

# ***In Case of Fire... Flood, Mud Slide, Earthquake and other Disasters in the Canyons***

*A user-friendly  
information guide  
for disaster  
preparedness,  
evacuation and  
shelter in place.*

Developed in cooperation with



**READY, SET, GO!**

for residents  
of Silverado, Modjeska, Trabuco,  
Williams, Harding, Live Oak,  
Blackstar, Baker Canyons  
and Santiago Canyon Road.



**Living in the canyon communities of Orange County, we recognize our unique rural lifestyle comes with certain risks.**

**Decades may pass without major incidents, however, the reality remains that all of Southern California is subject to potential natural and man-made disasters.**

**The rugged natural landscape of rolling hills, abundance of vegetation, steep canyons and seasonal streams, while beautiful present a potential for natural disasters.**

**Knowing the specific risks and how to prepare for a local emergency, may save your life! Understanding how to prepare and what to do are essential for the safety of you, your family and pets.**

**This brochure has been created specifically for the canyon communities of Orange County. It provides basic information to help residents understand the threats that may affect our community, along with preparations and action options. For more comprehensive information, please check out the web links listed in each section.**

**It is not a question "if" any of these situations will occur, but "when." So it is inevitable that in the near or distant future, canyon residents will experience one or more of these catastrophes.**

**Be aware... know the risks... be prepared... act responsibly!**

**READY, SET, GO!**

Log on to <https://www.ocfa.org/RSG>

**for more information from the OCFA.**

**Disclaimer:**

The information in this publication has been carefully compiled from various sources and is believed to be reliable and accurate, however the FSCEOC, OCFA, OCSD, or any agency listed, nor the designer of this brochure accept liability for application or recommendations made herewith.

The information contained herein is meant to be instructive and not comprehensive; residents should utilize the information herein in conjunction with information independently gathered to insure preparedness in case of a natural disaster.

All weblinks listed in this brochure were active at time of publication. However, websites are subject to change without notice.



## WILDFIRES

Wildfires remain an ever-present threat in the brush country of Orange County from mid-summer until the first major rain of the year, the conditions for fire are heightened, especially during Santa Ana Winds. Lightning can start a fire and high winds can blow down power lines, which can ignite a blaze. However the primary cause of most brush fires are caused by humans, whether

they be accidental or arson. During **RED FLAG WARNINGS** high winds dramatically increase fire danger. Note: **SCE may shut down power during high winds to reduce fire danger from downed power lines!**

The devastating Santiago Wildfire of 2007 brought home the reality of how vulnerable we are. Since then, major efforts have been made to educate homeowners and harden the canyons against brush fires. Despite these efforts to reduce risks and improved firefighting efficiency, the threat still remains.

Wild fires are unpredictable! High winds carry embers and ignite new fires miles away. Heavy brush due to years of growth, drought and rugged canyon terrain present the ultimate challenge for firefighters. These volatile conditions also present serious concerns for residents.

Fires can spread quickly, becoming life threatening in minutes and engulfing a residence in as little as five minutes. While flames are dangerous, heat and smoke can be more dangerous and can sear your lungs. As the fire burns, poisonous gases are emitted that can cause you to become disoriented or drowsy, which could put you into a heavy sleep. The leading cause of fire-related deaths is asphyxiation, outnumbering burns by a three-to-one ratio. It is important to learn about fires in order to protect yourself.

If you are trapped in your car, in a fire, pull off into an open gravel or dirt area away from brush. Do not park in tall grass as your catalytic converter can ignite a grass fire. **For the safety of you and your family, you must give serious consideration to preparation, and whether you will evacuate, or shelter in place as outlined in this brochure.**

## MUDSLIDES and DEBRIS FLOW

If you live in or near a burn area, there is a greater danger of mudslides. Mudslides and debris flow can be caused by earthquakes, storms and fires. The movement of mud and water can occur quickly, often with little notice.





# Disaster's in the Canyons

The wild fires of 2007 burned brush and trees holding the soil on canyon hillsides and the heat of this fire glazed the ground, exacerbating the problem. Experts predict these conditions will diminish with time, but the surrounding hillsides will remain prone to mudslides until about 2012. By then, the natural foliage will have fully established their root base.

Modjeska, Trabuco and Williams Canyons have experienced debris flows and continue to be at risk. Silverado risks exist during heavy rains. Be aware of the potential danger. Look for changes in landscape and water drainage, or new cracks in foundations and roads. Take erosion precautions such as sand bagging.

