during fire weather.

Print this out and complete the plan with all members of your household. Keep it ready for when fire weather is announced.


**My Household's Evacuation Zone is: BER-E\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Planning Tip:** Visit Zonehaven, Berkeley's evacuation management system, (<https://community.zonehaven.com>) to learn your evacuation zone before an evacuation is ordered. Memorize your zone, post it on your refrigerator, and write it in the box above. During a fire, you can check Zonehaven to get real-time information on your zone's evacuation status.

## My household is ready to receive emergency information.

All members of my household:

- Are signed up for AC Alert ([www.ACAAlert.org](http://www.ACAAlert.org))
- Have downloaded the Everbridge App and signed in to AC Alert
- Have memorized our Evacuation Zone (<https://community.zonehaven.com>)

 **Planning Tip:** AC Alert is Berkeley's primary emergency alerting system. Sign up for AC Alert before a fire to make sure you get messages. Officials will use it to send alerts about fire weather and evacuations. If you have a smartphone, download the Everbridge App (available for Android and iPhone) and sign into your AC Alert account.

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## My household will leave...

<i>Before a Fire</i>	<i>After a Fire Starts</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Flag Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Fire Weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation warning for our zone <input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation order for our zone

### **Planning Tips:**

- The Berkeley Fire Department recommends that residents in Fire Zones 2 and 3 (the Berkeley Hills) leave during extreme fire weather, before a fire starts. A fire that starts during extreme fire weather will spread quickly and be difficult to fight. See <https://cityofberkeley.info/Wildfire> to learn about fire weather in Berkeley.
- You may choose to stay until you receive an evacuation warning or order for your zone. You should leave immediately if you experience any of the following:
  - Fire in a home adjacent to yours, or
  - Fire in a home close to yours and the wind is strong, or
  - Strong winds are carrying smoke or embers through or over your neighborhood, or
  - You feel threatened.


## When we leave, we will stay at...

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone numbers:** (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ / (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

**Evacuation Zone for this location:** \_\_\_\_\_

 **Planning Tip:** Plan now for places you can stay outside the Berkeley Hills during fire weather and/or fire evacuation. Your options might include friends, family, or a hotel.

If there is a fire evacuation and residents are required to stay away from their homes for a long period, the City will work with the Red Cross to designate shelters for evacuees and their pets who have nowhere else to go. These shelters will be group living situations to meet basic needs. You will sleep on a cot, sharing a large space (ex: a basketball court or community room) with many other evacuees. Your pet will be in a kennel. If you can make your own plans now, you will likely be more comfortable.

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## Getting Help to Pack and Leave

Think about your household and choose one:


- No one in the household will need help to pack and leave, **OR**
- One or more people in the household will need help to pack and leave, so:
  - Before a fire starts, we will get help from \_\_\_\_\_ to pack and leave. Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_
  - In an emergency evacuation, I will get help from my neighbor, \_\_\_\_\_, to pack and leave. Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

### **Planning Tips:**

- Answer the following questions:
  - When you need to leave your home, what kinds of help will you need? (Navigating stairs? Lifting heavy items? Gathering your pets?)
  - Can everyone in your household pack and leave on their own?
  - In an emergency, normal helpers might not be available. Neighbors and people who live close by are the best option. Who is around to help you in emergencies?
- Involve your friends, family, and neighbors in planning now – don't wait for an emergency to ask for help.

## How we will get there

<b><i>Leaving Before a Fire</i></b>	<b><i>Leaving After a Fire Starts</i></b>
<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take the Bus</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use Paratransit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take Uber/Lyft/Taxi</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ride bike</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle* Carpool with: _____ Phone: _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bike*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Walk</li> </ul> <p>*We will be <u>always</u> be ready to walk.</p>

 **Planning Tip:** You will have more choices the earlier you leave. If you choose to leave after a fire starts, you must always be ready to walk in case you encounter a traffic jam, get a flat tire, or the roadway is blocked.

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## Our path of travel

### *Leaving Before a Fire*

Any route we choose

### *Leaving After a Fire Starts*

- We have chosen routes out of the hills:
  - 2+ driving
  - 2+ walking
- We have highlighted routes on a map and placed them in our go-bag.

