

Wildfire Preparedness Checklist

For Paradise & Greater Chico Area Residents

Be ready. Stay safe. Know your role.

For Homeowners

These tasks involve structural safety, defensible space, and long-term planning.

Property Maintenance

- Clear leaves, pine needles, and debris from roof & gutters
- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from structures
- Maintain 100 feet of defensible space (California law)
- Mow grass regularly (under 4 inches)
- Remove dead plants, branches, and brush
- Store firewood at least 30 feet from the home
- Install spark arresters on chimneys

Structural Hardening

- Seal gaps in roof eaves, vents, and foundations
- Use non-combustible siding, if feasible (e.g., stucco or fiber cement)
- Install ember-resistant vents (1/8" mesh screen)
- Replace wood fences attached to house with metal or masonry for first 5 feet

Planning & Insurance

- Review homeowners insurance for wildfire coverage
 - Photograph/video home and valuables for records
 - Keep important documents in a fireproof safe or cloud storage
 - Create a home evacuation plan and share it with household members
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For Renters

Even if you don't own the property, you play a big role in preparedness.

Daily Readiness

- Keep balconies and entryways free of combustibles
- Know at least two ways out of your neighborhood
- Keep an emergency "go bag" packed (clothes, meds, cash, charger)
- Sign up for **local emergency alerts** (CodeRED, ZoneHaven, etc.)

Communication & Insurance

- Ask landlord about property fire safety (defensible space, vents, exits)
- Get **renter's insurance** with fire coverage
- Store digital copies of ID, lease, and insurance on the cloud

Pets & Evacuation

- Prepare a pet evacuation kit (leash, food, meds, carrier)
- Know pet-friendly shelter locations
- Arrange transportation if you don't own a vehicle

Shared Responsibilities

Both owners and tenants should:

- Know your **zone number and evacuation routes**
- Practice fire drills and identify meeting locations
- Stay informed during fire season (radio, CAL FIRE, local alerts)
- Keep gas tank at least half full during peak season