## FLOOD

Heavy rains can turn dry streams and creek beds in the canyons into raging rivers! Debris, fallen uprooted trees, brush and rocks can dam a waterway, redirecting water flow causing erosion, flooding and home damage. Longstanding retaining walls are no guarantee that they will hold.

If you live in a low lying area or along the banks of a stream or creek, you must be prepared to take emergency measures like sand bagging when possible, and evacuation when necessary. Prior to possible flood conditions, sandbagging may be helpful in your area.



For information go on

line to the Orange County Public Works website:

<https://www.ocfa.org/aboutus/departments/operationsdirectory/Sandbags.aspx>

You may have to move to higher ground away from streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades- they are there for your safety. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground if safe to do so.

Under no circumstances attempt to cross a raging stream or creek, no matter how shallow the water is. The unrelenting force of the water will sweep you off your feet. Moving rocks and debris have caused injury and death in such attempts.

These are the terms that identify a flood hazard:

• **Flood Watch:** Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information. Be prepared to move to higher ground. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

• **Flood Warning:** Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately. If trapped, seek higher ground on foot immediately.

## LANDSLIDES and FALLING ROCKS

Landslides and rockslides can be caused by a variety of factors including earthquakes, storms and fires. They can occur quickly, often with little or no



notice. Some of the north facing slopes (facing away from the sun) in the canyons tend to retain more moisture, have more vegetation and are more prone to slides.

Rockslides have not only damaged homes and property, but have caused injury, death and have blocked roads, trapping residents.

Be aware of the hillsides surrounding your home. Look for changes in landscape and water drainage, and earth movement such as small trickle slides. Note the areas in the canyon where prior rockslides have occurred. Be prepared!

## EARTHQUAKE

An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock. Earthquakes are unpredictable but aftershocks are usually expected. The danger of an earthquake is falling objects. A heavy bookcase, large mirror, or other massive falling objects can cause serious injury and even death. The most dangerous room to be in is the kitchen, as appliances may move; cabinets and drawers may open, spilling contents throughout the room.

Other unsafe locations in your home are outside your doorway as loose roofing and debris may come crashing down and injure you. Have alternate escape routes, as even minor shifting of a structure can tweak doorways and make them impossible to open.



Prepare your home:

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Identify Safe Places indoors and outdoors like under sturdy furniture or against an inside wall away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.

[http://www.ocsd.org/divisions/fieldops/emergency\\_management/resources\\_during\\_a\\_disaster](http://www.ocsd.org/divisions/fieldops/emergency_management/resources_during_a_disaster)

# Preparing for Emergencies...

## WILDFIRE PREPARATION

Clearing combustible vegetation and maintaining defensible space around your home is essential. A brochure **Fire Prevention in the Canyons** provides information on improving the fire safety of your property. This publication is available on the Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons website, and the OCFA website downloadable on line:

[http://www.fsceocc.org/images/FireBrochure\\_2012-2.8MB.pdf](http://www.fsceocc.org/images/FireBrochure_2012-2.8MB.pdf)



Keep your property clear of dry brush Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons announces "Chipper Days" to dispose of vegetation. Aguinaga Green in Baker Canyon accepts brush and tree trimming free of charge from canyon residents. During hot dry weather, keep the plants and trees around your home healthy by irrigating. Keep garden hoses connected and coiled for quick access.

## FLOOD & MUDSLIDE

For Post Burn Erosion Control advice check out:

<http://www.ocflood.com/safety/flight/sandbags>

## MAINTAINING COMMUNICATIONS

**Call your out-of-the-area contact, See page 5**

Relay your condition and whereabouts and intentions. Check on other members of your family if they are not with you.

**Family Radio Service/General Mobile Radio Service (FRS/GMRS)** is an inexpensive method for local (short-range) emergency communications. Our community has established a network emergency use. Tiny, simple FRS walkie-talkies enable neighbors to check on one another from the safety of their homes. (FRS/GMRS) can help people avoid panic or isolation by enabling them to communicate with nearby friends. (FRS/GMRS) will also enable them to seek help from those neighbors, if needed. The range varies depending on terrain.

FRS/GMRS Hand-held radios are available from local electronic stores.