### **Planning Tips:**

- If you leave after a fire starts, you should plan multiple routes away from your home in multiple directions. Plan at least 2 routes for driving and another 2 for walking.
  - For walking routes, include Berkeley Path Wanderers paths. These paths often offer the most direct path out of the hills.
  - Highlight your evacuation routes on a map, and practice them.
- During a fire evacuation, if possible, law enforcement personnel will provide fire evacuees with evacuation directions. If you do not receive directions, use main roads to connect to major streets or freeways. Once clear of the fire area, go to a friend or family's home or to a hotel. If these are not options for you, drive to a parking lot out of the hazard area and await additional information and instructions.

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## What we will pack

### *Leaving Before a Fire*

- Items to be safe and comfortable while you are away
- Medications, prescriptions, and medical devices
- Computers, electronics & chargers
- Irreplaceable items (family treasures, art, photo albums)
- Other Valuables

### *Leaving After a Fire Starts*

Go-bag (backpack) with basic items:

- Flashlight/headlamp
- Area map, marked with driving/walking evacuation routes
- printed list of phone numbers and email addresses for important contacts
- battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- prescriptions or critical medications
- extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- extra set of keys
- whistle - to signal for help
- cell phone charger
- copies of important documents
- cloth face masks (for COVID-19 safety)
- toiletries and change of clothing
- hand sanitizer
- Add last minute:** Wallet, cell phone

### **Planning Tip:**

If you are leaving before a fire starts, focus on:

- Items you need to be safe and comfortable when you arrive at your destination
- Irreplaceable or valuable items that you wouldn't want to lose in a fire.

If you are leaving during a fire evacuation, focus on:

- Items that you need to safely evacuate the fire area
- Items that you need to safely live until government/Red Cross sheltering and assistance become available
- **Remember:** You are responsible for carrying your go-bag. Make sure you can lift and carry your go-bag for your entire evacuation route.

# Household Fire Weather Planning Tool

## What we will wear

### *Leaving Before a Fire*

Any clothes we choose

### *Leaving After a Fire Starts*

If there is time to change:

- Closed-toe shoes
- Cotton clothes (no polyester!) - Long sleeved shirts, pants, and a hat with a brim
- Cotton mask or dry bandana (NOT N95, KN95 or surgical mask due to possible melting)



**Planning Tip:** The best clothes for fire evacuation:

- a) Are made of natural fibers that will not melt, and
- b) Will protect your skin from flying embers.

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## Planning for our children

### *Children Leaving Before a Fire*

Our children will leave (when):

\_\_\_\_\_

Our children will go to:

- Same place as household (see above)
- Different place:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Zone for this location:

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Children Leaving After a fire starts*

We are ready to walk with our children:

- Our children can walk/run for long periods without help.
- We are ready to carry our children out on foot with carriers/baby wearing, backpack.

## Planning for our pets

### *Pets Leaving Before a Fire*

Our pets will leave (when):

\_\_\_\_\_

Our pets will go to:

- Same place as household (see above)
- Different location (pet boarding, etc.) – see below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Zone for this location:

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Pets Leaving After a fire starts*

We are ready to walk with our pets:

- Our pets can walk/run for long periods without help. We have leashes ready.
- We are ready to walk our pets out using carriers.

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## Preparing our home for fire: Before we leave, we will ...

<i>Leaving Before a Fire</i>	<i>Leaving After a Fire Starts</i>
<p>Inside your house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shut all windows and doors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raise shades and remove curtains</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Turn on inside lights</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Turn off air conditioning</li> </ul> <p>Outside your house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Move any flammable outdoor items inside, <u>or</u> move them far away from the home (ex: patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Move propane BBQs away from structures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect garden hose to outside water valves and spigots</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT leave sprinklers on or water running</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Turn on outside lights</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leave a ladder visible for firefighters to use</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Seal attic vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals</li> </ul>	<p>Evacuation Order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Close and lock doors.</li> </ul> <p>Evacuation Warning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider taking the “Leaving Before a Fire” steps.</li> </ul>



**Planning Tip:** Your first priority should be your life. After a fire starts:

- If your Zone is under **evacuation order**, leave immediately.
- If your Zone is under **evacuation warning**, and no one in your household needs extra time to leave, take whatever steps you can to prepare your home for fire.





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## Resources

Learn more: [www.CityofBerkeley.info/Wildfire](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/Wildfire)

Sign up: [www.ACAAlert.org](http://www.ACAAlert.org)

Know your zone: <https://Community.Zonehaven.com>

Contact us: [oes@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:oes@cityofberkeley.info)