



# RED FLAG WEATHER AND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

The term “Red Flag” refers to certain weather conditions that lead to a greater possibility for a brushfire that starts to spread rapidly. These conditions generally exist when the winds exceed 25 mph and the relative humidity is below 15%. Southern California averages 15 Red Flag days every year.

During weather conditions such as these, listen to news reports on the radio or TV to see if a Red Flag Warning or Alert has been issued. Here are some checklists to help you prepare for any possible evacuation.

## Protective Measures

- Park your car heading out (windows closed) and keep your car keys handy
- Disconnect automatic garage door openers and use the manual function in case of power failure before you are able to exit
- Place your box of important documents, photos and keepsakes inside your car
- Keep pet carriers readily accessible
- Using a digital camera and the free Home Inventory Guide from the California Department of Insurance (available at [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov)), catalogue your possessions and document their values.
  - Label Photographs with information about each item.
  - If a video recorder is used, commentary about each item should be included.
  - A copy of the inventory and supporting documentation, such as receipts and model numbers, should be stored in a safe place such as a safe-deposit box, work office, or a relative’s house.
  - These records should also include financial documents such as insurance policies and mortgage information.

## When You Leave Your Home

- Keep drapes or other combustible window coverings OPEN or remove them completely
- Close all interior doors of the house (this slows the spread of the fire)
- Close all windows
- Keep interior lights ON. (As long as power remains, your home will be more visible to firefighters through the smoke or darkness)
- Move combustible furniture (sofas, beds, etc.) away from windows and towards the center of the room

**If you need to talk to someone about evacuations, shelters, road closures and other disaster-related services, call 211.**



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