**During emergencies monitor: Silverado / Modjeska channels 16 or 20, Trabuco channel 22**



<https://www.fcc.gov/general-mobile-radio-service-gmrs>  
<http://www.arrl.org/getting-licensed>



**SCE may shut down power during high winds to reduce fire danger from downed power lines!**

**A Red Flag Warning** is a forecast warning issued by the United States National Weather Service to inform area firefighting and residents that conditions are ideal for wildland fire combustion, and rapid spread. This is often in Santa Ana Wind conditions. Don't use power equipment like chainsaws and mowers-no outdoor fires or cooking, no welding or grinding. One less spark, one less wildfire. **Red Flags are displayed in the canyons on poles at the Silverado Junction and at Cook's Corner**

<https://forecast.weather.gov/wwamap/wwatxtget.php?cwa=usa&wma=red%20flag%20warning>

## TAKE A TRAINING COURSE

Various organizations offer classes in survival, emergency response, CPR and first aid that will build your knowledge and make you aware of your limitations.

**CERT**- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT classes are offered by regional Fire Departments. For more information contact:

<https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>

**CEPA** - The Orange County Fire Authority has established the Canyon Emergency Preparedness Academy for residents of Silverado, Williams, Modjeska and Trabuco Canyons. The CEPA Academy is tailored to the canyon communities with the goal of preparing residents to sustain themselves in the event of an emergency such as fire, earthquake or medical aid.

This 28-hour certified curriculum is taught by emergency personnel in 7 to 8 sessions at the Modjeska Canyon Fire Station, 28891 Modjeska Canyon Road, Silverado. Class space is limited to the first 35 individuals who apply. For more information on class dates and times contact: Senior Reserve Officer at Station 16, **714-649-2500**

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

The canyon communities have always been about neighbor helping neighbor. On numerous occasions residents have assisted others during trying times. The folks around you can be of help to you and you to them. Whether it is an evacuation while you are at work, and you need their help to assist your family, or simply checking on your property after a minor event. It is of special importance if your neighbors are disabled, sick or elderly. Looking out for one another is a way-of-life for us.

**Contact your neighbor and exchange contact (home and work) information. You may even want to provide them with your Family Emergency Plan.**



*The potential for a natural or man-made disaster is ever present. While each situation is different, they all require **PREPARATION** and a decision to evacuate or to stay put. Each of us has different needs and therefore this list can be enhanced to meet your individual requirements.*

## Know how to shut off electrical power, water & gas.

In the event of an earthquake, mud slide or flood the earth may shift, rupturing lines. Locate the main circuit breaker panel which is located on the side of your house. Should arcing or an electrical fire start, the large lever on the side of the box will cut the power to your residence.

Because the canyons utilize individual LP service, a broken line can cause an explosion and fire. If you smell gas, shut the gas off at the tank. Contact the LP service company to check for leaks and to make repairs before restoring service.

Leaks from a ruptured waterline can cause extensive structural and erosion damage. Learn where your shutoff is. Every water meter has a valve to shut off water to your home. Earthquake straps will secure your water heater and prevent it from falling over.

## MAKE A PLAN

Write a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency. Practice home escape exits and what to do if you are trapped and cannot evacuate.

- ☐ Ask about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, day care and school.
- ☐ Notify caregivers and babysitters about your plan.
- ☐ Make plans for your pets - See page 9.
- ☐ Plan your escape.
- ☐ Review escape routes with your family. Practice escaping from each room.
- ☐ Have a plan for family members away from home, at work, at school, etc.

For more information, log on to [www.readyoc.org](http://www.readyoc.org)

Your plan should list where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate community. Establish an out-of-the-area contact. Notify caregivers and babysitters about your plan.

You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, day care and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Be sure to consider the specific needs of your family members.

Here is a helpful website with downloadable forms for emergency plans.

<https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

## ESTABLISH A CONTACT

When a disaster hits the canyons, everyone wants to call you to see if you are OK. During, and in the aftermath of a disaster land-line and cell phones often become overloaded, interrupted and/or inoperative. Therefore, it may become impossible for anyone to call you, and you to contact everyone that may be concerned. Email communication may not work either. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be best to communicate with separated family members. Call your contact with your status and updates.

**It is important that you establish an out-of-the-area contact.**

This would be the one person that you would contact with your condition and whereabouts. All members of your family and friends should have this contact number and/or email address.

## EMERGENCY KITS

Two types of Emergency Kits will ease the trauma of a disaster. The **GO BAG** is your mobile grab-and-go survival kit for at home or away. The **EMERGENCY HOME KIT** provides you with necessities for you and your family if you decide to sheltering in place.

## A Go Bag

...is the one item that you can grab-n-go in an emergency. It contains the important items whether you evacuate, or shelter in place. This can be a small duffel bag that you carry in your car, use at home or away. It should include:



- ☐ Your Family Emergency Plan.
- ☐ Copies of important Documents: Driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.

- ☐ Extra pair of eyeglasses.
- ☐ Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates.
- ☐ Jacket or Sweatshirt
- ☐ Underwear & socks
- ☐ Work Gloves
- ☐ Flashlight & extra batteries
- ☐ Bottle water
- ☐ Paper and pencil

**Personal items** to have with you...

- ☐ Cell Phone
- ☐ Drivers License
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Cash. Have small bills as many stores will not be able to change \$100 bills, during emergencies.
- ☐ Eyeglasses / Hearing Aids, etc.

# Emergency Home Kit



Here is kit that contains the basic items that you and your family will need in the aftermath of a disaster. You can assemble your own personalized kit. For more information go to:

<https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

Use waterproof container(s), like a storage bin or plastic trashcan with secure lid. Organize the components for easy access.

- ☐ Your Family Emergency Plan.
- ☐ Water - See "Water" below.
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries.
- ☐ Battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- ☐ Dust Masks / Respirators.
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher(s).
- ☐ First Aid Kit. See "First Aid Kit."
- ☐ Moist towelettes.
- ☐ Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- ☐ Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- ☐ Manual can opener for canned food.

## Other optional items that you may also want to have

- ☐ FRS Walkie-Talkies.
- ☐ Work clothing, boots, gloves.
- ☐ Bedding and clothing, including sleeping bags and pillows.
- ☐ Tools - Shovels, Pry bar, Chainsaw, etc.

## WATER

Water **one gallon of water per person per day** for at least three days for drinking and sanitation.

A case of small bottles is the most practical.

- **Children, nursing mothers, and sick people may need more water.**



## FOOD

Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.

Military style **Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's)** are available from local

stores and on-line and have a long storage life. Should the power go out, use refrigerated perishables first. Refrain from frequent and prolonged opening of your refrigerator / freezer.

- **Avoid salty foods, as they will make you thirsty.**
- **Choose foods your family will eat.**



## Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protein or fruit bars | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cereal or granola           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Crackers                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned juices         | <input type="checkbox"/> High energy foods               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins              | <input type="checkbox"/> Food for infants                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfort/stress foods  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable pasteurized milk |

## FIRST AID KIT



You or a family member may be cut, burned or suffer other injuries during a disaster. If you have these basic supplies, you will be better prepared to provide help. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency. Consider taking a first aid class,

but simply having the following items on hand can help you stop bleeding, and prevent infection.

- ☐ A few pairs of Latex or Vinyl sterile gloves
- ☐ Sterile dressings to stop bleeding.
- ☐ Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect.
- ☐ Antibiotic ointment to prevent infection.
- ☐ Burn ointment to prevent infection.
- ☐ Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes.
- ☐ Eye wash solution to flush the eyes.
- ☐ Prescribed medical supplies ( if you need them) - such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.

## Non-prescription drugs:

- ☐ Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever.
- ☐ Anti-diarrhea medication.
- ☐ Antacid (for upset stomach).
- ☐ Laxative.

## Nose & Mouth Protection

In a firestorm, airborne ash and dust present a serious threat.

Other emergencies could send tiny microscopic "junk" into the air. For example flooding could create airborne mold which can make you sick. Respirators with replaceable

toxic/fumes cartridges offer the best protection against containments. Dust mask, face-masks or dense-weave cotton material will help filter contaminated air. A dry bandanna can be used in emergencies.



# When a disaster occurs...

**Call 911 to report an emergency, but do not call 911 for information.** Depending on the type of disaster, notification will vary. Many disasters occur without warning. Weather conditions such as high winds that increase fire danger and heavy rains that may trigger mudslides and floods can often be predicted.

## NOTIFICATION OF PENDING OR OCCURRING DISASTERS

**AlertOC** is Orange County's regional public mass notification system designed to keep you informed during emergency events. Public safety officials respond by using the system to rapidly send out messages when there is a perceived, upcoming or imminent situation that may require community action. AlertOC may be used to contact residents by one or all of the following methods: home phone, work phone, cell phone, e-mail, and text message.

Residents and businesses only need to provide their contact information once to receive emergency messages from either the County or City in which they live or work through the AlertOC self-subscription web portal. You can get more information, register and update by logging onto [www.alertoc.com](http://www.alertoc.com) and click on the interactive map. A form will come up, follow the steps and your information will be put in the file. The AlertOC system has a database of E911 phone numbers which is updated annually.

The Orange county Sheriff's Department will attempt to provide door to door notification during a mandatory evacuation, limited only to those residents who have notified the county of their special needs and those identified as moderate to high risk to life. In addition, Sheriff's deputies will provide PA announcements for both voluntary and mandatory evacuations. This will be accomplished by Deputy Sheriff's driving marked patrol cars through the canyons with emergency lights activated.

**Canyon Emergency Email List** You may be notified through our canyon email network by sending a request to Joanne Hubble: [jahubble@occoxmail.com](mailto:jahubble@occoxmail.com)

**Local TV and AM radio stations** will broadcast warnings and report on incidents in progress. If power fails, battery-powered or a hand crank radio or a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert will keep you in touch.

**Local emergency email networks** have been used for canyon residents. Nextdoor Silverado Modjeska Canyons updated reports of conditions in our communities. Log on to: [https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/)

**Notification when evacuation orders are lifted** will be made by AlertOC (phone and email or text), canyon network email, and possible broadcast on radio and local TV. <http://www.ocgov.com/about/emergency>

**Emergency Hot Line: 714-628-7085**

**Active Storm Center Information:**

<http://www.ocstormcenter.com/>



The above canyon area map illustrates various escape routes for canyon residents in the event of a disaster.

- ✓ Depending on the location and nature of the disaster, traffic may be routed North or South.
- ✓ When exiting the canyons proceed only on paved roads as directed by law enforcement.
- ✓ Do not attempt to use Truck Trails or National Forest roads.
- ✓ Possible Road Closure Check Points - depending on event.

Map - Not to scale

## PLAN ON THE FIRST 72 HOURS WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP

Because the canyons have limited access, disasters can restrict emergency responders and leave canyon residents cutoff from support. Major events like wildfires, massive floods and major earthquakes can overwhelm resources so that fire, medical and law enforcement personnel will not be able response to your individual needs.



# Evacuation...

## STAY OR GO

***A disaster may strike suddenly without warning and restrict you from leaving the community, so you may not have a choice. With only one road in and out of our canyons, it is possible to be trapped or restricted from evacuating. This is why preparation is essential.***

## EVACUATING

If you feel you are in peril, you do not have to wait for an official evacuation order. **You may leave early on your own.** Pack your vehicles ahead of time and be ready to go. Evacuation orders are issued by County officials when there is a substantial risk to safety of the community. It is imperative that if you are going to evacuate that you do so shortly after notification. This permits an orderly exit from the community. Should you wait until the threat is imminent, and leave at the last minute, it may be too late, as emergency equipment will be deployed on the roads or the roads may be blocked with debris.

**A voluntary evacuation** order means officials recommend everyone residing within the specified area leave in order to protect their safety.

**A mandatory evacuation** order is when officials have deemed the area too dangerous for entry. OCSD will drive through the area and announce on loud speakers. Deputies will also go door-to-door, knock and notice. Residents who refuse to comply will not be arrested nor forcibly removed from their homes. However do not expect rescue or lifesaving assistance as first responders may also evacuate at this time.

**Always be prepared for evacuation** - You may only have minutes to evacuate. This can be an extremely stressful and frightening time. If you are organized and prepared this stress will be reduced and you will feel confident that you have not forgotten something.

In addition to your **GO BAG** containing personal items, there are items that you may consider packing ahead of time.

### IMPORTANT HOUSEHOLD ITEMS :

- ☐ Important family documents.  
such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- ☐ Antiques and heirlooms irreplaceable items.
- ☐ Photo albums.
- ☐ Personal valuables - jewelry etc.
- ☐ Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency;  
if possible, store these valuables together.
- ☐ COMPUTER BACK-UP FILES - Laptop or Hard Drive.

### PACK FOR A SHORT STAY :

- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing in cold weather.
- ☐ Personal hygiene items.
- ☐ Feminine products and supplies.





## LEAVING YOUR HOME

Emergency responders check vacant homes during evacuations to assure no person is left behind or injured and remains in the dwelling. Prepare your home and **leave a note on your front door**.

- ☐ Close all windows and doors.
- ☐ Leave your door unlocked.
- ☐ Turn off your thermostat.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on.
- ☐ In fires, remove flammable window treatments (curtains, drapes, shades, etc.)
- ☐ Move furniture and flammable decor away from windows.
- ☐ Turn off or unplug all electrical appliances.
- ☐ Position vehicles for easy exit - Leave keys in the car.
- ☐ Turn off your Propane tank.
- ☐ If available, place ladders up against your house.
- ☐ Stretch garden hoses out from your house.



## EVACUATING THE KIDS

Evacuation for young children can be traumatic, especially if their parents are in a panic mode. Be calm. Explain that you have to leave for a short time and everything will be OK. To lessen the stress you can check out a website that contains a lot of useful information: <https://www.ready.gov/kids>

**Prepare a Kit for The Kids** which may include; Infant formula and diapers, a comfort toy, books, games, puzzles or other activities for children. Don't forget your child's favorite comfort toy or blanket.



## ABOUT PET EVACUATIONS

Before a disaster strikes you will want to take steps to insure the safety and well being of your pets. Identify your pet with a collar name-tag (pet name and your phone number or email address). If you have pets that roam free, they may not be located in the haste of an evacuation or may run off. Prepare an ID Card with photos of your pet, their name, location of your residence and your contact information.



While some hotels have rooms for guests with pets, during a major evacuation all rooms may be taken. You may consider boarding your pet at a kennel. Check out local facilities ahead of time. In any case you will want to have a Kit for your Pet:

- ☐ Sturdy collar and leash
  - ☐ Pet meds
  - ☐ Smaller pets - pet travel carrier or cage with bedding
  - ☐ Pet food and extra water
  - ☐ Bowls for food and water
  - ☐ A copy of pet medical records
  - ☐ Name and address of veterinarian
- For more pet information: [www.ocpetinfo.com](http://www.ocpetinfo.com)

## HORSE AND LARGE ANIMAL RELOCATION

In the event of a canyon evacuation, horses must be relocated as soon as possible. As owner, you are responsible for evacuating your livestock. Organizations like OC Sheriff Mounted Patrol, M.A.U. Equestrian Group (Trabuco), and Los Vaqueros Riders have assisted canyon dwellers with transportation. However, owner preparation is essential to facilitate these services.

### Prepare to evacuate your equine:

- ☐ ID your horse...
  - Take photos from various angles. Prepare a written description.
- ☐ ID livestock...
  - by taping animal name and owner information to halter.
- ☐ Assemble - halter, lead rope, meds, etc.
- ☐ Position vehicles and trailers for efficient loading.

### Evacuating horses

- ☐ Do not turn horses loose.
- ☐ Leave corrals unlocked.

In an emergency call **714-935-6848**, Orange County Animal Care Services. The evacuation site at the Orange County Fairgrounds can house 130 plus horses. Care remains the responsibility of the horse owner. For information: <http://ocfairequestrian.com/>

## SHELTER, FOOD and AID

### Help from the American Red Cross, OC

Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting people's immediate emergency disaster-caused needs. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides **shelter, food, and health and mental health services** to address basic human needs. In addition to these services, the core of Red Cross disaster relief is to insure that assistance is provided enables individuals and families affected by a disaster as soon as possible to resume their normal daily activities independently.



When disaster strikes and an evacuation is imminent, the Red Cross will be activated by local government agencies. Depending on the situation, Red Cross may need to assess whether a prospective shelter such as a high school or community center is safe. Once the shelter(s) have been established, Red Cross will alert the media and other key response agencies in Orange County to get the word out where the shelters are located.

Anyone needing immediate assistance is encouraged to go to a Red Cross shelter where they will be provided with a place to sleep, food, basic sanitary needs, emergency medications and mental health assistance.

The Red Cross also encourages anyone evacuating, whether they are staying at a Red Cross shelter or not, to register with the Red Cross Safe and Well website at: <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php> this mechanism to let family members know you are OK.

For more information on how to prepare for emergencies and disasters please go to: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html> or call **714-481-5300**.

# Shelter in place...

## LAST MINUTE EVACUATIONS ARE DANGEROUS

***If you make the decision to shelter-in-place... stay put!*** Leaving when the situation becomes critical or life threatening creates greater problems. In fires, blinding smoke, heat, flames and blowing embers may engulf you, trapping you in your vehicle. Emergency vehicles will block the roads, making escape impossible. Your vehicle may also present a traffic hazard on congested roads. During floods and mudslides, debris, falling trees, mud and raging water can block your exit. Leaving early is safer.

## SHELTER-IN-PLACE

You may choose to stay in your home during certain disasters. Or, you may find yourself trapped and unable to evacuate. In either case, it is imperative that you are prepared and have a plan. This decision must be based on the nature of the threat, the proximity of the danger to your home and the condition of your property, plus your preparedness and personal condition.

### ***If you decide that you will not evacuate and stay in your home consider these questions:***

☐ Are you physically capable?

***If you are disabled, injured, or have special medical needs you must evacuate.***

☐ Are you able to sustain hours of physical exertion to stay and defend your home?

☐ Are you emotionally fit? Will you be able to cope with your family and pets in times of panic?

☐ Is your property dependable? See "WILD FIRE PREPARATION" page 4. Have you taken steps to prepare and protect your home?

☐ Do you have an EMERGENCY HOME KIT, water, food and supplies?

☐ Do you have the tools and equipment to fight fires, rescue family members and repair damage occurring on your property?

☐ Have you received training and do you know what to do?

☐ Are you and your family able to sustain 72 hours before help arrives?

Understand that your decision to stay in your home when an evacuation order has been issued, poses considerable risks and may put your family in jeopardy. Fire fighting and rescue teams may be overburdened, so it will be your responsibility to perform emergency tasks on your own. You alone take on the responsibility of protecting your family and your property.

## REMAIN ON YOUR PROPERTY

Shelter-in-place means you are on your property to protect it. Emergency vehicles will be actively moving throughout the canyons often blocking roads so resident traffic will hamper fire fighting and rescue operations, and you will create a traffic hazard on the roads.

Evacuees must be assured that their homes will be secure. The Orange County Sheriff's Department will be patrolling and protecting evacuated homes. Anyone found on another's property may be subject to arrest for trespassing.





## IF YOU SHELTER IN PLACE...

**Be aware the your power may be out!**

- ☐ Stay calm.
- ☐ Rely on your Plan.
- ☐ Contact and inform immediate family members if away from home.
- ☐ Have access to your GO BAG and EMERGENCY HOME KIT.
- ☐ Gather your pets.
- ☐ Turn off or unplug all electrical appliances.
- ☐ Close all windows and doors.
- ☐ Turn off your thermostat.
- ☐ Leave lights on.
- ☐ In fires, remove flammable window treatments (curtains, drapes, shades, etc.)
- ☐ Move furniture and flammable decor away from windows.
- ☐ In fires, fill buckets with water, place them around your home.
- ☐ If you have Barricade or other Fire Retardant set it out.
- ☐ If available, place ladders up against your house.
- ☐ Stretch garden hoses out from your house.
- ☐ Leave your door unlocked.
- ☐ Dress in work clothes, boots, head protection. Have goggles and respirator at hand.
- ☐ Have a large fire extinguishers on hand.
- ☐ Position vehicles for easy exit - Leave keys in the car.
- ☐ Get updated information by tuning to local radio and TV
- ☐ Monitor local FRS (walkie-talkie)  
Silverado / Modjeska channels 16 or 20, Trabuco 22.
- ☐ Call your out-of-area contact. Brief them on your condition.
- ☐ Stay awake and be alert throughout the disaster.
- ☐ Stay hydrated - Drink plenty of water.

## DURING THE DISASTER STAY IN YOUR HOME

**Do not go outside! It is dangerous. Pick a room in the center of your house, that is the safest place.**

Assuming that you have 100' defensible space so your house is not in the direct path, wait until the wild fire roars through, don't go outside until the firestorm has passed. Touch the door, if it is hot do not open it. Find another exit, a door or window. Homes that survive the fire front are often destroyed in the following hours by flying embers. Check around your home. Put out any spot fires or smoldering embers. Continually patrol in and around your home. Fires can ignite hours after the initial threat.

Floods and mudslides may result in structural damage to your home. Exercise caution when exiting after the threat has subsided. County officials will determine the condition of your property. Clean up may begin only after it is safe.

## YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE

There are no warnings with many disasters... an earthquake can occur any time... sudden down pours that trigger flash flood and mudslides... and you make wake up in the middle of the night with a ragging brushfire approaching your home. In these cases you may not be able to leave your home. You will be forced to shelter in place. **A disaster can occur at anytime preparing is the key to your survival!**

See Emergency Home Kit, page 6 ... have a Plan, page 5 and take appropriate action.

## When the Disaster is Over...

AlertOC, local radio and FRS radios will notify you when evacuation orders are lifted and it is safe to return to the community. However hazards may still exist on your property.

### After any emergency:

- ☐ Wear protective clothing, gloves and nose / mouth protection when checking around your property.
- ☐ Avoid damaged or fallen power poles or downed power lines. Report to SCE 800-611-1911
- ☐ If your home or out buildings are damaged - For safety, have a contractor assess the damage before you enter.
- ☐ Check for LP appliances and water for leaks. Use a flashlight not a match.
- ☐ Contact your insurance agent -
- ☐ Make a list of damage - take photos.
- ☐ Check for dead and injured animals - Look out for snakes.

### After a fire:

- ☐ Check burn areas for smoldering ash pits, tree trunks
- ☐ Be cautious of burned trees and structures, as they may be weakened by the fire.

After you have checked your property, you may want to then help your neighbors and the community. The canyons have always banded together neighbor helping neighbor.

### HELPFULL WEBSITES

[www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)  
<http://www.fsceocc.org/>  
[www.intercanyon.org](http://www.intercanyon.org)  
[www.readyoc.org](http://www.readyoc.org)  
[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)  
[www.readyoc.org](http://www.readyoc.org)  
[www.alertoc.org](http://www.alertoc.org)  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)  
[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Emergency Fire Information (PIO) 714-573-6200**  
**OC Sheriff Information**  
**Silverado/ Modjeska 714-647-7000**  
**OC Sheriff Information Trabuco 949-770-6011**  
**CHP (CA Highway Patrol)**  
**Silverado/ Modjeska 714-567-6000**  
**CHP (CA Highway Patrol) Trabuco 949-559-7888**  
**KSBR Radio FM88.5 (PIO) 949-582-5727**

## Get involved...

**The Inter-Canyon League** is a 501(c3) nonprofit organization serving Silverado, Modjeska, Williams, Harding, and Ladd Canyon. The ICL is dedicated to protecting and preserving the Canyon's unique way of life. The ICL meets the first Tuesday every month at the Silverado Community Center at 7:00 PM. The Inter-Canyon League, P.O. Box 301, Silverado, CA 92676 <http://www.intercanyonleague.org/>

**CANYON WATCH** Canyon Watch consists of volunteers from Silverado, Modjeska and Trabuco canyons who patrol their neighborhoods during high-risk circumstances, such as Santa Ana winds or dangerous fire conditions. Canyon Watch members communicate via GMRS radios. Others can monitor activities on channel's 16 or 20 on a hand-held radio (FRS or Family Radio Service).



**FIRESAFE COUNCIL EAST ORANGE COUNTY CANYONS** The Inter-Canyon FireSafe Council is involved with fire prevention programs in our local area. The FSCEOCC works with the Orange County Fire Authority, US Forest Service Sheriff's Department, canyon residents. Meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 7:00PM, the Silverado Fire Station 14. <http://www.fsceocc.org/>

**OCFA RESERVE FIREFIGHTERS** Serve your community in a variety of emergencies including Structure Fires, Medical Emergencies, Traffic Collisions, Floods and Rescues. For more information on becoming a reserve firefighter please call (714) 573-6055 or log on to: <http://www.ocfa.org/>



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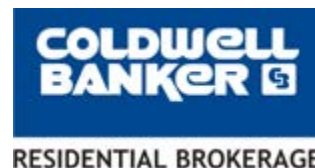


**waveGUARD™** Corporation has designed a patented **Exterior Wildfire Defense System** to help homeowners protect and defend their property from dangerous wildfires. It is a fully automatic, fully self contained system, property owner need not be present to activate. It is NOT an irrigation system. Once activated, a wave of water covers the home and property all at once. 24/7 365 monitoring. The sprinkler heads are designed to ensure 100% coverage of the structure and 30 to 40 foot perimeter around the structure. waveGUARD™ system injects a "green" fire retardant into the water, safe for all animals and plant life, wild or domestic. [www.waveguardco.com](http://www.waveguardco.com).

Call (800) 980-4401 toll free



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